



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church

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### Liturgical Schedule for the Week of January 1, 2017 **Christ is Born!**

#### **Christos Razdajetsja!**

**Sunday, January 1 ~ Sunday Before Theophany,**  
Circumcision of Our Lord

and Feast of St. Basil the Great

**9:00 AM** For the Parish Family of OLPH  
Panachida Frank & Mary Swider by Barr Family  
Followed by Festal Anointing

**Tuesday, January 3 ~ Malachy - Prophet**

**8:00 AM** +Frank Swider by Barr Family  
**No Moleben This Week**



**Thursday, January 5 ~ Vigil of  
Theophany**

**7:00 PM** Divine Liturgy  
With the Grant Sanctification of Water  
For the Parish Family of OLPH

**Friday, January 6**

**Theophany of Our Lord**

**8:30 AM** +Lt. Joseph Yatsko by mother Helen  
With the Grant Sanctification of Water

**Sunday, January 8 ~ Sunday After Theophany**

**9:00 AM** For the Parish Family of OLPH  
Followed by Festal Anointing

#### **2017 LOTTERY CALENDARS**

Margaret Churilla will have 2017 Lottery Calendars for sale at \$20.00 per calendar. Every night a possible winner based on 3 digit PA Evening Daily Number. Prizes vary from \$20 to \$200.

#### **Offertory – December 24 and 25, 2016**

Weekly Offerings - \$1,060.00 \* Christmas - \$6,632.00  
Attendance ~ Christmas Eve – 127  
Christmas Day - 50



Welcome Home Seminarian Tim Fariss, congratulations on the completion of your first semester! Enjoy your vacation – you deserve it. Please give him a big welcome

home!

#### **THANK YOU!!!**

**Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness shown to me during the Nativity Season. In the New Year may you be blessed with all the good things God has to give.**

**Please be assured of my prayers.**

**And I ask for a kind remembrance in yours.**

*Fr. Ed*

#### **A Prayer for the New Year**

O Master of all created things, You have established seasons and years by your power. Bless this New Year with Your bounty: Preserve this land and its people in peace, And save us through the prayers of the Theotokos.

A Message From Fr. Ed .....

#### **My Dear OLPH Parish Family,**

As we begin a new year, let us take time to plan and make Stewardship of time and talent a part of our lifestyle and Stewardship of treasure a part of our budget. During the parish wide meeting on October 9, I explained my feelings regarding the annual “Personal Assessment.” I am uncomfortable with the idea of an assessment – you are not “billed” for your parish membership as an assessment implies. Your giving to the parish should be planned and consistent. I would like you to consider spreading what you would normally give during the assessment drive throughout the year. This approach helps both of us with our cash flow. I also ask you to think about your level of giving for 2017. Are you in a position to increase your gift in the coming year or do your circumstances require you to reduce your contribution? The important thing is that you think about your giving.

*“Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

(II Corinthians 9:7)

I also ask that as we begin the New Year you reflect on your stewardship of time and talent. What can you do for the good of OLPH? Talk with me and we will find something for you!

We have so much to do here at OLPH and the parish does need your contribution of time, talent and treasure.

I have been blessed by your warm welcome and I look forward to working with you to make OLPH realize its fullest potential.

You are in my prayers and I ask that you keep me in yours!

*Fr. Ed*

**House Blessings** - As you know, it is our tradition to have our homes blessed after the feast of Theophany on January 6. If you wish to have Fr. Ed come and bless your home, fill out and return the form below. Fr. Ed will contact you to arrange your house blessing.

**Fr. Ed, I/We would like to have our home blessed**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The best days of the week are: \_\_\_\_\_

The best time of day is: \_\_\_\_\_

If possible, this is the best date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** will be available by the end of January. If you wish to receive a copy of your statement, please fill out the form below and drop it off in the collection basket. As self addressed stamped envelope would be appreciated, but not required.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_



**Making All Things New: Stewardship and New Year's Resolutions**

**STEWARDSHIP**  
TIME + TALENT + TREASURE

*Reprinted with permission from the January 2017 issue of the Parish Bulletin of International Catholic Stewardship Council.*

Stewardship is a commitment of mind and heart to the Lord; a way of life that needs constant renewal and transformation. This time of year has always been one of looking forward to a new year, reflecting on the changes we need to make in our lives and resolving to follow through on those changes.

Perhaps those who seek to make resolutions to be better stewards might find inspiration in the following quick samples:

**Stewardship of Prayer:** Resolve to strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Notice how often you pray and what hinders you from praying. Commit to short, daily prayer times.

**Stewardship of Family:** Resolve to set aside more time to stay connected with your family. Eat dinner together, schedule regular dates with your spouse, plan family outings, and go to Mass together.

**Stewardship of Health:** Resolve to get those medical and dental checkups. Adopt healthier eating habits. Add exercise and other physical activity to your daily routine.

**Stewardship of Possessions:** Resolve to possess a little more “lightly” this year. Consider ways you can reduce the amount of all that stuff you own. Distinguish between those items that are necessary and those that are considered luxurious and unnecessary.

**Stewardship of the Parish Family:** Resolve to serve your faith community in some way this year such as at liturgy, in the parish’s outreach or education and formation efforts.

**Stewardship of Money:** Resolve to render sacred your annual budget. Reprioritize your financial goals to ensure that the Lord comes first in your spending. Take positive steps to improve your financial health.

**Stewardship of Work:** Resolve to be faithful to your daily, work-related tasks and offer them up to the Lord. Cultivate your skills. Deepen your knowledge. Be mindful of how you are building the Kingdom of God.

**Stewardship of Mind:** Resolve to keep your mind active. Commit to being more informed on the issues of the day. Read your Bible. Familiarize yourself with the Church’s social teachings.

**Stewardship of Neighbor:** Resolve to be a person of hospitality; to make time and space for others who enter your life. Be more aware of those times when a neighbor, coworker, fellow parishioner or stranger, needs a moment of kindness, a little attention or an affirming gesture on your part.

**Stewardship of the Poor:** Resolve to live with more compassion and in solidarity with those less fortunate. Remember the poor in prayer, and commit to helping relieve in some way the plight of those who are impoverished or marginalized.



## On the Road with Fr. Ed . . . .

Spain Pilgrimage with Fatima, Lourdes & Barcelona  
Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparitions at  
Fatima November 1- 11, 2017  
\$2,989 per person from Newark  
See Fr. Ed for more information.

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### CANDLE DEDICATION FOR DECEMBER

#### Sanctuary

In Memory of John Kondrach, my husband  
by Susan Kondrach

#### Tetrapod

In Memory of fathers, Joseph Kopcho  
and Andrew Wislotsky by Nadia Kopcho

#### Altar of Preparation

In Memory of Michael Yulich, my father  
by Betty Yulich Slezak and Dan Slezak

#### Blessing Altar

God's Blessings on the Macinsky Family  
this New Year

by Stephen, Anna Maria, Michael

Due to bulletin space availability, the monthly candle  
intentions may not be printed each week.

Thank you for your understanding.



## St. Basil the Great

### Celebrated January 1st

Very few of us realize that the beginning of the Church calendar does not start on January 1st. Actually, our Church calendar begins on September 1st. In our daily living, however, with our friends and neighbors and our society, our year begins on January 1st. This is a very important date in our Church since it marks the Feast Day of one of our greatest saints, St. Basil the Great.

St. Basil was born in the year 330 AD in the city of Caesarea, Asia Minor. He was one of six children who all became saints in our Church. His brothers and sister became priests, bishops, and nuns. His parents were very devoted to the faith and gave their children a great spiritual heritage, which they cultivated in their lifetime. The family of St. Basil was the greatest Christian family of the 4th century. St. Basil studied in Constantinople and Athens. He studied with his best friend, St. Gregory, in the cultural centers of the world. St. Basil was one of the greatest writers and speakers of the Christian Church. Although his fame was spread over the entire Christian world of his day, he returned to his own home town and was ordained Bishop of Caesarea on June 14, 370 AD.

St. Basil was an authority on the monastic life. He formulated the rules and regulations for the monks of his day, and these rules still prevail in most of the Christian monasteries of the world. St. Basil prepared the Divine Liturgy that we love and know so well. Although the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is used 42 Sundays a year in our Church, it is based on the slightly longer Divine Liturgy of St. Basil. St. John merely shortened the lengthy prayers and made minor alterations in other prayers. The Liturgy of St. Basil is celebrated ten times each year: during the Lenten period, Christmas Eve, and on January 1st, the anniversary of his death.

St. Basil was indeed one of the greatest pillars of the Church. He loved children and always assisted the sick and the homeless. He was the first bishop to establish orphanages and hospitals and old age homes. He first directed the attention of the Church to these unfortunate victims of society.

Why was St. Basil given the name "Great"? Only a few people in the world were ever given the magnificent title,

"Great"! Alexander the Great was so-called because he conquered the world, but St. Basil was called "Great" because he conquered the hearts and souls of men for Jesus Christ. His whole life was dedicated to Jesus and the message of Christianity. He had the humility of Moses, the zeal of Elijah, the piety of Peter, the eloquence of John the Theologian, and the dedication of Paul. He died in the Lord on January 1, 379 AD.

*Reprinted from Lives of the Saints and Major Feast Days by Fr. George Poulos,  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America,  
Department of Religious Education, 1974, p. 39.*

## The Feast of Theophany



is a celebration of an historic event, the Baptism of Christ. In addition, we celebrate all the different manifestations of God (Theophanies) to men in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. We celebrate in this Feast His mysterious union with humanity in the Church -- a union of faith and love, engendering men to a new spiritual life in Baptism. The event of the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River (Mk. 1: 9-11) serves to reveal this union in a clear and special manner.

In accordance with the Gospel this is the first revelation of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- the Holy Trinity. The icon brings this revelation to us. At the top of the icon, the opening of heaven is symbolized by the segment of a circle. This circle signifies God's presence and witness at the event. Emanating from the circle are rays of light surrounding the Holy Spirit, depicted in the figure of a dove descending upon our Savior Who is being baptized in the Jordan by John. In this graphic manner, the Father and the Holy Spirit give testimony to the appearance of the Son of God in the flesh among mankind.

In this icon, we are immediately drawn to the Person of Christ. He stands in the waters of the Jordan. The iconographic imagery expresses that not just a part, but the entire body of Christ is immersed in the Jordan in token of His burial; for in Colossians we read: "in baptism you were not only buried with Him but also raised to life with Him because you believed in the power of God Who raised Him from the dead." (2: 12) The icon's illustration of the total immersion of Christ as well as His right hand blessing the waters signifies the sanctification and purification of the waters by Christ. No longer is water an image of death, but an image of birth into a new life which we share with Christ Who took upon Himself the sins of the world. In Christ we celebrate that all of creation is renewed.

A further illustration of our coming to share this new life in Christ is the symbol of Christ undergoing Baptism "clothed" in the nakedness of Adam, the Father of all mankind. Through Christ's sanctification of the waters, He enables us to be raised up with Him and to put on the robes of incorruptibility.

The role of John the Baptist is depicted by the placing of his right hand on the head of Christ -- a gesture which has always been an integral part of the sacramental ritual of Baptism. With his left hand, John makes a gesture of prayer, symbolizing the trembling awe which overwhelmed him at the sight of the divine manifestation. Present in the icon are Angels with their hands covered. Their heads are bowed as an indication of their role of service to God and their reverence for Him Whom they serve. The Icon of Theophany brings us visually and symbolically to the presence of the manifestation of God, the revelation of the Trinity, and the deep, spiritually rich significance of Baptism. In its presence we know that God does reveal Himself to us and that through our Baptism, established by the Baptism of Christ, we are made new in Christ.

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**WELCOME VISITORS!**  
**“MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER  
FOR ALL PEOPLES.” - Isaiah 56: 7**



If you are a visitor to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we want you to know how welcome you are; whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish. We hope you find our worship true and reverent and our people here friendly and cordial. If you are seeking a spiritual home, we would be honored by your presence in our family. For more information about becoming a parishioner, please see Fr. Ed.