

SCRIPTURE READING OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Epistle, Sunday Before)

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

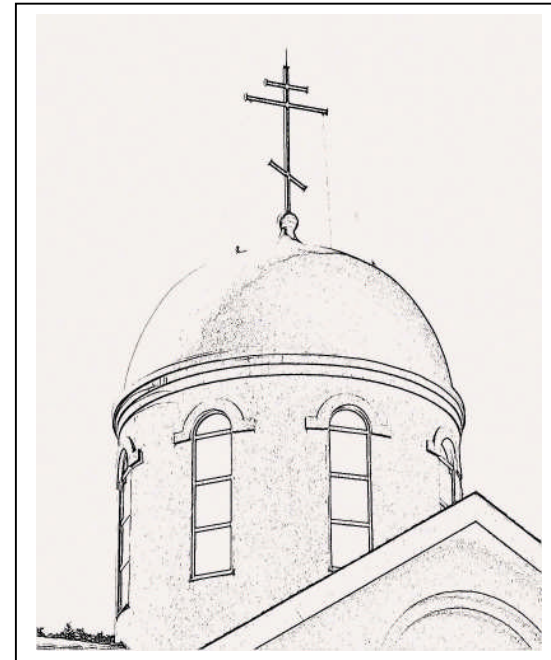
Mark 1:1-8 (Gospel, Sunday Before)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' " John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR PARISH'S FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY!

- **Grocery Store Coupons** (Matushka Mary)
 - Shoprite, Foodtown, Pathmark, Stop & Shop
- **Dessert Rolls** - \$12 each (Cathy Berger)
 - Walnut, Walnut Chocolate Chip, Poppy, Apricot, Apricot-Walnut, Prune
- **Pierogi** - \$7/Dozen (Mary Herelick)
 - Potato & Cheese

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Archpriest Sergius Kuharsky, *Retired Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Reader Timothy Kozak, *Choir Director*

January 3, 2010
30th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Before the Theophany. Forefeast of the Theophany.

Tone 5. *Holy Prophet Malachi (400 B.C.). Martyr Gordius at Cæsarea in Cappadocia (4th c.). Ven. Genevieve of Paris (5th c.).*

Today's Readings: *Epistle:* 2 Timothy 4:5-8
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Upcoming Week Service Schedule:

Tuesday – 9:30am Vespers w/Divine Liturgy (Eve of Theophany)

Tuesday – 7:00pm Vigil & Great Blessing of Waters (Theophany)

Wednesday – 9:30am Divine Liturgy (Theophany)

Thursday – 10:00am Funeral Divine Liturgy (+Irene Charuk)

Saturday – 7:00pm Vespers Sunday – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Coffee Hour Teams:

Today – Hascha Team *Next Sunday* – Petrides Team

Many Years!

Birthdays this week: *Monday* – Steven May. *Thursday* – Paul Gahr. *Saturday* – Olga Romanofsky, Richard Hascha.

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our fellow parishioners, but we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Among them are: Marina Kupcha, Paul Charuk, Ludmilla Tjaden, Steve Murko, and Anna Hlinka.

Welcome to our visitors who have joined us today for worship and prayer. We invite you to stay with us after Divine Liturgy for an Agape Coffee Hour in our Parish Hall. Please sign our guest book before you leave.

Adult Education class takes place Sundays at 9:00am in the church. We are studying the wonderful and important book, “**Partakers of Divine Nature**” by Archimandrite Christoforos Stavropoulos. **All are invited to participate.**

Annunciations

Wednesday, January 6 is the Great Feast of the Theophany. This is one of the major feasts in the Orthodox Church. Please consult the service schedule and be present at the divine services for this important feast.

Wednesday, January 6 – Weather permitting, the service of the Great Blessing of Waters will be served after Divine Liturgy on the beach at 1412 Ocean Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach. All are welcome to participate in the service.

The **blessing of homes** will begin after the Feast of the Theophany (January 6.) A sign-up sheet is located in the church narthex. Please indicate days and times that are most convenient for you to have Father Gary come and bless your home.

Holy Water that will be blessed on the Feast of the Theophany will be available immediately after the water is blessed. Water may be drawn from the font through next Sunday's Divine Liturgy. After then, additional water can be obtained by request of Father Gary.

Thursday, January 7 - A **Joyous and Blessed Christmas** to our fellow Orthodox Christians who are celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord today in accordance with the Julian calendar.

Sunday, January 31 is the date of the **Annual Parish Meeting**. Reports will be distributed prior to the meeting. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend this meeting.

MEMORY ETERNAL

Our sister in Christ, **+Irene Charuk** fell asleep in the Lord yesterday morning. Viewing at the Timothy Ryan Funeral Home, 145 St. Catherine Blvd., Toms River, will take place on **Wednesday from 3 to 5pm**. A Burial service will be served there at **4pm**. The funeral Divine Liturgy will be served at our church on **Thursday at 10:00am**.

SPECIAL CLOTHING DRIVE

A **special collection of warm clothing** is being conducted in order to provide the homeless some protection from the winter elements. For the next several weeks, we are accepting adult-sized sweaters, t-shirts, gloves, mittens, scarves, knit hats, and boots. Tami Economou, coordinator of the effort, wishes to express her heartfelt gratitude to those who have donated so generously to the Special Clothing Collection for the Homeless thus far.

OUTREACH

- **Food Pantry donations** are *always* accepted. Place non-perishable food items in blue bin in the narthex
- **Clothing donations** are accepted on the last Sunday of each month. Place donations next to the food pantry bin.