

January 5th, 2025

**HIEROMARTYR THEOPEMPTUS, BISHOP OF NICOMEDIA,
AND MARTYR THEONAS**

Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 4:5-8; 1 Cor. 9:19-27

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-18

Troparion — Tone 4

**Your holy martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas, O Lord, / through
their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our
God. / For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries, /
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through their
intercessions, save our souls!**

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protosphyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Dorothy, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima), Sergey, John, Francis, Anna, Birgin, Richard Matthews and John Francis.

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

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www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>

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THE WEEKLY BULLETIN
**HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

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**HIEROMARTYR THEOPEMPTUS, BISHOP OF NICOMEDIA, AND
MARTYR THEONAS**

- The Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas suffered in Nicomedia in the year 303. Saint Theopemptus was bishop in Nicomedia in the time of Diocletian. Speaking out against idolatry, he defended the faith in Christ. Because of this, he became one of the first victims of the Diocletian persecution. The saint refused to obey the emperor's order to worship an idol of Apollo. Saint Theopemptus was thrown into a red-hot furnace, but by the power of God he remained alive. The emperor came to the furnace by night with a detachment of soldiers, and there he saw the saint alive and praying to God. Ascribing the miracle to magic, Diocletian thought to exhaust Saint Theopemptus by depriving him of food and drink for twenty-two days, but the martyr was preserved by the will of God. The emperor brought the famous sorcerer Theonas to overcome Bishop Theopemptus' supposed magical power. Theonas prepared a poison for Saint Theopemptus, put it into a little cake, and offered it to him to eat. The poison did no harm at all to Saint Theopemptus. Then Theonas tried an even stronger poison on the martyr. Seeing that Saint Theopemptus remained unharmed, he came to believe in Christ. They threw him into prison together with the holy bishop, who taught and baptized him, giving him the name Synesios (which means "full of understanding"). At dawn Diocletian summoned Saint Theopemptus, and again tried to turn him to pagan impiety. Seeing that the bishop remained firm in his faith, he subjected him to many grievous tortures, after which the saint was beheaded. The holy martyr Theonas refused to offer sacrifice to idols, so he was buried alive in a deep ditch. This occurred at Nicomedia in the year 303.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 4th of January

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 5th of January

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Following Coffee Hour – Baptism of Joseph Naron, Lyssa

Naron and Leliana Aguila

Great Vespers at 5 pm – followed by Great Blessing of the Water and Blessing of the Church

Monday 6th of January

HOLY THEOPHANY

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Saturday 11th of January

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 12th of January

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Parish Council and Father Michael wishes you the blessed Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as well as most blessed New Year.

Thank you

Sincere thanks to Timothy Katchur, Seth Fleishman, and choir members of the HSOC as well as all altar servers for all their work during Nativity Season. May God grant you many blessed years!

Sincere Thanks

Father Michael and the family are thanking everyone who attended Panikhida and all those who are praying for the soul of his departed father +Zoran Pejovic. May his memory be eternal.

Cutting of the Vasilopita on Wednesday, January 1st, 2025.

As has been the past tradition at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church, once again the Vasilopita tradition continues and was offered on New Years Day. Our sincere thanks to Matushka Joanne Kedala for bringing Vasilopita and Julia Pawelko for her baking and offering additional Vasilopita. A New Year's Blessing to all!

Join us for the Baptism and Chrismation

On Sunday 5th of January, Joseph Naron, Lyssa Naron and Leliana Aguila will be received into the Holy Orthodox Church. The baptism and chrismation will follow a brief coffee hour.

Blessed Water and Blessing of Homes

Holy water will be available after the blessing of the water and the church. You may bring a small container to church to take water home. If you would like home blessed, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Father Michael at pejovicveljko@gmail.com. Blessing of the homes is a wonderful opportunity to bring the joy of the Holy Theophany into your home.

Sussex Help Center Announcement

Recently Dan Taylor had a meeting with the Sussex Help Center Food Pantry. Their requests are for soups or stews and items for school lunches for children. This is an ongoing HSOC outreach program and thank you for your support and contributions.

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com.