

SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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January 12, 2020

30th Sunday After Pentecost - Tone 5

Sunday after Theophany

Martyr Tatiana of Rome

St. Sava I, first Archbishop of Serbia



From the Fathers...

“Every person has his mission on earth. Each leaf, each grass blade, each flower has a project to be fulfilled. We work, but God decides what will happen to our lives and how. And when we thank Him for our position, then everything works for us. There is nothing insignificant, everything is important.”

- Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica



Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



Richly illumined by the light of the Spirit,/ thou didst spurn earthly riches, loving only those of heaven,/ and wast invested with the strength of the martyrs/ as thou didst set thyself apart for immeasurable sufferings./ Therefore, having cast down the enemy,// thou hast plaited a wreath of victory, O all-glorious martyr.

When thou didst quench the stench of the flesh and the flame of sin/ with the dew of the Holy Spirit Who worked within thee,/ thou didst tame the wild beasts in the midst of the arena,/ as thou didst courageously give thyself over to sufferings, O honored one./ Therefore, having cast down the enemy,// thou hast plaited a wreath of victory, O Tatiana, blessed of God. (*Stichera of Lord I Call, Tone 2*)

TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Resurrection Troparion in Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,/ co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,/ born for our salvation from the Virgin;/ for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,/ to endure death,/ and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

Theophany Troparion in Tone 1

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan,/ the worship of the Trinity was made manifest./ For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee,/ and called Thee His beloved Son;/ and the Spirit in the form of a dove/ confirmed the truthfulness of His word./ O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself// and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Great Martyr George Troparion in Tone 4

As deliverer of captives/ and defender of the poor;/ healer of the infirm,/ champion of kings;/ victorious Great Martyr George,/ intercede with Christ our God;// for our souls' salvation.

Resurrection Kontakion in Tone 5

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,/ shattering its gates as Almighty,/ resurrecting the dead as Creator,/ and destroying the sting of death./ Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,// and we cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

Great Martyr George Kontakion in Tone 4

As we the faithful flee to thee for refuge and seek thy protection and speedy help,/ We entreat thee, O Champion of Christ, that we who sing thy praises may be delivered from the snares of the enemy/ and from every peril and adversary,// that we may cry: "Rejoice, O martyr George!"

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Martyr Tatiana Kontakion in Tone 4

In thy sufferings thou didst shine brightly/ in the royal purple of thy blood,/ and like a beautiful dove thou didst fly to heaven,/ passion-bearer Tatiana.// Therefore, always pray for those who honor thee!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Theophany Kontakion in Tone 4

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord,/ and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us./ Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises./ Thou hast come and revealed Thyself,// O unapproachable Light.



Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

But 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? 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

Now 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."

THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

Sunday, January 12th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

11:30 AM Church School & Fellowship

Afterfeast of the Theophany / Sunday After Theophany

Martyr Tatiana of Rome

St. Sava I, first Archbishop of Serbia

Ephesians 4:7-13, Matthew 4:12-17

Monday, January 13th

Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus of Belgrade

Martyr Peter of Anium, at Hieropolis

Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31, Mark 8:11-21

Tuesday, January 14th

6:00 PM Parish Council Meeting

Leavetaking of the Theophany

The Holy Fathers slain at Sinai and Raithu

St. Nina, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Enlightener of Georgia

Hebrews 12:25-26, 13:22-25, Mark 8:22-26

Wednesday, January 15th

Ven. Paul of Thebes and John Calabytes

Ven. Gabriel, founder of Lesnovo Monastery in Bulgaria

James 1:1-18, Mark 8:30-34

Thursday, January 16th

Veneration of the Precious Chains of Peter

Martyr Danax the Reader, in Macedonia

James 1:19-27, James 2:1-13

Mark 9:10-16, Mark 9:33-41

Friday, January 17th

Venerable and Godbearing Father Anthony the Great

Ven. Anthony of Dymsk

Hebrews 13:17-21, Luke 6:17-23

Saturday, January 18th

5:00 PM Great Vespers

Ss. Athananius the Great and Cyril, of Alexandria

Ven. Marcian of Cyrrhus in Syria

Colossians 1:3-6, Luke 14:1-11

Sunday, January 19th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

11:30 AM Church School & Fellowship

Ven. Macarius the Great of Egypt

St. Mark, Archbishop of Ephesus

1 Timothy 1:15-17, Luke 18:35-43

Deadly Double-Mindedness



Saint Tatiana of Rome and Saint Peter the Apostle are two saints who suffered because of the double-mindedness, or indecision, of powerful people.

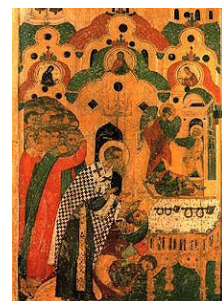
Tatiana lived in the early third century, and belonged to an eminent Christian family. Well-educated in the faith, she was a deaconess, and could speak about Jesus Christ with conviction and effectiveness.

The Emperor of Rome at the time, Alexander, was the son of a Christian mother, but he himself could not make up his mind about the faith. He kept statues of Christ and Apollo, and of Abraham and Orpheus, in his palace—an obvious sign of his double-mindedness. His advisors apparently became impatient with his hesitation, and on their own began to persecute the troublesome Christians in the empire. Tatiana was a victim of these persecutions, though she had many miraculous recoveries from torture before being beheaded, resolutely praying up to the moment of death for her persecutors. Perhaps if Alexander had been as decisive about the faith as Tatiana was, she would not have had to die at those persecutors' hands.

The Holy Apostle Peter was also the victim of a double-minded ruler. This was Herod Agrippa, who, as we read in Acts 12: 1, laid violent hands on some members of the Church. He went on to kill James, one of the sons of Zebedee. And then "...when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also." Peter had committed no crime; it was only that Herod didn't take seriously enough his responsibility to be a just ruler. He allowed a competing desire to please the Jews to overwhelm him, and so the innocent Peter found himself imprisoned in chains.

The Book of Acts goes on to relate the coming of an angel who awakens Peter as he sleeps in his cell late at night. The angel commands him to get up quickly, get dressed, and put on his sandals. As he does so, the chains fall from his hands. He follows the angel past two guards to the prison's iron gate, which opens by itself and lets them pass freely out to the city. In gratitude for this saving miracle, the Church designates a day to venerate Peter's chains as a tangible sign of God's care.

Peter, of course, had his own moments of double-mindedness. His faith faltered when Christ enabled him to walk on water, and as a result he began to sink. Challenged at a moment of danger on the night Jesus was arrested, he denied even knowing the Lord he had been with for years.



The Epistle of James reminds us that we can ask God for wisdom and He will give it to us "generously and without reproaching..." But we need to ask in faith, with no doubting. The person who asks "must not suppose that a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways, will receive anything from the Lord" (James 1:8).

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED TO CHAT? CALL OR EMAIL FR. GREGORY.

Welcome Fr. Mark Hodges

We welcome Fr. Mark Hodges today, filling in for Fr. Gregory who is away this weekend. Please give Fr. Mark a warm welcome at coffee hour today!

Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council will meet this **Tuesday, January 14th at 6:00pm**. Please note the earlier start time. Thank you for your ministry!

House Blessing Sign Up

The house blessing sign up sheet is now available in the narthex. Please include your address so Fr. Gregory knows where to find you. This is a wonderful opportunity to have your home blessed, and to sit down with Fr. Gregory to get to know each other better.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is **Sunday, January 26th**. A reminder that according to the Diocesan Constitution (Article VIII, Sec. 1), voting membership is determined by the following criteria:

- At least 18 years old
- Partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion in his/her home parish at least once a year (see Fr. Gregory if you confess to another priest)
- Has belonged to the parish for a period as may be fixed by the parish (at least one year)
- Regularly fulfills all financial obligations (which essentially means filling out the annual stewardship form)

Only voting members may be elected to vacancies on the Parish Council (Article VIII, Sec. 5)

Officer and Committee Reports

All Annual Officer and Committee reports are due **TODAY**. Please email to George Ghareeb at georgeghareeb@outlook.com.

Parish Council Vacancies

If you are interested in serving on the Parish Council, please see Cyndi Hopper or any Parish Council member for more information.

Confession Available

Fr. Gregory is available to hear confessions after Vespers and by appointment. Just a reminder, confession and communion are Diocesan Bylaw requirements to maintain full voting membership in the parish.

Hierarchical Ordination

St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral in Southfield, MI will be the site of the Ordination to the Episcopacy of Archimandrite Andrei (Hoarște) for the Romanian Episcopate of the Orthodox Church in America. Great Vespers with the Proclamation of Election on **Friday, January 31st at 7:00pm**. Profession of Faith immediately followed by the Divine Liturgy with the Ordination to the Episcopacy on **Saturday, February 1st at 9:00am**. A Grand Banquet will follow at the nearby St. John Armenian Church Cultural Center.

Pan-Orthodox Events

There will be a Pan-Orthodox Game Night on **Sunday, January 26th at 5:00pm** at St. George (Woodley). The next Pan-Orthodox Vespers will be served at Holy Trinity Cathedral on **Saturday, February 1st at 5:00pm**. Please join us!

We are praying for...

Health and Well-Being:

Ethan, Anthony, Maria, Tanya, Melissa, Kelly, Lawrence, Mary, Brian, Karen, Sandy, Panka, George, Cheryl, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

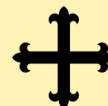
Catechumens:

Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit today in honor of our new members, the Geib family. May God grant you all many years!



Celebrations

Birthdays:

Marilla Geib (1/18)

Name's Days:

Tanya Thompson (1/12)

