



## HOLY THEOPHANY ORTHODOX CHURCH “

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

“The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins. Nothing is so joyous in our life as the thanksgiving that we experience in the Church. In the Church, the joyful sustain their joy. In the Church, those worried acquire merriment, and those saddened, joy. In the Church, the troubled find relief, and the heavy-laden, rest.” ~St John Chrysostom

Location of Services: Holy Theophany Church, N2107 State Road 67, Walworth, WI 53184

### Schedule of Services for December 2022

[All services (except Reader's Vespers) will be live-streamed unless otherwise noted. Hours for Sunday Liturgy start at 9:40 AM.]

- **Saturday, December 3, 2022, 5:00 PM** – Reader's Vespers
- **Sunday, December 4, 2022, 10:00 AM** – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
- **Monday, December 5, 2022, 5:30 PM** – Vespers Liturgy for St. Nicholas
- **Saturday, December 10, 2022, 5:00 PM** – Reader's Vespers
- **Sunday, December 11, 2022, 10:00 AM** – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
- **Monday, December 12, 2022, 5:30 PM** – Vespers Liturgy for St Herman of Alaska
- **Saturday, December 17, 5:00 PM** – Great Vespers with Litya for the Holy Fathers. Fr. John will be available for confession at 4:10 PM.
- **Sunday, December 18, 2022, 10:00 AM** – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
- **Saturday, December 24, 2022, 5:00 PM** – Compline and service for Eve of the Nativity of Jesus Christ followed by Christmas Carols
- **Sunday, December 25, 2022 10:00, AM** – Nativity of Jesus Christ - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
- **Saturday, December 31, 2022, 5 PM** – Reader's Vespers

### Holy Theophany Orthodox Church

~A Mission of the OCA~

Cordially invites you to attend our **Nameday celebration Friday, January 6 and Saturday January 14, 2023**

*Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

**Friday, January 6, 10 AM: Divine Liturgy followed by Great Blessing of the Water**

**Nameday Festivities: Saturday, January 14**

**Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM**

**Holy Theophany Orthodox Church**

**N2107 State Highway 67, Walworth, WI, 53184**

**([holytheophanychurch.org](http://holytheophanychurch.org))**

**Blessing of Geneva Lake, Luncheon and Dive for the Cross immediately following at:**

**Abbey Springs**

**822 South Lakeshore Drive, Fontana, WI.**

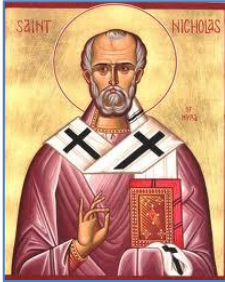
**(Anyone wishing to participate in the dive for the cross please bring bathing suit)**

**RSVP for Sat. Jan 14 Festivities by January 4, 2023**

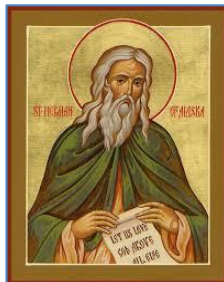
**Phone (262) 275-0449 ♦ Email [mklesmith@charter.net](mailto:mklesmith@charter.net)**

## Christmas Outreach Project

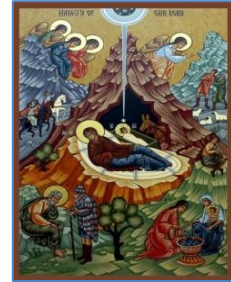
Once again Holy Theophany Orthodox Church will be helping to fill Christmas baskets for 13 local families including 34 children. If anyone would like to donate to our Christmas outreach either by donating items or helping to fund our project please call at Maria (262-903-8949). The focus this year is to help alleviate some of the effect of increasing costs of food and other necessities on families.



St. Nicholas the Wonderworker,  
Archbishop of Myra in Lycia



St. Herman of Alaska



The Nativity of our Lord God and  
Savior Jesus Christ

Pastoral reflection: “Let us lift up our hearts!” But how do we enter the heart? In one sense, we are always in our heart; but it is often disordered and stormy. Why? All too often within our heart, we only find ourselves. I become the center of myself and not God. Everything revolves around me: my hurts, my angers, my pains, my pleasures, my desires, my passions, my thoughts and plans, my distractions, my plans, my ego. None of us, as Adam and Eve sadly discovered, can free us from this self-centered disorder by ourselves.

To enter into our true heart, our true self, we must struggle to become pure of heart, to become, as the Theotokos said, “the servant of the Lord.” We must “commend ourselves and one another to Christ our God.” This requires prayer, worship, and genuine service to God and, thus, to others. But it also requires humility and what our holy fathers and mothers call dispassion—freeing ourselves from all of the passions, thoughts, and concerns that lead us to focus just on ourselves which allows us to discover God and our true self. Each of us is created by God to be a living icon of Christ. We are intrinsically worthy we are but also to be in communion or fellowship with God and one another.

Here is an “exercise” as we approach Christmas to help with this struggle. Here are two hymns for the Nativity of Christ:

“Ye mountains and ye hills, ye plains and valleys, ye peoples, tribes, and nations, and all things that have breath, shout with jubilation, be filled with divine gladness; for the Redemption of all is come, the timeless Word of God became subject to time because of His compassion.”

The Troparion for the Nativity: “Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the Light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a Star to adore You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You, the Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to You!”

Don’t just read them. Approach them as icons in word and sound that invite you to be drawn into a presence and experience of Him in and through the Holy Spirit. Center yourself and read or chant them so that they come from within you as though they were something you yourself sincerely composed in your heart to express your love of Christ and to be filled with “divine gladness.” Hopefully, you will encounter someone far more marvelous than you who so loves you that He entered your life to sacrifice Himself for you and all of creation. In Christ, Fr John

**November 15 - December 24, 2022 - Nativity (St. Philip's) Fast**  
**Keeping the Nativity Fast - From the Bulletin of SS. Cyril & Methodius**

- 1) Be consistent and regular in prayer; 2) Confess sometime during this season; 3) Keep the fast as best as you can;
- 4) Do these things in order prepare for the feasts of the appearing of the Lord, the birth and the Baptism of Christ

**Thanks for service to Holy Theophany Church in November 2022!** *Cleaning the Church and Parish Hall:* Filitsa Amirsakis, Olga Buranicz, Mary Kanelos; *Prophora Bread:* Filitsa Amirsakis, Mary Kanelos; *Music/chanting:* Adela Raicu (Chanter); Aaron Lush, Robert Lush, Joe & Kristy Danna; Maria, David, & Sofia Klesmith, and everyone who participates in community singing during our services; *Stewardship:* Thanks to everyone who provides financial support for us; *Reading:* Pres. Eileen, Christopher Thies, Adela Raicu, Damian Constantinescu, Maria Condos, Robert and Aaron Lush, Kristy Danna, Maria, Sofia Klesmith; *Service in the sanctuary:* David Klesmith and Christopher Thies; *Setting up for services (distributing material, etc.):* Mary Kanelos, Pres. Eileen and Pres. Anastasia; *Coffee Hour:* Maria & David Klesmith, Mary Kanelos, Filitsa Amirsakis, Kristy Danna, Bessie Mantes, Maria Condos and everyone who provides food or beverages. Christmas decorations: Renee Cerney. Sincere apologies if we overlooked anyone.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Website: <http://holytheophanychurch.org/>

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