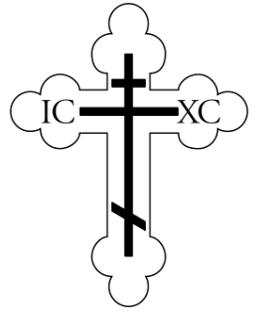


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays
Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays
Confessions are heard before or
after Vespers or by appointment.

**Welcome visitors!
Please join us in the
parish hall after
Divine Liturgy for
coffee hour.**

January 5, 2020 Eve of Holy Theophany

Today we baptize Brian and Jeffrey Armstrong

The Meaning of Baptism by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

Baptism is the sacrament of forgiveness, not because it operates a juridical removal of guilt, but because it is baptism *into Jesus Christ*, who is the Forgiveness. The sin of all sins—the truly "original sin"—is not a transgression of rules, but, first of all, the deviation of man's love and his alienation from God. The man prefers something—the world, himself—to God, this is the only real sin, and in it all sins become natural,

inevitable. This sin destroys the true life of man. It deviates life's course from its only meaning and direction. And in Christ this sin is forgiven, not in the sense that God now has "forgotten" it and pays no attention to it, but because in Christ man has returned to God, and has returned to God because he has loved Him and found in Him the only true object of love and life.

THE ORDER OF THE BAPTISMAL LITURGY

*The Baptismal Liturgy begins in the middle of the Church with the usual **Blessing**, followed by the **Great Litany**, to which special petitions are added. The **baptismal water** is then consecrated together with the **Oil of Gladness**. The initiate is anointed on the head, heart, shoulders, ears, hands, and feet. At each application of the oil, the people respond: "**Amen!**" The initiate is then disrobed and **baptized**. The initiate is dried off as **Psalm 31** is read. The initiate is then clothed in the baptismal garment as we sing the troparion:*

Tone 8 – Troparion of Vesting

Grant unto me the robe of light,
O Most Merciful Christ our God,
who clothe Yourself with light as with a garment!

*We sing the **Beatitudes**, make the **Little Entrance**, and sing the day's **Appointed Hymns** as usual while the initiate is dressed.*

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
"Death is overthrown!
Christ our God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!"

Tone 4 – Troparion of the Forefeast

Of old, the river Jordan

turned back before Elisha's mantle at Elijah's ascension.

The waters were parted in two,

and the waterway became a dry path.

This is truly a symbol of baptism,

by which we pass through this mortal life.//

Christ has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters!

Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,

illuminated by your coming, O Mother of God.

Beholding your pure image we fervently cry to you:

Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection.

Deliver us from every form of evil

by entreating Christ, your Son and our God//

that He may save our souls.

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Kontakion

My Savior and Redeemer, as God,

rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.

He has shattered the gates of hell,

and as Master,//

He has risen on the third day!

Tone 4 – Kontakion of the Forefeast

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:

“Do not be afraid to baptize me,//

for I come to save Adam, the first-formed man!”

*The priest anoints the newly-illuminated with Holy Chrism, which is already consecrated by the Synod of Bishops: first on the head, then the eyes, the nostrils, the lips, the ears, the heart, the hands, and the feet, saying each time: “**The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit!**” and each time the people respond: “**Amen!**” Then the priest leads the newly-illuminated and the sponsors in procession thrice around the baptismal font, as we sing “**As Many as Have Been...**” The Divine Liturgy continues as usual with the **Readings**.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 6 – Prokeimenon of the Forefeast (Psalm 27)

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance!

Tone 3 –Prokeimenon of Baptism (Psalm 26)

The Lord is my light and my Savior; / whom shall I fear?

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4.5-8 (Forefeast)

Brethren: 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.

Romans 6.3-11 (Baptism)

Brethren: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried, therefore, with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him, so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For He who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died, He died to sin once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Mark 1.1-8 (Forefeast)

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.”

Matthew 28.16-20 (Baptism)

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Carlos Abila
Archpr. John Kuchta
Ephrem Talley
Mary Dula
Mat. Nadia Metulynsky
Diane Rosco
Julia Karp
Archiman. Ephraim

Margaret Vogrin
Ev.Mem Afanasy Slepri ('58)
John Kuchta ('57)
Joseph Kvortok ('50)
Peter Lazaroff ('42)
Simeon Kalenich ('14)
Anatol Meuch

Health &	Pr. John	Andrew
Salvation:	Pr. Christopher	Gideon
Archpr. Peter	Mat. Jennifer	Kevin

Jon	Maria	James
Tanya	Barbara	Joanne
Jovan	Thomas	Michael
Julia	Carol	Joseph
Warren	Jessica	Rachel
Carol	Eduardo	Kathleen
Tom	Christine	Paul
Elizabeth	Nicholas	William
Tina	Natalie	Michael
Brittany	Barbara	Frederick
Jennifer	Kristin	Janet
Lennox	Linda	Lea
Laila	Phyllis	Hania
Paula	Kay	James
Stacey	Fred	Gerald
Jeramie	Larry	N.Ill. Brian
Olivia	Rollie	N.Ill. Jeffrey
Parker	Joseph	Jennifer
Melissa	Martin	Jerome
Jonathan	Mark	Mariana
Matthew	Alexa	John
Gail	Paula	

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

*At the end of the Liturgy, after "Blessed be the name of the Lord..." 2x, the sponsors bring the newly-illuminated comes forward to receive the **Ablution and Tonsure**. Then we conclude the Liturgy as normal.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the **newly-illuminated Brian and Jeffrey**, their parents, and their Godparents!

Following coffee hour, we will serve the **Vespers of Theophany** and **bless the holy water** for the new year.

For **Bible Study** this week, we read Numbers 27, 31, 32, & 34.

Every year following Theophany, **Orthodox Christian homes are blessed with the new holy water.** In his birth and baptism, Christ puts on and sanctifies the material world. Each year, in commemoration of these saving acts, we continue sanctifying the world around us by dedicating our homes and material possessions to His holy purpose. **Make an appointment with Fr Jacob to have your home blessed this year.** Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Church ministries & organizations need to **reserve 2020 hall dates** with our hall manager, Nick Rozdelsky, ASAP.

2020 Calendars from St. Tikhon's are available in the Narthex.

Stewardship envelopes for 2020 are now available. If you want to become a steward but do not have a box, please tell Mike Gruszyk, our treasurer, and he will get you one.

The parish council has contracted with the engineering firm DVG to address the perennial **water drainage issues** on our property. They have already performed a topographical survey and designed solutions which will **prevent further damage to our building and parking lot.** We do not yet know what this project will cost. We are in the process of securing bids for the work, which, God willing, should commence this Spring. Until further notice, all gifts marked "**Building Fund**" will be put toward this project.

Mark your calendars:

Jan 6: **Divine Liturgy** for the **Theophany of our Lord @ 10am**

Jan 10: **Take down Christmas decorations/Clean-up @ 9am**

Feb 8: Chicago Deanery Celebratory Liturgy at Sts. Peter and Paul in Burr Ridge, IL to commemorate the **OCA's Fifty Years of Autocephaly @ 9:30am**

Feb 9: **Annual Parish Meeting** after Divine Liturgy

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$7,815

Having Your House Blessed

The homes of Orthodox Christians are blessed with the holy water of Theophany each year. Make an appointment with the priest to come to your house. He will bring holy water and a sprinkling brush. The family supplies a bowl, a candle, and an icon (any icon of Christ will do). The family should also make a list of living and departed family, who will be remembered during the service. The bowl and icon should be placed on a clean table with a cloth on it. Lights throughout the house should be turned on, floors should be cleared for walking throughout the house, and radios and televisions should be turned off.

The priest begins the service with the Trisagion prayers (all are welcome to pray along) and a short prayer of blessing. After this, a member of the family takes the candle and leads the priest and everyone else in procession through the home. As they go, the priest sprinkles holy water and all sing continuously the Troparion of Theophany ("When You, O Lord, were baptized..."). After the entire home is blessed, the procession returns again to the table and icon and a short litany is said for the welfare of the family (here the listed names will be mentioned).

Sometimes the family wants to give the priest a little something to eat; depending on the time the priest has, he may stay and visit. It is NEVER expected that the family will give him money. The scripture tells us "Freely you have received, freely give". The priest comes to the home because he wants God's blessing to be upon it and to know those in his flock better and to be available to them.

Glory to God for all Things!