

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



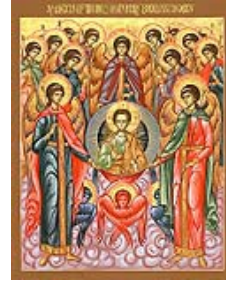
Entrance of Theotokos in the Temple (11/21)



St John Chrysostom (11/13)



Holy Unmercenary Cosmas and Damian (11/1)



Synaxis of the Bodiless Powers (11/08)

Schedule of Services for November 2024

[All services (except Reader's Vespers) will be live-streamed unless otherwise noted.]

All liturgies are those of St John Chrysostom; Hours for Sunday Liturgy start at 9:40 AM.]

Nativity Fast Friday Nov. 15 through Dec. 24

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Reader's Vespers 5 PM
3 Divine Liturgy, 10 AM	4	5	6	7	8	9 Reader's Vespers 5 PM
10 Divine Liturgy, 10 AM	11	12 Vespertal Liturgy for St John Chrysostom,	13	14	15	16 Reader's Vespers 5 PM
17 Divine Liturgy, 10 AM	18	19	20 Vespertal Liturgy for Entry of Theotokos	21	22	23 Great Vespers, 5 PM
24 Divine Liturgy, 10 AM	25	26 Akathist, Glory to God for All Things,	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30 Reader's Vespers 5 PM

Pastoral reflection: Fasting in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord. The Philip's or Nativity Fast is the second major fast in our church after the fasting during Great Lent. It is designed to help us in struggling with and hopefully subduing the passions that lead us away from God and to assist with drawing near to God. I found an excellent article about the true meaning of fasting. The author, Dr Phipip Kariatlis, draws on several hymns from the Triodion about the purpose of fasting. I find no similar hymns during the Nativity Fast. But they can certainly be applied to this fast. He begins by noting that simply focusing on the foods to be prepared and when they are to be eaten is not the true meaning of purpose of fasting as part of our spiritual journey towards meeting Christ and our deification. By way on contrast he cites several hymns from the Triodion about fasting along with his own comments that I would encourage you to ponder as you prepare to engage in the Nativity Fast:

Let us fast in a way that is acceptable and pleasing to the Lord. True fasting is flight from evils, temperance of the tongue, refrain from anger, separation from lustful desires, and from lies, from falsehood and from perjury. The absence of all these makes our fasting true and acceptable (Great Vespers of Pure Monday).

Dr Kariatlis observes: "This hymn 'is an injunction for purity.' The meaning of purity, like fasting, ought not to be impoverished... Accordingly, purification is understood as internal consistency or integrity of character which, in the face of temptation, remains totally devoted to God."

Let us observe the fast, not only by abstinence from food, but also by separating ourselves from every bodily passion... so that we may be counted worthy to partake of the Lamb... the Son of God... (A troparion from Tuesday during the first week of Great Lent).

Dr. Kariatlis observes: "fasting finds its true meaning when the outward abstinence of food is connected with the inward struggle to intensify our longing for God through the dynamic of purity and repentance—the consummation of which is realized in Holy Communion."

While fasting with the body, o brethren, let us also fast in spirit; let us loosen every connection with injustice... Let us give bread to the hungry and introduce into our house the poor who have no roof to cover them, that we may receive from Christ our God the great mercy (From the first liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts).

Dr Kariatlis observes: "True fasting requires not only fasting from foods but also practical works of compassion which, in this case, include working towards overcoming injustice and extending hospitality—*philoxenia*—especially to those in need. In simple terms, the hymn underscores that there cannot be genuine fasting without love towards the 'other, especially those in most need.'" ("The True Meaning of Fasting in the Orthodox Church"

<https://publicorthodoxy.org/2018/02/17/true-meaning-of-fasting/>)

Guidance for Nativity Fast: See our website

- 1) Be consistent and regular in prayer/ 2) Confess sometime during this season/ 3) Keep the fast as best 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

Calendar for Nativity (St Philip's Fast)

November						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

LEGEND:
Abstain from meat, dairy, eggs, fish, olive oil, wine
Abstain from meat, dairy, eggs, fish, olive oil
Abstain from meat, dairy, eggs, fish
Abstain from meat, dairy, eggs
Abstain from meat

Thanks for service to Holy Theophany Church October 2024! *Cleaning Church and Parish Hall:* Olga Buranicz, Christopher Thies, Alex Cook, Lamont Prospect, Pres. Anastasia; *Prospora Bread:* Filitsa,; **Music:** Adela Fazio, Maria, David, & Sofia Klesmith, Kristy Danna everyone for congregational singing; **Artos:** Pres. Anastasia, Filitsa; *Stewardship:* Thanks to everyone for their financial support; *Reading:* Nathan Elliot, Roger Farrell, Ron Ditthardt, Steve Meyer, Maria Condos, Olga B, Pres Eileen, Alex C; *Service in sanctuary:* David, Christopher, Alex C, and Giovanni Wilson; *Setting up for services:* Pres. Eileen, Pres. Anastasia, Christoper, and Lamont; *Attendance Report:* Bessie Mantes; *Coffee Hour:* Maria & David K., Filitsa, Kristy, Bessie, Pres. Anastasia, Maria Condos, Maria Tourloukis, Mary Kanelos, and everyone providing food or beverages; Washing of Communion Cloths: Pres. Anastasia, Mary Kanelos; Sincere apologies for overlooking anyone for the help they provided.

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

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