



### LOOKING AHEAD

*The following are services and parish events in addition to the usual weekend services (Sat 6pm & Sun 9:30am).*

#### Sunday January 6—Holy Theophany

9:30am — Hours, Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water  
1:30pm — Blessing of Water at Lake Elizabeth

#### Tuesday January 8

10:00am — Father's Café  
7:30pm — Parish Council

#### Thursday January 10

7:30pm — Adult Ed: Faithful Handmaidens of the Lord in the OT

#### Tuesday January 15

10:00am — Father's Café

#### Tuesday January 22

10:00am — Father's Café

#### Sunday January 27

12:30pm — Annual Parish Assembly on Finances

#### Tuesday January 29

10:00am — Father's Café

#### Friday February 1

7:00pm — Vigil for the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple

*For more dates please visit our website: [www.stchristinaorthodox.org](http://www.stchristinaorthodox.org)*

### Many Years!

Jon Masamitsu (on his name day—1/7)  
Eliana Kozachenko (on her birthday—1/8)



#### PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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[FrMichael@stchristinaorthodox.org](mailto:FrMichael@stchristinaorthodox.org) (510) 333-8814

**Attached Clergy:** V. Rev. George Masters & Dn. Dennis Milligan



# THE LIVING WATER

(JOHN 4:10)

[www.stchristinaorthodox.org](http://www.stchristinaorthodox.org)

Publication of St. Christina of Tyre Orthodox Church in Fremont, CA

32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 7

THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST



Welcome!

...to all who have gathered to follow Jesus Christ and manifest the Kingdom of God in the Liturgy of His Church. If this is your first time with us, give us a chance to get to know you. Please join us for our fellowship meal following the service.



#### A Word from the Holy Fathers

But concerning baptism, thus baptize ye: having first recited all these precepts, baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, in running water; but if thou hast not running water, baptize in some other water, and if thou canst not baptize in cold, in warm water; but if thou hast neither, pour water three times on the head, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

—The Didache



Include Something in the Bulletin

Email it to [community@stchristinaorthodox.org](mailto:community@stchristinaorthodox.org)



*When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. (Mt 3:16)*

**BLESSING OF THE WATERS  
AT LAKE ELIZABETH TODAY**

Please join us today after the Divine Liturgy and fellowship meal as we gather at Lake Elizabeth for the Blessing of the Waters. Look for us to the left of the boat house (from Paseo Padre Parkway, enter on Sailway Drive).

**CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF MEETING**

On **Sunday, January 13** we will have a meeting of the Church School staff to discuss the Nativity Play. Please plan to join us.

**FOR 2019—UPDATE ONLINE GIVING**

As we prepare our parish finances for 2019, it would be helpful if everyone who uses Online Giving could **double-check that their pledge amounts have been entered correctly**, and distributed to the accounts as listed on their pledge forms.

Also if you use a credit card as your payment source, please check that the **expiration date** is correct.

If you don't yet use Online Giving but would like to, you can set up an account by clicking the green Online Giving button on the home page at [stchristinaorthodox.org](http://stchristinaorthodox.org). You can use either a bank account or a credit card as a payment source.

Ask Maha or Fr Michael if you have any questions about how to get set up.

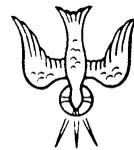
**SCHEDULE YOUR HOUSE BLESSING**

Fr Michael will be blessing homes starting January 7, through the beginning of Great Lent (March 10). Please talk to him soon to schedule your house blessing.

**2019 CALENDARS**

2019 church calendars from St. Tikhon's are here! Please feel free to take one calendar per household.

Also in January please bring in your calendars from 2018 so that Fr. Michael can recycle or dispose of them properly.



**BANQUET RAFFLE BASKETS**

We all receive much appreciated gifts that we know we will not be able to use. Part of our Banquet fundraiser is a raffle for various themed baskets. This has raised \$500-700 in the past.

Now is a good time to start setting aside items that could be combined into a basket.

Popular themes in past years have included Coffee Lovers, Tea & Cookies, A Trip to Ireland, A Night at the Movies, Kitchen Gadgets, and more. Have fun with it and use your imagination!

We can also always use baskets for this event.

Speak to Matushka Vickie if you have any questions.

the offender also frees creation from the bondage of corruption. This corruptible nature will be destroyed, being transformed into *new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness* (2 Peter 3:13). It was in order to make this transformation possible, and to prepare nature for the incorruption that will occur after the dread day, that Christ came to the waters of Jordan.

By His immersion in the Jordan, Christ sanctified not only the waters of the Jordan, but the whole nature of the waters, as the Church cries out in its hymns: "Christ hath appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters" (troparion of the forefeast); "Today the nature of the waters is sanctified" (troparion at the Blessing of the Waters). Since there is water everywhere, by sanctifying the waters, Christ thereby sanctified all of creation and the entire universe. Christ prepared nature that it, too, might experience the beneficial consequences of the sacrifice that He came to offer. But this was not yet everything. He gave the waters the power to cleanse human sin. The baptism of John was only a sign of repentance. Christian Baptism is a new birth and the forgiveness of all sins. God punished the sin of the first world with water, destroying it in a flood of waters. Now God saves people with water in the Mystery of Baptism.

Thus, as we sing in the hymns of the Church, Christ crushed the head of the serpent in the waters of the Jordan, the head of that same serpent that deceived Adam and Eve but was defeated by the humility of Jesus. He made known to people that God is Trinity and He sanctified the waters, preparing all of creation, along with the waters, to receive the word of forgiveness and to prepare it for incorruption. Then, having withstood another battle with the devil in the wilderness, Christ went to prepare people for the kingdom to come. He began His preaching with these words: *Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand* (Matthew 4:17); or, as another Gospel puts it: *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel* (Mark 1:15).

Until that time, John the Baptist had been preaching repentance, preparing the way for the Lord. Now the Lord Himself cries out to people: "Repent!" This voice is not addressed only to the people who lived in the time of Christ; rather, by these words, Christ addressed all people of every time and age. We, too, have heard these words in the Gospel. So long as the festal hymns of the Theophany have not gone silent, they will remind us that the time of repentance is drawing near.

Let us be attentive! For these are the words not of a prophet or an angel, but of the Lord Himself. Let us repent and, in the approaching fast, let us strive to conquer our passions and to receive remission of sins, that in the age to come we might enter the imperishable kingdom prepared by the Lord. Amen.

**A HOMILY ON THE FEAST OF THE LORD’S THEOPHANY**

—St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco

When celebrating the Theophany, we call to remembrance both that God was made known to people as Trinity and that Jesus was revealed to people as Christ. Where was Christ revealed? Where was His work begun? Did He go to a great city to be revealed there in His Glory? Did He ascend a high mountain, with a crowd of many thousands standing below and looking up at Him like a wonder? No! Christ went into the desert, to the River Jordan, where John was baptizing the people. John preached repentance, calling upon sinners to be baptized in the Jordan as a sign of repentance. Christ, Who has no sin, now comes and asks for baptism as a sinner. John was fearful: “You should baptize me!” Jesus replies: “Let it be so now: for this is how we should fulfill all righteousness” [cf. Matthew 3:13-15].

Adam sinned through pride. He wanted to be exalted, to become like God. But Christ came to fulfill the righteousness of God and to expiate Adam’s pride by His humility. Adam wanted to exalt himself before God, but God humbled Himself before man. Christ descended into the waters, receiving baptism from His servant. John, trembling, placed his hand on His Master and God, while Christ humbly bowed His head before him. Christ’s humility unlocked the heavens. The heavens were then opened and the voice of God the Father was heard: “This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased. This is My Son, Who humbled Himself in order to accomplish My will; this is My true Son Who abases Himself in order to elevate man.” The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus, confirming the word of the Father. Thus, by His humility, Christ opened the heavens, revealing to people the mystery of the Tri-hypostatic Godhead.

Why did He accomplish this in the waters, and not in some other place? Let us recall how God created the world. When God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was without form and void; the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Then God divided the earth from the waters, but in such a way that water still remained everywhere. Water is essential to every kind of creation. Neither man nor any kind of animal can live without water. There is water (humidity) in the air. Pick up a handful of earth from absolutely anywhere: there will be water there. There is water in stone: it might seem to us that there is none there, but when God so wills, He can draw it out, as occurred in the time of Moses. *The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof, the world, and all that dwell therein. He hath founded it upon the seas, and upon the rivers hath He prepared it, as the Psalmist says (Psalm 23:1-2). By the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water, the Apostle Peter writes, Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished (2 Peter 3:5-6).*

When man sinned, he incurred the wrath of God not only upon himself, but upon all of nature. Man is the crown of God’s creation; he was made nature’s king. But when this king became the enemy of another King, his entire kingdom became an enemy kingdom. The penalty was incurred not only by man, but by all of creation. We know that the *whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now (Romans 8:22). But the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same (Romans 8:20).* Therefore, the forgiveness of

**PARISH FINANCE MEETING**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019

Each year on the 4th Sunday of January, our community meets to establish our budget for the year.

This year’s annual budget meeting will take place on *Sunday, January 27*, starting at approximately 12:30pm after the Divine Liturgy.

While anyone can attend the meeting, only people who qualify as both **general** and **voting** members may vote. According to our bylaws, these are defined as follows:

**Section 1. General Members.** General Members include everyone who:

- a. is a Baptized and Chrismated Orthodox Christian;
- b. partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Communion in the Parish at least annually; and
- c. has made the St. Christina of Tyre Church their principal parish home.

**Section 2. Voting Members.** In order to be eligible to vote at a parish meeting, a General Member must also:

- a. Be 18 or more years of age; and
- b. Provide a written statement annually pledging their membership in the Parish by filling out an annual Pledge Form and give whatever amount of time, effort, prayer, and/or financial support that he or she can offer.

**Section 3. Multiple Parish Membership.**

Voting membership in two or more parishes of the OCA is not permitted.

**SAVE THE DATE! - FEB 10  
ANNUAL BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION**

We have a date for our Annual Banquet & Silent Auction!

**When:**  
Sunday, February 10  
5:00-8:30pm

**Where:**  
St James Hall  
34700 Fremont Blvd



Sign-up sheets for the various tasks associated with the banquet will be posted soon. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

*“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*

—John 8:12

## Today's Worship — Hymns

### TROPARION

#### Theophany—Tone 1

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to You, calling You His Beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, You have revealed Yourself, and have enlightened the world, glory to You.



### KONTAKION

#### Theophany—Tone 4

Today You have shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us. Knowing You, we sing Your praises. You have come and revealed Yourself, O unapproachable Light.

### PROKEIMENON

**Tone 4** — *(Feast) Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. (Ps 117/118:27)*

*v: O give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. (Ps 117/118:1)*

**Following the feast of Theophany until the beginning of Great Lent (January 7 - March 9) Fr. Michael will be blessing homes. Please contact Fr. Michael to arrange a date and time.**

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Epistle — Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

### Gospel — Matthew 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

<sup>14</sup> And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

<sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

<sup>16</sup> When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

<sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

