



**Sunday January 03, 2016 TONE 6**

*31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Sunday before the  
 Theophany/Forefeast of the Theophany Holy Prophet Malachi/  
 Martyr Gordius/Ven Genevieve of Paris*

**This Week's Schedule**

Tuesday 1/05 :*Feast of Theophany Vigil 7:00 p.m.*

Wednesday 1/06: *Theophany Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.*

Saturday 1/09: *Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.*

Sunday 1/10: *Hours 8:40 a.m.*

**Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.**

*followed by Fellowship/ Coffee hour*

**Reader Schedule**

DATE	3RD HOUR	6TH HOUR	EPISTLE
Jan-3	CARPENTER	SOUDER, C	BRASOWSKI
Jan 6	THEOPHANY		
Jan-10	BUNITSKY, S	SULPIZI, L	CAREY
Jan-17	RILEY, J	RILEY, A	WALES
Jan-24	BUNITSKY, S	BUNITSKY, K	BUNITSKY, S
Jan-31	CARPENTER	PECK	BRASOWSKI

## Hymns and Prayers

### **Tone 6      Troparion (*Resurrection*)**

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.  
Mary stood by Your grave,  
seeking Your most pure body.  
You took captive hell,//  
not being tempted by it.  
You came to the Virgin, granting life.//  
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

### **Tone 4    Troparion of the Forefeast**

Prepare, O Zebulon;  
and adorn yourself, O Naphtali!  
River Jordan, cease flowing  
and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized!  
Adam, rejoice with our First Mother  
and do not hide yourself as you did of old in Paradise;  
for having seen you naked,  
He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment.//  
Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

### **Tone 4      Troparion (*Martyr Gordius*)**

Your holy martyr Gordius, O Lord,  
through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from  
You, our God.

For, having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,  
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//  
Through his intercessions save our souls!

**Tone 6**      **Kontakion** (*Resurrection*)

When Christ God the Giver of Life,  
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,  
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//  
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

**Tone 4**      **Kontakion**  
(*Prophet Malachi*)

Endowed with the gift of prophecy, O Malachi,  
you clearly proclaimed the saving coming of Christ to the world.//  
His brightness has brought light to the whole universe.

**Tone 8**      **Kontakion**(*Martyr Gordius*)

Holy Gordius, the earth has received the sweat of your labors;  
the blood you shed has made the universe rejoice.  
Save by your prayers those who sing of your glory in faith,//  
fittingly honoring you, divine and glorious martyr, worthy of all praise.

**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 have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

**Tone 6      Prokeimenon**

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance! (*Ps 27/28:9*)

*v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps 27/28:1)*

**Epistle** 2 Timothy 4:5-8 *(Sunday before Theophany)*

*But you 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.*

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Your countenance upon us, and have mercy on us!. (Ps 66/67:1-2)*

*v: That we may know Your way upon the earth, and Your salvation among all nations. (Ps 66/67-3)*

**Gospel** Mark 1:1-8 *(Sunday before Theophany)*

*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.*

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## **This Week's Announcements**

***Many Years to the Newly Illumined!*** We welcome into the Church this morning Imani Robinson, by virtue of the Sacrament of Baptism and Chrismation. We want to wish her and her family congratulations and many years of health, happiness, and prosperity!

***Theophany (Baptism) of our Lord*** Epiphany means **shining forth** or **manifestation**. The feast is often called, as it is in the Orthodox service books, **Theophany**, which means the shining forth and manifestation of **God**. The emphasis in the present day celebration is on the appearance of Jesus as the human Messiah of Israel and the divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Thus, in the baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus identifies himself with sinners as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (**Jn 1:29**), the "Beloved" of the Father whose messianic task it is to redeem men from their sins (*Lk 3:21, Mk 1:35*). We will celebrate this blessed feast with the Eve of Theophany, Tuesday, Jan 5th at 7:00 p.m. for Vigil. Then on Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup> we will have Theophany liturgy at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Blessing of Water.

***Holy Water and Home Blessings*** Holy water will be available in the church for the next few weeks please feel free to take some home. Also, Fr. Barnabas is available for home blessings, please see Fr. Barnabas or call the rectory to make arrangements.

***January Calendar Parish Council Meeting Correction*** The next parish council meeting will be held on **Thursday Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please make the correction on your monthly calendars. Reminder to all 2016 parish council members that next Sunday Jan 10th we will administer the Oath of Office immediately after Liturgy. Thank you for all your continued works!

***Parish Directory 2016*** We are currently working on our parish directory for 2016. Please take a look at the list in the vestibule and make any additions or changes necessary. Also, please add your names and info if it is not currently on the list.

***Study Group*** Just a reminder that our Thursday study group will resume Thursday Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>. The study group is an excellent opportunity for continuing adult education. Please join us!

***St. Michael's Christmas Play*** Thank you to Emilia (Cindy) Peck, Debbie Hines and all of our parents and young people for their Nativity play presentation last Sunday at coffee hour.

***Fast Free After Nativity*** Just a reminder that it is a fast free period in the life of the Church from Christmas day until Jan. 4th. However, the Eve of Theophany, Tuesday Jan. 5th, is a strict fast day in preparation for the baptism of our Lord. Enjoy the feast!

## Women as True Witnesses

*On January 4 the Church gives equal honor to each of the Seventy Apostles, and the icon for the day shows them all together. This grouping of saints is called a "synaxis."*

On this day we also commemorate apostles by name. Among these is the Apostle and Evangelist Luke, writer of the third Gospel and of the Book of Acts. In these days just before the Feast of Theophany, when a multitude will witness the Father's proclamation of His Son's lordship, the Gospel of Luke is especially interesting to read. This is because Luke records several instances in which women witness to the lordship of Christ, often while those around them doubt or scoff.

In a well-known event, a Pharisee invites Jesus to dinner, and while they are at the table a sinful woman comes and anoints His feet with oil (7: 36-50). She knows Him to be the true Prophet, the One who has compassion and power to forgive her sins. But the Pharisee considers Jesus' acceptance of her gesture to be proof that He isn't a real prophet, because a real prophet would have known "who and what kind of woman this is."

Luke writes about a different kind of witness when he describes Jesus' visit to the home of Mary and Martha (10: 38-42). Martha accepts the usual role of women—to serve guests, and to do all the things that certainly are necessary to maintain a household. Jesus doesn't rebuke her for this, but He lets Mary witness to a wonderful additional truth: women can also be His disciples, sitting at His feet to take in His teaching. In fact, He calls this "the better part." It isn't only open to Mary, of course, but to every person.

While teaching in a synagogue (13: 10-17), Jesus is approached by a woman who has suffered from a crippling spirit for eighteen years. She is a witness to His divine compassion; when He heals her she immediately stands straight and praises God.

The leader of the synagogue completely dismisses her witness, caring only that Jesus has violated the law by curing on the sabbath day. But Jesus answers that anyone will "work" on the sabbath day by giving an animal water. Should not much more a "daughter of Abraham" be set free from the bonds of Satan on that day? His loving—and practical—answer makes the crowd express joy at the wonderful things He is doing.

Luke also tells us that the women at the tomb (24: 1-12) have no trouble believing the "men in dazzling clothes" they meet there, who remind them of Jesus' words about His death and resurrection. It is the apostles, the men closest to Jesus, who dismiss the women's witness as an "idle tale."

These same apostles, after witnessing the Ascension, will devote themselves to prayer (Acts 1: 8-14). They will be joined by women, including the Theotokos, who have been witnessing all along.

*This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.*



**Prayers for the Departed:** *Helen Bunitsky*

**Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need:** *Fr. Vladimir Petorak, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. David Shewczyk, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Lemlem Resat, Harry Wujcik, Alexander Skomorucha, Alfred Mokhiber, Peter Melnik, Lily Nassif, Agnes and Basil Timchak, Olga Riley, Anna Hotrovich, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, Maria Current, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke Wales, Evelyn Kutch., John Maloney, Nona Carey, Joseph Wojciechowski, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, Georgia Harb*

**Prayers for Women and the Children to be Born of Them:** *Maria Peck,, Elizabeth Clause, Matushka Anastasia Hojnicky*

**Service Ministries**

Date	Coffee/ Fellowship Hour	Service Duty	<u>Church Cleaners</u>	Library
3-Jan	Oberto/Bunitsky	Bunitsky/Lewis	Whalen/Fink	Skomorucha
10-Jan	Conover/Daubert/George	Elia/Morjana	Farrell	Maloney
17-Jan	Sulpizi/Skomoucha	Riley	Kendall	Lewis
24-Jan	Elia/Gundersen/Farrell	Sulpizi/Fink	Baldychev/ Shately	Gundersen
31-Jan`	Peck/ Wales	Hojnicki/Souder	Sulpizi	Farrell
7-Feb	Hojnicki/Flynn/Roberts	Sheeler/Baldychev	Riley	Skomorucha

**Last Week's Attendance**

12/24 Eve of Nativity...79

12/25 Nativity...90

12/26 Vespers.....28

12/27 Divine Liturgy.....70