

VARIABLES – DECEMBER 31, 2023

## SS. PETER & PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

REVEREND FATHER CHRISTOPHER DILLON, PASTOR

REVEREND FATHER GEORGE WASHBURN

*“First of all...it is necessary to say that there is not one Theophany, but two: the one actual, which already has occurred, and the second in future, which will happen with glory at the end of the world...Why is not that day, on which the Lord was born, considered Theophany—but rather this day on which He was baptized?...Because on this day all, having obtained the waters, do carry it home and keep it all year, since today the waters are sanctified; and an obvious phenomenon occurs: these waters in their essence do not spoil with the passage of time, but...for one whole year and often for two or three years, they remain unharmed and fresh...Why then is this day called Theophany? Because Christ made Himself known to all—not then when He was born—but then when he was baptized.” ~ St. John Chrysostom*

**Welcome to all our visitors worshipping with us this morning!** Please sign our Guest Register as you enter the church and be our guest for coffee and refreshments this morning after the service is over. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to Ss. Peter and Paul.

### Sunday Before Theophany of Christ & Apodosis of the Nativity of Christ

VENERABLE MELANIA THE YOUNGER OF ROME

#### Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom—Hymns & Scriptures

Variable Hymns – *see music in packet*

Troparion for the Nativity of Christ, Tn. 4, Serbian

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shown to the world the light of wisdom, for by it those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to adore Thee the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on High, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tn. 5, Byzantine

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion for Ss. Joseph and David, Tn. 2, Bulgarian

O Joseph proclaim the wonders to David the ancestor of Christ God. Thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; thou hast given glory with the shepherds; thou hast worshipped with the Magi; and thou hast been instructed through an angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Troparion of Ss Peter & Paul, Tn. 4, Russian

O first enthroned of the Apostles, teachers of the universe, entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Clergy only – Kontakion of Nativity, Tn. 3, Byzantine

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He Who existed before the ages as God.

**Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. 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, 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.

**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 the prophets, "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 thong 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."

***Receiving Holy Communion:*** Only Orthodox Christians prepared through prayer, fasting, and a recent sacramental confession should approach the chalice for the Eucharist. The Orthodox Church does not practice "open communion" and has no intercommunion with non-Orthodox churches.

***After taking Communion:*** Please return to your place and continue standing until the announcements.

***Today's Commemorations and Prayer Requests***

*Take this list of prayer requests home with you and keep these people in your prayers this week.*

***For the living:*** Newly illumined John & David; Prs. Christopher, Thomas, Stephen, John, Demetrius, Ed; Nicholas, Ioann, Andrew, Aaron, Kurt, Amy, Cheryl, Andrew, Russ, Valorie, Russell, Aaron, Wendy, Marianne & John, Timothy, Jeremiah, Alexander, Caitlin & David, Hector, Saoirse, Persephone, Michael & Sophia, Samuel, Verity, Christine, Alexandra, Atticus, Evelyn, Tony, Enrica, Jon & Serenity, Rosanna, Beverly, Donnie, Dane, Diana, Celestine.

***For the reposed:*** Newly departed Sally, Sarah, Euphemia, Cathy, Sandy; Met. Philip; Aps. Gordon, Jack; Prs. Tom, Stephen, Basil, David, Terry; Hmks. Ephraim, John, Athanasios; Mnk. Simeon; Dns. Mark, John, Mark, Nathaniel, David, Joseph, Michael, Daniel; Khs. Judy, Jedonne, Terry Elizabeth, Doris; Presb. Barbara; James, Virgil, Beatrice, John, Hudson, Rachel, Ronald.

***For those who are pregnant and their unborn children:*** Allie, Diala.

***For those serving in the Armed Forces:*** Brycen, Jonathan, David, Jacob, Gregory, Daniel, Don, Scott, Michelle, Noah.