

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2023**

**SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET,  
FORERUNNER, AND BAPTIST JOHN**

**Epistle Reading: Acts 19:1-8**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17; John 1:29-34**

**Troparion – Tone 6**

**The river Jordan trembled and was driven back filled with fear at Your coming in the flesh, / while John drew back in awe as he fulfilled the ministry of a prophet. / The ranks of angels stood amaze, / when they beheld You in the flesh being baptized in the streams. / And we, who were in darkness, are filled with light as we praise You, / who have appeared to enlighten all.**

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 Archpriests Samuel and Joseph, Archimandrite Joseph, Protospyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Matushka Svetlana, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Luis Ramon, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, 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, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Irene, Dorothy, Pauline and Irene. Amen!!!

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

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<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>  
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**The WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
**HOLY SPIRIT  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

[www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

**January 7th, 2023**

**SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN**

- In the Orthodox Church it is customary, on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So, on the day following the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior. Saint John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. Saint John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior's Baptism. At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, Saint John is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ. Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, Saint John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome. Besides the Synaxis of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, the Russian Orthodox Church celebrates his memory on the following days: September 23, his Conception; June 24, his Nativity; August 29, his Beheading; February 24, the First and Second Finding of his Head; May 25, the Third Finding of his Head; October 12, the Transfer of his Right Hand from Malta to Gatchina (1799).

### 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](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com)**

Monthly calendar at [www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

### Dates to Remember

**Friday 5th of January**

**Compline at 6 pm**

**Waters and Blessing of the Church**

**Saturday 6th of January**

**HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

**Divine Liturgy at 9 am followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 7th of January**

**SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS BAPTIST JOHN**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> of January**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> of January**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS!

#### A message from your Pastor

Due to a family emergency, I will be out of the country for the next couple of weeks. I am leaving on January 2nd and returning on January 21st. During that time, if you require a priest or pastoral care, please contact V.Rev. Samuel Kedala via email at [priest004@gmail.com](mailto:priest004@gmail.com) or call (973)271-0524. During my absence, V.Rev. John Kowalczyk will be serving in my place. During my travels, I will have limited internet access but if you need to contact me, please do so by sending me an email at [pejovicveljko@gmail.com](mailto:pejovicveljko@gmail.com).

#### Theophany 2024

You are welcome and encouraged to worship with us for the Feast of the Theophany. The Compline services with the Great Blessing of the Water will be served on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at 6 pm and the Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of the Water will be served on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at 9 am.

#### 2024 Church Calendars

Church calendars have arrived and are in the narthex. You are welcome to take one for yourself and take another and give it to your family member or a friend. On behalf of the HSOC, thanks to Pinkel Funeral Home for again providing the calendars for our church.

#### Thank You for Giving from Father Michael

As we are entering the New Year we express our sincere gratitude for the support that we have received throughout the year of 2023. Significant improvements have been made in the church and the rectory, thanks to your giving and the efforts of the parishioners and friends of our church and the community. Your generous financial contributions as well as the time and talents donated are appreciated. We give thanks for your continued support and encourage contributors to maintain the generous financial assistance and your time and talents for our Holy Spirit Orthodox Church.

#### Food Donation Cart

The need to continue to assist those in need continues and we ask that when you are shopping, please remember those who are less fortunate. Dan Taylor informed us that the current needs of the Sussex Help Center are the following: peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish cans, cereal boxes, and baby diapers (size newborn to 6-month-old).

#### Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com) or Mary Osinski at [mary.osinski@gmail.com](mailto:mary.osinski@gmail.com)