

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd Lansing NY

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr James Worthington, Rector 315-706-6185

Rdr Bob West, Sr Warden SrWarden@HolyApostlesLansing.org

## JANUARY 4, 2015

**30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5. Forefeast of the Theophany. Sunday before Theophany.** Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles: James (Jacob), the brother of the Lord; Mark the Evangelist; Luke the Evangelist; Cleophas, the brother of Joseph the Betrothed; Simeon, the son of Cleophas; Barnabas; Justus; Thaddæus; Ananias; Stephen the Archdeacon; Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and Parmenas of the Seven Deacons; Timothy; Titus; Philemon; Onesimus; Epaphras; Archippus; Silas; Silvanus; Crescens; Crispus; Epenetus; Andronicus; Stachys; Amplias; Urban; Narcissus; Apelles; Aristobulus; Herodion; Agabus; Rufus; Asyncritus; Phlegon; Hermes; Patrobus; Hermas; Linus; Gaius; Philologus; Lucius; Jason; Sosipater; Olympas; Tertius; Erastus; Quartus; Euodius; Onesiphorus; Clement; Sosthenes; Apollos; Tychicus; Epaphroditus; Carpus; Quadratus; Mark, called John; Zenas; Aristarchus; Pudens; Trophimus; Mark; Artemas; Aquila; Fortunatus; and Achaicus. (1st c.).

**EPISTLE:** 2 TIMOTHY 4.5-8: Endure afflictions, be an evangelist, do your ministry.

**GOSPEL:** MARK 1.1-8: The beginning of the One Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

**COFFEE HOUR HOST:** Pot Luck. **NEXT WEEK:** Available.

**VESPERS NEXT WEEK:** Rdr Bob.

**HOURS:** Available/Eileen. **NEXT WEEK:** Available/Eileen.

**EPISTLE READER:** Bill. **NEXT WEEK:** Available.

**ALTAR SERVERS RETREAT:** The Annual Diocesan Altar Server Retreat will be held at St Basil Academy in Garrison NY from February 6-8. The main focus of this annual retreat is to bring the altar servers of our diocese together in prayer, Christian fellowship, education, and fun. There is no charge to participate in the retreat but early registration is essential.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS:** It is a beautiful tradition of our Orthodox faith to bless homes in the Theophany season. To have your house blessed, please see Fr James to schedule an appointment. It would be wonderful if we could every house in the parish blessed in the next few weeks. For those who do not make an appointment, Fr James will be calling to schedule a time.

**WELCOME!** We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us! Please know that we are glad that you are here praying with us and invite you to join us after the service for a meal and to meet everyone in our community.

**4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LAKE BLESSING:** In celebration of Holy Theophany, we will be blessing Cayuga Lake on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon, with refreshments to follow at the church. If you would like to help with the small meal, see Bernice or Eileen. To help with the service or with the cross retrieval, see Fr James.

**KNOW YOUR FAITH:** The next class will be January 13 at Unwind Coffee Shop in the Ithaca Mall. We will be reading and discussing chapter 10 of the Gospel of St John, The Good Shepherd Discourse; Feast of Dedication; Jesus Retreats across the Jordan. Invite your friends to join us. The complete syllabus is available on the information table and online.

**POINSETTIAS:** Many of the poinsettias from the Nativity season are in good shape. Feel free to take some home, if you would like to do so.

**ST. ANDREW'S CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS:** His Grace, Bishop Michael, is appealing to individuals across our Diocese, who realize that they have been blessed by God and are in a position to share in those blessings, to provide a Christmas "gift of Camp for a week" for our young people to attend St. Andrew's Camp, in Jewell, NY, this coming summer. Your gift would bless a camper who otherwise could not attend St. Andrew's because of financial constraints. The cost of Camp is \$300 per week per individual – that includes room and board, meals, and all activities, including at least one special excursion each week. Checks may be made payable to St. Andrew's Camp Scholarship, and mailed to: Diocesan Chancery, 33 Hewitt Ave., Bronxville, NY 10708. Visit [www.saintandrewscamp.org](http://www.saintandrewscamp.org) for more information on the Camp.

**PRAYER SCROLL: LIVING:** Archpriest Timothy Holowatch, Archpriest Herman Shick, Archpriest John Chupeck, Archpriest Thomas Edwards, Archpriest Michael Thier, Archpriest Stephen Mack, Dn Symeon, Abbess Silouana, Mother Raphaela, Mother Christophora, Mat Cecelia, Mat Katya, Mat Catherine, Mat Dorothy, Joshua, Brittany & Isaac, Gretchen, Toni, Peter, Marriane, Terrence, Helen, Judy, Gretchen, Mary & Susan, John & Carmine, Nathan, Leah, Helen, Lindsey, Christopher E, Susanne H, Olga S, Elizabeth, Mary, Joe A, Daniel, Andrew and family, Harold, Wilhemina, Children Anthony, Mia and Isabel, Gordon, Elizabeth, David, Madeline, Shirley, Larry, Christina, Caleb, Jim & Kim, Rachel, Constantine & Maria, Gaetan. **BIRTHDAYS:** None. **ANNIVERSARIES:** None. **NAMESDAYS:** None.

**REPOSED:** Priest John, Archpriest Alexander, Rdr Gregory, Daniel, Ada, Walter, Lillian, Joseph, Marie, Joseph, Laura, Martha, Stanley, Helen, Charles, Arthur, Taissia, Steluta, Theophan, Lynda. **NEWLY DEPARTED:** Florence (11-29), Lynda (11-23), James (11-20), James (11-15). **ANNIVERSARIES:** None.

FB Check-in



## SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour (No RC SS)

**MONDAY, JANUARY 5:** 6 PM Great Vespers for the Feast and the Blessing of Water

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 6:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Theophany of Christ

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7:** 8:30 Daily Matins

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 8:** 8:30 Morning Prayers

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9:** 8:30 Morning Prayers

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10:** 12 Noon Blessing of Cayuga Lake followed by refreshments at the Church  
6 PM Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church  
PO Box 333  
Lansing, NY 14882

### Troparion to the Apostles

First enthroned of the Apostles, And teachers of the Universe; Entreat the Master of all  
To grant peace to the world, And to our souls great mercy!

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Lansing, New York



SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2015  
30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SYNAXIS OF THE 70 APOSTLES

# 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## Sunday before the Theophany/Forefeast of the Theophany Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles/Venerable Theoctistus

### Troparion Tone 5 (*Resurrection*)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,  
to endure death,  
and to raise the dead//  
by His glorious Resurrection.

### Troparion of the Forefeast Tone 4

Prepare, O Zebulon,  
and adorn thyself, O Naphtali!  
River Jordan, cease flowing,  
and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized!  
Adam, rejoice with our first Mother,  
and do not hide yourselves as ye did of old in Paradise;  
for having seen you naked,  
He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment//  
Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

### Troparion Tone 3 (*for the Apostles*)

Holy Apostles of the Seventy  
entreat the merciful God  
to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

### Kontakion Tone 5 (*Resurrection*)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,  
shattering its gates as Almighty,  
resurrecting the dead as Creator,  
and destroying the sting of death.  
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,//  
and we cry to thee: O Lord, save us!

### Kontakion Tone 2 (*for the Apostles*)

O ye faithful, let us praise with hymns  
the choir of the seventy disciples of Christ.  
They have taught us all to worship the undivided Trinity,  
for they are divine lamps of the faith.

### Kontakion Tone 4 (*of the Forefeast*)

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:  
"Do not be afraid to baptize me.//  
For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

### Prokeimenon Tone 6 (*Sunday before Theophany*)

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! (*Ps 27/28:9*)  
v: *To thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!* (*Ps 27/28:1*)

### Alleluia Verses

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: *O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us!* (*Ps 65/66:2*)

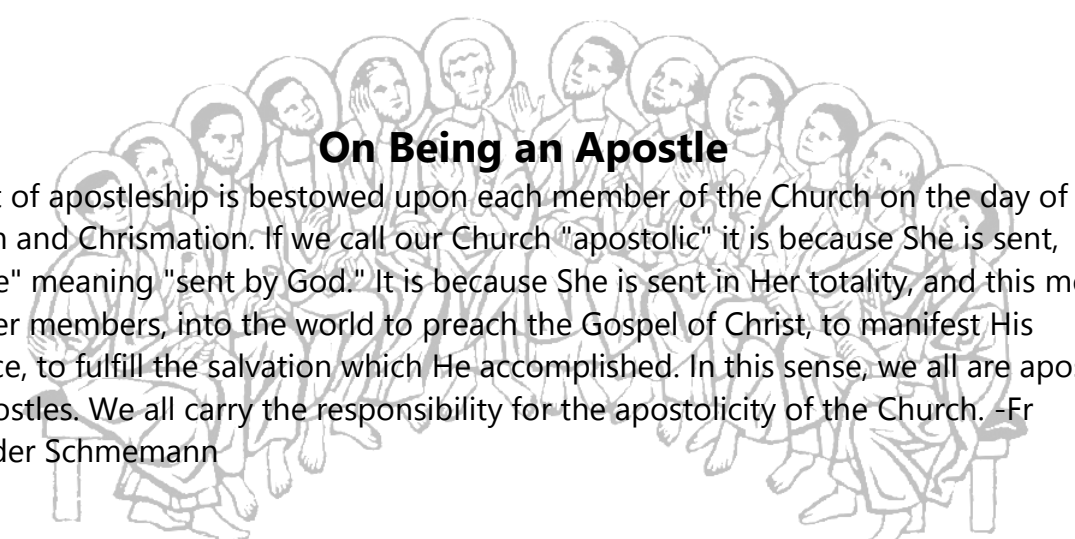
v: *That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations.* (*65/66:3*)

### Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### On Being an Apostle

The gift of apostleship is bestowed upon each member of the Church on the day of his Baptism and Chrismation. If we call our Church "apostolic" it is because She is sent, "apostle" meaning "sent by God." It is because She is sent in Her totality, and this means in all Her members, into the world to preach the Gospel of Christ, to manifest His presence, to fulfill the salvation which He accomplished. In this sense, we all are apostolic and apostles. We all carry the responsibility for the apostolicity of the Church. -Fr Alexander Schmemmann



# Theophany: The Feast of the Manifestation of God

## The Blessing of Water

The blessing of the waters, first in the church, in a large vessel, and the second time outside the church at the bank of a river or stream, or at the shore of a lake or ocean, is the most characteristic feature of the celebration of Theophany. Whether or not bodies of water outside the church are blessed, the water is consecrated twice, first on the eve and then on the feast itself. Both blessings are performed at the end of the liturgy.

The stikhera or verses of the blessing announce: "Today, the nature of the waters is sanctified"; the prokeimenon proclaims: "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?" (Ps. 26:1). After the gospel (Mark 1:9-11), follow these petitions among others: that "this water ... may be sanctified by the might and operation and descent of the Holy Spirit," that "we may be enlightened by the light of knowledge and godliness through the descent of the Holy Spirit," that this water "may bestow cleansing of soul and body upon all who draw it with faith and partake of it."

The priest prays that Christ, who is the source of life, Light of Light, who accepted to be baptised in the Jordan by the hand of a servant, who has sanctified the nature of the waters, may "lead us to a new birth through water and the Spirit, and restore us again to our original freedom .... We entreat thee, O Master who lovest mankind: sprinkle upon us, thine unworthy servants, ...cleansing water, the gift of Thy compassion."

In another prayer, the consequences of the event are enumerated:

"Today the waters of the Jordan are transformed into healing by the coming of the Lord."

"Today Paradise has been opened to men and the Sun of Righteousness shines down upon us."

Today we have been delivered from darkness and illuminated with the light of the knowledge of God."

"Today the whole creation shines with light from on high."

"Today earth and seas are the joy of the world, and the world is filled with gladness."

And finally the priest, making the sign of the cross over the water three times, exclaims:

"Therefore, O King who lovest mankind, do thou thyself be present now as then through the descent of Thy Holy Spirit, and sanctify this water ... Make it a source of incorruption, a gift of sanctification, a remission of sins, a protection against disease, a destruction to demons, inaccessible to the adverse powers and filled with angelic strength...." The sign of the cross is made over the water with the cross, and then the priest plunges it into the water and raises it three times, while the troparion of the feast is sung.

## The Restoration of Creation

What is the meaning of the blessing of waters? Is it the transformation of something that is profane into something that is now sacred, "mere" water transformed into "holy" water? If it were so, then, in the words of Alexander Schmemmann, "the act of blessing reveals nothing about water, and thus about matter or the world, but on the contrary makes them irrelevant to the new function of water as 'holy water.'" The prayer at the blessing of water, both in the Baptismal service and at Epiphany, "may mean the revelation of the true 'nature' and 'destiny' of water, and thus of the world .... By being restored through the blessing to its proper function" the things of the world become again a means of communion with God (For the Life of the World, p. 131f.). Christ in His baptism purified the nature of the waters. He came to redeem not only human beings but, through them, the entire material created world. The waters become the means of healing and grace. But not only waters-any other material thing may be a bearer of the Spirit. No matter can be excluded or considered trivial, "for the redemptive and transforming grace of the Saviour extends to all things...." (The Festal Menaion, p. 59).

The feast of Epiphany thus speaks of the restoration of the pure human image, as well as of all material nature. The true nature of water has its destiny in the salvation of man and the world. Creation "will be set free from its bondage" and will obtain "the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Romans 8:20). All things are to be set aright. They are to be permeated by the light, love, grace, and glory of God. In the feast, the Church reminds its members of the historical character of the Incarnation and the goal of Christian existence: to "become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

### ***Preparing for a House Blessing***

It is a joy to bless your home and/or business. To have your home or business blessed in an orderly manner, please prepare with the following in mind:

At a table covered in a white cloth, or icon corner (preferably facing east, if possible), have:

- a bowl filled with Holy Water (if you have none, Father will bring extra),
- an icon of the feast, or of Christ, or of the Theotokos,
- a candle on a candle stand,
- a prayer slip listing the names of those whom you would like to have remembered in prayer, with those fallen asleep listed in on one side and those living in the household on the other side.

All TVs, radios, and other sources of sound need to be turned off. Open the doors to all rooms. If done in the evening, have the lights on in each room. Also, please secure pets as necessary. If possible, please have someone ready to lead the priest through the home/business. Invite some friends!