Parish Newsletter **January 2020**
Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 8710 28th Ave E, Tacoma, Washington 98445
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Proclaiming the Orthodox Christian Faith in Southern Puget Sound since 1896

The Blessing of Water

In the Book of Genesis, we read that creation began when the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters. (Gen. 1:2) Throughout the Bible, water plays an important and a 'mystical role' in human existence and in man's relationship with God the Creator.

Water has the capacity to produce death, as recounted in the story of Noah and the ark (Gen. 6); or to produce life, as noted in the story of Moses' striking the rock in the desert to produce water for the parched wanderers (Numbers 20). While the waters of the Red Sea parted to allow the Hebrews to pass over in safety (and thus preserve life), the same waters came rushing upon the Pharaoh and his army drowning them.

In the New Testament, we see water becoming the means by which the Trinity was revealed during the Baptism of Jesus, which we celebrate on the Feast of Theophany on January 6 each year. In the Baptism of Jesus, at the hands of John the Baptist, the spiritual significance and potential of water as the source of life is again revealed and reaffirmed just as in Genesis, the first book of the Bible.

In a sermon on Theophany, St. John Chrysostom says: "On this day Christ was baptized; through His Baptism He sanctified the element of water. There let us all draw of the water and store it in homes, because on this day the water is consecrated."

In blessing water on the Feast Day, we ask and pray that the original purpose of water, as a source of life, blessing and holiness be revealed to us as we drink it. In the Garden of Eden, Adam enjoyed a unique and lordly relationship with Creation. After the Fall as he was expelled from Paradise, he heard the words, "Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life." (Genesis 3:17) From that point Adam would be subject to Creation, and not a master. Yet through Christ, the curse is lifted, just as the curse of death is lifted from the human race through the Resurrection. Because of Christ's coming and His work of salvation and redemption (as the hymns say, "dispensation"), Man and Creation are reconciled. Creation is able once more

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Fund Drive for Cupola Restoration at Holy Trinity

The Parish Council has accepted a bid for over $15,000 repaint the cupola at our historic temple in Wilkeson. The bid also includes construction of a new oak cross for the cupola. The cross will be coated in fiberglass and gold leafed. This method will allow the gold to last for decades. The current cross was made of fir and merely painted before gold leaf was applied, which didn't last ten years. The new cross will be fabricated over the winter, but work on the cupola will not begin until the days are warmer in the late spring.

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January News & Notes

Holy Theophany, the Baptism of Christ, will be celebrated entirely at our Tacoma church.
Theophany Eve, Sunday, January 5 is a fast day - no First Sunday potluck! We'll have simple lenten bagels & coffee after Liturgy, followed by Vespers of the Feast and the indoor Great Blessing of the Waters.
On Theophany day, January 6, we'll serve Matins followed by Divine Liturgy and the outdoor Great Blessing of Waters at Swan Creek. This will be followed by a potluck in the Parish House - no fast.

Basil's Bread is blessed and distributed after Liturgy on or near St. Basil's feast day, January 1. St. Basil used to hide coins in loaves of bread to distribute to the poor. A golden coin is hidden in the bread we bless, whoever finds it receives a gift certificate to our parish bookstore! We usually celebrate it the Sunday after, but since the 5th is a fast day, we're moving it to January 12.

Old Calendar Christmas falls on Tuesday, January 7. The Liturgy will be served mostly in Slavonic.

The March for Life in Olympia is scheduled for January 21 at 11:30 a.m. We gather under the Orthodox banner near the Winged Victory statue. A program for the sanctity of life begins at 12:00 noon on the Capitol steps. Sanctity of Life website: washingtonmarchforlife.org We'll organize a carpool at the church parking lot, leaving no later than 10:30 a.m.

The Parish Annual Meeting takes place Sunday, January 26 after Divine Liturgy. To participate you must have been a member for three months and have made a 2020 stewardship commitment no later than January 20.

Inquirers Classes will begin with a new series on January 11 at 5:00 p.m..

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January Charities

We accomplished a great deal of giving through the generous donations of toys for Toys for Tots; and other gifts, and donations to the YWCA Adopt-A-Family this Christmas Season. Thank you to everyone who took part!

Indeed, 2019 was a blessing as we offered ways for our parish community to care for those who are in need.

A review of our charitable activities from 2019 and plans for 2020 will take place at our first Charities meeting on Sunday, January 19. We'll meet in the Parish Library, downstairs, in room 2, following the sandwich sale. Please consider joining the Charities committee for 2020! Bring your ideas! Everyone is most welcome!!! ◆

Parish Bookstore Notes by Susan Noël Reynolds

New Year. New day.

I don't know about you, but when I wake up in the morning, I just feel like my same old groggy self, stumbling towards my coffee. But stop and think, my sleepy mind, of the new time stretched out before you, ready to be filled with the same old same old, or with new wine.

All throughout Scripture we find the hope and promise of the revelation of new life. In Isaiah, the Lord says, 'Behold, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? ...You shall be called by a new name.'' In Ezekiel, 'I will give them a new heart and put a new spirit within them.' Christ himself gives us 'a new commandment: love one another', and St. Paul tells us that 'whoever is in Christ is a new creation,' that we might 'live in newness of life... and serve in the newness of spirit.' Saints John, Peter, and the Prophet Isaiah all tell us of the creation of a 'new heaven and a new earth,' where 'there will always be rejoicing.... and none shall hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain.' ◆

Parish Council News

As featured on page one, the Parish Council accepted a bid for work on the cupola for Holy Trinity, Wilkeson.

A contract to replace ten windows in the Parish House and St. Joseph Hall was accepted. Two windows are cracked, others are double pain windows that have fogged up due to compromised seals.

The Council reviewed comments received from diocesan authorities about the cemetery bylaws. Results of the discussion will be passed on to attorney Thomas Veal and Sdn. Dimitri Pletz in order to put the final touches on the bylaws.

The contract for the new steel pole building has been signed. Contractors will be sought to supply bids to prepare the building pad. The new building should be completed by early summer. It will house the wood shop and storage currently contained in the old cinder block building further up the hill. That building will be demolished to make way for the future temple. ◆

Elissa Bjeletic
"My Cup Runneth Over: Finding Balance and Peace"
Annual Pre-Lenten Women's Retreat on Saturday, February 15
at Holy Resurrection Church

(Cupola, from page 1)

We will also install steel straps inside the turret of the cupola to strengthen it, as well as provide a mechanism on the bell in order to toll it rather than have it swing back and forth.

Contributions will be collected throughout the winter, please memo your contributions to this project as, "Wilkeson," or, "Holy Trinity."◆

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Always check the online calendar for class dates.

The Young Adult Potluck will take a break in January, look for a February get together.

Stewardship 2020. Stewardship forms will be included in the Sunday bulletin emails, they may also be found on the bulletin board in the Parish House and in the back of the church. Please complete your pledge to the 2020 Annual Budget, and consider making an extra pledge to the building fund as well! All 2020 pledges must be received no later than Monday, January 20 in order to be seated with voice and vote at the January 26 Parish Annual Meeting.

Sister Church Altar Feast. Liturgy on January 30 at Three Holy Hierarchs Romanian Orthodox Church, 6402 226th St SW, Mountlake Terrace, 98043.

Hazardous Weather News. We will make every effort to keep you up to date on schedule changes due to inclement weather. When the weather is threatening, check the parish web-page and/or the Facebook page as well as your e-mails before setting out for church. We'll post information on the home page and make changes to the online calendar. For those who do not have internet: Please let Fr. John know, and we'll put you on a phone call list. ◆

(Water, from page 1)

to meet not only the physical needs of man, but the elements of creation can be, and are, sources of grace and healing as we worship the Lord of Life.

When we bless water – or any other material object – and when we celebrate the Mysteries (Sacraments) of the Church, we reverently and gratefully proclaim that Christ Himself (in the words of the Divine Liturgy) "offers and is offered" blesses and sanctifies the world (cosmos) as the Great High Priest.

The celebration of the Great Blessing of Water is an affirmation that through Christ's own baptism, He who is our loving Lord has lifted the curse of Adam's sin, and given the creative goodness of God's creation back to mankind once again. ◆

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church www.OrthodoxTacoma.com January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8710 28th Ave. East, Tacoma 98445 end of the gravel road one block west of Waller & 84th. Check the online calendar for updates, hazardous weather changes & interactive links.			**1** **Circumcision of the Lord** **St. Basil the Great** **Liturgy 10:00 am** No Vespers	**2**	**3** **Royal Hours of Theophany** **10:00 am**	**4** **Vespers 6:30 pm**
5 Matins 8:15 am **Liturgy 9:30 am** Sunday School NO POTLUCK! **Vespers 11:45 am** Indoor Blessing of Waters	**6 Holy Theophany** **Matins 9:00 am** **Liturgy 10:00 am** Outdoor Blessing of Waters Potluck	**7** **Old Calendar Nativity of Christ** **Slavonic Liturgy 10:00 am** Potluck	**8** **Vespers 6:30 pm**	**9** 📖 Bible Study 9:30 am Potluck	**10**	**11** Inquirers Class 5:00 pm **Vespers 6:30 pm**
12 **Matins 8:15 am** **Liturgy 9:30 am** Sunday School Coffee Hour: "St Basil's Bread"	**13**	**14**	**15** **Readers Vespers 6:30 pm**	**16**	**17**	**18** Myrrhbearers 5:00 pm **Vespers 6:30 pm**
19 **Matins 8:15 am** **Liturgy 9:30 am** Sunday School Sandwich Sale Charities Meeting	**20** **Last day to make a 2020 pledge in order to vote at the Annual Meeting**	**21** Parish Council 6:30 pm	**22** **Vespers 6:30 pm**	**23** 📖 Bible Study 9:30 am No potluck	**24**	**25** Inquirers Class 5:00 pm **Vespers 6:30 pm**
26 **Matins 8:15 am** **Liturgy 9:30 am** Sunday School Coffee Hour Parish Annual Meeting	**27**	**28**	**29** **Vespers 6:30 pm**	**30** Three Holy Hierarchs Liturgy in Montlake Terrace 9:30 am	**31**	**Feb 1** Inquirers Class 5:00 pm **Vespers 6:30 pm**

Hymn of the Month

January 19: Saint Mark, Archbishop of Ephesus

Saint Mark Eugenikos, Archbishop of Ephesus, was a stalwart defender of Orthodoxy at the Council of Florence. He would not agree to a union with Rome which was based on theological compromise and political expediency (the Byzantine Emperor was seeking military assistance from the West against the Moslems who were drawing ever closer to Constantinople). Saint Mark countered the arguments of his opponents, drawing from the well of pure theology, and the teachings of the holy Fathers. When the members of his own delegation tried to pressure him into accepting the Union he replied, "There can be no compromise in matters of the Orthodox Faith."

Although the members of the Orthodox delegation signed the Tomos of Union, Saint Mark was the only one who refused to do so. When he returned from Florence, Saint Mark urged the inhabitants of Constantinople to repudiate the dishonorable document of union. He died in 1457 at the age of fifty-two, admired and honored by all.

Troparion, Tone 4

By your profession of faith, O all-praised Mark / The Church has found you to be a zealot for truth. / You fought for the teaching of the Fathers; / You cast down the darkness of boastful pride. / Intercede with Christ God to grant forgiveness to those who honor you!

Kontakion, Tone 3

Clothed with invincible armor, O blessed one, / You cast down rebellious pride, / You served as the instrument of the Comforter, / and shone forth as the champion of Orthodoxy. / Therefore we cry to you: "Rejoice, Mark, the boast of the Orthodox!" ◆

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church is a parish of the Diocese of the West of the Orthodox Church in America. It was founded in 1896 in Wilkeson WA, where our historic Holy Trinity Temple still stands. Our current physical address is 8710 28th Ave. East, Tacoma WA 98445 (never send mail there!).
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