

## SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY



*Icon of Hermylaus, Maximos and Stratonikus -- January 13th*

***January 13, 2013***  
***SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY***  
***THE HOLY MARTYRS HERMYLUS AND STRATONICUS***  
***TONE 8***

***SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 14 – JANUARY 20***

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17 – *OUR VENERABLE AND GOD-BEARING FATHER ANTHONY THE GREAT*

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy                      ✙ Caryl Haverluk; Req: Bill Haverluck

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 – *OUR VENERABLE FATHER MACARIUS THE GREAT, THE EGYPTIAN*

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20 – *SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE; OUR VENERABLE AND GOD-BEARING FATHER EUTHYMIUS THE GREAT*

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

---

***Mark Your Calendars***

***Saturday, January 19:*** 7:30 AM – East County Men's Prayer Breakfast. Akathist Hymn followed by breakfast and a presentation. We need volunteers to help prepare and serve breakfast. All our men are encouraged to attend.

***Sunday, January 27:*** after Divine Liturgy. Potluck followed by "Popcorn and a Movie with the Sisters." A presentation of "Women of Faith" about the 100th anniversary of the Basilian Sisters in North America.

***Liturgical Calendars*** for 2013 are available in the church hall. Special thanks to Goodbody Mortuary for once again sponsoring our calendars.

**Catechetical Video Series**

Today, after the Divine Liturgy we continue showing a series of catechetical videos. The first series to be shown will be "Catholicism" by Fr. Robert Barrons.

**Please attend! Будьмо Уважні!**

---

**Welcome to Our Visitors**

We warmly welcome all those who are visiting from near and far. Please consider staying for a bite to eat at our coffee hour following the service. But even if you have to run, we thank you for worshipping with us today, and we wish you a blessed remainder of your visit!

**Sunday offering for January 6**

Amount	Number
\$5.00	1
\$10.00	2
\$20.00	2
\$30.00	2
\$40.00	5
\$45.00	1 (loose)
\$50.00	1
\$75.00	1
\$100.00	3
\$125.00	1
<hr/>	
\$920.00	19 Parishioners

Parishioner Total: \$920.00  
Visitor Total: \$40

Average / parish household (40): \$22.44  
Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00  
Shortfall: **(\$1205.00)**

Feast of Circumcision: \$50.00  
Kolyada: \$380.00

## Thank You!

Many thanks to Mark Hartman for the generous donation of our new sound system. Thanks also to Michael Miller, who along with Mark worked late into Wednesday night installing all the components. Michael also repaired the screen on the cry room door.

Thanks also to Mark for coming up with a fix so that we now have hot water again.

Thank You! also goes too all the Ladies who prepared the food, decorated the hall and took care of all the things needed to make last night's event a success.

Olha Fedunyak worked tirelessly to organize and direct last night's Vertep. She and the whole performing group deserve our thanks as well.

And last, but not least, thanks to the young men from St. Augustine High School for their work serving and cleaning during the evening.



### House Blessings

It is our custom to have our homes blessed with the holy water sanctified on Theophany (the feast which commemorates the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River). If you would like your home blessed please let Fr. James know. If you have any questions about house blessings, what is involved, why we bless our homes, etc., please speak with Fr. James.

### Please Note:

When you are away, please don't forget that the church still relies on your contributions. Our bills do not go on vacation. Your absence on any Sunday does not negate your obligation to support your home parish.

*"Here we come in contact with the really critical issue of the modern age. The concept of truth has been virtually given up, and replaced by the concept of progress. Progress itself 'is' the truth. But through this seeming exaltation, progress loses its direction and becomes nullified. For if no direction exists, everything can just as well be regress as progress." —Joseph Card. Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI), "Keynote address of the Tenth Bishops' Workshop of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, on 'Catholic Conscience: Foundation and Formation,' February 1991, in "On Conscience" (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2007), 26-27.*

*If technical progress is not matched by corresponding progress in man's ethical formation, in man's inner growth (cf. Eph 3:16; 2 Cor 4:16), then it is not progress at all, but a threat for man and for the world. — Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi*



How you can tell when you've really celebrated Theophany!

## THE STANDARD OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

*By Fr. Thomas Hopko*

The norm for non-monastic Christians is to be moderate in our possessions, to have only what is absolutely necessary, to give away more than we need in concrete acts of mercy, and thereby to be godly and spiritually free. The question, of course, is about what and how much are truly necessary. What do we really need? How much is enough? Each of us will have to decide for ourselves and our families, as well as our churches and nations. We can do this only by the Holy Spirit's power, with the guidance of Scripture, participation in the Church's liturgical and sacramental life, the reading of the lives of the saints, and the counsel of wise and loving pastors and elders in the faith.

### **God's Extended Hand**

FOCUS (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve) has provided us with a special bin for collecting donations of clothing, toiletries, etc. to be distributed at GEH. It is located near the door of the church hall.

### **Last Sunday's Bulletin**

If you haven't yet picked up last Sunday's bulletin, it is available in the church hall, or on our website, [stjohnthebaptizer.org](http://stjohnthebaptizer.org).



**What if Church was your  
New Year's Resolution?**

## **We are Called to Bear Fruit**

At the Last Supper, as we read in Chapter 15 of the Gospel of John, Jesus instructed His disciples, "I Am the Vine; you are the branches." He was telling us that the purpose of our abiding in Him is that we may bear fruit for God in the world. "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit..." (John 15:8). Just as the vine bears fruit only through its branches, so Jesus has chosen to work in the world through us. We are the members of His body – the branches through which the Vine must bear fruit. We bear fruit when we serve and support God and His Church.



## **What is Christian Stewardship?**

Christian Stewardship is...

- learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work., for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.
- our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.
- caring for the needs of others.
- offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.
- what a person does after saying "I believe..." , as proof of that belief.
- devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as eparchy, as Church within a nation, and as Church universal.

## ***Have you filled out your pledge card?***

**I give an offering on a regular basis. Why is it important that I pledge?**

**Answer:** All offerings are appreciated; however, pledges are important to permit our parish to budget each year. We are planning a balanced budget, and we will use pledges for estimating revenue.

**Does our parish receive financial support from the Eparchy?**

**Answer:** No. The Eparchy provides certain non-financial resources but no financial support. Our parish is assessed a yearly sum (*Cathedraticum*) to support the operation of the Eparchy.

**How much should I pledge? Is there a specific required or recommended percentage of income?**

**Answer:** We ask members and other supporters to be generous with their pledges, taking into account the value of our parish and the importance of its mission. There is no required percentage of income; however, for this coming year, we are asking you to consider a goal of eventually pledging 5-10% of income.

**If I want to pledge, how do I do it?**

**Answer:** You can place your pledge card in the offering basket, or mail in your pledge card.

**Can others see my pledge amounts, or is it confidential?**

**Answer:** The amount of your pledge is confidential and is viewed only by the pastor and the financial committee. As part of their follow up efforts, the members of the Stewardship Committee will know who has pledged or not (but not the amount)

**Is my pledge an enforceable contract? What if I am uncertain about the future and am reluctant to pledge?**

**Answer:** Your pledge is not an enforceable contract. Although we ask that all pledges be a reflection of a real intent to give, if you have a change in circumstance, you can change your pledge at any time during the year by submitting a revised pledge card.

**Does the amount of my pledge or offering affect my standing in the parish?**

**Answer:** No. Neither membership nor opportunities to serve are conditioned upon your pledging a certain amount or at all.

**When the offering basket is passed around, I notice that some don't put anything in. Why?**

**Answer:** There are many ways to pledge and give. Some of our parishioners are pledging and donating electronically, so there is no need to place a check or money in the offering basket. Others may give an offering only periodically.

### **A PRAYER BEFORE READING OR LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

By St. John Chrysostom

O Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart, that I may hear Your word and understand and do Your will, for I am a sojourner upon the earth. Hide not Your commandments from me, but open mine eyes, that I may perceive the wonders of Your law. Speak unto me the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom. On You do I set my hope, O my God, that You shalt enlighten my mind and understanding with the light of Your knowledge, not only to cherish those things which are written, but to do them; that in reading the lives and sayings of the saints I may not sin, but that such may serve for my restoration, enlightenment and sanctification, for the salvation of my soul, and the inheritance of life everlasting. For You are the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and from You comes every good deed and every gift. Amen.

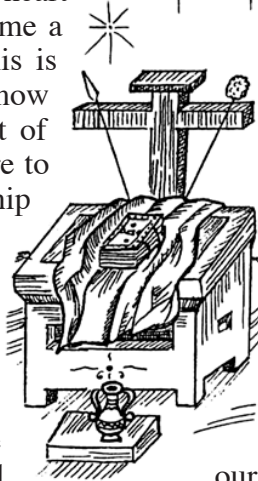
## BEING CLOSE TO GOD BY GOING TO CHURCH: WHY DO WE STRESS CHURCH ATTENDANCE?

Adapted from Hieromonk John (Anderson)

The Church is literally the Body of Christ. This means that corporately, not individually, we are Christ Himself still incarnate in the world doing His work. If a person desires with their whole heart one can unite to Christ and become a member of His Body. Ideally, this is motivated by a simple desire to know God and to be where He is. Out of this love for God comes the desire to follow his commands and to worship Him. However, this happens in a context which is not our own.

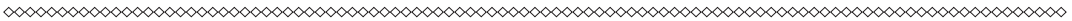
Catholicism and Orthodoxy maintain the ancient Jewish belief that God is manifest in the temple. We believe that the same glorious presence of God, the Shekinah Glory, that dwelt on the Ark of the Covenant now resides on each altar in every Catholic and Orthodox Temple. "God is with us, understand all ye nations." Isaiah 8:10, as the hymn from

Great Compline says. If we truly understood what this means -- that the God "who is a consuming fire" is literally present in the Church -- we would strive to worship before Him frequently.



Church attendance is not merely about obligation, guilt, or nostalgia. It is about being where the beloved is and worshipping Him simply because we love Him. It is about being the Body of Christ in oneness. By going to Church we learn to lay aside ego, we learn to love, we learn to live, and we learn how to be truly human. Christ Himself told us to make God the absolute center of our lives and to make all else secondary.

Eternal life begins at the altar where we remain in His Presence without distractions, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt 6:21.



### ***A PRAYER BEFORE A JOURNEY***

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the true and living way, be Thou, O Master, my companion, guide and guardian during my journey; deliver and protect me from all danger, misfortune and temptation; that being so defended by Thy divine power, I may have a peaceful and successful journey and arrive safely at my destination. For in Thee I put my trust and hope, and to Thee, together with Thine Eternal Father, and the All-holy Spirit, I ascribe all praise, honor and glory: now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**THINE OWN OF THINE OWN**  
By the VRev. Vladimir Berzonsky

*“Thine own of Thine own, we offer to Thee, in behalf of all, and for all” (Elevation of Gifts)*

What gift can we offer to You which is truly ours to give? Even the awareness of our poverty is a gift that comes from Your Holy Spirit. Like the Little Drummer Boy of the Christmas carol, we have no gifts to bring, unless it be the free will to desire to be here at this moment of the Divine Liturgy at the consecration of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of You Yourself, our Lord Christ Jesus, and Your heavenly Father, the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in it. In Your great wisdom, Lord Jesus, You chose from the meal the items that require some effort and talent or preparation on behalf of humans. The seeds of wheat planted and cultivated until ripened and made into flour and then bread is Your way of allowing us to take pride in the product; and so too the wine from the grapes. Your bread is our precious nourishment and Your wine having become Your Blood is the stimulant that fires us from complacency, invigorating us with zeal to be worthy of those Gifts.

We learn humility, like its root humus, is a reminder that “You shall eat bread in the sweat of your face till you return from the ground from which you were taken” (Genesis 3:19). We elevate the memory of that announcement spoken by the Almighty as response to Adam’s disobedience. This bread will become the revocation of that curse, because it shall turn into the Bread of Life, the unique Body of God’s only-begotten Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ, Who came into the world to free us from Adam’s sin. Indeed, we return like the wheat and vine, yet the part of us created originally to live forever with the Holy Trinity will go on with Christ to meet the Father with Whom

we are reconciled by the humble obedience of God’s will as demonstrated in His acceptance of the cross.

We learn discernment. Life is a continual process of decisions and choices. What is the cost of eternal life? Where on earth do we discover the one precious jewel, that pearl (Matthew 13:45) worth the cost of all other jewels in the world; and once we find it, what shall we do with it? This explains what monastics do with their lives, but it is not only they – all of us have the Christian obligation to sort out the genuine from the fraudulent, the true

from the imitation, the lofty from the banal at each stage of our lives here on earth.

We learn loyalty. Only Jesus Christ could win our salvation, and only to Him do we commit ourselves to love, honor and obey throughout our lives here on earth. Because He gave His life for us even to the death on the cross, we cannot live as mere spectators going through the rituals of the faith without offering our own lives as witnesses to His glory and as disciples engaged in manifesting His concerns in all ways possible.

We learn that Church is family. Never is it a One-on-one relationship, but as God is Three Persons in unity, so the two or three assembled in Eucharist are part of an uncountable number of those united through Christ with Father by the Holy Spirit – not only in the parish and diocese, but universally at a certain holy feast day or Sunday. We are members of the Church past, all who have fallen asleep in the Lord since Pentecost, and those who were snatched out of Hades on that most sacred day of rest when God was at work saving those held by death, and all those yet to be born, baptized and welcomed in the holy Church of the future.





**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква  
Святого Йоана Хрестителя  
St. John the Baptizer  
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

4400 Palm Avenue  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

**Website:** [stjohnthebaptizer.org](http://stjohnthebaptizer.org)

**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston  
[frjames@mac.com](mailto:frjames@mac.com)

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

*Faith of the Ancients*

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested. By faith we understand that the universe was ordered by the word of God, so that what is visible came into being through the invisible. ... By faith Noah, warned about what was not yet seen, with reverence built an ark for the salvation of his household. Through this he condemned the world and inherited the righteousness that comes through faith. ... By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. ... All these died in faith. ... They did not receive what had been promised but saw it and greeted it

from afar and acknowledged themselves to be strangers and aliens on earth ... By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter; he chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin. ... By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's fury, for he persevered as if seeing the one who is invisible. ...

Yet all these, though approved because of their faith, did not receive what had been promised. God had foreseen something better for us, so that without us they should not be made perfect.

*Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 11*