



## 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 February 2023

[All services (except Reader’s Vespers) will be live-streamed unless otherwise noted. Hours for Sunday Liturgy start at 9:40 AM. The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is served each Sunday.]

- Wed. February 1 – 5:30 PM, Vespers for Presentation of the Lord in the Temple
- Saturday, 2/4, Readers Vespers – 5 PM
- Sunday, 2/5, Divine Liturgy – 10 AM, Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
- Saturday, 2/11, Readers Vespers – 5 PM
- Sunday, 2/12, Divine Liturgy – 10 AM, Sunday of Prodigal Son, followed by annual parish meeting. (attendance at the meeting is REALLY important!)
- Tuesday, 2/14, Class and discussion on Anaphora Prayer of St Basil’s Liturgy – 6 PM, Parish Hall
- Saturday, 2/18, Divine Liturgy – 10 AM, Memorial Saturday
- Sunday, 2/19, Divine Liturgy – 10 AM, Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare Sunday). The campers from the Chicago Deanery Winter Camp will be joining us for Liturgy and lunch.
- NOTE: After this Sunday, no more meat is eaten until the Sunday of Pascha, but otherwise there is no fasting this week, so that eggs, cheese, butter, milk and fish are permitted each day, including Wednesday and Friday.
- Saturday, 2/25, Readers Vespers – 5:00 PM
- Sunday, 2/26, Divine Liturgy – 10 AM, Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday and Beginning of Great Lent)
- Monday, 2/27, Clean Monday -Strict Fast - Compline with Canon of St. Andrew of Crete for Monday – 5:30 PM

### Looking Ahead to Great Lent/Pascha

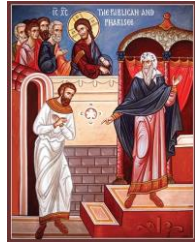
Complete schedule through Pascha available later. We are planning a Presanctified liturgy each Wednesday, March 1 through April 5 at 5:30.

### Notes on Fasting as Great Lent Approaches:

1. The week of 2/5 is a fast-free week – No fasting of any kind.
  2. The week of 2/12 is a normal week – Wednesday & Friday fasts.
  3. The week of 2/19 is a meat-fast week – all other food is allowed.
  4. Sunday February 26, is Cheesefare Sunday.
  5. Monday, February 27, Great Lent begins with a strict fast (Clean Monday).
- Be consistent and regular in prayer
  - Confess sometime during this season
  - Keep the fast as best you can
  - Do these things in order to prepare for Pascha



Presentation of Christ in Temple



Publican and Pharisee



Prodigal Son



Last Judgment/Second Coming

Pastoral reflection, Fr John: I found a remarkable set of quotes by saints on repentance and sadness and despondency. I am presenting some them for reflection and guidance. Remember repentance involves real humility and honesty about the ways we have failed to love God, others, and indeed properly love ourselves as living icons of Christ. But repentance is also always forward looking: after being forgiven, “take up your bed and walk!”

*“The path leading to perfection is long. Pray to God so that He will strengthen you. Patiently accept your falls and, having stood up, immediately run to God, not remaining in that place where you have fallen. Do not despair if you keep falling into your old sins. Many of them are strong because they have received the force of habit. Only with the passage of time and with fervour will they be conquered. Don’t let anything deprive you of hope.” ~Saint Nektarios of Aegina*

*“To repent is not to look downwards at my own shortcomings, but upwards at God’s Love. It is not to look backwards with self-reproach but forward with trustfulness. It is to see not what I have failed to be, but what by the Grace of Christ I might yet become.” ~Saint John Climacus*

Fr John: Alas, at times, we can fall into a trap of despondency when we start to lose hope about our life or, even though God forgives us, we cannot forgive ourselves. Beware of this trap – it is daemonic in origin. If you repent and receive forgiveness from God for your sins, don’t succumb to the temptation to refuse to forgive yourself. You are not better, smarter, or more justified in judging yourself than God! Humbly accept God’s love and forgiveness.

*“When despondency seizes us, let us not give into it. Rather, fortified and protected by the light of faith, let us with great courage say to the spirit of evil: ‘What are you to us, you who are cut off from God, a fugitive from Heaven, and a slave to evil? You dare not to do anything to us: Christ, the Son of God, has dominion over us and over everything. Leave us, you thing of bane. We are made steadfast by the uprightness of His Cross. Serpent, we trample on your head!’” ~Saint Seraphim of Sarov*

*“When you are Praying alone, and your spirit is dejected, and you are wearied and oppressed by your loneliness, remember then, as always, that God the Trinity looks upon you with eyes brighter than the sun; also, all the Angels, your own Guardian Angel, and all the Saints of God. Truly they do; for they are all one in God, and where God is, there are they also.” ~Saint John of Kronstadt (<https://www.stparaskevi.org.au/holy-quotes/>)*

**Thanks for service to Holy Theophany Church in January 2023!** *Cleaning the Church and Parish Hall:* Filitsa Amirsakis, Olga Buranicz, Mary Kanelos; *Pres. Anastasia;* *Prospora Bread:* Filitsa Amirsakis, Mary Kanelos; *Music/chanting:* Adela Fazio, Maria, David, & Sofia Klesmith; Kristy Danna, Paige Lush, Robert Lush; and everyone participating in community singing during our services; *Stewardship:* Thanks to everyone who provides financial support for us; *Reading:* Pres. Eileen, Christopher Thies, Damian Constantinescu, Maria Condos, Robert Lush, Kristy Danna; Maria, Isabella, and 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. *Nameday Festivities:* David and Maria Klesmith for organizing and subsidizing festivities and all of our guests who joined us and contributed to our Outreach Donation for the Diocese of Alaska; Naiomi and Elania Raicu for helping with choir and Vali Raicu for reading Epistle. Sincere apologies if we overlooked anyone.

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