

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Welcome to St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church. We invite you to join us for coffee hour, which is held in the fellowship hall, immediately after the Divine Liturgy. We ask that you introduce yourself to our Pastor , who would be happy to answer your questions.

Please visit our Mission in Wasilla. Blessed Theodore Romzha (Bishop and Martyr—murdered by Communists in 1947, whose feast day is October 31st). We meet on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. Blessed Romzha mission is an outreach to the Mat-Su Valley and we are delighted to welcome all who choose to attend our Divine Liturgy at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church. Please see the address on back of this bulletin.

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Dec 31.— Jan7, 2018

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAVID, JOSEPH & JAMES

Sat	12/30	5:00 pm	Vesper/Liturgy : +Betty Bich (Joseph Bich)
Sun	12/31	10:00 am	Liturgy: Members of our Parish & Friends (Fr.M)
		4:00 pm	Living and Deceased Members of Parish Mission in Wasilla

Mon	1/1	10:00 AM	Circumcision of Our Lord and St. Basil Great-Mary Pat And Patty Heller (Heller family)
Tues	1/2		No Service
Wed	1/3		No Service
Thur	1/4		No Service
Fri	1/5	6:00 pm	+ Tom David (Joanne Landry)

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Sat	1/6	5:00 pm	THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD and the Great Water Blessing (Jordan Water.) YongChu Waltz (The Heller Family)
Sun	1/7	10:00 am	Liturgy: John Michalski
		4:00 pm	Living and Deceased Members of Parish Mission in Wasilla

TONE 5

Readings: Mt. 2:13-23, Gal 1:11-19,
Metropolitan Cantor Institute <http://www.metropolitancantorinstitute.org>

7 DAY CANDLE INTENTIONS (THERESE LANDRY)

EUCCHARIST: +Landry Family

THEOTOKOS: Landry Family

CZESTOCHOWA: Sidun Family

*7 DAY Candle intentions may be requested by filling out an envelope at the entrance. Donation is \$10.00

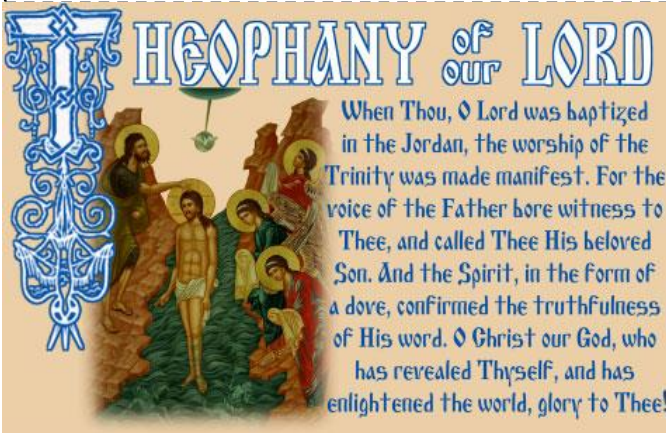
Happy Birthdays in DECEMBER! 12/1/ Sophia Lambertsen;1/12Emerich Urbanski, 12/3/ Judith Bich; 12/5/ Andrew Kaiser; 12/7/ Anna Marie Niglio; 12/8/ Natalie Riendl; 12/8/ Caleb Jones; 12/10 Annamaria Pustina12/16/ Joseph Dixon; 12/20/ Elijah Lotton; 12/24/ Sean Dixon; 12/25/ Christine Dixon; 12/26/ Joel Davidson; 12/27/ Matthew Dixon; 12/27/ Stephen Kichura; 12/27 Bryan Trombley; 12/30 Bennett Lyon ,12/30Olga Pustina

God grant them many blessed years!



PARISH POT LUCK & NEW YEAR PARTY SUNDAY
DECEMBER 31 ST
Liturgy 10:00 AM
Sunday December. 31st, right after Liturgy,

RETIREMENT FUND HELPS SENIOR RELIGIOUS. "As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the Retirement Fund," notes a woman religious. Your donation for the retirement fund supports the day-to-day care of thousands of elder sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Please share and Care and give what you can to help our religious. We take up a special for the Retirement Fund for Senior Religious.



SIGN-UP NOW FOR THE-OPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS!
Please see the sign-up sheet in the parish hall , to get your slot for a house blessing in the New Year.
Fr Michael started blessing houses and businesses from
Theophany - January 6th to Sunday of Cheesefare - Februaru 11 .

Easter formation classes for children.
Jan. Sunday:14, 21,28.
11:45pm

2017 CHURCH CALENDARS are available for everyone.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!
Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho!

Please feel free to talk with Fr. Michael about parish needs

St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

2200 Arctic Blvd., Anchorage AK, 99503-1909 Tel: 907-277-6731

Email: pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com **Webpage:** www.ak-byz-cath.org

Pastor: *Rev. Father Michael Sidun*

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Weekday Divine Liturgy: 6:00pm

Saturday Divine Liturgy: 5:00 pm Sunday Divine Praises: 9:40 am

Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

Holy Mystery of Confession: 20 minutes before every Divine Liturgy and upon request

Blessed Theodore Romzha Byzantine Catholic Mission

Sacred Heart Church, 1201 Bogard Road in Wasilla

Holy Mystery of Confession: Sundays—After Liturgies

Divine Liturgy: 4:00 pm

Our Parish and Mission are in Communion with the Pope of Rome and the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

Thank You: Teresa Laundry and Lubov Sidun with Sofia and Yordana for decorating our iconostasis for our Christmas Liturgy.

Thank you– Rachel Jones, Sherry Whah, Alexander Boiko, Victor Flaquer, Joseph Pearson and Rev. Fr. Mykhaylo for attending our practice and for practicing on your own for five days to beautifully welcome our new-born King!

Thank You: Dr. Ron Kichura for conducting Christmas cantors practice on Tuesday, 19 December, despite dumping snow, your cold, and your pending departure to visit family back East. May God grant you and your loved ones many, blessed years in health and happiness!

Thank You: to all who made our Christmas Eve with Vespers Divine Liturgy so beautiful: Rachel Jones for leading carols and cantoring, cantors Joseph Pearson, Sherry Whah, Frania and Alexander Boiko, Victor Flaquer and altar servers David Bich and John Coe.

Thank You: Victor Flaquer for cantoring our Synaxis of the Theotokos and Saint Stephens Feast Day Divine Liturgies.

Thank You: to all who stayed after for food fellowship pot-luck, those who brought dishes and treats to share, and those who stayed for cleanups: Frania, Alexander and Lubov.

Thank You: to all who participated in Saint Nicholas parish Christmas Day Divine Liturgy: Cantors Joseph Pearson and Ron Kichura and to all who stayed after for food fellowship pot-luck, all who brought food to share and those who stayed to clean up.

Thank You: Anthony Heller and Soso Margaret for cleaning our holy church and Artim Hall for our Christmas celebrations and every Saturday for Lords Day. Our church and hall are beautiful places to worship, fellow and celebrate!

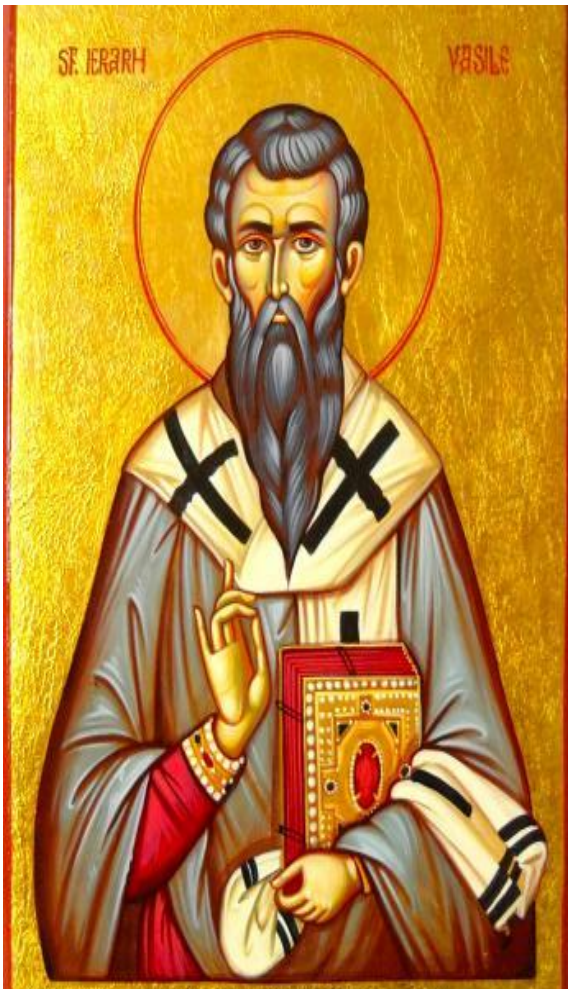
Thank You: to all who made our Blessed Theodore mission Christmas afternoon Divine Liturgy and pot-luck celebrations happen so beautifully: Joseph Pearson for singing carols and cantoring at Divine Liturgy, altar servers who did good job serving, and all who brought tasty dishes to share and family Urbanski and family Beer for cleaning up afterwards. May God Grant us all Many, Blessed Years!



January 1

Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Reading: Since the Mosaic Law commands that if a woman give birth to a male child, he should be circumcised in the foreskin of his flesh on the eighth day (Lev. 12:2-3), on this, the eighth day from His Nativity, our Saviour accepted the circumcision commanded by the Law. According to the command of the Angel, He received the Name which is above every name: JESUS, which means "Saviour" (Matt. 1:21; Luke 1:31 and 2:21).



January 1

Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia

Reading: Saint Basil the Great was born about the end of the year 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family renowned for their learning and holiness. His parents' names were Basil and Emily. His mother Emily (commemorated July 19) and his grandmother Macrina (Jan. 14) are Saints of the Church, together with all his brothers and sisters: Macrina, his elder sister (July 19), Gregory of Nyssa (Jan. 10), Peter of Sebastia (Jan. 9), and Naucratus. Basil studied in Constantinople under the sophist Libanius, then in Athens, where also he formed a friendship with the young Gregory, a fellow Cappadocian, later called "the Theologian." Through the good influence of his sister Macrina (see July 19), he chose to embrace the ascetical life, abandoning his worldly career. He visited the monks in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, and upon returning to Caesarea, he departed to a hermitage on the Iris River in Pontus, not far from Annesi, where his mother and his sister Macrina were already treading the path of the ascetical life; here he also wrote his ascetical homilies.

About the year 370, when the bishop of his country reposed, he was elected to succeed to his throne and was entrusted with the Church of Christ, which he tended for eight years, living in voluntary poverty and strict asceticism, having no other care than to defend holy Orthodoxy as a worthy successor of the Apostles. The Emperor Valens, and Modestus, the Eparch of the East, who were of one mind with the Arians, tried with threats of exile and of torments to bend the Saint to their own confession, because he was the bastion of Orthodoxy in all Cappadocia, and preserved it from heresy when Arianism was at its strongest. But he set all their malice at nought, and in his willingness to give himself up to every suffering for the sake of the Faith, showed himself to be a martyr by volition. Modestus, amazed at Basil's fearlessness in his presence, said that no one had ever so spoken to him. "Perhaps," answered the Saint, "you have never met a bishop before." The Emperor Valens himself was almost won over by Basil's dignity and wisdom. When Valens' son fell gravely sick, he asked Saint Basil to pray for him. The Saint promised that his son would be restated if Valens agreed to have him baptized by the Orthodox; Valens agreed, Basil prayed, and the son was restored. But afterwards the Emperor had him baptized by Arians, and the child died soon after. Later, Valens, persuaded by his counselors, decided to send the Saint into exile because he would not accept the Arians into communion; but his pen broke when he was signing the edict of banishment. He tried a second time and a third, but the same thing happened, so that the Emperor was filled with dread, and tore up the document, and Basil was not banished. The truly great Basil, spent with extreme ascetical practices and continual labours, at the helm of the church, departed to the Lord on the 1st of January, in 379. at the age of forty-nine. His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and rich are these gifts he set forth the doctrines concerning the mysteries both of the creation (see his Hexaemeron) and of the Holy Trinity (see On the Holy Spirit). Because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honoured as "the revealer of heavenly things" and "the Great."

January 6



The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Reading: About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvelous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called

"Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Home Blessings with Holy Water on Theophany:

Preparing the Home for the Blessing

Traditionally, the pastor visits the homes of all his parishioners on Theophany and the days shortly following.

How should we make ready for this visit? It is a long-standing Byzantine tradition that the homes of all the faithful be blessed yearly, after the blessed feast of Theophany. The power of water to sanctify and transform is amply demonstrated in baptism, and we believe that God chooses to bless us through holy objects and actions, such as the relics of those who have pleased God, holy icons, oil and water.

Most of the critical moments of family life happen in the home. In the home we pray together, the parents **MUST** teach the children about the Byzantine Catholic Faith, and the foundational principles for living according to the Gospel and Commandments are modeled by the parents for their children.

Since so many important Christian works take place in the home, there are also many great temptations, where misunderstandings and arguments are possible. It is imperative for the Christian family to continually ask God's blessing upon their home, and to have their home blessed with Holy Water at least yearly. If something extremely defiling occurs in the home, or the family is enduring some great temptation, the home can be blessed at any time, and even numerous times.

When the priest arrives, he usually prays a short service of supplication and then blesses all living areas of the house with Holy Water, while singing the Troparion for Theophany. In this way, the home of a Christian is "marked" and sanctified.

Preparing the Home for the Blessing

The family must **ALL** be present before the priest arrives. The priest will pray for and with the family, but **NOT IN PLACE OF** the family!

All rooms will be blessed. They should be neat and clean. When the priest visits your home, he is representing God, similar to the priest's role in the sacrament of Confession. Thus when the priest visits your home, it's as if you are inviting God into your home - it would not do to invite Him into a mess! Make sure a light is on in all rooms, and the door is open.

All radios, TVs, video games, etc. should be turned off.

In a prominent area of the home (which should be the families icon corner), a small table should be set up, as follows:

- A list of the first names of the family members should be provided, so the priest can commemorate them in the supplication service. The Living and the Deceased should be on separate lists, or in separate columns.
- A Candle should be burning on the table.
- If the family has a home censer, it can be lit, with incense ready to be added.

If the family has a favorite Theophany Icon, it should be placed on the table, preferably standing up. This may be easily accomplished if the table is against a wall, or by placing the icon in an inexpensive "plate holder". Alternatively, the icon may be hung on the wall.

When the priest arrives the whole family should gather together with him, and sing the proper responses and sing with him the Theophany Troparion. When the time comes for the house to be blessed with the water, someone in the family should lead the priest with a lit candle from room to room (throughout the house,) and the rest of the family follows, singing the Troparion.