

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY



Icon of the Holy Fathers Athanasius and Cyril -- January 18th

Athanasius and Cyril, Champions and Models

Saint Athanasius (Athanasios) is one of the great figures of Christianity. He is called the “champion of orthodoxy” as he resolutely opposed Arianism. Five times Athanasius was exiled for his defense of the doctrine of Christ’s divinity. During one period of his life, he enjoyed 10 years of relative peace – reading, writing and promoting the Christian life along the lines of the monastic ideal to which he was greatly devoted. His dogmatic and historical writings are almost all polemic, directed against every aspect of Arianism. Athanasius suffered many trials while he was bishop of Alexandria. He was given the grace to remain strong against what probably seemed at times to be insurmountable opposition. He defended the true faith for his flock, regardless of the cost to himself. In today’s world we are experiencing this same call to remain true to our faith, no matter what.

Saint Cyril’s importance for theology and Church history lies in his championing the cause of orthodoxy against the heresy of Nestorius. Nestorianism

implied that the humanity of Christ was a mere disguise. At the Council of Ephesus (431), Cyril condemned Nestorianism and proclaimed Mary truly the “God-bearer” – “Theotokos” (the mother of the one Person who is truly God and truly human). In the confusion that followed, Cyril was deposed and imprisoned for three months, after which he was welcomed back to Alexandria as a second Athanasius (the champion against Arianism).

Lives of the saints are valuable not only for the virtue they reveal but also for the less admirable qualities that also appear. Holiness is a gift of God to us as human beings. Life is a process. We respond to God’s gift, but sometimes with a lot of zigzagging. If Cyril had been more patient and diplomatic, the Nestorian Church might not have risen and maintained power so long. But even saints must grow out of immaturity, narrowness and selfishness. It is because they – and we – do grow, that we are truly saints, persons who live the life of God.

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"Christ is Born!"

"Khristos Razhdayetsia!"

January 12, 2020

Sun. after Theophany

THIS SUNDAY, JAN. 12, our terrific Sunday School will resume classes for the winter-spring semester today at 10 am. Our parish policy is that every parish child must attend this wonderful program, which holds classes from Pre-school through Highschool. We have a modern school facility, twelve devoted and talented teachers, textbooks, supplies, even treats for all our students - all free for you and your children. Please, Good People, bring your children to Sunday School. Some day they will thank you and someday Christ the Teacher will thank you - in person!

A GOODLY AMOUNT of calendars, both English and Ukrainian, still await you to take them home today. Also, personal boxes of donation envelopes have been prepared for every adult parishioner and await you in the church basement today. Please take these items home today, so that the rapidly aging Father Ronald doesn't have to trudge through the winter weather to deliver these items, PLEASE!

A SPECIAL NOTE OF LOVE AND THANKS goes out to Tom and Sue Gretchen for their laborious work of decorating our church for the Holydays, to Pam and Floyd Pachella for cleaning the school for the new semester, to Bert LeGendre for disposing all the trash at our various buildings. God bless all these good people for their love and work this year.

NEXT SUNDAY, Father Ronald will present a seminar for adults on the meaning of Christmas at 10:15 am in the School Library. We will discuss the meaning of Christmas and how it is celebrated both here and in Ukraine. Please come and share with us your experiences of this Feast. Gifts and prizes, coffee/tea and treats will be your reward!

WE ARE SO VERY GRATEFUL to all our good people and their generosity this Christmas season. The total donation was close to \$20,000. Now our financial officers Dr. Solar and Chief Zenny will not go gray with worry over the upcoming parish bills!

FATHER RONALD sends out his love and thanks to all the good people who remembered him this holy season with their prayers, kind words, cards and gifts of love. Your love and encouragement inspire Father to keep on working on your behalf at the parish. May the Newborn Infant Lord Jesus bless all of you with good health and great joy in 2020.

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 6 pm +Mark Hitchens (Mother Maryellen)
+The Demchik Family and Mae Stelmack (Andy Demchik)
Sunday, 9 am +Agnes, michael and Donna (Fonock-Maruszczak Family)
Thursday, 7 am +Patricia Reich (Luba Somits)
Friday, 7 am +Bridget Kovach (The Plisiewicz-Maslayak Family)
Saturday, 8 am +Olga and George Tuttle (Bill and Bridget)
Saturday, 6 pm +Bridget Kovach (Gerry Fontaine)
Sunday, 9 am +Yurij Dychdala (Lidia and Family)

TODAY'S TROPAR: Angelic powers were on Your sepulchre, and the guards
became dead-like, as Mary stood by Your tomb seeking
Your most pure Body. You captured hell yet were not detained by it.
You are the bestower of life and met the Virgin, O Lord, glory to You.

GLORY TO THE FATHER AND THE SON...

TODAY'S KONTAK: When Christ-God, the Lifegiver of all things, raised up
the dead from the valley of doom, He gave resurrection
to all the human race, for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection and
the Life, and the God of all the world.

TODAY'S PROKIMEN: O Lord, save Your People and bless Your Inheritance.

R. Ronald