

Sunday before
Epiphany Eve

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2 Timothy 4:5-8  
Mark 1:1-8

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Homily by
Fr. Marc Dunaway

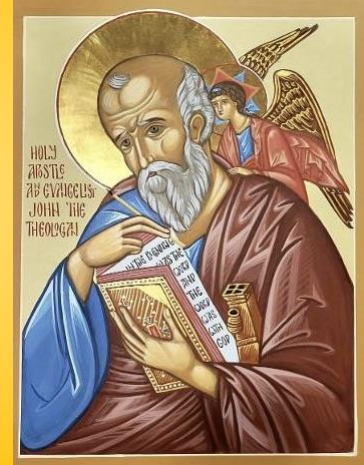
Epistle Reader:
Jennifer Medders

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Alexander / Moffatt

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

Weekly Bulletin

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Sunday, January 5, 2025  
And the Days Following



*O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.*

## Feast Days and Services



## Great Feast of Epiphany the Baptism of Our Lord January 6

Friday, January 3

Royal Hours 1<sup>st</sup> 6:15am; 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:15am; 6<sup>th</sup> 12:15pm; 9<sup>th</sup> 3:15pm

Sunday Evening, January 5 –Fast Day

Great Vespers with Special Hymns and Readings - 6:15pm

Monday Evening, January 6

Blessing of Water and Divine Liturgy of Saint John –6:15pm

This Great Feast is important for all Orthodox Christians to celebrate. It is equal to Christmas and one of the oldest Feasts of the Church.

While Christmas celebrates our Lord's birth "in the secrecy of a cave," Epiphany celebrates, for the Orthodox, the public *appearance* of our Lord at His baptism and the *appearance* of God as Trinity: The Father speaking from heaven, the Son standing in the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descending as a dove. The word "epiphany" means *appearance*, and sometimes the Feast is also called "Theophany," meaning the appearance of God.

In the Great Blessing of Water, we pray for God to be present in the water and through it to give us healing and purification as we drink from it and with it bless our homes.

**It is important for all Orthodox Christians to celebrate this Feast Day.**



## Parish Events and News

### Thursday Night Talks Resume This Week January 9, St. James House – 6:30pm

In our Thursday Night Talks this week, we will discuss the Divine Liturgy, Part 1



### Time to Undecorate the Cathedral Friday, January 10 – 5pm to 8pm Sign-Up Sheet Will Be in the Narthex

I will need a couple of able-bodied people to climb on ladders and bring boxes up to the attic and other working Elves to pack things in boxes, take down the Christmas tree, garlands, etc. Please RVSP by Wednesday, January 8th. Questions please contact me! -Lily Cowan #907299143

### Notice on Church Donation Receipts

**Our Parish is truly blessed to have so many faithful people support our church.**

#### Thank You to All

You can find your 2024 'Record of Contributions' in your mail box folder. *(This is also a chance to look at your mail box folder if you haven't in a while.)* If you are unable to pick up your copy, and would like it in an email – contact Maris Kelly at [bookkeeper@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stjohnalaska.org)

**Please note:** If the church has received a check after 12.31.2024 it will be recorded on your 2025 donation receipt, even if the check has a date of 2024.

**Note On 'How to Tithe':** There are several ways in which one can donate to the Cathedral. \* Write a check and put in the tithe box (*in the Narthex*), if cash, you can use an envelope provided with your name and amount. \* Use 'Bill Pay' with your bank to issue a check to the church. \* Use our website and click on 'Donate'. *(There is a drop-down menu for category from which you can select.)* You can either do a one-time donation or set up a 'recurring' donation.

**Note On Mail-Box Folders:** In the Church Basement there is a mail-box folder for each family. It is a good system to share with each other, either with a card, thank you notes, invitations, as well as tithe receipts. So, check them out on a regularly.

### Report on Advent Project

**Thank you everyone who contributed to the 2024 Advent Project!**



On Christmas several of us distributed the gift bags to the women at the Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center (*see previous bulletin for what was included*). We provided the women and the shelter with urgent necessities and many requested items. They were happy to see us, especially Henry 😊 This has been an amazing year for many of us becoming friends with the staff and getting to connect

with the women who live here. Thank you for your generosity and support. -Sydney Ihde

## “Church Etiquette” Tip of the Week

*When we gather to worship God, Orthodox Christians are “at home” in the environment of the Church gathering and yet at the same time reverent. These tips on “Church etiquette” explain some of the common customs that contribute to the reverent atmosphere of Orthodox worship. They are intended as guidelines to observe, not as a means to judge one another, which by a higher law we are forbidden from doing. (We will be adding a ‘Tip of the Week’ for the next several weeks in the bulletin.)*

### #3: Excusing Yourself from a Service

The normal time to arrive at church is before the service begins. So too the normal time to leave the church is after the final blessing and after venerating the Icon in the center of the church or the Cross if it is held by the priest. Sometimes it is necessary to excuse yourself from a service while it is going on. If this is necessary, it is a reverent custom to face the altar when you reach the door and make the sign of the Cross while bowing. Bowing and crossing yourself is not necessary after the final blessing when everyone is exiting together, as this would cause congestion at the doors. The same is true during the week if you are in the church at a time when there is no service held. There are a few times it is better not to exit, unless it is urgent. These times would be during the Little or Great Entrances at Liturgy, during Scripture readings (especially the Epistle or Gospel), and when the deacon or priest is censuring.

## Coffee Hour This Sunday - January 5, 2025 Group A - First Sunday of the Month



### Hosts Families: Alexander / Moffatt

Snacks: Abel, Bower, Carroll, Cook, Davis, Dozier, Gillquist Families, Haley, Jenkins, Justus, Lindblom, Macalino, Mellor, Northey O’Fallon, Patras, Sorensens Stallmans, Templeton, Tysver, VanDewater, Weaver, Wells

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Next Sunday – Group B – January 12, 2025, Hosts: Fletes / A & J Temple

Snacks: Agnew, Alvarez, Betson, Cain, Davisson, Drennan, B & D Dunaway, J & B Dunaway, Finkler, Grasse, Hoyt, Ihde, Keener, Klatt, Komar, Lineer, Lowry, Moffatt, Peters, Ray, Schlicting, Sluz, Sturdevant, Villafana

St. John’s School Weekly News



Back to School after Christmas Break

School Resumes on January 6

Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

“Checking In” with Each Other

Is there something you’d like to share? Please email: cathedral@stjohnalaska.org

Looking for Rides for Helen Gillquist



I am currently without a vehicle while my car is in the shop. Greg and I are leaving for a vacation on January 8th. The following is a list of days and times Helen will need a ride for appointments. If you can accommodate her for any of these please let me know. It would also be helpful if there is anyone, she could contact should an urgent need come up. We usually provide these rides for her, so I am looking for replacements for her. (*She lives in Eagle River, close to the Bowling Alley*) - Jennifer Gillquist 907-632-1064

- **Monday Jan 6 10:30-11:30 ARC of Anchorage** (If I get my car back, I'll do this, but looking for backup)
- **Sunday Jan 12 ride to and from liturgy**
- **Monday Jan 13 10:30-11:30 ARC of Anchorage**
- **Sunday Jan 19 ride to and from liturgy**
- **Monday Jan 20 10:30-11:30 ARC of Anchorage**

She may also need occasional rides to the store or for someone to pick up her prescriptions when they are ready. —Thank you, Jennifer Gillquist

Volunteer Drivers for Oksana to Church Needed

We need drivers for Oksana to attend church with us each Sunday and hope you could help. Please email Dn. Kevin or text me at 907-947-5345 for any Sunday that you could volunteer. Please see the list of needed rides below: January 5 _____ Jan 12 _____ Jan 19 _____ Jan 26 _____ February 2 _____ Feb 9 _____ Feb 16 _____ Feb 23 _____

Even if you can do only one way please volunteer. Thank you.



Dates to Remember

Monday 'Moms with Kids' Reading Group

Calling all moms with babies and toddlers! Please join us for reading group on Mondays at 10 AM. We meet at Saint James House in the living room area. Natasha Haines at 907-351-4942.



Thursday Reading Group

The Thursday 10 am reading group will be meeting at the Senior Center.

Birthdays This Week

January 4 - Phebe Dyal

January 8 - Matt Komar

January 4 - Emma Drenna

January 11 - Anna Sluz

M A N Y Y E A R S !





Anniversaries this Week

Sbdn. Tim & Lori Mellor - January 7, 1995 (30 years)

Tim & Tanna Terrell - January 9, 2005 (20 years)

M A N Y Y E A R S !



Remembering in Prayer...

*Gwyn Jones
Joe Dunham
Sylvia Villafana
Helen Gillquist
Kerry Jones*

*Chris Grasse
Josphine Hanna & her
family
Dwight Stallman
Elisa Betson*

*We continue to pray for all those suffering in Ukraine
and for all those suffering in Israel and Gaza, for a quick end to
war and for peace*

Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



* Archpriest Harold Dunaway - January 3, 2012

* Kh. Barbara Ann Dunaway - January 25, 2011

* Infant Mark David McIlrath - January 25, 1986

M E M O R Y E T E R N A L !

Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month

For the Month of **January** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:
Saturday, Jan 25. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



THE SYNAXARION

Theopemptos & Theonas – January 5



Today in the Holy Orthodox Church is the Eve, or the Paramony, of the Epiphany of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. On January 5, we also commemorate the holy Martyrs **Theopemptos**, bishop of Nicomedia, and **Theonas** the former magician.

Verses

*Theopemptos declares, I die with my head severed by the sword
With him, the martyr Theonas proclaims the words of David in the*

Psalm:

“They laid me in the lowest pit.”

On the fifth, Theopemptos left this life with the help of a sword.

Theopemptos was among the first to suffer martyrdom under Emperor Diocletian, who threatened him with death if he did not deny Christ. The courageous bishop responded to the emperor: “It stands written, ‘Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.’” Theopemptos suffered from hunger and was tortured in various ways. Finally, the emperor summoned the magician Theonas to outwit this Godly man through magic. Theonas dissolved the most potent poison in water and gave it to Theopemptos to drink. The bishop Theopemptos traced the sign of the cross over the glass and drank the poison. Theonas, upon seeing that the poison had no effect on Theopemptos, turned to the emperor and shouted, “Because of this sight, I, too, am a Christian and bow down before the Crucified One.” Theopemptos died by the sword, and Theonas was buried alive. Both entered the Kingdom in 298.

On January 5, we also commemorate Venerable **Syncletica** of Alexandria and Venerable-martyr Romanos of Athos. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Pronunciation Guide:

Theopemptos: theh-OH-pem-btohs / Nicomedia: nee-koh-MEE-dee-ah

Theonas: theh-oh-NAS / Syncletica: seen-KLEH-tee-kah

Bulletin Announcement Guidelines

Send announcements to church email address: cathedral@stjohnalaska.org Have announcements submitted by Thursday or at very latest Friday 9am. If you have any questions regarding announcements – contact Maris Kelly at the church office. 907-696-2002.

Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

P.O. Box 771108 ◦ 18936 Monastery Drive ◦ Eagle River, Alaska, 99577

(907) 696-2002 ◦ Fax: (907) 696-5555 ◦ Email cathedral@stjohnalaska.org -

Parish Council Email parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org ◦ Website: stjohnalaska.org

◦ Diocesan Website: <http://www.antiochianladiocese.org>

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway ◦ Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson