

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On break for Christmas and Theophany; classes will resume Jan. 13

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

January 4 – 11

Mon. Jan. 5 – 10:00am – Royal Hours (1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th)

Mon. Jan. 5 – **6:00pm** – Vespertine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for the Paramon of the Feast of the Theophany of our Lord, *with the indoor blessing of the waters after communion*

Tues. Jan. 6 – 9:00am – Festal Matins

Tues. Jan. 6 – 10:00am – Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Sat. Jan. 10 - 6:30pm: Great Vespers

Sun. Jan 11 - 9:00am: Matins followed at 10:00am by Divine Liturgy. Outdoor Blessing of the Water at the Catletts' house across the river from the church

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 Saint Herman Church community.
- ❖ **CONFESSIONS** will be heard every week following Vespers services, and by appointment with Fr. Matthew.
- ❖ **CHRISTIAN ED** will resume Tuesday January 13. There is no cost for the spring semester of CGS Levels 1 or 2 *if you paid for your child(ren) in the Fall semester*. If your child(ren) did not attend CGS in the fall but would like to attend in the spring, then the cost is \$50 per child. Please contact Brigitte Dahl to register your child.
- ❖ **PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS** are now being accepted. We will elect one new member for the parish council at our annual church family meeting in February. To be eligible, a person must meet the following requirements:
 - 25 years of age
 - Contributed financially to the parish for at least 6 of the last 12 months
 - Be a member of the parish for at least one year, and be in good standing with the pastorIf you are interested in serving on the parish council or would like to nominate someone to serve, please speak with Fr. Matthew or Kai West (the current parish council president).
- ❖ **JANUARY AND FEBRUARY LITURGICAL CALENDARS** are available in the narthex and online at www.sainthermanwasilla.org.

SAINT HERMAN

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

PRIMATE and DIOCESAN HIERARCH

His Eminence, the Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH

PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Matthew Howell

DEACONS

Rev. Dn. Thomas Ross

Rev. Dn. John Phelps

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SUNDAY BEFORE
THE THEOPHANY
OF CHRIST

January 4, 2015

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 from a non-Orthodox church or otherwise are 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.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading from St. Paul's Second Epistle to Timothy. (4:5-8)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all 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 & FEASTS OF THE DAY

Sunday before Theophany of Christ; Synaxis of the 70 Holy Apostles; Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily; Venerable Martyrs Euthymios and his twelve companions of Vatopedi Monastery on Mount Athos

A GOOD WORD

VITAMINS FOR THE SOUL

- ❖ "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 hath appeared in the Jordan to sanctify its waters." – Apolytikion of the Paramon of Theophany
- ❖ "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
- ❖ "O Life-giving Lord, when Thou didst come to the Jordan in the flesh, in the likeness of man, willing to be baptized to lighten us who have erred, delivering us from all the wiles of the dragon and his gins, since Thou art compassionate, the Father testified of Thee, and the divine Spirit did come to Thee in the likeness of a dove. Dwell Thou, therefore, in our souls, O 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
- ❖ Verily, the Forerunner, seeing the Lord of glory coming towards him, cried, saying: Behold the Redeemer of the world cometh from corruption. Behold, He rescueth us from sorrow. Behold, He Who granteth forgiveness of sins hath come to the earth from a pure Virgin, of His own mercy. Wherefore, He maketh us sons of God instead of servants; and instead of darkness He illuminateth mankind with the water of His divine baptism. Let us, therefore, glorify Him in unison with the Father and the Holy Spirit." – Idiomela of the 9th Royal Hour