



ST. NICHOLAS
ORTHODOX
CHURCH

102 Ross Avenue
San Anselmo, CA
94960

(415) 454-0982

www.stnicholasmarin.org

Diocese of the West

*Orthodox Church
in America*

Fr. Stephan Meholick,
Pastor

Protodeacon George
Golitzin

IMPORTANT
DATES

JANUARY

5 – Eve of Theophany

Strict Fast Day

Indoor Blessing of Water

6 – Theophany

9:30am Divine Liturgy,

Blessing of San Anselmo

Creek & Festal Trapeza

FEBRUARY

**2 – Meeting of
the Lord**

Annual

Parish Meeting

following Divine Liturgy

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

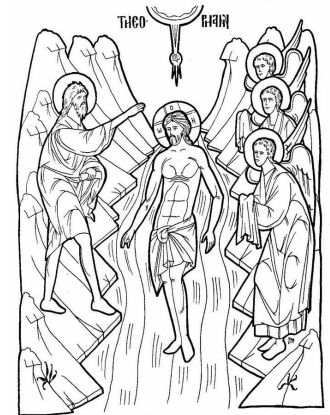
January 2025

FROM YOUR PASTOR

*“Today all creation is filled with joy;
Christ has appeared in the Jordan.”*

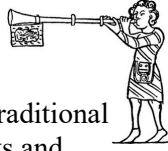
The feast of Epiphany on January 5-6 is a most glorious way to begin the new year. It is indeed a feast of re-creation, i.e., **making everything in our life new**. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann reminds us that “the world turned away from God, forgot Him, stopped seeing Him and immersed itself in sin, darkness and death. But God did not forget the world. Here, in His baptism, God returns it to us, shining with the glory of the stars and the beauty it had on the first day of creation. “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me...out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water” (Jn 7:37, 38).

Everything in this world, including matter itself, its very substance, now once again becomes a path toward God, toward communion with Him, toward growth in this abundant and eternal life. What we celebrate on this joyful and radiant day of Epiphany is the coming of God to His own creation. “And behold, the heavens were opened to him.” (Mt 3:16) We don’t know what exactly John felt when his hands touched the Savior, or how he saw the heavens opened, or how he heard the voice. But that moment was for him undoubtedly one of blinding light, when everything ignited and burst into flame with the joy of creation's first beauty, as the world once again was revealed as God’s world, purified, washed, reborn, filled with praise and thanksgiving.



“Christ has come to renew all creation.” We celebrate renewal when we see the priest sprinkling the church, us, our homes, all nature and all the world with new, holy, and divine water; and when we see people streaming forward to partake of that living water which flows into eternal life. And so, let everyone who thirsts come to Him and receive the gift of living water, the gift of new life, pure and reborn.

A PROCLAMATION



The Feast of Epiphany was the traditional time to announce the major feasts and celebrations of the Church for the upcoming year. Before the advent of perpetual calendars, the internet, and iPhones, the formal announcement by the deacon was the usual way the Church made known the date of Easter and all the celebrations that are dependent upon its date.

Let us recall the year's culmination, the Pascha of the Lord: His Last Supper, His Crucifixion, His Burial, and His Rising, celebrated between **April 16 and April 20**. From Pascha are reckoned all the days we keep holy.

Forgiveness vespers, the beginning of Lent, will occur on **March 2**.

Pure Week will be **March 3-7**.

To Jesus Christ, Who was, Who is, and Who is coming, Lord of time and history, be endless praise, forever and ever. Amen.

ONCE AGAIN: A TIMELESS NEW YEAR'S MEDITATION

- *Bill W.*

*(for parish council members, lunch teams,
ministry leaders, choir members, and all
attending our annual meeting)*

I went through several fruitless years in a state called "viewing with alarm for the good of the group." I thought it was up to me to be always "correcting conditions." Seldom had *anybody* been able to tell me what I *ought* to do, and *nobody* had ever succeeded in effectively telling me what I *must* do. I had to learn the hard way out of my own experience.

When setting out to "check" others, I found myself often motivated by fear of what they were doing, self-righteousness, and even downright intolerance. Consequently, I seldom succeeded in correcting anything. I just raised barriers of resentment that cut off any suggestion, example, understanding or love.

HOUSEBLESSING

If you would like your home to be blessed during the Theophany season, please sign the list on the church candledesk.

When the priest comes to bless the family and its house, the following rules should be observed:

1. A lighted candle, an icon and a wide bowl for the Holy Water should be placed on the table.
2. All music, televisions, etc. should be turned off.
3. All present in the house should come together and stand at the table.
4. Those who are able should join in the singing.
5. The first names of those for whom special prayers are to be offered, including all the members of the family and especially those living in the house, should be clearly printed on a sheet of paper with a clear distinction between the living and the dead.



TROPARION

Tone 1

When Thou, O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word, O Christ our God who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, Glory to Thee!

KONTAKION

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, The unapproachable Light."