



WELCOME TO THE GOD-LOVING & GOD-PROTECTED PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL'S!

a parish of the UOC-USA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate

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FR. BORISLAV KRONER

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Today is the Sunday before Theophany.

The day of the Theophany is the day when the whole world is being renewed and becomes a partaker of the saintliness of God. But at the same time, it is the day when Christ enters on the way to Calvary.

He came to John the Baptist on Jordan, not in order to be cleansed, because he was pure of sin, both as God and in the humanity made pure throughout the history of Israel by those ancestors who had given their lives to God and whose saintliness culminated in the all-purity of the Mother of God, so pure, so stainless that She could be brought into the Holy of Holies, into which even the High Priest dared not come except once a year, and only after a special sanctification.

Christ did not need cleansing. But these waters, into which all the sinners who had come to John the Baptist confessing the evil of their lives had washed themselves, were as it were heavy with the sinfulness and therefore the mortality of mankind. They had become waters of death, and it is in these waters that the Lord Jesus Christ merges Himself on that day, taking upon Himself the mortality resulting from the sin of man.

He comes, immortal in His humanity and His divinity, and at the same time He vests Himself with the mortality of the sinful world. This is the beginning of the way to Calvary. This is a day when we marvel at the infinite love of God. But as on every other occasion, man had to participate completely in the ways of salvation which God had provided. And this is why Christ comes and becomes partaker of our mortality, to save us. The culminating point will come on Calvary when He will say, 'My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?' It will be a moment when God as He was in His humanity will have lost communion with the Father by partaking of the destiny of mankind. This is the ultimate act of divine love.

Let us therefore today wonder and marvel, and worship this love of God, and learn from Him; because He said in the Gospel, 'I have given you an example. Follow it.' We are called, within the limits of our sinfulness and humanity, to carry one another's burdens, unto life and unto death. Let us learn from this. We find it so difficult to carry the burdens even of those whom we love; and practically impossible to shoulder the burdens of those whom we do not love with a natural, direct tenderness. Let us learn, because otherwise we will not have learned the first lesson which Christ gives us when He enters upon His ministry. Amen.

PARISH NEWS

The Senior UOL will be sponsoring a comedy murder mystery dinner theater show on Saturday January 23. "Bullets in the Bathtub" will be held at the Village Haven restaurant. Doors open at 6pm for the 6.30 show that includes all you can eat family style chicken. Tickets are \$40 per person. Please invite all your friends and family! This is to raise funds for the 2017 convention that we are hosting.

And speaking of raising funds for the 2017 convention....

The Senior UOL will also be sponsoring a 'Drink and Dabble' paint party on Friday February 12. It will be held in our hall and will include 2 adult beverages and refreshments. Participants will take home a masterpiece! Please come and invite your family and friends. Also \$40 per person.



SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 17th

Tone 8

9AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, January 18th

5PM Theophany Eve Great Compline followed by Blessing of Waters

6:30PM Holy Eve Supper at Parish Hall

Tuesday, January 19th

10AM Holy Theophany Divine Liturgy of St. Basil followed by blessing of church grounds

Saturday, January 23rd

5PM Great Vespers

6PM Murder Mystery Dinner

Sunday, January 24th

Tone 1

9AM Divine Liturgy

*While only Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through fasting and prayer may come to communion today, **God calls all to Communion with Him through Holy Orthodoxy.** If you would like to become Orthodox, see me!*
