

VOL. 17 | JANUARY 2023

# THE DELIVERER

A Monthly Newsletter of St. George Upper Darby



## JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

### Daily Cycles of Prayer

This year our Sunday School is concentrating on the Divine Liturgy. As a companion, the newsletter over the next few months will have articles concerning the larger cycle of services and prayer life within the Orthodox Faith and Tradition.

#### Hours, Compline and Nocturn - Part III

By Fr. Thomas Hopko

In addition to the liturgical services of Vespers and Matins, there are also the services of the Hours, Compline, and Nocturne. These services are chanted in monasteries but are seldom used in parish churches except perhaps during Lent and Holy Week, and on special feast days.

The services of Hours are called the First, Third, Sixth and Ninth. These “hours” conform generally to the hours of six and nine in the morning, noon, and three in the afternoon. The services consist mostly of psalms which are generally related to the events in the passion of Christ which took place at that particular hour of the day. The Third Hour also refers to the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples on Pentecost

- Royal Hours of Theophany 1/5
- Festal Orthros & Liturgy - Theophany 1/6
- Orthros & Liturgy - St. Anthony the Great at St. Demetrius 1/17
- Orthros & Liturgy - Ss. Athanasios & Cyril of Alexandria at St. Demetrius 1/18
- Annual Parish Meeting 1/22

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The troparia of the given day or of the feast being celebrated are added to the Hours. During the first days of Holy Week as well as on certain major feasts, the Gospel is also read during the Hours. On days when there is no Divine Liturgy, the so-called Typical Psalms which include elements of the Divine Liturgy such as the liturgical psalms, the Beatitudes, and the Creed are read after the Ninth Hour.

Compline is called the “after-dinner” service of the Church. Its name, both in Greek and Slavonic, indicates this. It is a service of psalms and prayers to be read following the evening meal; after Vespers has been served. On days when Vespers is connected to the Divine Liturgy, such as the eves of Christmas and Epiphany, Great Compline is added to Matins to form a Vigil service. During the first week of Great Lent, the Penitential Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete is read at the Compline Service.

Nocturne is the midnight service of the Church. In monasteries it usually begins the all-night vigil of the monks. It contains a number of psalms together with the normal prayers found in other services, such as the call to worship, the Thrice-Holy, the Our Father, the Troparion, etc. Its theme is obviously the night and the need for vigilance. In the parishes, it is known almost exclusively as the service preceding Easter Matins at which the winding-sheet depicting the dead Saviour is taken from the tomb and is placed on the altar table.



**Family Camp Registrations :** [Click Here](#)

**Winter Camp Registration:** [Click Here](#)

**Summer Camp 2023's registration opens Saturday, January**

**7th:** [Click here](#)



# Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who participated in various charitable works during the advent season. May God bless you and may He continue to prosper our work at St. George.

# January Greeters and Readers

## January 1

Greeters: TBD

Reader: Caroline Becker

## January 8

Greeters: Ed & Karla Donahue

Reader: Kerry San Chirico

## January 15

Greeters: Jerry Burke

Reader: Ed Donahue

## January 22

Greeters: San Chirico Family

Reader: Sheri San Chirico

## January 29

Greeters: TBD

Reader: Caroline Becker

### Interested in being a greeter?

Contact

Ed Donahue at

edjdonahue@gmail.com

### Interested in being a reader?

If you're interested in becoming a reader for the Epistle on Sunday, please contact the church office. We will be holding a workshop for all readers in late August or early September to review the process and create a schedule for readers.

## Upcoming Events

### House Blessings

Fr. Joel will be blessing home after Theophany. If you would like your home blessed, please refer to the church website to fill out a form or [click here](#).

1. Houses are traditionally blessed with "Theophany water"; each year. A house can be blessed at any time, but the usual season for yearly blessings is from Theophany until the beginning of the Lenten Triodion, which begins four Sundays before Great Lent begins. This is not a hard and fast rule, but a good rule of thumb. This is a special time for blessings because Christ in great humility accepts to be Baptized and renew the nature of water. We bring this renewed water into our homes so that our homes can be clean too.

2. Water is blessed using the "Great Blessing of the Waters" service at two distinct times during Theophany: after Vespers on the Eve of Theophany and after the Divine Liturgy on Theophany. The blessings are identical, and the water is identical. The 2nd Great Blessing of Water, on the day of the Feast, is sometimes done by a parish, or by groups of parishes, and it takes place on the Day of Theophany or on a close Sunday. This 2nd Great Blessing takes place outdoors at a river, lake, or other such body of water.

In some places such as Greece a large cross is thrown into the body of water and swimmers race to get it and bring it back to the bishop or priest for a special blessing.

3. When a home is blessed, we are in a way washing the home and making everything clean and fresh.

The following is an example of what we have on hand to prepare for the priest's visit.

- A brush & bowl for the water or,
- Fr. may bring a sprinkler for sprinkling the holy water around the home
- Candles & An icon
- A list of names for the prayers for the living and the deceased

The priest will bless all rooms of the house except the bathrooms. In homes with children, it is always

good for the little ones to carry a candle or a small cross and "lead" the priest throughout the house. An elder member of the house may also do this.

4. The basic order for a simple home blessing is as follows.

a. The bowl of water, icon and lit candles are placed on a clean table. IF there is a censer, it may be lit.

b. The priest begins the service with a blessing and the Trisagion prayers (O heavenly King through the "Our Father". It is always preferable that the eldest of another member of the family say the Trisagion prayers.

c. After this the entire home is blessed, with the family walking with the priest holding candles and the Theophany icon while the Theophany Troparion is sung over and over:

**Tone 1:** *When Thou O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; / for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, / calling Thee*

*His beloved Son. / And the Spirit in the form of a dove / confirmed the truth of the word. / O Christ our God, Who hast appeared / and hast enlightened the world, glory be to Thee.*

d. Upon finishing blessing the house, the family gathers again at the table, and a short litany is said for the welfare of the family. The priest should have been provided a list of all family members, including those who are ill.

e. After this a short prayer, and the service is ended.

f. It is entirely appropriate the deceased loved ones of the family be commemorated from a list provided to the priest.

g. Sometimes the family wants to give the priest a little something to eat; depending on the time the priest has available, he may stay and visit. But please remember the priest may have other visits to pray with other families so everyone can have their home blessed.

# January 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am	2 Maintenance Committee Meeting 8 pm	3 Matins 9 am Choir Practice 7pm Akathist 7pm	4	5 3rd Hour 9 am Vespereal Liturgy for Eve of Theophany 4 pm 12 Basket Project 8pm	6 Festal Orthros - Theophany 9:30 am	7 Vespers 5pm Orthodoxy 101 6pm
8 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am Parish Council Meeting 12:30 pm Choir Practice 12:30pm	9 Fellowship of St. Moses the Black (online) 7 pm	10 Matins 9am Akathist 7pm	11 Bible Study 7 pm	12 3rd Hour 9am	13	14 Vespers 5pm Orthodoxy 101 6pm
15 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am	16	17 Orthros & Liturgy - St. Anthony the Great @ St. Demetrius 9 am Choir Practice 7 pm Akathist 7pm	18 Orthros & Liturgy - Ss. Athanasios & Cyril of Alexandria at St. Demetrius 9 am	19 3rd Hour 9am Icon Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	20	21 Vespers 5pm Orthodoxy 101 6pm
22 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am Annual Parish Meeting 12:30 pm	23	24 Matins 9 am Choir Practice 7pm Akathist 7pm	25 Bible Study 7 pm	26 3rd Hour 9am	27	28 Vespers 5pm Orthodoxy 101 6pm
29 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am Annual Parish Meeting 12:30 pm (snow day)	30 Orthros & Liturgy - Three Great Hierarchs at St. Demetrius 9 am	31 Matin 9 am Akathist 7pm Choir Practice 7pm				

To view the full calendar, visit [www.saintgeorgeupperdarby.org](http://www.saintgeorgeupperdarby.org)

**Not on our mailing list? Contact Christiana at [office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org) to add your name to our mailing list.**

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