

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **WELCOME** to all who are visiting with us today! We hope you will feel at home here and, if you do not already have a church home, will consider becoming a part of the St. Herman community.
- ❖ **CONFESSIONS** will be heard by Fr. Thomas Frizelle on Saturday January 18, March 15, and April 12 following Great Vespers.
- ❖ **FASTING** on Wednesdays and Fridays has resumed until the pre-Lenten period.
- ❖ **UPCOMING SERVICES FOR THEOPHANY:**
  - Sun. Jan. 5 – 6:30pm - Great Vespers with Litia for the Feast of the Theophany of our Lord
  - Mon. Jan. 6 – 9:00am Orthros & 10:00am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for the Feast of Theophany
  - Sun. Jan. 12 – *Outdoor Blessing of Water* at the river behind Rob & Lisa Catlett's house immediately following liturgy.
- ❖ **HOUSE BLESSINGS** will be scheduled soon by Fr. Matthew.
- ❖ **THE PARISH COUNCIL** will meet Saturday January 11 at 5:00pm.
- ❖ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for January 24-25, 2014. St. John Cathedral has invited us to a marriage and family retreat that they will host. More details to follow as they become available.
- ❖ **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** is on break due to construction in the Parish Hall basement. God willing, Christian Ed will resume Jan. 19.
- ❖ Our annual **WINTER RETREAT** will be February 21-22, 2014 with Father Stephen Lourie coming from Florida to be our retreat-master. His topic will be "Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives." Childcare will be provided, so please plan on attending.
- ❖ **THE LITURGICAL SCHEDULE** is available in the narthex and on our website at [www.SaintHermanWasilla.org](http://www.SaintHermanWasilla.org). This schedule contains a comprehensive list of all worship services that are coming up in January and February.
- ❖ Have an **ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE BULLETIN**? Please send it to Fr. Matthew by Friday before the Sunday you would like it published.

# SAINT HERMAN

## ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

### PRIMATE

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Metropolitan PHILIP

### DIOCESAN HIERARCH

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Archbishop JOSEPH

### PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Matthew Howell

### DEACONS

Rev. Dn. Thomas Ross

Rev. Dn. John Phelps

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FOREFEAST OF AND  
SUNDAY BEFORE  
THEOPHANY OF  
CHRIST  
*January 5, 2014*

### A NOTE REGARDING HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome! In the Orthodox Church, reception of the Holy Eucharist is reserved for baptized, chrismated Orthodox Christians who have prepared by prayer, fasting and a recent confession. If you are visiting or otherwise not prepared to commune today, you are welcome to receive some of the unconsecrated, blessed bread which the acolytes are holding. We pray for all to be united in the Body and Blood of Christ! If you would like to learn how you can enter into communion with the Orthodox Church, please speak with our clergy.

#### **APOLYTIKION FOR THE PARAMON (EVE) OF THEOPHANY IN TONE 4**

The River Jordan receded of old by the mantle of Elisha when Elijah ascended into heaven; and the water was separated to this side and that, the wet element turning into a dry path for Him, being truly a symbol of Baptism, by which we cross the path of transient age. Christ appeared in the Jordan to sanctify its waters.

#### **APOLYTIKION FOR THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD (JAN. 6) IN TONE 1**

When Thou, O Lord, was baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

#### **THE EPISTLE**

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.*

*Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God.*

#### **The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)**

My child Timothy, be watchful in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the season of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, and I have guarded the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will reward me at that day, and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved His appearing.

#### **THE GOSPEL**

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

#### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)**

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

#### **SAINTS OF THE DAY**

Martyrs Theopemptos the bishop of Nicomedia and  
Theonas the former magician; Venerable Syncletica of Alexandria;  
Venerable-martyr Romanos of Athos

#### **THIS WEEK'S SERVICES**

*January 5 – January 12*

Sun. 6:30pm: Great Vespers with Litia for Theophany

Mon. 9:00am: Orthros

10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for the feast of the Theophany

Wed. 6:30pm: Daily Vespers

Sat. 6:30pm: Great Vespers

Sun. 9:00am: Orthros;

10:00am: Divine Liturgy with Outdoor Blessing of the Water

#### **A GOOD WORD**

- ❖ "Toward the voice in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Thou didst come taking the likeness of a servant, seeking baptism, O Thou Who knowest no sin. The waters saw Thee and were afraid, and the Forerunner trembled and cried, saying, How shall the Light seek to be lighted for the lamp? How shall the servant place His hand upon the Master? Wherefore, sanctify me and the waters, O Savior, carrying the sin of the world." – Idiomela of the 1st Royal Hour of Theophany
- ❖ "Our God the Trinity hath revealed Himself to us today as free from division; for the Father uttered the clear testimony to His Son, and the Spirit descended from heaven in the likeness of a dove, and the Son bowed His pure head to the Forerunner, and being baptized did save mankind from captivity, since He is the Lover of mankind." – Idiomela of the 3rd Royal Hour of Theophany
- ❖ "Why are thy waters troubled, O Jordan, and why turnest thou backward, not proceeding forward according to thy natural flow? It shall answer, saying: I cannot bear a consuming fire. Therefore do I marvel and tremble at Thine exceeding condescension; for I am not accustomed to wash the Pure; I have not learned to purify the sinless One, but to purify impure vessels. Christ, who baptized in me, doth teach me to burn the thorns of sins. And John, the voice of the Word, doth testify with me, crying: Behold the Lamb of God Who beareth the sin of the world. Let us believers therefore cry unto Him, saying: O God Who hath appeared for our salvation, glory to Thee." – Idiomela of the 6th Royal Hour of Theophany
- ❖ "It is an astonishing thing how the Maker of heaven and earth is seen naked in the river, accepting like a servant baptism from a servant for our salvation. Therefore, the ranks of the angels were astonished in fear and rejoicing. With them therefore, we worship Thee. Save us, O Lord." – Idiomela of the 9th Royal Hour of Theophany