

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For the health of:**

The **parishioners of the parish** in the New Year, offered by the Parish Council.

Readings:

- Colossians 2:8-12 (Circumcision)
- Luke 2:20-21,40-52 (Circumcision)
 - Hebrews 7:26-8:2 (St Basil)
 - Luke 6:17-23 (St Basil)
- **2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Sunday Before Theophany)**
- **Mark 1:1-8 (Sunday Before Theophany)**

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
 (General Confession – 9 50 AM on the first Sunday of each month)
 (Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School - 9:30 AM
 (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)

Coffee hour after Liturgy

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- **Theophany service** – This Thursday, January 5, 2012, at 6:00 pm we will have a service for the eve of Theophany.

Special Announcements:

- **Parish dues have been increased for the 2012-year by \$25. The Parish Membership Fee will now be \$200.** This was needed because our monthly income has constantly been below our monthly expenses. (The Parish Membership Fee is the total of the \$55 parish dues, and the \$145 diocesan assessment.)
- **Toys for Kids** The church school students thank everyone who donated to the "*Toys for Kids*" campaign this year.
- **Please look on our website** for pictures of our holiday celebration. ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Reminder:

- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants.

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos. The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured. Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by St Stephen of the St Sava Monastery .

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, **He also received the Name Jesus (Savior)** on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world. These two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ". The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.

St. Basil the Great:

St. Basil was born in the year 330 AD in the city of Caesarea, Asia Minor. He was one of six children who all became saints in our Church. His brothers and sister became priests, bishops, and nuns. His parents were very devoted to the faith and gave their children a great spiritual heritage which they cultivated in their lifetime. The family of St. Basil was the greatest Christian family of the 4th century. St. Basil studied in Constantinople and Athens. He studied with his best friend, St. Gregory, in the cultural centers of the world. St. Basil was one of the greatest writers and speakers of the Christian Church. Although his fame was spread over the entire Christian world of his day, he returned to his own home town and was ordained Bishop of Caesarea on June 14, 370 AD.

St. Basil was an authority on the monastic life. He formulated the rules and regulations for the monks of his day, and these rules still prevail in most of the Christian monasteries of the world. St. Basil prepared the Divine Liturgy which we love and know so well. Although the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is used 42 Sundays a year in our Church, it is based on the slightly longer Divine Liturgy of St. Basil. St. John merely shortened the lengthy prayers and made minor alterations in other prayers. The Liturgy of St. Basil is celebrated ten times each year: during the Lenten period, Christmas Eve, and on January 1st, the anniversary of his death. St. Basil was indeed one of the greatest pillars of the Church. He loved children and always assisted the sick and the homeless. He was the first bishop to establish orphanages and hospitals and old age homes. He first directed the attention of the Church to these unfortunate victims of society.

Why was St. Basil given the name "Great"? Only a few people in the world were ever given the magnificent title, "Great"! St. Basil was called "Great" because he conquered the hearts and souls of men for Jesus Christ. His whole life was dedicated to Jesus and the message of Christianity. He had the humility of Moses, the zeal of Elijah, the piety of Peter, the eloquence of John the Theologian, and the dedication of Paul. He died in the Lord on **January 1, 379 AD.**

See us on the web at:

ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

E-Mail us at:

Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God
"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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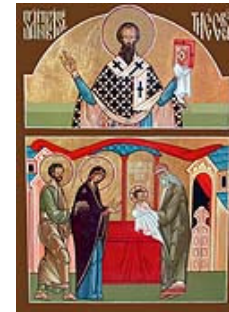
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St Basil the Great /
Circumcision of our Lord

Christ is Born,

Glorify Him

*Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Your divine Spirit,
O Jesus, You willed to be born on earth of the unwedded handmaid, your Mother.
Therefore You were circumcised as an eight-day old Child.
Glory to Your most gracious counsel;
Glory to Your dispensation;
Glory to Your condescension, O only Lover of mankind.*

Troparion- Circumcision of our Lord

On this day the Church remembers:

- Forefeast of the Theophany • Sunday Before the Theophany**
- The Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ • St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (379) • Martyr Basil of Ancyra (ca. 362) • St Emilia, the Mother of St Basil the Great**

January 1, 2012

Tone 4 of the Octoechos.
Sunday before Theophany

29th Sunday after Pentecost