

St Michael's Orthodox Church

A parish of the Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

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January 12, 2025 – Sunday After Theophany

Schedule of Services

Saturday, Jan 11, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Jan 12, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship.

Saturday, Jan 18, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Jan 19, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Coffee Hour is offered by:

Jan. 12: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

Jan 19: Susan Schlasta & Deborah Bernosky

Jan 26: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

Feb 2: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

Today's Scripture

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Brethren: Brethren: To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."

(Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

*"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles:*

*The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of
death Light has dawned."*

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

In your prayers

Especially pray for: Archbishop Anastasios of Albania, who is nearing the end of his life. And all those afflicted by wildfires and other natural disasters. **The ill and the afflicted:** Fr. Daniel Donlick, Fr Gregory White, Pdn. Gabriel Petorak, Dn Geoffrey LoBalbo, Mat. Myra Kovalek, Gregory Hansen, Olga Krutz, Maryanne Krisa, Michael Krisa, Barbara Mosley, Mary Ann Serafini, Alexis Meholic, Tom Shaw, Marilyn Petorak, Sandy Gillott, Debbie Jadick, Susan Schlasta, Karina Goetter, Evan Kraky, Laura Piwowarski, Karen Abercia, Mark Klapatch, Gregory Klapatch. **Homebound or in hospitals:** John Drutarosky, Theresa Krenitsky, Barbara Palubniak, Peggy Petrilak, Nicholas Mattise, Jerry & Marilyn Soroka, Paul Kostiak, Dolores Brophy, Paul Mosley, Adam & Mary Ann Serafini, Florence Zielinsky. **The newly-departed:** Fr. Michael Evans (11/14., Mat. Marie Meyendorff (11/24). Mat. Jeanne Ciarciaglino (12/16). Mat. Eugenia Nehrebecki (1/2) (grandmother of Fr. Stephen Vernak of our Harrisburg parish and Mat. Anastasia Gorodenchuk of our Philadelphia cathedral). Gene Howells (a friend of the parish who has worked on many of our restoration and repair projects).

What we are doing, then, at each celebration of Epiphany, at every Blessing of the Waters, is to reaffirm our sense of wonder before the essential goodness and beauty of the world, as originally created by God and as now recreated in Christ. Nothing is intrinsically ugly or despicable; it is solely our distorted vision that makes it seem so.... As we express it in one of our Epiphany hymns: "At Thine appearing in the body, the earth was sanctified, the water blessed, the heaven illumined, and mankind delivered from the bitter tyranny of the enemy" ... The Great Blessing of the Waters is in this way a proclamation that the universe around us is not a chaos but a cosmos. There is glory in everything; this is a world full of wonder.

– Met. Kallistos Ware

*HOUSE BLESSINGS will begin next week. Please forgive me for the delay;
I have had a lot of other church business out of town last week & this week. -Fr J*