

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



Orthodox Church of the Mother of God OCA – Diocese of New York-New Jersey

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Parish Council President: Trudy Ellmore Parish Council Vice President: Holly Dawson



Sunday, January 3, 2016

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Tone 6

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

31st Sunday after Pentecost: Forefeast of the Theophany. Sunday before Theophany.



**Glory to
Jesus Christ!**

**Glory
Forever!**

*Forefeast of the
Theophany*

*Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:
“Do not be afraid to baptize me.
For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”*

Today's Commemorated Feasts and Saints

31st Sunday After Pentecost — Tone 6. Forefeast of the Theophany. Sunday before Theophany. Holy Prophet Malachi (400 B.C.). Martyr Gordius at Cæsarea in Cappadocia (4th c.). Ven. Genevieve of Paris (5th c.).

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Danielle Geeza, had thyroid cancer surgery at New York University Hospital on Wednesday morning (December 30), offered by the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Matushka Kathy Kowalczyk, facing surgery for uterine cancer next month, offered by the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Matushka Mary Geeza, recuperating at home now after a post-procedure hospitalization, offered by the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Archpriest John Udics was moved to rehab on Tuesday following his surgery, offered by the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Liturgical Schedule:

Sunday, January 3rd

9:30 am: No Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
9:45 am: General Confession
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, January 5th

6:30 pm: Theophany

Saturday, January 9th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, January 10th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 16th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, January 17th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 23rd

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, January 24th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Bulletin Sponsors:

No Sponsors This Week

Readings:



Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8



Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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."



Forefeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

The second day of the Forefeast of Theophany falls on January 3. Today's hymns invite us to go in spirit to the Jordan River where the Creator comes to be baptized. He is the Light which shines in the darkness (John 1:5), and today He begins to overcome that darkness.



Bulletin Sponsors/Prayer Requests: Use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the health of, eternal memory of or a Pannikhida for a loved one or friend, for a donation of \$10. Bulletin Sponsors/Prayer Requests will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.

Candles/Memorial Candles: Candles may be purchased at the candle stand, suggested donation of \$10 for a large one and \$2 for a small one.

Private Confessions: Can be heard a half hour before any service. See Father Matthew for other times and **General Confession:** Will be at 9:45 am on the first Sunday of the month.

Pannikhida Service: The third Sunday of each month there will be a Pannikhida after Divine Liturgy. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please give a list of names to Father Matthew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month.

Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail:
ChurchMotherOfGod@outlook.com

The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.

The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.



Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Parish News

Next Council meeting will be January 31, 2016 at 12:15 pm



NY/NJ Diocese News



The **6th Annual Altar Servers Retreat** will be convened at **St. Basil's Academy, Garrison NY on 12-14 February 2016**. Last year over 50 participants attended the retreat where they enjoyed fellowship, education, and spiritual enrichment under the guidance of Archbishop Michael. We look forward to another successful retreat where altar servers learn the basics and fundamentals of assisting at Divine

Services. A special feature at this year's retreat will be learning how to serve a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy along with how to read and chant in church. Those servers who are interested in attending the retreat should contact their parish priest for information and registration forms. There are no accommodations for women to participate in this event. **Registration is now open!**

Clergy News

This past Saturday, December 26, Archbishop Michael visited Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus NJ, for the Synaxis of the Theotokos, served Liturgy, and then presented:

Archpriest David Vernak, with a **Synodal Gramota** from the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, in recognition of his 40 years of outstanding priestly ministry, serving parishes in Rochester NY; Brick NJ (where he directed the building of the new temple); and Paramus NJ; and serving on the faculty of Saint Tikhon's Seminary ... and

Archpriest David and Matushka Mariam Vernak, with the **Order of Saint Innocent Award, Bronze Medal**, from His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, in recognition of their 40 years of service to the Holy Church.

Father David is retiring from active parish ministry following the Divine Liturgy in Paramus this coming Sunday, January 3. He and Matushka Mariam will be moving to Ambridge PA to be close to his family there. As such he will be released from my omophorion and the Diocese of NY and NJ, to the omophorion of His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK of Pittsburgh, to serve as a Supply Priest in the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania.

We thank Father David and Matushka Mariam for their years of service to the Church, our Dioceses and its parishes for the past four decades, and wish them well in their retirement.

Reader John (Russell) Komline was ordained to the rank of **Sub-Deacon**, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, on Sunday, December 27, at the Mother of God, Joy of All Who Sorrow Mission, Princeton NJ.

May God grant them many blessed years! "Mnogaya Lyeta!"



Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News **The Feast of the Circumcision: A Blessed New Year!**

While January 1 marks the beginning of the civil new year—and we wish every blessing of the season to our readers—it also marks the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord, 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 (Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3).

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 (Luke 1:31-33, 2:21). 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 (Docetists) taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured (Colossians 2:11-12). 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 (October 28 and July 13).

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 (Matthew 1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Philippians 2:9-10). 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” (Colossians 2:11). The very name “Christian” is a sign of mankind’s entrance into a New Covenant with God.



Miracles and Milestones: Missions in 2015

by Alex Goodwin (12/28/2015)

2015 was another great year for Orthodox missions that saw missionaries, mission teams, and mission priests share the Orthodox Faith with people around the world. None of it would have been possible without your prayers and support. 2016 is shaping up to be an even better year! We are looking forward to continuing to answer the call to make disciples of all nations with you in the coming year.

2015 has been an amazing year for Orthodox missions and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). None of it would have been possible without your prayers, support, and service. What follows are some highlights from the Mission Center programs that have shared Christ with a wanting world.

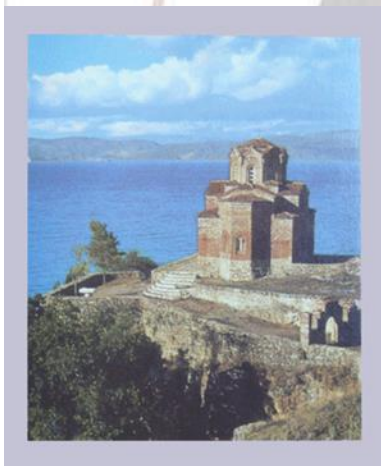
Following a wonderful term in Mongolia, the Moore family returned to the United States so that Chris could pursue a seminary education. They plan to return to Mongolia, but while they are away OCMC Missionary Kurt Bringerud will continue their growing “studies in the Faith” group. The Ritsi family gave birth to their son Moses while in Albania. Both Dcn. Stephanos and Dkn. Alexandria were able to continue serving the youth of Albania while hosting mission teams that worked to share the Faith with young people. Dkn. Alexandria taught at the Protagonist school directed by OCMC Missionary Presbyteria Georgia Bendo. The Hoppe family advocated for strong Albanian families. Nathan Hoppe, the Macdonald family, and Anastasia Barksdale continued training future Church leaders at the seminary. Kenya welcomed Dr. William Black who began teaching at the Makarios III Seminary in Nairobi where Meagan Engelbach is also working on translating Church texts. In Romania, Floyd Frantz expanded the reach of the Church’s substance abuse initiatives while his wife Ancuta continued to direct the Protection of the Theotokos Day Center for unwed mothers. The Chakos family, along with Jesse Brandow, saw the opening of a new clinic and further catechism of the Mayan people in Guatemala. And, The Ruckers returned to Alaska where Fr. David teaches at St. Herman seminary while Blake DiLullo continued construction and restoration projects throughout diocese.

Sixteen, Orthodox mission teams served around the world in 2015 including the first OCMC mission team to Indonesia and the first OCMC healthcare team to Guatemala. Teams also helped build a school in the Turkana village of Loupwala in northern Kenya. A second OCMC team spent time with the people of San Esteban and Pisaflores, Mexico, where they taught the Faith to the Aztec people that call these villages home.

Two long-time priests who have been supported through the Support a Mission Priest Program (SAMP) were elevated to the episcopacy in Kenya in the past year. At the end of 2014, Fr. Neophytos Kongai was enthroned Bishop of Nyeri and later in 2015 Fr. Athanasius Akunda was ordained bishop of Kisumu. In all, the SAMP program helped enable the pastoral ministries of 376 clergy in sixteen countries.

The OCMC was also able to direct thousands of dollars to help fund various church projects as initiatives around the world aimed at building up the Church and encouraging self-sustainability around the world.

2016 is shaping up to be an even more impactful year. Registration for mission teams is currently open and more long-term missionaries are slated to deploy to the field. Your continued prayers and support are needed now more than ever! Thank you for your steadfast dedication to this incredible work. The staff, board, and missionaries of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center pray that you have a blessed new year!



Prayers by the Lake, St. Nikolai Velimirovich, XXXVIII:

You work wonders through created things, O Lord, while men have lost the gift of wonderworking.

You take fire and water for Your servants, while people refuse to serve You.

To wood and metal You give Your power, while it is returned to You, despised by people.

Through earth and grass You bestow mercy on Your chosen ones, while people make themselves too impure to be channels of mercy.

Through fabric and paper Your might shines, while human carnality dominates the spirit.

The bones of the saints proclaim Your name and Your presence, while the tongue of people has been struck dumb by disbelief.

When generals have forgotten how to achieve victory, You make the rank and file the victors.

You have filled dead objects with fire, so that they may shine, when darkness closes the eyes of the stars.

When there is no sun, the fern and the hawthorn assume the duty of shining.

When the blind begin to lead the blind, You surrender the army to the horses and dogs.

When sick men foist themselves upon the sick as healers, You make healers out of dead bones and mud.

When Your image in the human soul vanishes, You give power and might to Your image in wood.

Those, who in the end will weep bitterly, laugh and say: "How can dead objects work wonders, which even we cannot work?"

Are these objects not alive, if You bring them to life? And are people not dead, if You abandon them, O Fearful Lord?

Your angels know, yet people do not know, that all powers are Yours, in You and from You, and that You manifest them through pure channels. What if a stone is pure while a man is impure? Will not the Lord's might be manifested through the stone rather than through the man?

Only a righteous man laughs with the laughter of joy. The laughter of the unrighteous man is malice.

The unrighteous man laughs at the relics of the saints, and he is consumed by malicious laughter. Oh if he only knew that the dead relics of the saints contain more life than his own flesh and blood!

Truly, malice is distant from the Most Merciful Lord, just as malice is always distant from virginity, rationality and sanctity.

Indeed, the Logical Lord is always ready to do good to men through men. But when men become impure, and become bereft of logic and holiness, the All-Merciful rushes to help people through dead objects.

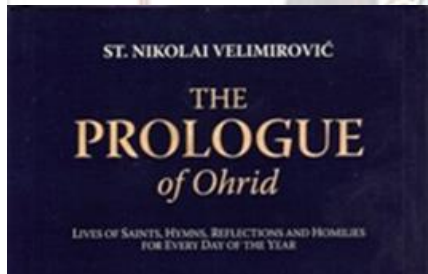
O All-Merciful and Longsuffering Lord, do not leave the world without channels of Your might and mercy.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, XXXVII:

Unbelief

Only one who guards himself from all sin can have sincere and fervent faith. Faith is only preserved in the presence of good morals.

St. Nikon of Optina



1. The Prophet Malachi

Malachi was the last of the prophets in time. He was born after the return of the Hebrews from the Babylonian Captivity in 538 B.C. He was unusually handsome in countenance. According to legend, the people called him an angel, perhaps because of his external beauty or because of his spiritual purity, or even, perhaps because of his association with an angel of God. On many occasions he spoke face to face with an angel. When this occurred, others heard the voice of an angel; but they were not worthy to see the face of the angel. That which the angel proclaimed, the young Malachi prophesied. He cried out against ungrateful Israel and against the lawless priests. Five hundred years before Christ, Malachi clearly prophesied the coming and the mission of John the Baptist: *Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me* (Malachi 3:7). Mainly, he is the prophet of the day of the Dreadful Judgment. *Before the day of the Lord comes, the great and terrible day* (Malachi 3: 23-24). He presented himself to the Lord while still young. Following him, there were no more prophets in Israel until John the Baptist.

2. The Priest-Martyr Gordius

Gordius was born in Caesarea of Cappadocia. He was an officer in the Roman army during the reign of Emperor Licinius. When a terrible persecution of the Christians broke out, Gordius left the army and his rank and withdrew to the wilderness of Sinai. Alone on Mount Horeb, Gordius spent his time in prayer and contemplation on the mysteries of heaven and earth. He especially contemplated on vanity and the worthlessness of all over which men strive and fight for on earth, and, finally, he wished to die and to be translated into the eternal and incorruptible life. With this desire he descended into the town at the time of certain pagan races and games. Gordius presented himself to the mayor of that town, declaring that he was a Christian. In vain did the mayor of the town try, through flatteries and threats, to dissuade him from the Faith. Gordius remained unwavering and firm as a diamond, saying: "Is it not sheer folly to purchase with this short-lived life, a life of eternal torment and spiritual death." Being condemned to death, he joyfully hurried to the scaffold and along the way spoke to the executioners about the glorious and sweet teachings of Christ. With the name of Christ on his lips Gordius offered his young body to the sword and his righteous soul to God in the year 320 A.D.

3. Saint Genevieve

Genevieve is the Patroness of the city of Paris. Through fasting, prayer and almsgiving she was made worthy of the Kingdom of God and died on January 3, 512 A.D., in the eighty-ninth year of her life.

Hymn of Praise

The Holy Prophet Malachi

Malachi proclaims what the angel tells him:
The day, the day, O the day is coming! The day which like an oven is blazing.
Who will endure it? Who will survive it?
Who, with their justice, before the Judge will stand?
All non-believers as a dry stubble will be
Food for the hungry fire. Weeping, sighing and shrieking!
The fire overflows and as a river flows,
Here what can the tongue of a sinner say?
O, my priests, you, who do not render Me praise,
Why do not your tongues the glory of the Lord sing?
Everywhere, among the people, you have become despised,
For My judgment, law and miracles you scorn.
I, the Lord am speaking, the Lord of hosts,
O, of those odious sorcerers, the judgment severe!
The fire when it charges, the smoke and the dreadful rumble it chases
Then, the hand of the Lord does not caress anymore.
Repent, O people, while days you have left,
Return to Me and I will return to you.
I the Lord am speaking, the Lord of hosts,
Return to Me and I will return to you.
Malachi proclaims what the angel tells him:
The day, the day, O the day is coming! The day which like an oven is blazing.

Reflection

God permits humiliation and ruin to befall a proud man when he thinks that his strength is secured forever. When the pernicious Roman Eparch [Governor] Tarquinius beheaded Blessed Timothy, he summoned St. Sylvester and threatened him with death if he did not reveal Timothy's inheritance and in addition immediately offer sacrifice to the idols. Without fear and trembling, this discerning saint responded to the eparch with the Evangelical words: *You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you* (St. Luke 12:20), "and that with which you boast that you will bring to me (i.e. death) will occur to you." The proud eparch shackled Sylvester in chains and threw him into a dungeon intending to kill him shortly. Having done this, the eparch sat down to eat lunch, but a fish bone caught in his throat. From noon to midnight, the physicians struggled to save his life but all was in vain. At midnight, Tarquinius gave up his proud soul in greatest torments. And so the prophecy of St. Sylvester was fulfilled, as also were the Biblical words: *Pride goes before disaster* (Proverbs 16:18).

Contemplation

To contemplate the Guardian Angel:

1. How he stands at my right side upholding me in everything until I depart from the law of God;

2. How I have offended him on numerous occasions and how I drove him away from me transgressing the law of God.

Homily:

About how the Kingdom of God is gained with the heart and not with the tongue

"Not everyone who says, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven" (St. Matthew 7:21).

Brethren, one does not gain the Kingdom of God with the tongue, but with the heart. The heart is the treasury of those riches by which the kingdom is purchased; the heart and not the tongue! If the treasury is full with the riches of God, i.e., a strong faith, good hope, vivid love and good deeds, then the messenger of those riches, the tongue, is faithful and pleasant. If the treasury is void of all those riches, then its messenger [the tongue] is false and impudent. The kind of heart, the kind of words. The kind of heart, the kind of deeds. All, all depends on the heart.

Hypocrisy is helpless before men, and is even more helpless before God. *If then I am a father*, says the Lord through the Prophet Malachi, *If then I am a father, where is the honor due to me? And If I am a master, where is the reverence due to me?* (Malachi 1:6). That is, I hear you call me father, but I do not see you honoring me with your heart. I hear you call me master, but I do not see fear of me in your hearts. Our prayer: "Lord! Lord!" is beautiful and beneficial only when it emerges from a prayerful heart. The Lord Himself commanded that we pray unceasingly, but not only with the tongue to be heard by men, but rather enclosed in the cell of the heart so that the Lord could hear and see us.

Lord, majestic and wonderful, deliver us from hypocrisy and pour Your fear into our hearts so that our hearts could stand continually upright in prayer before You.

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.



The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration with Abbott Tryphon

Happy New Year!

A new year, a new beginning

Today we usher in a New Year, and with it a chance to recommit ourselves to working harder at making changes in our lives that will lead to spiritual growth. The Lord's patience never runs out, so we always have the invitation to renew our commitment to Him. The New Year is that moment in time when we should take a closer look at how we are using this life God has given us. Are we focused on things spiritual or are we strolling through life as though there were no tomorrow?

If the truth be known, many of us give all kinds of justifications as to why we don't attend services on a regular basis. If it were work related, or involving recreation, we'd be there, but church is seen as something that is at the bottom of the "to do list". Yet we wouldn't consider going to work only when we felt like it. Nor would we miss family celebrations, vacations, or social functions with our friends.

Relationships are what we put into them, and if we don't feed relationships, they die, just like a vine that is not watered withers away. If we don't place God at the center of our week, and the services in the temple as the central act of the week, how can we expect to be spiritually healthy?

Are we lazy about our spiritual life? Does a Sunday morning pass by without an effort on our part to get ourselves to church? Are social engagements more important than the worship of God? If any of this is true, the New Year is a good time to turn things around and get ourselves back on track. Let's make 2016 the year that has as its focus, personal renewal. Let's not sit back waiting for God to do it all. Let's do our part! Let us take that important step, and make this the best New Year we've ever had!

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



Daily Reflection

From the Stem of Jesse

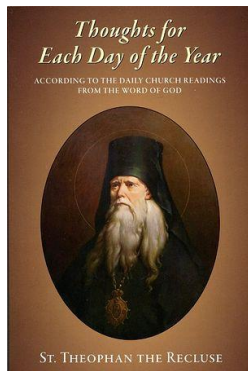
*“And there shall come forth a rod
from the stem of Jesse, and a
Branch shall grow out of his*

roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears... The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.”
(Is 11: 1-3, 6)



How immediately recognizable is the “character” described in these prophetic words. Centuries before His appearance to us in a manger in Bethlehem, our Lord Jesus Christ is called here “a rod out of the stem of Jesse,” – of the wealthy Jesse who lived in Bethlehem and had eight sons, the youngest of whom was David. The prophet Isaiah “sees” so vividly the “Spirit” of the God-Man, Who was to be a descendant of David: Isaiah “sees” Christ’s wisdom, might, quick understanding, abstinence from superficial judgment (*“he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes”*). The prophet also “sees” the unifying, conciliatory effects of our Lord’s coming to us in His humble, non-judgmental manner: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard with the kid, and so on.

So the longing for, and vision of, the unique, divine-human Character of our Lord Jesus Christ was very much alive centuries before anyone had set eyes on Him. And perhaps surprisingly, today the prophet’s vision refreshes mine, when my own has faltered or become weak through forgetfulness, carelessness, or some of the spiritual baggage I’ve accumulated throughout my week. Today let me be open to the great and small reminders from “so great a cloud of witnesses” surrounding me, both from the past and present. Let my vision and longing for Him be refreshed in the fellowship of the Spirit, offered in His one Body, that I may be led, with others, by “a little child,” Who comes forth out of the stem of Jesse.



31st Sunday after Pentecost. [II Tim. 4:5–8; Mark 1:1–8]

Before the Lord's appearance to the people, before He began the work of Divine economy of our salvation, Saint John the Forerunner was sent to prepare people for receiving Him. This preparation consisted in a call to repentance. Since then, repentance has become the path to the Lord and Saviour, and the threshold to faith in Him. The Saviour Himself began His preaching with the words: *Repent ye, and believe the gospel* (Mark 1:15). Repentance and faith lead a person who seeks salvation back and forth between these two states. Repentance weighs him down with the burden of his sins and frightens him with the impartial judgement of God's righteousness. But faith comes along and shows him the Deliverer Who has taken away the sins of the world. He who repents cleaves to the Deliverer, and laying down the burden of his sins through confession, joyfully runs after Him along the path of His commandments. Faith in this manner is born of repentance and is founded on it. He who repents holds firmly onto faith according to his feeling of deliverance. Faith is alive through repentance. Without repentance faith would be like a sapling which is without an animating current—withered and not giving of life.

Daily Readings with Early Church Fathers and Mothers

"Divine Power" by Pseudo-Macarius

Above all, one thing is required: that one should have treasure in his soul and the life which is the Lord in his mind, so that, whether he works or prays or reads, he should have that possession which cannot be lost, which is the Holy Spirit. There are always those who say that the Lord requires only visible fruits from men. The interior ones God will rectify. But this is not the way things are. For as one defends himself against the exterior man, so also he must enter into the lists and do battle against his thoughts. For the Lord demands of you that you be angry with yourself and engage in battle with your mind, neither consenting to or taking pleasure in wicked thoughts. Still, to uproot sin and the evil that is so imbedded in our sinning can be done only by divine power, for it is impossible and outside man's competence to uproot sin. To struggle, yes, to continue to fight, to inflict blows, and to receive setbacks is in your power. To uproot, however, belongs to God alone.

From Pseudo-Macarius. The Fifty Spiritual Homilies and the Great Letter. Paulist Press: NY, 1992. Pg. 46.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

A soul is perfect if its passible aspect is totally oriented towards God.

When the intellect (nous) is pure, sometimes God Himself approaches and teaches it; and sometimes the angelic powers, or the nature of the created things that it contemplates suggest holy things to it.

- St Maximus the Confessor, 400 Chapters on Love

January – 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00-9:15pm – Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	2 6:30 Vespers
3 9:30 No School 9:40 Hours 9:45 Gen'l Confession 10:00 Divine Liturgy / Social	4	5 6:30 Theophany 7:00-8:00pm – The Grey Book Step Mtg. NA Grp	6	7	8 8:00-9:15pm – Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	9 6:30 Vespers
10 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy / Social	11	12 7:00-8:00pm – The Grey Book Step Mtg. NA Grp	13	14	15 8:00-9:15pm – Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	16 6:30 Vespers
17 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy / Social 12:15 Council Mtg.	18	19 7:00-8:00pm – The Grey Book Step Mtg. NA Grp	20	21	22 8:00-9:15pm – Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	23 6:30 Vespers
24 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy/ Social	25	26 7:00-8:00pm – The Grey Book Step Mtg. NA Grp	27	28	29 8:00-9:15pm – Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	30 6:30 Vespers
31 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy/ Social						