

## RE-CLAIMING OUR HOMES FOR CHRIST: A NOTE ON HOUSE BLESSINGS

When our homes are blessed, we reclaim our homes, and everyone and everything in them, for Christ: our wives, our husbands, our marriages... our children... our working and studying... our worrying and our struggling... our decisions and our dilemmas... our successes and our rejoicing: we reclaim all of our lives for Christ, by inviting Him into our inner sanctum.



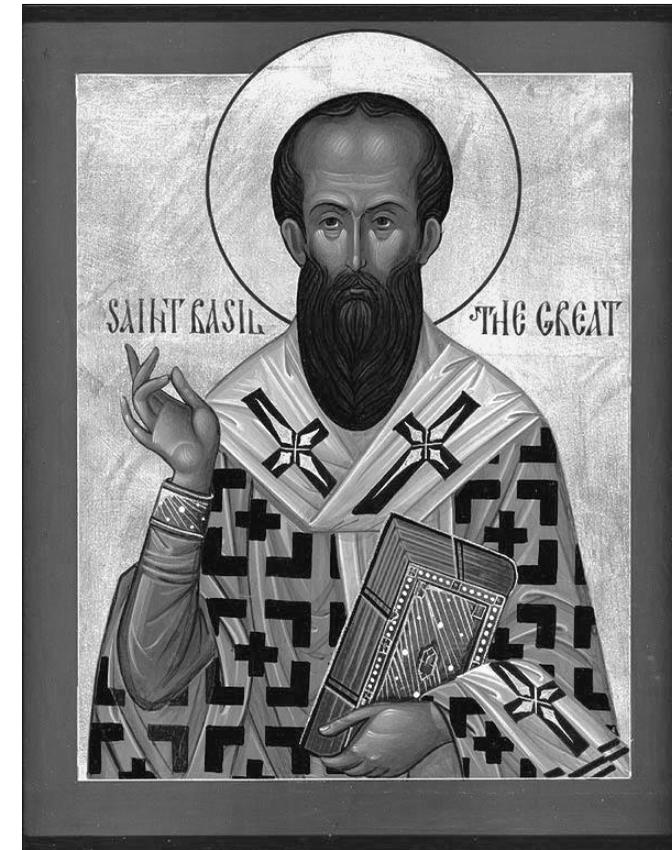
The custom of blessing homes during the Theophany season is of special beauty and significance. We show the Lord – and the devil – that we wish for God to physically expel every trace of sin, anger, bitterness, and worry that has invaded our homes and our families over the past year!

Plan your home blessing at a time when **all family members can be present**, if at all possible.

When Father comes to bless the family and house, these things should be prepared:

- A lit candle, an icon, and a wide bowl for Holy Water should be on the table.
- All present in the house should come together and stand at the table. If kids are present, an icon for each child to carry (who is big enough to carry one) should also be on the table.
- All radios, televisions, etc. should be turned off.
- Lists of Departed and Living family members and loved ones to be prayed for.

## HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH Yonkers, New York



**Sunday, January 1, 2017 ~ 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**  
**The Circumcision of Our Lord ~ Feast of Saint Basil the Great,**  
**Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia**

### HOLY WATER – THURSDAY & FRIDAY

Water will be blessed and shared this week – bring your containers on Thursday (7pm Vigil) and Friday (9:30 am Liturgy)!

### MEMORY ETERNAL: ZENA WESHITA

Our sister in Christ Zena, homebound the past several years, fell asleep in the Lord Monday, December 26. *May Zena's memory be eternal!*



## HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Trinity Plaza ✦ 46 Seymour Street ✦ Yonkers, New York 10701  
Rector: V. Rev. David Cowan ✦ Protodeacon John Eby  
Attached: V. Rev. John Tkachuk ✦ Rev. Vitaly Bahanovich  
Rector Emeritus: V. Rev. Yaroslav Sudick, Ph.D., D.D.  
Rectory Phone 914-965-6815 ✦ Email: frdavidcowan@gmail.com  
Web: www.HolyTrinityYonkers.org  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityOrthodox  
Diocese of New York & New Jersey: www.nynjoca.org

**Sunday, January 1, 2017 ~ 28th Sunday After Pentecost**

**The Circumcision of Our Lord**

**Feast of Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia**

**Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8; Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

### SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

**Today – Please Welcome Fr. Nicholas and Matushka Anastasia Molodyko-Harris**

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*, Followed by Coffee Hour; No Church School Today

**Thursday, January 5 – Eve of Theophany (Strict Fast Until Sunset)**

7:00 PM *Vigil Service* for Theophany, with *Blessing of Water*

**Friday, January 6 – Theophany (Epiphany): The Baptism of Christ**

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy* with *Blessing of Water*

Blessing of Homes Begins Jan. 6 – Contact Fr. David

if you'd like him to visit and bless your home, (914) 965-6815 / frdavidcowan@gmail.com

**Saturday, Jan. 7 – Synaxis of John the Baptist (Nativity of Our Lord on the Julian Calendar)**

10:00 AM *Divine Liturgy* / Божественная литургия

5:30 PM Private Confession Available

6:00 PM *Great Vespers*

**Sunday, January 8 – Sunday After Theophany**

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*, with *Panikhida* for Helen Dempsey, requested by Melanie Kowalczyk; for Maria Stanczak, requested by the Labuda Family; for Walter Kowalczyk, requested by his wife Maria and Family; for John Kowalczyk, by Peter & Anna Warycha; and for John & Julia Wislocki, by Maria Kaczor. Coffee Hour and Church School follow.

**Wednesday, January 11**

7:00 PM Parish Council Meeting – in the Education Building

**Saturday, January 14**

5:30 PM Private Confession Available

6:00 PM *Great Vespers*

**Sunday, January 15**

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*, with *Panikhida* for Helen Dempsey, requested by Peggy Ann Lang; for Maria Stanczak, requested by John Felenczak; for John Kowalczyk, requested by Mr. & Mrs. Emil Tutko; and John & Julia Wislocki, by Basil & Anna Kocur. Coffee Hour and Church School follow.

### PRAYER LIST

**Above all, we are a praying community. Keep this list in your prayer corner, and in your daily prayers remember our Brothers & Sisters in Christ:**

Madeline Miroshnikov; newborn Chloe Sannella (Olga Ptach's granddaughter); Walter Donski; William & Virginia Fann; John Felenczak; Anna; Hari; Vincent Knarr; Adnan Abbasi; Nicholas Macagnone; Tanya Balasenowich; Svetlana Wineski and the child to be born to her; the child Nadia Wineski; child Michael; Ann Dahulich; Barbara Evanina; Boris Lyzak; Stephanie Davis, Susan Hansen, Alexander Kravchenko, Virginia & Arthur Shanahan, John O'Donnel; Christopher Olsen; Bill Bodack; Nina Dimas; Richard Dosing; catechumen Norman & Elena Herman; Courtney Lyzak; Anatole Honczarenko; Eleanor Wasilko; Dora Alexandris; Dorothy Stratton; Mark Sovyrda; David Dutko; child Alena King; Ludmila Branzow; Suzanne Gee; Kathleen & Maryanne Nolan; Kevin Kuzmenko; Shawn Malone; Metropolitan Paul and Bishop Gregorios, Vera Bullock; Schuyler Perry; Vitaliy Khutko; Malcolm Kirkpatrick; Nikolai & Nadezhda Solidnov; the priests Frs. Ken James Stavrevsky, John Reeves, Nicholas Harris, Gabriel Nicholas, Vitaly Bahanovich, John Tkachuk; Matushki Katherine White, Anastasia Harris, Juliana Schmemann, and Masha Tkachuk; Klara Borzova; Helen Delandri; Irene Homa; Olga Juck; Mary Kalakuka; Mary Kantor; Ann Karell; Daria Krawchuk; Mary Macagnone; Stephanie Phillips; Tekla Rzyk; Martha Slivka; Nicholas Washenko; all those confined to hospitals, nursing homes, and their own homes due to illness; for all soldiers, especially Bryan, Mykola & Marin; widows, orphans, prisoners, victims of violence, and refugees, especially in the Middle East and in Ukraine; all those suffering chronic illness, financial hardship, loneliness, addiction, abuse, abandonment and despair; all Orthodox seminarians & families; nun Theodula and all Orthodox monks and nuns, and all those considering monastic life; all Orthodox missionaries and their families; all those named for St. Basil the Great.

**For blessed repose for the souls of:** Newly departed Zena Weshta (+12/26); Mary Smith (+12/19); George Coverdale (+12/19); Anthony, Vangelica & Mary; Arisleida Perez Losano (+12/15); Helen Dempsey (+12/11); the victims of the bombing of St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Cairo (+12/11); Darlene Larney; Donald Thetford (+12/1); Clara & Nikolai Patutin (+11/11, +11/12); ever-memorable Berta Ptach (Olga's mother, + 12/31/12), Doris Morin; the departed named for St. Basil the Great; and all those departed this life in hope of the Resurrection.

**Please give prayer requests to Fr. David, to Protodeacon John, or to an Altar Server. Typically, names remain on this list for 40 days, unless requested otherwise. Those confined to hospitals or homes, or suffering chronic illnesses, remain on the list.**

### CANDLE SPONSORSHIPS FOR JANUARY:

**Vigil Candle, Icon of Christ**, Departed Members, Wirchansky Family. Living: Wirchansky, Seckerson, and Carlucci Families. **Vigil Candle, Icon of the Theotokos**, Living: Paul and Boris; **Vigil Candle, Icon of St. Nicholas**, Departed: Nicolas and Alexandra; requested by Marina Mikhaylova.

**The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING is SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017.**

**In order to have a voice and vote at the Annual Meeting, take any needed steps to fulfill all the following requirements. Thank you!**

- **partake in the Sacraments of private Confession, and Holy Communion, at least once a year,**
- **fulfill all financial obligations, as established by the parish, by the end of the year** [for the final year, 2016, this is the \$145/year Diocesan Assessment ... please bring yours as soon as possible.]

**Voting isn't everything ... Communion with Christ is! Still, your voice is valuable. So please, take action to meet these requirements so that you can participate both spiritually and materially in the care and growth of your family in Christ!**

**TWO PARISH COUNCIL POSITIONS NEED FILLING ...**

**...starting at the Annual Meeting on 1/29/2017:**

**Recording Secretary**, currently held by Olga Ptach; and

**Financial Secretary**, currently held by Jessica Moreno.

If you are interested in serving in either of these roles, please see Fr. David.

**PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS – our parish sons & daughters, OCF chapter**

**members, AND those at nearby colleges who make HTO their spiritual home away from home!**

Bassim Abbasi	Andrew Nolan	Joshua Rzyk
Elizabeth Bouteneff	August Perry	Peter Rzyk
Michael Bouteneff	Kamille Perry	Stephanie Rzyk
Joe Ciamarra	Schuyler Perry	Justyna Skalski
Jaroslav Kopcza	Christianna Piwinski	Monika Wislocki
Kaydee Kowalczyk	Roman Piwinski	
Dan Kozak	Amanda Rzyk	

*“Sending our kids to college without a connection to the Church is like sending children to play in traffic.” -- Archbishop Michael*

Please tell Fr. David if there are any errors or omissions on this list.

**PASTORAL CARE – GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Emergency Sick Calls** can be made at any time. Please call Fr. David at (914) 965-6815, when a family member is admitted to the hospital.

**Anointing In Sickness:** The Sacrament of Unction is available in Church, the hospital, or your home, for anyone who is sick, however severe. It doesn't mean “Last Rites!”

**Marriages and Baptisms** require early planning, scheduling, and selection of sponsors (crown bearers or godparents). See Father before booking dates and reception halls!

**Funerals** are celebrated for practicing Orthodox Christians. Please see Father for details.

***The Church opposes cremation; we cannot celebrate funerals for cremations.***

**TODAY'S EPISTLE 2 Timothy 4:5-8** My son Timothy: Be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.<sup>6</sup>For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.<sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.<sup>8</sup>Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

**TODAY'S GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the Prophets: “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.”<sup>3</sup>The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’ “<sup>4</sup>John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.<sup>5</sup>Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.<sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.<sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

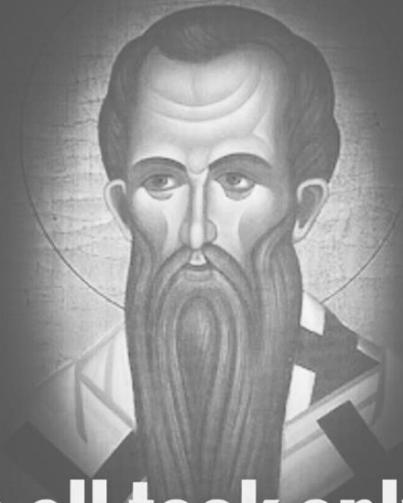
**TEENS AND TEENS' PARENTS:**

The next meeting of Fr. David with our teens will be **Sunday, January 22.**

**WANT TO HELP A STRUGGLING PARISH, MISSION, OR SEMINARIAN WITHIN OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY?  
Become a ***DISTINGUISHED DIOCESAN BENEFACTOR!*****

**To see a video “slice of life” of our Diocesan churches, visit [www.nynjoca.org/vision\\_for\\_future\\_2012.html](http://www.nynjoca.org/vision_for_future_2012.html) ... and scroll down to VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS. Questions? See Fr. David.**





**If we all took only what  
was necessary to satisfy  
our own needs, giving the  
rest to those who lack, no  
one would be rich and no  
one would be poor.**

**–Basil the Great**

# MARCH FOR LIFE | 2017



Our vision is a world where every human life  
is valued and protected.

Tragically 57 million babies have been lost  
to abortion since 1973.

JOIN PRO-LIFE AMERICANS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL  
TO BE A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS!

**JANUARY 27, 2017 | WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
VISIT [MARCHFORLIFE.ORG/MFL-2017](http://MARCHFORLIFE.ORG/MFL-2017) FOR MORE INFO.

## **CAN YOU GO? *GREAT!***

See Fr. David, and watch the next three Bulletins for details.  
If you can't go to D.C. for the March – then watch the next two Bulletins  
for things you CAN do, to say “NO MORE” to the  
legalized and profit-ized murder of over *one baby for every five born alive\**.

\*[www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/data\\_stats](http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/data_stats) - see “Abortion”, item 1