

**SAINT BASIL THE GREAT
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

On the Theophany, or Birthday of Christ
Oration 38 by St. Gregory Nazianzus (the Theologian)



**205 Highland Avenue
Des Peres, MO 63122**

**A parish of the
Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**

**Archpriest Martin Swanson, Pastor
Priest Sergii Alekseev, Associate Pastor
Archpriest Radomir Chkautovich, Attached**

Weekly Services:
Saturday - Vigil 5:00 p.m.
Sunday - Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

I. Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ from heaven, go out to meet Him. Christ on earth; be exalted. Sing unto the Lord all the whole earth; and that I may join both in one word, Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, for Him Who is of heaven and then of earth. Christ in the flesh, rejoice with trembling and with joy; with trembling because of your sins, with joy because of your hope. Christ of a Virgin; O you Matrons live as Virgins, that you may be Mothers of Christ. Who does not worship Him That is from the beginning? Who does not glorify Him That is the Last?

II. Again the darkness is past; again Light is made; again Egypt is punished with darkness; again Israel is enlightened by a pillar (Exodus 14:20). The people that sat in the darkness of ignorance, let it see the Great Light of full knowledge (Isaiah 9:6). Old things are passed away, behold all things have become new (1 Cor. 5:17). The letter gives way, the Spirit comes to the front. The shadows flee away, the Truth comes in upon them.

Melchisedec is concluded. He that was without Mother becomes without Father (without Mother of His former state, without Father of His second). The laws of nature are upset; the world above must be filled. Christ commands it, let us not set ourselves against Him. O clap your hands together all you people, because unto us a Child is born, and a Son given unto us, Whose Government is upon His shoulder (for with the Cross it is raised up), and His Name is called The Angel of the Great Counsel of the Father (Isaiah 9:6). Let John cry, Prepare the way of the Lord (Matthew 3:3). I too will cry the power of this Day. He Who is not carnal is Incarnate; the Son of God becomes the Son of Man, Jesus Christ the Same yesterday, and today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Let the Jews be offended, let the Greeks deride (1 Cor. 1:23); let heretics talk till their tongues ache. Then shall they believe, when they see Him ascending up into heaven; and if not then, yet when they see Him coming out of heaven and sitting as Judge.

Special Services & Events

- **Baptism of Harrison (Lazarus) Elfrink & David Peck**
Sat. Jan. 4 10:00 a.m. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy & Ordination of Thomas Nichols to the Diaconate
- **Eve of the Nativity of Christ**
Mon. Jan. 6 8:00 a.m. Vespers Divine Liturgy
Tues Jan. 14 11:30 a.m. Festal Banquet in parish hall
- **Nativity of Christ**
Mon. Jan. 6 6:00 p.m. Great Compline with Lita followed by Matins
Tues. Jan. 7 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Tues. Jan. 7 Immediately following Divine Liturgy Young Children Christmas Play
Tues. Jan. 7 11:30 a.m. Nativity Parish Luncheon in parish hall
Sat. Jan. 11 11:00 a.m. Children Church School Christmas Yolka in parish hall
- **Great Feast of Theophany**
Fri. Jan. 17 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours
Sat. Jan. 18 5:00 p.m. Vigil followed by the Blessing of Waters
Sun. Jan. 19 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & the Blessing of Waters
- **Baptism of Clay & Alexander McKinney**
Sat. Jan. 25 10:00 a.m.
- **St. Nina**
Mon. Jan. 27 6:00 p.m. Moleben
- **St. Anthony the Great**
Wed. Jan. 29 6:00 p.m. Vigil
Thur. Jan. 30 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Feast of St. Basil the Great**
Mon. Jan. 13 6:00 p.m. Vigil
Tues. Jan. 14 9:00 a.m. Meeting of the Archbishop,

Parish Prayer List

Archpriest Andrei Popkov—Recovery
Gloria Pappas—Recovery
Brigid Hammer—Recovery
Nadia Danett—Health
Albert Salsich—Health
Malcolm Royse—Recovery from surgery

Parish News

Keep our parishioners, and those who ask us to pray for them in your prayers this month. Contact Fr. Martin to have yourself or your loved ones added to the parish prayer list. Let one of the Fathers know if you, a member of your family, or a friend is ill or hospitalized so that appropriate prayers and visits can be arranged. Please note: Hospitals do not notify clergy of patients, even if you list yourself as a parish member.

Gardening Help Cancelled

Due to personal injury, Parishioner, John Malcolm, is cancelling all Wednesday gardening work for the foreseeable future. Stay tuned to learn when gardening work will resume.

Weekly Tours of St. Basil's

Tours of St. Basil's church are conducted by one of the parish clergy every Wednesday between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m., and are designed to acquaint the community with the church, its architecture, traditional design, iconography, and history. No appointments are necessary and the tours will accommodate both individuals and groups. Advance notice would be appreciated for groups over five. For additional information or to schedule a group tour contact Fr. Martin at 314-835-1569.

Choir Voices Needed

All parishioners are welcome to join the choir, all voices are needed. Choir practice is held every Wednesday evening in the church at 6:30.

If you are interested in church music and the choir but are unsure of your abilities, you are invited to join Marushka Royse for sessions to learn about singing, voice, reading the music and choir participation in general. These sessions are held every Wednesday at 6pm before choir practice. Come and see what it is all about. You can come to the 6pm session and stay for choir practice. If you have any questions, please contact Marushka.

"Ask Your Priest" Column

This new column will answer questions submitted by you [the parishioners] concerning Orthodoxy. Questions will be submitted to priests anonymously. Submit your questions to StBasilSTLNewsletter@gmail.com

Use eScrip and Amazon Smile Rebates

It costs \$0 and benefits the parish. Get cards at the candle counter. Sign up for the Amazon rebate program to have a portion of your Amazon purchase donated by Amazon to the parish. Please find sign up instructions next to the staircase in the hall.

SERVERS WANTED!

Boys may begin to serve in the altar at St. Basil's from the time they begin to go to Confession (usually about nine years old). We encourage all of our boys to serve in the altar! For more information please contact Michael Orlando.

St. Basil's Parish Facebook Page:

Check out <https://www.facebook.com/SaintBasiltheGreatSTLMO/> for daily edification and interesting updates. Like our Facebook Fanpage to have us appear in your Facebook Newsfeed.

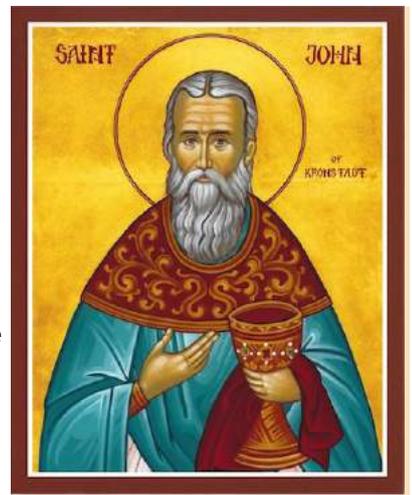
December Spot the Difference Answers



The Word Became Flesh

A Sermon by St John of Kronstadt on the Nativity of Christ

The Word became flesh; that is, the Son of God, co-eternal with God the Father and with the Holy Spirit, became human - having become incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. O, wondrous, awesome and salvific mystery! The One Who had no beginning took on a beginning according to humanity; the One without flesh assumed flesh. God became man - without ceasing to be God. The Unapproachable One became approachable to all, in the aspect of an humble servant. Why, and for what reason, was there such condescension [shown] on the part of the Creator toward His transgressing creatures - toward humanity which, through an act of its own will had fallen away from God, its Creator?



It was by reason of a supreme, inexpressible mercy toward His creation on the part of the Master, Who could not bear to see the entire race of mankind - which, He, in creating, had endowed with wondrous gifts - enslaved by the devil and thus destined for eternal suffering and torment.

And the Word became flesh!...in order to make us earthly beings into heavenly ones, in order to make sinners into saints; in order to raise us up from corruption into incorruption, from earth to heaven; from enslavement to sin and the devil - into the glorious freedom of children of God; from death - into immortality, in order to make us sons of God and to seat us together with Him upon the Throne as His royal children.

O, boundless compassion of God! O, inexpressible wisdom of God! O, great wonder, astounding not only the human mind, but the angelic [mind] as well!

Let us glorify God! With the coming of the Son of God in the flesh upon the earth, with His offering Himself up as a sacrifice for the sinful human race, there is given to those who believe the blessing of the Heavenly Father, replacing that curse which had been uttered by God in the beginning; they are adopted and receive the promise of an eternal inheritance of life. To a humanity orphaned by reason of sin, the Heavenly Father returns anew through the mystery of re-birth, that is, through baptism and repentance. People are freed of the tormenting, death-bearing authority of the devil, of the afflictions of sin and of various passions.

Human nature is deified for the sake of the boundless compassion of the Son of God; and its sins are purified; the defiled are sanctified. The ailing are healed. Upon those in dishonour are boundless honour and glory bestowed.

Those in darkness are enlightened by the Divine light of grace and reason.

The human mind is given the rational power of God - we have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16), says the Holy apostle Paul. To the human heart, the heart of Christ is given. The perishable is made immortal. Those naked and wounded by sin and by passions are adorned in Divine glory. Those who hunger and thirst are sated and assuaged by the nourishing and soul-strengthening Word of God and by the most pure Body and Divine Blood of Christ. The inconsolable are consoled. Those ravaged by the devil have been - and continue to be - delivered.

What, then, O, brethren, is required of us in order that we might avail ourselves of all the grace brought unto us from on high by the coming to earth of the Son of God? What is necessary, first of all, is faith in the Son of God, in the Gospel as the salvation-bestowing heavenly teaching; a true repentance of sins and the correction of life and of heart; communion in prayer and in the mysteries [sacraments]; the knowledge and fulfillment of Christ's commandments. Also necessary are the virtues: Christian humility, alms-giving, continence, purity and chastity, simplicity and goodness of heart.

Let us, then, O brothers and sisters, bring these virtues as a gift to the One Who was born for the sake of our salvation - let us bring them in place of the gold, frankincense and myrrh which the Magi brought Him, as to One Who is King, God, and Man, come to die for us. This, from us, shall be the most-pleasing form of sacrifice to God and to the Infant Jesus Christ. Amen.

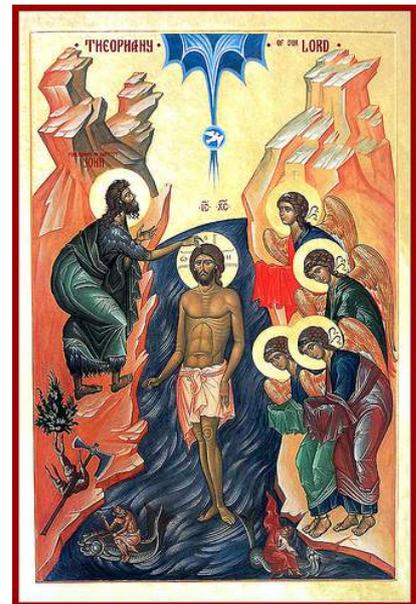
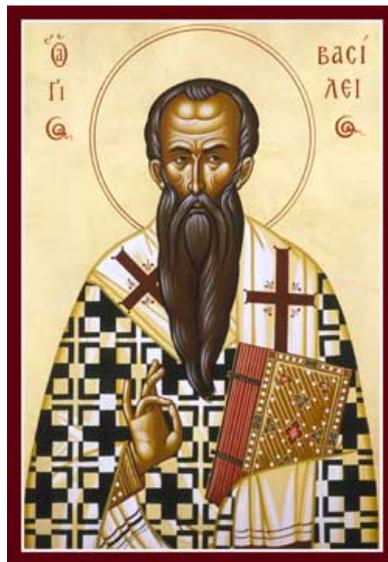
January Celebrations

There are many feasts to celebrate in this busy, yet special, month. Below are the biggest celebrations this month and we hope friends and family will be able to join us here in St. Louis for our festivities. Parishioners, please make plans now to attend the services that glorify God and His saints.

Nativity Vigil will be celebrated on Monday evening (Jan. 6th) and then Divine Liturgy on Tuesday morning -January 7th, 2020. Following the Divine Liturgy for this Great Feast of the Lord, there will be a luncheon in the church hall. There will be a small Nativity play and songs performed by small children after the Divine Liturgy on Tuesday. There will also be another special presentation from the Sunday School students on Saturday, Jan. 11th. Students have been practicing diligently and are eager to display their program to the parish on this feast. Everyone is invited to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

St. Basil's will also celebrate its feast day on Tuesday January 14th, 2020 with Divine Liturgy. As usual, Vigil will be served the night before. Both festal services will be Hierarchical and celebrated by Archbishop Peter in attendance, as well as any other visiting preists. During the service, Archbishop Peter will also ordain Subdeacon Thomas Nichols to the Diaconate. A luncheon will be prepared following the Divine Liturgy where all are welcome to partake. Please make any necessary preparations to join St. Basil's in January on this day. A parish feast day is already a special event, but it is made even grander with our ruling hierarch leading the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Lastly, Theophany will be celebrated on Sunday, January 19th with Vigil the night before.



Ask Your Priest

Q: What is the proper practice during the Anaphora when the priest recites Christ's words:

Take! Eat! This is My Body which is broken for you for the remission of sins. Amen.

And likewise after supper, He took the cup saying: Drink of it all of you! This is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins! Amen.

Remembering this saving commandment and all those things which have come to pass for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection on the third day, the ascension into heaven, the sitting at the right hand of God the Father, the second and glorious coming.

Thine own of Thine own we Offer unto Thee, in behalf of all and for all!

Should we cross ourselves, bow, or prostrate ourselves? What is the correct way to respond to this? I see fellow parishioners doing all of these, or not at all.

A: Before addressing the question, some general directions concerning the sign of the cross, bows and prostrations during the Divine Liturgy are in order.

We should follow the proper order in all our actions during the services of the Church and avoid indiscriminate gestures, personal inclinations and emotional responses. Remember that St. Paul directs us to “Let all things be done decently and in the proper order” (1Corinthians 14:40).

Prostrations are not done on Sundays. Neither are they done from Nativity through Theophany, from Pascha until Pentecost (except during the kneeling prayers of Pentecost Sunday), on the feast of the Transfiguration, on the feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (except three before the cross), and on the Entry of the Theotokos into the temple.

On all Liturgical days at the blessing of the congregation with the Holy Chalice the sign of the cross together with the bowing of the head are made. The sign of the cross with a bow from the waist are made at the words “Take eat...” and drink of it all of you..., at “Thine own of thine own...”, and at Holy Things are for Holy”.

On weekdays the Sign of the cross with a prostration are made when the Gifts are brought out at the words “With fear of God and with Faith draw near” and a second time, unless one has received communion, after “The blessing of the Lord...through his grace and love...” at “...both now...”.

Also remember that just before, during and just after receiving Holy Communion we never make the sign of the cross, bow or make a prostration for fear of hitting the Holy Chalice.

To directly answer the reader, the faithful stand attentively at “Remembering this saving commandment and all those things that have come to pass for us:...the second and glorious coming.” and make the sign of the cross with a bow from the waist at the other times cited in the question.

We should be reminded that we only need to practice those things that we are physically capable of doing and we should not judge anyone who fails to do them.

Elizabeth Campbell Baptized

Newly Illumined Elizabeth, daughter of Aaron (Luke) and Juliana Campbell, was baptized on November 30th by Father Sergii at St. Basil's. The infant is given the name Elizabeth after Saint Grand Duchess Elizabeth. The new handmaiden is pictured below with her Godmother, Sarah (Seraphima) Robinson, and family. May God grant her many years!



Message From the Priests

No moving about, buying or lighting candles is allowed during:

- Small Entrance (with the Gospel)
- Reading of the Gospel and during the Sermon
- Great Entrance

Нельзя ходить по храму, покупать и возжигать свѣчи во время:

- Малаго входа (съ Евангелиемъ)
- Чтенія Евангелія и проповѣди
- Великаго входа

The Lineage of Jesus Christ

Excerpt from *The Prologue of Ochrid* (Sept. 9 Feast of Saints Joachim and Anna)

St. Joachim was the son of Varpafir from the lineage of Judah and a descendant of King David. Anna was the daughter of Matthan the priest from the lineage of Levi as was Aaron, the high priest. Matthan had three daughters: Mary, Zovia and Anna. Mary married and lived in Bethlehem and gave birth to Salome; Zovia married and also lived in Bethlehem and gave birth to Elizabeth the mother of St. John the Forerunner; Anna married Joachim in Nazareth and, in their old age, gave birth to Mary, the Most Holy Birth-giver of God.

January Wordsearch Saints of the Month

T J L N M Z B N N A L S P X L G B D Y Y Y
H H M I J R E Q A N U T K I R O Z T M B D
E Y E G S H R G H T N P R E N L L Q N M V
O S Y O P A O L P H Y Y G I H C A L A M W
D J E E C R B M O O C O F S A N O E H T T
O M T R D T E Y E N R A S Y L K A L Y W Y
S S E I A P I A H Y C U L A C N I M O D Q
I P U L O P N S T E C R S P A N S M J L P
U S O E A A H A T I A U D S R U N H O J W
S P H L I N I I N U I I T W L Z N T X M T
U T H T Y N I O M S S A S Y L V E S T E R
I H A I E E T A A D S P M Y E W S D R R Y
T T P G L A U N S I I E E G N E T T J T X
A D U E R L A C A A H V R T M A L P Y T X
N E R T S H I N T T V O A A E L U A P R B
G R S T T O I P Y U E A J D N R R T W M R
I Y G A P N J X M G S D X N G G G D M K M

Ignatius	Seraphim	Athanasius	David	Stephen	Theonas
John	Tatiana	Cyril	James	Sylvester	Dominca
Anastasia	Theodosius	Phillip	Gregory	Malachi	Polyeuctus
Melania	Theophan	Nina	Boniface	Gordius	Hemylus
Anysia	George	Anthony	Peter	Theoctistus	Stratonicus
Basil	Sava	Joseph	Eugenia	Theopemptus	Paul