

January 1, 2023 T one 5

Sunday Before Theophany / Circumcision of Our Lord

CHRIST IS BORN! GLO RIFY HIM / H A P P Y N E W Y E A R !



Hymns of the Feast of Circumcision

The most merciful God did not disdain circumcision in the flesh. He offered Himself instead as a symbol and example of salvation to all. He made the Law, and yet submitted Himself to its commands and to what the prophets had foretold of Him. O our God who hold all things in Your hands, and yet were wrapped in swaddling clothes: O Lord, glory to You! (Vespers sticheron)

O Merciful Lord who, being God, assumed our human nature without undergoing change, You fulfilled the Law by accepting to be circumcised in the flesh, so as to put an end to prefigurations and remove the veil of our passions. Glory to Your goodness, O Word!

Glory to Your compassion! Glory to Your ineffable condescension! (Troparion)

Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix
Most Reverend Thomas J Olmsted Apostolic Administrator
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church
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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday 10:00 am—4:00 pm
Thursday OFF

THEOSIS: 2nd & 4th Thursday
Bible Study 6:45 pm / Zoom

Advisory Board

Fr. Chris Zuger, Dan Riley, Rafael Plut,
Jeff Brewer, Michael Grega, Alicia Wells

Finance Council

Matthew Blain, Maria Alden

Parish Membership

From time to time it is good for us to reflect on what constitutes membership at Our Lady of Perpetual Help...a time to reflect on our relationship to God and His Church which is expressed by our commitment to this parish

Our parish community is open to any Catholic and to anyone

1. who is interested in seeking the Lord Jesus through His Word, the teachings of the Apostles, and the Sacred Mysteries;
2. who accepts the teachings of the Catholic Church;
3. who will help form a community based on the Lord's love;
4. who is willing to grow as a Christian within the legitimate spiritual traditions of the Byzantine Catholic Church within our American context;
5. who acknowledges the legitimate authority of the Pope, Bishop, and Pastor;
6. who will attend liturgical services on Sundays and great holydays;
7. and who is willing to support the growth of the Church (Eparchy and Parish) by sharing his/her time, talent and treasure (financial support); Actual Parish membership is based on the above and is determined by the following criteria:

1. Being registered
2. Attending liturgical services regularly on Sundays and Holydays
3. Contributing to the support of the Church—both Eparchy (Bishop's Appeal) and Parish through use of the Sunday Tithing envelopes! Membership in the parish gives the parishioners the right to have their children receive the Holy Mysteries of Christian Initiation, be married in church and be buried from the church.

Summary from the Eparchial Pastoral Handbook on “Membership in a Parish”

Welcome to our Church! If you are looking for a spiritual home, contact Father Artur/Fr Chris or the office staff for more information. God bless you!

2 Timothy 4:5-8; Colossians 2:8-12 / Mark 1:1-8; Luke 2:20-21 & 40-52

- YouTube Live** 8:30 am Rosary; 9:00 am Festal Matins, Confessions
10:00 am / Divine Liturgy for Parish Family, Benefactors & Friends
Eternal Lamp: Holy Protection of the Mother of God Over Ukraine
- Jan 2 Mon** ***Pre-festive of Theophany / Sylveste Pope / 1 Tim 3:14-4:5; Mt 3:1-11***
9:00 am God's Blessing on Barlow Family by Gloetzners
- Jan 3 Tue** ***Pre-festive of Theophany / Malachy Prophet / 2 Tim 4:5-8; Mt 1:1-8***
9:00 am +Geiza Siksay by Maria Kartsub
- Jan 4 Wed** ***Pre-festive of Theophany / Synaxis of the 70 Apostles / James 1:1-18; Mk 11:23-***
10:00 am—Funeral Divine Liturgy for John Matsko
5:30 pm OLPH Devotions
6:00 pm +Joe Donlin, +John Schuler, Demetrius Yackanich & +George Saade by Svenssons
- Jan 5 Thu** ***Vigil of Theophany/ Synkletike Martyr / Royal Hours PM / 1 Cor 9:19-27; Lk 3:1-18***
Strict abstinence Noon carpool to Rio Grande
1:00 pm Great Vespers with the Great Blessing of the Rio Grande
- Jan 6 Fri** ***Theophany of Our Lord / Holy Day of Obligation Titus 2:11-14 & 3:4-7; Mt 3:13-17***
- YouTube Live** 6:00 pm Liturgy of St Basil followed by Great Blessing of Water
Health & Salvation of Bishop Kurt Burnett by Debbie Sanchez
- Jan 7 Sat** ***Saturday after Theophany / Synaxis of John the Baptist / Eph 6:10-17; Mt 4:1-11***
9:00 am (masks required) Intention of Mary Dean
- Jan 8 Sun** ***Sunday after Theophany / Eph 4:7-13; Mt 4:12-17***
4:00 pm Great Vespers YouTube LIVE
5:00 pm +Mary Sanchez by Debbie Sanchez
Hebrew Scriptures for Sunday: Exodus 2:15-25; Kings 1:2-8; Isaiah 49:1-4
8:30 am Rosary; 9:00 am Matins, Confessions
10:00 am Divine Liturgy for Parish Family, Benefactors and Friends
- YouTube Live** Eternal Lamp: Holy Protection of the Mother of God Over Ukraine



YOUTUBE LIVE-STREAMING: OLPH Sunday / Holy Day Liturgies are available on YouTube.

The link is <https://youtube.com/c/olphmedia>. Please click the "Subscribe" button to make it easier for you to find the channel in the future. Please, send your feedback about the quality of the live stream / comments / suggestions to Dan Riley: riley.dan@gmail.com

Remember Those Who Request Our Prayers:

Physician and Help of Those in sickness, Redeemer and Savior of the infirm; O Master and Lord of all, grant healing to your servants. Be clement, show mercy to those who have sinned much, and deliver them, O Christ, from their Iniquities, that they

Sharif Rabadi	Buster Miscusi	Paola Terlaza
Jenny Ford	Barbara De Lap	Ruth Sousa
Priscilla Hughes	Irene Bradley	Linda Granci
Marilyn Fore	Sorilah Chavez	Vicki Frank
Sven & Barbara	Abraham Haddad	Christopher
Svensson	Marianne Gerace	Barlow
Laurie Bienz	Lori Medina	Jordan Smith
Brent Dodson-	Michael Baron	Janet Worthing-
Sands	Gabriel Preisler	ton
Lara Davis	Jessica Pieniadz	Patti Klinkovsky
Carol Donlin	Rhonda Glasscock	Matt Williamson
Marcie Dark	Amber Roybal	James Epstein
Jesse Hebert	Philip Leahy	Katy Ford
Fr. Chris Zugger	Juanita Montoya	Jacob McTernan
Fr Chris Andrews		



Vocation Icon

Today: Donlin Family
Next Sunday: Brewer Family

Prayers in honor of and to the Blessed Virgin are a powerful weapon against sin, and for healing. If you recite the Rosary at home, please offer these intentions, and join us on Sunday at 8:30 am. Those who recite the Akathist to the Mother of God or the Rosary receive a partial indulgence when they do so in private, plenary indulgence when they do so as a group.

Intentions of the Rosary:

- 1st Decade: Help for persecuted Catholics, especially in communist and Islamic states
- 2nd Decade: Spiritual and physical growth of our parish and the Byzantine Catholic Church
- 3rd Decade: Increase in vocations to priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life to serve the Byzantine Catholic Church
- 4th Decade: Repose of the souls who have no one praying for them
- 5th Decade: Healing of the sick in body, mind and soul

Holy Fathers Intentions – January For Educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

January 8, 2023

Cantor: Andrea Riley

Reader: Michael Wells

Trojica: Esther & Tony Gloetzner

Altar Server: Michael Grega

Counters: Mary Blain & Cindy Loescher

Probers for 1/8/2023

Sunday after Theophany

Resurrection Tone 6

Antiphons & Entrance Hymn - 312 &
316-7

Troparion (Tone 6) - 152

Troparion (Theophany) - 317

v. Glory...

Kontakion (Theophany)- 317

Now & Ever...

Theotokion - 406

Prokeimenon & Alleluia -317-8

Magnification & Irmos - 315

Our Father - 71

Communion - 316

OLPH Prayer Warriors

Sunday (Zoom). Send your
prayer requests to

Patricia at pocb@ unm.edu

THE PRAYER WARRIORS IS OPEN
TO EVERYONE--WOMEN, MEN, &
CHILDREN (children who have their
parents' permission)! Please join us!!

Alicia's Hall Report

Christ is born! Glorify Him! There was
no social last Sunday due to folks cele-
brating with family and friends. Please
sign up in the Hall or online to host a
social for a special family celebration,
birthday, anniversary, or just for fun. If
you have a theme in mind and would
like to co-host, let me know and we can
make a plan! [https://](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054aaaaa2aa4f94-olph#/)
[www.signupgenius.com/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054aaaaa2aa4f94-olph#/)
[go/10c054aaaaa2aa4f94-olph#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054aaaaa2aa4f94-olph#/)

Happy and blessed New Year to all!!

Coming Events—Mark Your Calendars Now

January 9-13	Eparchy of Phoenix Canon Law Conference in Las Vegas NV
Mon Jan 30	Three Holy Hierarchs / Simple Holy Day 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy/ Myrovaniye
Wed Feb 1	Meeting of Our Lord With Simeon and Anna 6:00 pm Vigil Liturgy / Blessing of Candles
Sat Feb 11	1st All Souls Saturday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Mon Feb 20	Start of the Great Fast 6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with anointing on the forehead
Sat Mar 4	2nd All Souls Saturday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Sat Mar 11	3rd All Souls Saturday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Wed Mar 15	Mid-Lent 6:00pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Sat. Mar 18	4th All Souls Saturday 9:00 am Divine liturgy
Thurs March 23	7:00 pm Matins with Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete / Reading Life story of St Mary of Egypt
Sat March 25	Annunciation of the Theotokos Solemn Holy Day / No Fasting 9:00pm - Festive Liturgy of St John Chrysostom / Myrovaniye

A most CHEERFUL THANK YOU TO all who con-
tributed to our **Christmas celebrations**, to our God-
loving cantors, readers, choir, altar servers, kitchen
crew, gift shop volunteers, church cleaners, those
who decorated the church, the Angel Tree in the hall
small Christmas Tree in the church, the outdoor gar-
den; all of those who attended the services; God
Bless You in triple Byzantine WAY!

SINCEREST THANK YOU for lovely Christmas
cards, offers of prayers, and gifts and for many
baked goods. Our best wishes to YOU for a Blessed
New Year!

May the Lord Bless your kindness and
generosity to His House!

ONLINE GIVING / ONLINE TITHING

is available on our website:

For those parishioners who can't attend in person or traveling or anyone who find this more convenient, we just set up a new way to tithe online using your credit card or debit card information. You can do a one-time donation or setup weekly donations!! You will receive a receipt and statement immediately after donating. The software takes a very small percentage of the donation, but its worth it for the ease of the system. You can donate using your computer / smartphone at: [ps://www.olphnm.org/giving](https://www.olphnm.org/giving).

God's blessing and congratulations to Jhonathan Federico making his Profession of Faith on Wednesday December 21 at 6pm Liturgy and completing his Christian Initiation at the Christmas Vigil Liturgy last Saturday: Chrismation and First Holy Communion. Grant O Lord to your servant Jhonathan peace, health and happiness for many and blessed years !!!

ATTENTION! We are updating Parish Directory for 2023. If there have been any changes to your address / phone/ email and if you have not yet submitted the changes, please, do so at your earliest convenience by phone: 505-256-1539 or by email: olphsecretary@gmail.com Thank you!

!!WE NEED GREETERS!! With the moving of our friends the Domsteads, we have a glaring hole in our schedule of greeters. If you would like to meet everyone in the parish, introduce newcomers to the beauty of the liturgy, and start everyone's Sunday with a warm welcome, then greeting might be the perfect way for you to serve the parish. If you're interested in being a greeter for one Sunday each month, please contact Dan Riley in person or email at Riley.Dan@gmail.com.

MANDATORY SAFE ENVIRONMENT ONLINE TRAINING FOR ALL THE VOLUNTEERS

Reminder: PLEASE, CHECK your Safe Environment Compliance Certificate Expiration date. Please note that Online Virtus training for many will be expiring within the next 4 to 5 weeks. The Eparchy's revised Safe Environment Policy no longer allows for lapses in compliance - either in Virtus training or in background screenings - for ALL OLPH VOLUNTEERS AND EXPLORER YOUTH GROUP LEADERS. Anyone falling out of compliance at any point must immediately cease from their designated area of service at OLPH until such time as they are in compliance once again. No one - not members of the clergy, volunteers, educators, employees etc. - may serve for even one day when out of SEP compliance.

The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions, and programs, is committed to assuring a Safe Environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any concerns, please contact:

Subdeacon Paul Kilroy, Safe Environment Program Coordinator

Cell: (702) 498-5972 -- Office: (602) 861-9778 ext. 203 -- Email: sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org

Victim Assistance Coordinator, Dcn Michael Hanafin Cell: (480) 307-5182

Circumcising the Sins of Men

OUR CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY draws to a close today with the Feast of His Circumcision. Many primitive cultures have traditions of marking the body in some way to distinguish the recipient as a member of the tribe, a warrior, or a member of the ruling class. In the Middle East circumcision has been practiced as a sign of belonging at least since the time of Abraham. To this day it is a defining rite among both Jews and Muslims. In the book of Genesis we read God's requirement: "This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised. Circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and that shall be the mark of the covenant between you and me. Throughout the ages, every male among you, when he is eight days old, shall be circumcised, including house-born slaves and those acquired with money from any foreigner who is not of your blood. Yes, both the house-born slaves and those acquired with money must be circumcised. Thus my covenant shall be in your flesh as an everlasting pact. If a male is uncircumcised, that is, if the flesh of his foreskin has not been cut away, such a one shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant..." (Gen 17:10-14) In accordance with this law the Lord Jesus was circumcised eight days after His birth. It was also the time that He was formally given the name Jesus. At first glance we see that in this Jesus' family was simply doing what was customary among Jews. They were making the infant a part of God's People, the people of the Covenant. By His incarnation the Word of God became a human being, one of us by nature. By His circumcision He became a member of a specific people, a Jew. He would observe the Sabbath, study Torah and observe the festival pilgrimages to Jerusalem (see Luke 2:41-52). He would observe the traditions of Israel because it was through Israel that the world would be saved. As we sing at vespers on this feast: "The most merciful God did not disdain circumcision in the flesh. He offered Himself instead as a symbol and example of salvation to all. He made the Law, and yet submitted Himself to its commands and to what the prophets had foretold of Him. O our God, who hold all things in Your hands, and yet were wrapped in swaddling clothes: O Lord, glory to You!" The Church, reflecting on His circumcision, looked at it from other vantages as well. St. Cyril of Alexandria, for example, in his third homily on the Gospel of St. Luke, noted: "It seems to me that circumcision achieved three distinct ends. In the first place, it separated the descendants of Abraham by a sort of sign and seal and distinguished them from all other nations. "Second, it prefigured in itself the grace and efficacy of divine baptism. Formerly a male who was circumcised was included among the people of God by virtue of that seal; nowadays a person who is baptized and has formed in himself Christ the seal becomes a member of God's adopted family. "Third, circumcision is the symbol of the faithful when they are established in grace, as they cut away and mortify the tumultuous rising of carnal pleasures and passions by the sharp surgery of faith and by ascetic labors. They do this, not by cutting the body but by purifying the heart. They do this by being circumcised in the spirit and not in the letter."

OUR SPIRITUAL CIRCUMCISION

A circumcision is a cutting of the flesh; circumcision according to the letter, as St Cyril describes it, is also a cutting, but of the heart. It is the removal of something, often painful, so that we can be fitting members of Christ by "the sharp surgery of faith and by ascetic labors." The sharp knife of faith removes from our hearts its reliance on whatever we trust for our security other than the true God. In the Roman Empire Jews trusted in the Law of Moses and pagans trusted in the gods and goddesses of the state. In our day it may be our family, our job, our culture or our political and economic systems that we feel will take care of us.

People continually find that any of these can fail them drastically if they put the confidence in them that is due to God alone. The surgery of ascetic labors is the way we deal with our pride, our greed, our lust and the like: often particularly painful as it is a surgery we face daily. St. Paul described this dynamic as "...the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh" (Col 2:11). Elsewhere he catalogued these sins as "...your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Col 3:5). Lest we feel too confident in our "sinlessness," he continues the list with "anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language" and lying (Col 3:8-9). Of these we continually need to be circumcised.

WHAT IS "THE FLESH"?

When speaking of "the sins of the flesh" St Paul uses a Greek word, *sarx*. This is not the Greek word for body – *soma* – which shows that the Apostle is not equating the body with sin. As the fourth-century Egyptian ascetic Poemen said, "We were taught, not to kill the body, but to kill the passions." *Sarx* has been described as "the complex of sin, death and futility into which humanity has imprisoned itself..." (John S. Custer, *The Apostolic Writings*, p. 78). The term "flesh," then, includes anything including mental attitudes and even religious practices which are opposed to the kingdom of God. Circumcising the flesh, in fact, involves dealing more with our motivations, our imaginations and the whole range of our conscious and subconscious thoughts. It is a refocusing of all our attitudes as well as our actions on God and the godly way of life. Asceticism, then, are the means by which we restore the natural hierarchy of body and spirit. The body is meant to serve the spirit; not the other way around, as is the case in the fallen world. Human nature in its fallen, sinful condition finds the spirit enslaved to the flesh, and to the need to gratify the appetites of the flesh. Insofar as the spirit remains in this state of bondage, it is rendered incapable of communing with God. Spiritual circumcision, then, is an indispensable part of our progress toward union with God. It is an aspect of what we are urged to do continually in our liturgical services: "Let us commend ourselves, one another and our whole life to Christ God."

The Importance of the Eighth Day for Naming of Jesus.

What is the significance of the eighth day? The world was created in seven days. Beyond the physical world – beyond seven days – is the eighth day, which represents the metaphysical, the spiritual. Since for the Jews, circumcision of the male child symbolizes taking the physical and elevating it to serve God by fulfilling the covenant God made with Abraham and the Jewish people, it is done on the eighth day, a day that represents a level beyond physicality. Mary and Joseph would have taken their holy Child, Son of the Most High, to Bethlehem's synagogue to have this ceremony performed. The Circumcision makes Jesus a son of Abraham, a son of the covenant. God had told Abraham that his descendants would outnumber the stars of heaven and the sands of the seas. That will be fulfilled by Jesus, the Christ, Who will proclaim the Good News to all nations through His disciples, a mission which continues today. We are the ones entrusted with the Good News today. We are the ones who must proclaim it to those around us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in the power of the Holy Name of Jesus.

In some icons of this event, the Child Jesus is laid out on a table, foreshadowing the Altar of Sacrifice on which the Holy Eucharist takes place. This feast also marks the first shedding of the Precious Blood by Christ, done willingly for our sake.