

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

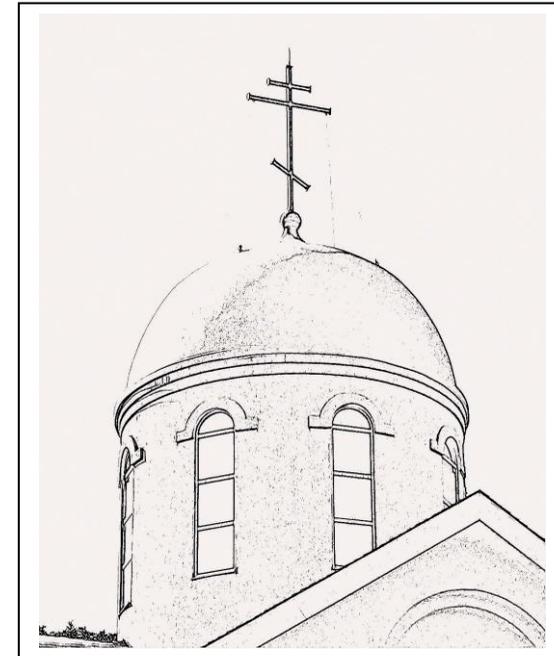
Ephesians 4:7-13 (Epistle, Sunday After) Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended 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.

Acts 19:1-8 (Epistle, Saint) Brethren, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.

Matthew 4:12-17 (Gospel, Sunday After) 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."

John 1:29-34 (Gospel, Saint) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

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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Reader Timothy Kozak, *Choir Director*

January 7, 2018

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Theophany . Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. Sunday after Theophany.

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 2:11-13 and Acts 19:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17 and John 1:29-34

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Monday – 11:00am Burial Service (+Dorothy Gornick)

Saturday – 7:00pm – Great Vespers

Sunday – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43



*The Theophany of
Our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ*

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.

*Please pray for those who have willingly chosen to not worship and pray with us this morning.
We pray that those sitting in darkness will see a great light – the light of the Risen Christ!*

Coffee Hour Teams:

Today – TEAM C (Kozak, Diaz, Price)

Next Sunday – TEAM D (Paxton, May, Alpaugh)

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Tara Escalona, Walter Romanofsky, Millie Podolak, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Ron Madensky, Andy Popovchak, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, Suzanne Hanas, and Catherine Ratushnik.**

Welcome to our visitors who have joined us today for worship and prayer. We invite you to stay with us after today's services for an Agape Coffee Hour in our Parish Hall. Please sign our guest book before you leave, tell your friends and family members about us, and bring back one or two of them on your next visit!

Annunciations

TODAY – The **Church School** and **Adult Education** sessions will not be held today. Both will resume their separate sessions **next Sunday, January 14** at their respective times.

TODAY - Giving Statements that provide the past year's donations to the parish are now available in the narthex. All parishioners are urged to examine their statements for accuracy, and consider increasing their giving during this new year. Our giving, as proportionate to our income, is a reflection of our commitment to Christ and the work of His Church that is always taking place. **May God richly bless you** for your past and future generosity.

Tuesday, January 9 – The **Parish Council** will meet in the rectory at 6:30pm.

Sunday, January 21 – The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on this date. Please plan to stay for this meeting which will commence immediately after the Divine Liturgy.

The **blessing of homes** has begun. 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 was blessed on the Feast of the Theophany may be drawn from the font through today's Divine Liturgy. After then, additional water can be obtained by request of Father Gary. Please **bring your own containers** if possible!

Memory Eternal – With great sadness, we report the falling asleep of our sister in Christ, **+Dorothy Gornick**. Her health had been in decline, especially over the past several months. She died peacefully at her residence at Brandywine at age 90. The **Burial Service** will take place here at the church on Monday at 11:00am. This will be preceded by a **time of viewing** at the church beginning at 9:30am. She will be interred at St. Vladimir Cemetery in Jackson.

There will be **two Parish Council positions** that will becoming vacant next year. Especially needful is for a person to fill the **Treasurer** position. If you have a desire to serve on the Parish Council and/or need more information, please speak with Father Gary as soon as possible. The formal election of Parish Council members will take place at our **Annual Parish Meeting in January**.

MANY YEARS!

Anniversaries this week:

Thursday – Ron and Debra Madensky (#42)

Birthdays this week

Today – Paul Gahr
Tuesday – Richard Hascha

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.