



St George the Great Martyr  
Orthodox Church

Weekly Bulletin – Sunday, December 31, 2017

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**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>9:30 am Fri</b>	Vesperal Divine Liturgy followed by <b>Great Blessing of Water at Church. STRICT FAST</b>
<b>6:00 pm Fri</b>	Great Compline with Litiya (Blessing of bread, wheat, wine, and oil).
<b>9:30 am Sat</b>	Hours and Divine Liturgy for the Feast followed by <b>Blessing of Hesperia Lake.</b>

Don't forget, we will also be celebrating **Great Vespers at 6pm on Saturday** evening as usual!

**Great Blessing of Water** We will be blessing water at the Church on Friday 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 for us to witness to our community and proclaim the Good News that Christ has come to save everyone and every thing.

### **Pledge Cards**

It's time once again for all of us to prayerfully, thoughtfully and intentionally spend some time to consider the gifts that God has placed in our care and to plan how we can offer it back to Him for his blessing and glory.

***Pledge cards are available on top of the display stand as you come into the narthex (the back of the Church). Please take one and put it in your prayer corner. Take time over the next few weeks to consider how you will fill it out. Then, return your pledge card to Deacon George no later than January 28<sup>th</sup>.*** This will give the Parish Council adequate time to create our budget for next year.

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.

**Grave-side service for Christos** – Our dear brother and former parishioner, Christos Kalarsarinis fell asleep in the Lord on Christmas Day this year. His burial service will be conducted at the Sunset Hills Memorial Park cemetery located at 24000 Waalew Rd Apple Valley, CA, US, 92307 **11am on Tuesday, January 2**. Friends are welcome to attend the service, but there will be no meal afterwards.

**Office Hours this week** – Father will be in the office on **Wed, January 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1pm to 4pm.**

**Church Calendars** – Calendars for 2018 are now available. To defray the cost to the Church, we are asking for a suggested donation of \$5 for each.

## 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 – December 31 – January 7

<b>Sun</b> <b>12/31</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9:30am – Divine Liturgy</li></ul>
<b>Mon</b> <b>1/1</b>	
<b>Tue</b> <b>1/2</b>	
<b>Wed</b> <b>1/3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1:00-4:00pm Office Hours</li></ul>
<b>Thu</b> <b>1/4</b>	
<b>Fri</b> <b>1/5</b>	Eve of Theophany <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9:30am Vespers Divine Liturgy</li><li>• Great Blessing of Water to follow</li></ul>
<b>Sat</b> <b>1/6</b>	Theophany <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9:30am Divine Liturgy</li><li>• Blessing of Hesperia Lake to follow</li><li>• 6:00pm Great Vespers &amp; Confession</li></ul>
<b>Sun</b> <b>1/7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9:30am – Hours and Divine Liturgy</li></ul>

**Save the Date:**

**January 6<sup>th</sup> – Theophany of Our Lord, Jesus Christ with Blessing of Lake Hesperia following Divine Liturgy**