



St George the Great Martyr  
Orthodox Church  
Weekly Bulletin – Sunday, January 1, 2017

CHRIST IS BORN!

GLORIFY HIM!

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*A PERSONAL NOTE*

This year has seen many changes for us. By God's grace, Father was ordained to the Priesthood. We moved from Seminary in New York to our home in Seattle. And now we have relocated to the High Desert where we are honored to serve the Church and the people of St George Parish in Hesperia. We want to thank everyone who has been so kind and generous to us, especially during this holiday season. Since we are not yet fully unpacked, we were not able to send out any Christmas cards, so we would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May Our Lord bless and keep you now and throughout the coming year and grant you many, many years.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

- Fr Michael and Mat Xenia

**Services for Theophany** This week, we will be celebrating the Baptism of Our Lord in the Jordan on January 6th, also known as His Theophany. Schedule of services is as follows:

<b>5:30pm Wed</b>	Vespers of the Forefeast
<b>10:00am Thur</b>	Vesperal Divine Liturgy followed by Great Blessing of Water. STRICT FAST after Liturgy
<b>6:00pm Thur</b>	Great Compline with Litiya (Blessing of bread, wheat, wine, and oil).
<b>9:40am Fri</b>	Hours and Divine Liturgy for the Feast followed by blessing of Hesperia Lake. NO FAST

**Great Blessing of Water** We will be blessing water on Thursday after Liturgy, so be sure to bring your bottles to take some home with you.

**Blessing of Hesperia Lake** When Our Lord was baptized in the Jordan, he blessed and sanctified all of creation and revealed Himself as God to the entire world. In remembrance of this, our parish will bless the waters of Hesperia Lake immediately following Liturgy on Friday. The lake is only about 5 minutes down the road from our church. **I highly encourage everyone to make an effort to attend this service.** Not only is a wonderful way to celebrate Theophany, it is also a way to for us to witness to our community and proclaim the Good News that Christ has come to save everyone and every thing.

**Pledge Cards** The parish council and Father would like to thank everyone who has completed a pledge card. To date, we have received 10 pledges, totaling \$1930.00 per month for an annual total of \$23,160.00.

It is important to remember that one must go to Confession, receive the Eucharist at least once a year, and *offer a pledge* (of any amount) in order to be considered a member in good standing at St George's.

**Please fill out and submit your pledge card to Dn George as soon as possible.** We use these cards to create our membership list and a budget, and our annual parish meeting is fast approaching.

**Choir Practice** In preparation for Theophany services, there will be a choir practice on Wednesday at 3:30. We will be having Daily Vespers at 5:30 in celebration of the Forefeast of Theophany, so please come, learn some new music and stay for Vespers!.

**Bulletins** All of our bulletins are available on our website at <http://www.orthodoxvictorvalley.net>. To help conserve paper and reduce cost, we will only be providing a limited number of paper copies in the future. If you have the capability of reading the bulletin online, please leave the paper copies for our guests and for those in our community without access to the internet.

## House Blessings

House blessings are an annual Tradition for all Orthodox Christians, where we offer back to God the homes He's given us, through prayer and 'baptizing' them with holy water. Non-Orthodox homes may also be blessed. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board. Please pick a date for your visit and a preferred time of day (morning, afternoon or evening). Father will schedule appointments on a first come, first served basis, using the signup sheet. Here's what you'll need:

- A suitable location, such as your icon corner, for Father to set up a few liturgical items in. If your house doesn't have an icon corner, you might clear your dining room table and put an icon on it.
- A bowl for Holy Water. Father will bring some for backup, but first will use what you have brought home from church. Orthodox Christians should keep a supply of Holy Water at home, to reverently drink when they must miss Divine Liturgy due to sickness.
- A candle for you to carry during the procession through your home (and matches or a lighter).
- A slip of paper with the saint's names of those living in the home, so Father can sing them "Many Years."
- The blessing begins and ends with a prayer in your icon corner, and in between it involves a procession through your home. You'll carry a candle and lead Father, who sprinkles the house with Holy Water as he sings the Theophany troparion, which you're welcome to join in:

*When Thou, O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan  
The Worship of the Trinity was made manifest  
For the voice of the Father bare 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!*

- After the short service of blessing has concluded, Fr. Michael would be happy to visit with you for a bit. When possible, he will bring Matushka.

Many times, Father Michael is busy after the Liturgy on Sunday and there never seems to be enough time to visit with everyone. This is an opportunity to visit one-on-one in your home with him and Matushka if you wish. There is no need to offer a meal or snack, but if you'd like Father and Matushka to stay for something, please indicate that on the sign up and he will try to accommodate.

If you have any questions about this service or scheduling it, please speak with Fr. Michael.

## Calendar of Events – January 1 – 8

<b>Sun 1/1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:40am – Hours and Divine Liturgy General Memorial to follow</li> </ul>
<b>Mon 1/2</b>	
<b>Tue 1/3</b>	
<b>Wed 1/4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:00am – 5:30pm - Office Hours</li> <li>• 3:30pm – Choir Practice</li> <li>• 5:30 - Vespers</li> </ul>
<b>Thu STRICT 1/5 FAST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:00am – Vesperal Divine Liturgy followed by Great Blessing of Water</li> <li>• 6:00pm – Great Compline with Litiya</li> </ul>
<b>Fri NO 1/6 FAST</b>	<p>THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of Hesperia Lake</li> </ul>
<b>Sat 1/7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:00pm – Great Vespers</li> </ul>
<b>Sun 1/8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:40am – Hours and Divine Liturgy</li> </ul>

**Save the Date:**

**Jan 6 – Blessing of Hesperia Lake**