

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 September 2023

[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.]

- Thursday August 31, 5:30PM -- Vespertal Liturgy for the Ecclesiastical New Year (Sept 1)
- Saturday, Sept 2, 5 PM -- Vespers for the Preservation of Creation
- Sunday, Sept 3, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy
- Thursday Sept 7, 5:30 PM -- Vespertal Liturgy for Nativity of the Theotokos
- **Friday September 8: Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**
- Saturday, Sept 9, 5 PM -- Reader's Vespers at
- Sunday, Sept 10, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy
- Wednesday, Sept 13 5:30 PM -- Vespertal Liturgy for the Elevation of the Cross; blessing on new cross at HTC
- **Thursday, Sept. 14: Feast of the Elevation of the Cross**
- Saturday, Sept 16, Blessing of Pets 3-4 PM followed by Reader's Vespers at 5 PM
- Sunday, Sept 17, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy
- Saturday, Sept 23, 5 PM -- Reader's Vespers
- Sunday, Sept 24, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy at 10 AM
- Saturday, Sept 30, 5 PM -- Reader's Vespers

Holy Theophany Orthodox Church

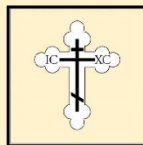
Blessing of Our Pets

September 16, 3-4 PM

*Join us to give thanks to God for the gifts of our pets
and offer them His blessing!*



- ❖ Bring any pets, service animals, and companion animals
- ❖ A social gathering will follow the service
- ❖ Donations will be given to Lakeland Animal Shelter
- ❖ Please have your pets on a leash or carrier for their safety during the service. Pets will be individually blessed



N2107 State Road 67, Walworth, WI 53184
Holytheophanychurch.org
(414) 241-7702



Nativity of the Theotokos



Elevation of the Cross

Pastoral reflection: The beginning of the Church Year (Sept 1) as a great time to work on repentance:

I often cite St. John Chrysostom’s wonderful comment that “repentance means not doing the same thing over and over again.” He says this to point out that repentance does not just mean looking back and confessing your sins and receiving forgiveness but also looking forward with a change of heart and mind (*metanoia*) to “get your act together” by not doing the same things over and over again for which you repent.

But doing the same thing over and over again is not always sinful. If, in imitation of Christ, I try to be a truthful person, a caring person, and steadfastly devout, then I always try to tell the truth, care for people, center my life on God and Christ— over and over again! Why? Because these actions express the kind of person I am: e.g., my dispositions and my good character traits or virtues.

This is the beginning of the Church Year (see <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/09/01/501-church-new-year> for information about this feast.) In many places, September marks the time in which farmers harvest many things they have planted. Hopefully, they give thanks to God for a good harvest that helps them and others. But farmers likely often have to pay attention to a bad harvest and give thought to how, with their resources and what they can manage, they can try to overcome things that lead to such harvests when they plant in the spring. So, in the spirit of the New Church Year, this is a great time to take stock of whom we have become this past Church year in our actions, thoughts, passions, purposes, etc. Remember our spiritual life is not something apart from our everyday life: It is our everyday life animated and guided by the Holy Spirit, Christ, and the Father. So “harvest” this past Church year and, with honesty and humility, thank God for where you are “on track” in imitating Christ as well as repent (confess) for where you have gone astray (or keep going astray) and also move forward to working with God to overcome these things. If you keep falling down, work with God to get up again. Try to fashion some really good New Year’s Resolutions that you will try to keep. (Thanks to my wife, Eileen for adding this last point when we chatted about it!)

Who are great guides? Consider the two great feasts that start the Church Year: the Nativity of the Theotokos and the Elevation of the Cross. Follow Christ by imitating the Theotokos: the person who “hears the word of God and keeps it” (Lk 11:28) and who freely declared herself to be a servant of God when she accepted God’s invitation through Gabriel to be the Mother of God (Lk 1:26-38). And how do we do this – by bearing our cross in following Christ as Christ bore his Cross to heal us from sin. And what goal do we hope for? Look forward to next August when we end the Church with the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. She died but was given the great gift of being fully deified in her entire humanity: body, soul, and spirit. Christ brought her into the fullness of life that we all hope to attain. We can’t accomplish that deification by ourselves; it is a gift. But we can cooperate with Christ as best we can in our journey—and a life of repentance is utterly essential to that journey.

For a great New Church Year Resolution: Commemorate the Theotokos and all of the saints and commend your entire life to Christ our God!

Thanks for service to Holy Theophany Church in August 2023! Cleaning the Church and Parish Hall: Filitsa Amirsakis, Olga Buranicz, Mary Kanelos; Christopher Thies. Alex Cook; Prospora Bread: Filitsa, Mary K.; Music/chanting: Adela Fazio, Maria, David, & Sofia Klesmith, Kristy Danna, and everyone participating in community singing during our services; Artos: Pres. Anastasia, Mary K; Stewardship: Thanks to everyone who provides financial support for us; Reading: Pres. Eileen, Christopher, Damian Constantinescu, Kristy, Lamont Prescott, Maria & Sofia; and Olga; Service in the sanctuary: David and Christopher; Setting up for services (distributing material, etc.): Mary, Pres. Eileen, and Lamont; Attendance Report: Bessie Mantes; Coffee Hour: Maria & David K., Mary, Filitsa, Kristy, Bessie, and everyone who provides food or beverages; Outside repairs/cleanup: David and ChristopherT; Donating Flowers/ Decorating Church: Renee Cerny and Mary K. Sincere apologies for overlooking anyone.

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

Fr. Protodeacon George Potym
Telephone (414) 254-5783
Email: gpotym@yahoo.com

Fr. John D. Jones (Priest-in-Charge)
Telephone (414) 241-7702
Email: jdjones1947@gmail.com

Maria Klesmith
Telephone (262) 275-0449
Email: mklesmith@charter.net