

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

A parish of the New England Diocese ✦ Orthodox Church in America
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The Very Reverend Steven Voytovich, D.Min., Acting Rector
phone (203) 453-4405 e-mail vojts90@gmail.com
The Very Reverend Michael Westerberg, Retired, Attached

Sun. Jan. 6, 2018 9:00am **Holy Epiphany/Theophany, Baptism of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ**

TODAY'S READINGS: Titus 2:11-14:3:4-7 Matt. 3:13-17

WEEKLY CALENDAR:

Today: Blessing of Church School Space • Thanksgiving Prayers •
Coffee Hour -House blessings begin-
Mon. Jan. 7 5:30pm Daily Vespers
Tue. Jan. 8 5:30pm Daily Vespers; 6:30pm Budget Committee Meeting
Wed. Jan. 9 5:30pm Daily Vespers
Thu. Jan. 10 5:30pm Daily Vespers
Sat. Jan. 12 5:00pm Great Vespers, Fr. John Mikitish
Sun. Jan. 13 9:00am 33rd Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday after Theophany
Holy Fathers Slain at Sinai and Raithu – V. Rev. Sergei Bouteneff
Eph. 4:7-13 Matt. 4:12-17 (Sunday after)

Welcome to all our visitors today!

Notes related to services this week: Fr. Steven, in being appointed to Holy Transfiguration Church, continues to serve as Director of our OCA Office of Institutional Chaplains, supporting chaplains with endorsement. Endorsers are scheduled for annual meetings from Friday, Jan. 11, through Monday, Jan. 14. Daily Vespers will not be served on Friday or Monday. Archpriest Sergei Bouteneff, long-time pastor of St. George Albanian Church in Trumbull, and retired Director of Pastoral Services at the Veterans Hospital in West Haven, will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy this coming Sunday. Additionally, Fr. John Mikitish and Mat. Brenda will be returning to Holy Transfiguration Church while Fr. John completes doctoral studies at Yale University. Fr. John will be celebrating Great Vespers on Saturday evening as they move back from Pittsfield, MA.

House Blessing This Year: The sign-up sheet for the blessing of homes is at the candle desk.

- If your home was blessed last year and you would like it to be blessed this year-you do not need to sign anything. Just check the schedule to know when Fr. Steven will be in your area.
- If your home was not blessed last year and you would like it to be blessed this year-write your name address and phone number on the sheet and check the schedule to know when Fr. Steven will be in your area.
- If your home was blessed last year but you prefer not to have it blessed this year-sign your name in the space provided on the sheet.

Special/Annual Parish Meeting: First Official Parish Meeting Notice: There will be a Special Parish Meeting on **Sunday, January 20th**, for the purpose of approving a settlement agreement for our lawsuit with Woodbridge Roofing and to approve funding for the same. As indicated in our parish by-laws, voting members of the parish are those who have participated in the holy sacraments of Confession and Communion in our parish at least once during 2018, and have indicated as least a minimum of support for the parish by fulfilling the basic commitment for 2018. This first official notice is printed in today's bulletin, posted on our website and announced aloud in church. As required by our by-laws, it will be repeated a second and third time in the same places.

Annual Meeting Preparation

In preparation for the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting (Feb. 3), the names of the *Nominating Committee*, the *Budget Committee* and the *By-laws Committee* members are posted on the downstairs bulletin board. Anyone wishing to propose an amendment to the parish by-laws is to submit his/her proposal, in writing, to any member of the by-laws committee by January 7th. If you would like to serve on the parish council, speak to any member of the nominating committee.

Request during Holy Communion:

Both to assist me as your new pastor, and for Fr. Sergei coming next week, could I ask each of you approaching the chalice to share your name so I can connect names and faces as quickly as possible? Thank you, and please be patient with me in getting to know all of you.

Feast of Theophany: This is the second feast recognizing the eternal Word becoming incarnate. The Nativity Feast focuses on Emmanuel, God-With-Us. Jesus is born as an infant through the Virgin Mary and the descent of the Holy Spirit. The Theophany Feast celebrates Jesus' baptism, by John the Baptist, in the Jordan River. The Holy Trinity is manifested in the midst of Jesus' baptism, and all of creation is renewed through Jesus' baptism. Jesus begins His ministry in the aftermath of being baptized. As they have come down to us today, the Nativity Feast focuses on the biological dimension of birth, and the Theophany Feast focuses on the spiritual dimension of birth. We are brought into this world biologically through our parents, and through baptism we are each received as a child of God into the Holy Orthodox Church. Metropolitan John Zizioulas states of Baptism that we are not simply received into the Church, but received to our specific place in the life of the Church, referring to the gifts and talents we have received.

The Holy Spirit is conferred personally on each of us in Baptism, and we are called upon to actualize this gift through the remainder of our lives! As we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus Christ, and hear the Father state: "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3:17), let us take a moment to take stock of how we have sought to make use of our gifts and talents, and be renewed in our efforts through the celebration of this Feast. In my brief introductory visits to Holy Transfiguration Church these past few weeks, I have been heartened to see and hear the level of commitment on the part of parish faithful toward supporting parish life. May we together mutually labor in the vineyard of Christ, renewed by the celebration of these feasts!

Сегодня- Богоявление / Крещение Господне - Благословение Домов

- [Послание к Титу 2:11-14, 3:4-7 и от Матфея 3:13-17]

Субб. 5:00чд Великая Вечерня

Воск. 9:00чу Литургия- Неделя По Богоявлению / Крещение Господне

[Послание к Ефесянам 4:7-13 и от Матфея 4:12-17]