

Troparion of St. John the Baptist

*The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise
But the Lord's testimony is enough for thee O Forerunner
For thou was shown to be more wonderful than the prophets
Since thou was granted to baptize Him whom thou didst proclaim
Then having endured great suffering for the truth
Thou didst rejoice to bring even to those in hell the good tidings
That God who has appeared in the flesh
Takes away the sins of the world
And grants us great mercy.*

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church
4718 E. Horsehaven Ave
Post Falls, Idaho 83854-6668
www.stjohnorthodox.org



St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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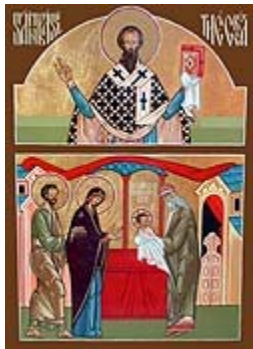
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Send announcements for the bulletin and/or website to bulletin@stjohnorthodox.org

Send announcements to be emailed to all members to announce@stjohnorthodox.org

Circumcision of our Lord and Feast of St. Basil January 1, 2012



The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 17:10-14, Lev. 12:3).

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31-33, 2:21). The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example

of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics (Docetists) taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured (Col. 2:11-12). Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by St Stephen of the St Sava Monastery (October 28 and July 13).

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus (Savior) on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world (Mt. 1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Phil 2:9-10). These two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (Col. 2:11). The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Saturday, December 31 – Great Vespers of the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord & of Feast of St. Basil the Great 6:00pm

Sunday, January 1 – **Circumcision of our Lord and Feast of St. Basil** - Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Memorial for Sherry Fagerness and Deacon Mark Townsend's parents

Wednesday, January 4 – Vespers 6:00pm

Thursday, January 5 – Royal Hours of the Great Feast of Theophany 9:00am; Pan-Orthodox Vespers of St. Basil & Blessing of the Waters at Christ the Savior Parish (Spokane Valley) 6:30pm

Friday, January 6 – **Theophany** – Festal Orthros 9:00am; Festal Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Pan-Orthodox Outdoor Great Blessing of the Waters of the Spokane River (at Boulder Beach on Upriver Drive (1.2 miles west of Argonne Road]) 12:30pm; Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers of the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist (Our Parish Feast Day) 6:30pm

Saturday, January 7 – **Synaxis of St. John the Baptist (Parish Feast Day)** – Orthros 9:00am; Liturgy 10:00am; Great Vespers 7:00pm

Sunday, January 8 – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School & Lunch following

EPISTLE READERS

January 1 – Tabitha Townsend

January 8 – Joy Corey

January 15 - Sbdn. Barnabas Schaefer

CHURCH CLEANING

Week of Jan 2 - Fellegy/Holman

Week of Jan 9 - Corey/Rush

Week of Jan 16 – Schaefer

LUNCHEON & CLEANUP

January 1 – Team 3 - Garbinski, Tourous, Weddle, Ayres, O'Daniel

January 8 – Team 4 - Townsend, Rush, Calderoni, Sanman, Stillman

January 15 - Team 5 - Poland, Schaefer, Gallatin, Johnson

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:

Rebecca Ebert & family, Shirley Jenkin, Paul Truebenbach, Oksana Johnson, Adam Roth, Celia (sister of Lucille Horton), Jean (Fr. Basil's mother), Jim Ayres, Mike Kerr, Tim Peterson's grandfather, Bob Rutherford, Ed Mattmiller, Sarah Riccio, Cameron (son of Michelle Parge), Jon Paul, Bobby Clark (friend of the Olinger's), Karen Kares, Emmet (friend of Nanette's), James Bentley (Bryne's grandfather), Bob (Owen's father), Baby Girl Sunny Fox & mother Tiffany, Terri (Dianne Nolan's sister), Katrina (Mike Kerr's wife), Rita & Kent Little (friends of Trudy Olinger), Bonnie (Jenny Dancy's mother), Lou Papachristos (friend of Karen Karres), Teri Hundt (sister of Tiffany Gallatin), Inna Epling, Moses Kemper, Pam, Susan, Marc (Jenny Dancy's sister-in-law and friends), Crystal, Riley, Emily, Boston, Caleb, Nancy Corey (Ed Corey's sister), Jamie Landers, Nikolai Kupcow, George Kucera.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:

Baby girl Ebert, Fr. Michael Lewis, Fr Basil Steiger, Fr. Thomas O'Dea, Charlotte, Carla Scherer (Hannah's grandmother), Bill Goolsby (Steve's father), Wisdom Gonzalez (Bartimaeus' cousin), Nina Bergoltseva, John Schrom Sr. (father of Sbdn. John Schrom). William Brisbane (Nanette's father), Jack and Steve (Dianne Nolan's father and brother-in-law), Milic Milojevic, Wilma Young (Steve Wood's mother), Vasso Papachristos.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

80th Birthday Celebration for Shirley Touros - Next Sunday, January 8th, we will be honoring Shirley Touros during coffee hour on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration!

Iconography Workshop, January 23-27

St. John's will be hosting an Iconography workshop, taught by Eleni Schumacher & Dianne Nolan the week of January 23rd through the 27th. Please register early, as space is limited. To register, contact Dianne at 208-667-2222.

2012 Pan-Orthodox Youth Winter Retreat - Jan. 14-16, 2012

Pan-Orthodox Youth Retreat

The Pan-Orthodox Youth Retreat is coming up soon! To join the fun, mail in your registration forms by **Dec. 30** (no registration forms will be accepted after that date). Volunteers are still needed. If finances are an issue please talk to your priest today after the service; scholarships may be available.

Thank you,
Pan-Orthodox Youth Ministry Team

Theme: "Know your Faith, Share your Faith" - 2012 Pan-Orthodox Youth Winter Retreat

Where: Cedar Springs Camp in Lake Stevens, WA (Western WA)

What: Friends, games, rock climbing, laser tag, swing & Greek dancing, "Fire on Father", discussions, worship, talent show, skits,

When: Jan. 14-16, 2012

Why: To gather together for fellowship and to foster spiritual growth.

Who: Junior (7th & 8th grade) and senior high school age youth

Guest Speaker: Fr. Photios

How: Fill out registration forms available at your church or online at www.stpaulorthodox.org/registration.pdf

Volunteers: Fill out registration forms available at your church or online at www.stpaulorthodox.org/volunteer.pdf

Cost: \$135,

Questions: Leteris Sitaris lsitaras@saintdemetrios.com or Nia Chopelas 360 435-6264

Opportunities to Grow with the Saints

Dear Brethren,

Christ is Born!

I would like to call attention to the opportunities afforded us in the Church to learn how to grow in holiness by attending to the examples of the Holy Saints of our God who surround us as a "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). Every Sunday at Orthros the lives of the Saints who are commemorated that day are read in the midst of the Orthros service that precedes the Divine Liturgy. These lives of the Saints are in addition to the hymns that are sung in that same service in celebration of the holy lives and examples of the commemorated Saints of the day. One very fruitful New Year's resolution to make -- and keep -- this coming year is to be sure to be at church for the Orthros service each Sunday at 9:00!

What a blessed time to spend with our brothers and sisters who have gone before us in the great race of holiness and who join us before the throne of our God, the Blessed Trinity!

In addition, we always include in the weekly bulletin the very full accounts of the lives of the Saints that are commemorated that day! Be sure to read these lives of the Saints each week in the bulletin.

Love in Christ, our Newborn King,
+Fr. Basil

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."
-- Hebrews 12: 1-2a

The practice of commemorating and reading the lives of the Saints goes back to the times of the apostles and the early martyrs of the Church, and has been the consistent practice of the Orthodox Church from the beginning. While many Christians today have completely abandoned this practice, note that canon 24 of the third council of Carthage (97 A.D.), which nearly all Christians recognize as the earliest authoritative list of the books included in the Bible, also proscribes that the lives of the Martyrs be remembered and read in the Church. Note the last sentence below:

Full text of canon #24 of Carthage (397AD):

"Besides the canonical Scriptures, nothing shall be read in church under the name of divine Scriptures. Moreover, the canonical Scriptures are these: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua the son of Nun, Judges, Ruth, the four books of the Kings, the two books of Chronicles, Job, the Psalms of David, five books of Solomon, the book of the Twelve [minor] Prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Tobias, Judith, Esther, the two books of Ezra, and the two books of the Maccabees. The books of the New Testament: the Gospels, four books; the Acts of the Apostles, one book; the epistles of the apostle Paul, thirteen; of the same to the Hebrews, one epistle; of Peter, two; of John the apostle, three; of James, one; of Jude, one; the Revelation of John. Concerning the confirmation of this canon, the Church across the sea shall be consulted. *On the anniversaries of martyrs, their acts shall also be read.*"

APOLYTIKION OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT IN TONE ONE

In all the earth that received thy sayings, thy melody did resound, O righteous father, through which thou didst go about and proclaim, as worthy of God, the nature of creatures, cultivating the character of mankind, O thou of kingly Priesthood, Basil. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

KONTAKION OF THE FEASTS IN TONE THREE

The Master of all endureth humiliation and is circumcised for the iniquities of mankind; for He is good, and granteth salvation to the world. And in the highest the High Priest of the Creator, clothed with light, the divine initiate of Christ, Basil, rejoiceth.

THE EPISTLE

My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

Hear this, all ye people.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul Epistle to the Colossians. (2:8-12)

Brethren, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in Him the whole fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in Him, Who is the head of all rule and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, Who raised Him from the dead.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (2:20-21, 40-52)

And it came to pass that the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him. Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when they saw Him they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why hast Thou treated us so? Behold, Thy father and I have been looking for Thee anxiously." And Jesus said to them, "How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

Theophany Service Schedule

Dear Brethren,

Christ is Born!

Here is the Schedule of Services for the Great Feast of Theophany next week (including Blessing of the Waters) and for our Parish Feast Day of the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist.

Thursday, 1/5 -- 9:00 A.M. -- Royal Hours of the Great Feast of Theophany
-- 6:30 P.M. -- Pan-Orthodox Vespers of St. Basil & Blessing of the Waters at Christ the Savior Parish (Spokane Valley).

Friday, 1/6 -- 9:00 A.M. -- Festal Orthros of Theophany
-- 10:00 A.M. -- Festal Divine Liturgy of Theophany
-- 12:30 P.M. -- Pan-Orthodox Outdoor Great Blessing of the Waters of the Spokane River (at Boulder Beach on Upriver Drive [1.2 miles west of Argonne Road]).
-- 6:30 P.M. -- Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers of the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist (Our Parish Feast Day)

Saturday, 1/7 -- 9:00 A.M. -- Orthros of the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist (Our Parish Feast Day)
-- 10:00 A.M. -- Divine Liturgy of the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist (Our Parish Feast Day)

God bless you, good brothers and sisters!

Love in Christ, our Newborn King,
+Fr. Basil

