

## Announcements

- **Welcome Guests and Visitors.** We are delighted to have you join us at our service today in worshipping the Holy Trinity.
- **Today.** Today we celebrate the Great Blessing of Water at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. We will have a church school lesson for our elementary-age children after the service and breakfast.
- **Blessings of Homes.** If you did not bring a container for holy water today, please do so by next Sunday. We Christians are engaged in a struggle to reclaim fallen nature for the Kingdom of God – let's start by reclaiming our own homes and receiving the blessing of the Jordan River. Appointments can be made with Fr. Kirill.
- **Annual Parish Meeting.** Please mark your calendars to stay for our parish's annual business meeting on Sunday, January 26, following the Divine Liturgy. It will begin during the Fellowship Meal. Our attendance is part of our stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to us. If you would like to serve in an elected position or would like to know more, please speak with Fr. Kirill or Lay Vice President Felicia Dunham.

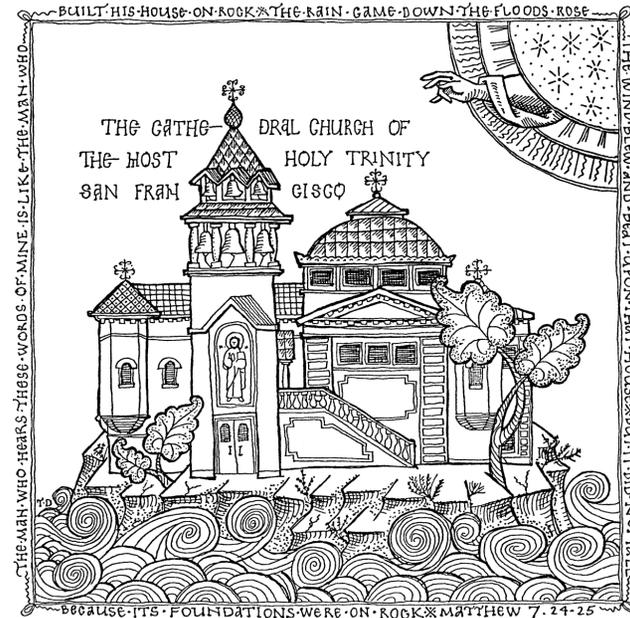
## This Week at Holy Trinity

- Sun. Jan. 5:** **Eve of the Theophany of Christ**  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water followed by breakfast and church school (elementary)  
6:00 pm Festal Vigil  
*Parking available both services Sunday at St. Brigid's*
- Mon. Jan. 6:** **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- Wed. Jan. 8:** 6:00 pm Vespers
- Sat. Jan. 11:** 6:00 pm Vigil & Confessions
- Sun. Jan. 12:** 10:00 am Divine Liturgy followed by fellowship meal (and parish council)  
*Parking available at St. Brigid's*

## Contact Fr. Kirill

Question? Want to sit down to talk? Or be on the email list?  
FrKirill@holy-trinity.org • 415-673-8565

# Holy Trinity Cathedral



Sunday, January 5, 2020

Most Reverend Benjamin,  
Archbishop of San Francisco and the West

Very Reverend Dr. Kirill Sokolov, Dean

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Orthodox Church in America  
Diocese of the West

**Today's Epistle**  
2 Timothy 4:5-8  
**Today's Gospel**  
Mark 1:1-8

**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.**  
**Eve of The Holy Theophany of Our**  
**Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**  
**Tone 4**

### **Today's Epistle Reading**

*2 Timothy 4:5-8*

Timothy, my son: be watchful in all things, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill thy ministry.

For I am now ready to be sacrificed, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

### **Today's Gospel Reading**

*Mark 1:1-8*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee'. 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight".'

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins: and he did eat locusts and wild honey, and preached, saying, "There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

### **The Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

The main feature of the feast of the Epiphany is the Great Blessing of Water. Sometimes people think that the blessing of water and the practice of drinking it and sprinkling it over everyone and everything is a "paganism" which has falsely entered the Christian Church. We know, however, that this ritual was practiced by the People of God in the Old Testament, and that in the Christian Church it has a very special and important significance.

It is the faith of Christians that since the Son of God has taken human flesh and has been immersed in the streams of the Jordan, all matter is sanctified and made pure in Him, purged of its death-dealing qualities inherited from the devil and the wickedness of men. In the Lord's epiphany all creation becomes good again, indeed "very good," the way that God Himself made it and proclaimed it to be in the beginning when "the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters" (Gen 1.2) and when the "Breath of Life" was breathing in man and in everything that God made (Gen 1.30; 2.7).

The world and everything in it is indeed "very good" (Gen 1.31) and when it becomes polluted, corrupted and dead, God saves it once more by effecting the "new creation" in Christ, his divine Son and our Lord by the grace of the Holy Spirit (Gal 6.15). This is what is celebrated on Epiphany, particularly in the Great Blessing of Water. The consecration of the waters on this feast places the entire world—through its "prime element" of watering the perspective of the cosmic creation, sanctification, and glorification of the Kingdom of God in Christ and the Spirit. It tells us that man and the world were indeed created and saved in order to be "filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph 3.19), the "fullness of him who fills all in all" (Eph 1.22). It tells us that Christ, in Who in "the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily," is and shall be truly "all, and in all" (Col 2.9, 3.11). It tells us as well that the "new heavens and the new earth" which God has promised through His prophets and apostles (Is 66.2; 2 Peter 3.13; Rev 21.1) are truly "with us" already now in the mystery of Christ and His Church.

Thus, the sanctification and sprinkling of the Epiphany water is no pagan ritual. It is the expression of the most central fact of the Christian vision of man, his life and his world. It is the liturgical testimony that the vocation and destiny of creation is to be "filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph 3.19).

-Fr. Thomas Hopko



### **Many Years!**

**Wedding Anniversary**  
Misha and Anastasia Edel (Jan 9)

**Anniversary of Subdiaconate**  
Johann Morse (Jan 7)

**Birthdays**  
Steven Belonick (Jan 5)  
Taylor Seraphim Warren (Jan 6)  
Anne Kirushkin (Jan 8)  
Samuel Strelkoff (Jan 11)

### **Thank You**

Please join us downstairs for our fellowship meal! We look forward to meeting our guests and visitors.

Thanks to Tamara for preparing today's breakfast (we are abstaining from meat and dairy today and eating minimally in preparation for tomorrow's feast).