

## THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

January 11 – January 17

Mon. Jan. 11 – 9:30am: “Akathist to the Mother of God, Nurturer of Children” followed by Knitting Group from 10:00am-Noon

Tue. Jan. 12 – 7:00pm: Daily Vespers

Sat. Jan. 16 – 6:30pm: Great Vespers

Sun. Jan. 17 – 9:00am: Matins

Sun. Jan. 17 – 10:00am: Divine Liturgy (Acolyte Team 2)

\*\*\*Confessions are heard following Vespers and by appointment\*\*\*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – TUESDAY JANUARY 12, 2016

5:30-6:00pm: Dinner \$3/person or \$12/family (Nachos/Taco Salad)

6:00-7:30pm: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (ages 3-9)

6:00-7:30pm: Youth Group (ages 10-19)

6:00-7:00pm: Adult Education

7:00-7:30pm: Daily Vespers

## 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.
- ❖ **HOUSE BLESSINGS START TODAY**– Sign up for house blessings in the narthex if you haven't done so already.
- ❖ **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** Sunday January 24 after coffee hour.
- ❖ **ANNUAL CHURCH FAMILY MEETING – SUNDAY JANUARY 31** during coffee hour. We will elect parish council members and update you on all important events in our parish.
- ❖ **SUNDAY JAN. 24** – We will welcome Laurie Kari, the executive director of Family Promise Mat Su, to make a presentation during coffee hour about her organization which is one of the few homeless shelters in the Valley.
- ❖ **VACATION** – Fr. Matthew will be out of town from Feb. 8-20. A priest from St. John Cathedral will fill in on Sunday Feb. 14.
- ❖ **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR FOOD DRIVE.** We collected 256 pounds of food and filled up the barrel 2.5 times during our food drive. May God bless those who donated.

# 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

### DEACON

Rev. Dn. Thomas Ross

### Contact Information

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*Sunday after  
the Theophany  
of Christ*

*January 10, 2016*

### 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 after Theophany)  
*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.  
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)**

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

## THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Theophany)

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)**

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**Why do we do home blessings?** Our homes are the site of much of our spiritual struggle and labor, so we need them properly prepared for our spiritual lives. A home blessing also functions as a sort of "spiritual house cleaning" that renews our homes and washes away the accumulated spiritual dirt. Why do we do them this time of year? We bless holy water at Theophany (Jan. 6), the feast of Christ's baptism, and then take it to all our homes for the blessing.

## SAINTS & FEASTS OF THE DAY

Sunday after Theophany of Christ; Gregory, bishop of Nyssa;  
Marcian the priest of Constantinople; Dometian, bishop of Melitene;  
Venerable Paul of Obnora and Makarios of Pisma;  
Bishop Theophan the Recluse

## A GOOD WORD

*PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM MET. JOSEPH FOR THEOPHANY*  
"When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast 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 Aploytikion of the Feast of the Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ*)

We greet you with love and joy on this holy Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. The Aploytikion of the feast which is quoted above transmits to us the essence of this feast. Our Lord and God Jesus Christ deigns to be baptized at the hands of John the Baptist, not because he is in need of cleansing of sin, for He is without sin, but so that He might reveal to us His true identity and at the same time, honor and affirm the new life that comes through baptism. In this feast we see the Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, manifested to us in dramatic fashion. The voice of the Father expresses His pleasure with His Son, and the Holy Spirit descends upon the Son in the form of a dove which is also significant because the dove is a symbol of peace.

Our Lord reveals His true identity to us for the first time as He begins His earthly ministry, and immediately departs for a period of fasting into the wilderness where He utterly defeats the feeble efforts of Satan to tempt Him into sinfulness.

As our Lord Jesus Christ descends into the water, and rises from it, let us also rise up into a new and brilliant life in Jesus Christ. Wishing you all a most blessed New Year, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+ J O S E P H

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America