

NO. 2024:1 | JANUARY 2024

# THE DELIVERER

A Monthly Newsletter of St. George Upper Darby



## Epiphany (Theophany)

by Fr. Thomas Hopko

The sixth of January is the feast of the Epiphany. Originally it was the one Christian feast of the “shining forth” of God to the world in the human form of Jesus of Nazareth. It included the celebration of Christ’s birth, the adoration of the Wisemen, and all of the childhood events of Christ such as His circumcision and presentation to the temple as well as His baptism by John in the Jordan. There seems to be little doubt that this feast, like Easter and Pentecost, was understood as the fulfillment of a previous Jewish festival, in this case the Feast of Lights.

Epiphany means shining forth or manifestation. The feast is often called, as it is in the Orthodox service books, Theophany, which means the shining forth and manifestation of God. The emphasis in the present day celebration is on the appearance of Jesus as the human Messiah of Israel and the divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

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## JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- **January 5: Theophany; Festal Orthros at 6:30 p.m. Liturgy & Blessing of Waters at 7:30 p.m.**
- **January 17: St. Anthony the Great; Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.**
- **January 20: Family Vespers (Reader’s Vespers) at 4:30 p.m.**
- **January 30: Three Hierarchs; Orthros & Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.**

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Thus, in the baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus identifies Himself with sinners as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (Jn 1.29), the “Beloved” of the Father whose messianic task it is to redeem men from their sins (Lk 3.21, Mk 1.35). And he is revealed as well as One of the Divine Trinity, testified to by the voice of the Father, and by the Spirit in the form of a dove.

The main feature of the feast of the Epiphany is the Great Blessing of Water. It is prescribed to follow both the Divine Liturgy of the eve of the feast and the Divine Liturgy of the day itself. It begins with the singing of special hymns and the censing of the water which has been placed in the center of the church building. Surrounded by candles and flowers, this water stands for the beautiful world of God’s original creation and ultimate glorification by Christ in the Kingdom of God.

(Source: oca.org)

[.Read More](#)

## January Greeters and Readers

### January 7

**Greeter:** Naomi Cardell

**Reader:** Cynthia Long

### Interested in being a Greeter?

Contact the Office Administrator at  
[office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org)

### January 14

**Greeter:** Marcia Ibrahim

**Reader:** Michael Solomon

### Interested in being a Reader?

If you're interested in becoming a reader for the Epistle on Sunday, please contact the church office.

### January 21

**Greeters:** Ryan I. & Aemon H.

**Reader:** Randa Ibrahim

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special celebration by hosting a Coffee Hour.

### January 28

**Greeter:** Peter Solomon

**Reader:** Jerry Burke

The last Sunday of the month is our potluck Coffee Hour.

**The January Potluck Coffee hour is January 28**

# It Takes a Village: Antiochian Village Summer Camp

*Registration opens on January 7*

What are you doing this summer? What are your children doing?

The Antiochian Village Summer Camp offers young people ages 8-17 a living experience of the Holy Orthodox Faith. A.V. Summer Camp supports campers' personal and spiritual growth by providing daily Orthodox worship with an emphasis on participation; opportunities for spiritual growth through daily homilies and religious education; a supportive and encouraging space to build relationships with counselors and fellow Orthodox campers; and a caring and loving staff fully dedicated to the campers' well-being and growth. The Village has been instrumental in the spiritual maturation of many young people, including many in this parish.

Camp activities include swimming, canoing, archery, hiking, arts and crafts, sports, and "chilling" with friends; campers select their activities based on their own preferences. Games, theme nights, and evening programs are especially popular. Located on 400 acres in the beautiful Laurel Highlands of Western Pennsylvania, camp facilities include athletic fields, volleyball, basketball courts, angle ball, AV Ball pit, tennis court, swimming pool, Arts & Crafts building, Challenge/Ropes Course, canoe pond, archery range, and acres of woodlands for hiking in addition to the cabins, health center, dining hall, and chapel.



Camp is a safe, loving, stress-free community where "the counselors are your best friends" report Samuel Becker, Zuzu San Chirico, and Lucy San Chirico. Hosanna Becker echoes that Camp supports you "mentally, physically, and spiritually." Randa Ibrahim agrees, sharing that A.V. "added such an amazing experience to my journey of faith." Some young St. George campers especially appreciated meeting Metropolitan SABA and Patriarch JOHN during the summer of 2023.

Scholarships are available, and St. George families often carpool. Talk to any of the young attendees and their parents for more information.

Registration opens on January 7, 2024 at <https://avcamp.org/programs/summer-camp/>



*"Antiochian Village Camp transforms lives and nurtures faith in Jesus Christ through Orthodox Christian community living, worship, education, fellowship, and love."*



# Calling All Teens!

## MINI ORATORICAL WORKSHOP

### DATE

Saturday, January 20th, 2024

### TIME

1:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Vespers at 6:00 PM

### WHERE

St. John Chrysostom  
Orthodox Church  
2397 N Sherman St  
York, PA 17406



### Schedule

1:30 - Welcome & Introduction.  
2:00 - Learn what makes an effective Oratorical.  
3:00 - Build an effective Oratorical.  
4:00 - Present an effective Oratorical.  
6:00 - Vespers.

Who is invited?

Teens who are between ages 12\* and 18.

What is a Mini Oratorical?

A brief 1-2 minute oration using skills learned in the workshop.

What is the goal?

Provide teens an opportunity to increase awareness and enthusiasm for the Parish Life Conference & National Oratorical Festivals by providing an opportunity to collaborate and present in front of live audience.

\*Oratorical Festivals is historically for ages 13-18, however, we welcome teens who will be maybe eligible in 2025 to give them a preview/head start if they are interested.

### Registration

<https://forms.gle/N8JCcTFwRVfauyUX8>

### More Information

Contact Deacon Jason Flowers  
Email: [jason@jasonflowers.com](mailto:jason@jasonflowers.com)  
Cell: 610-405-6633 (call or text)

LEARN. BUILD. PRESENT.

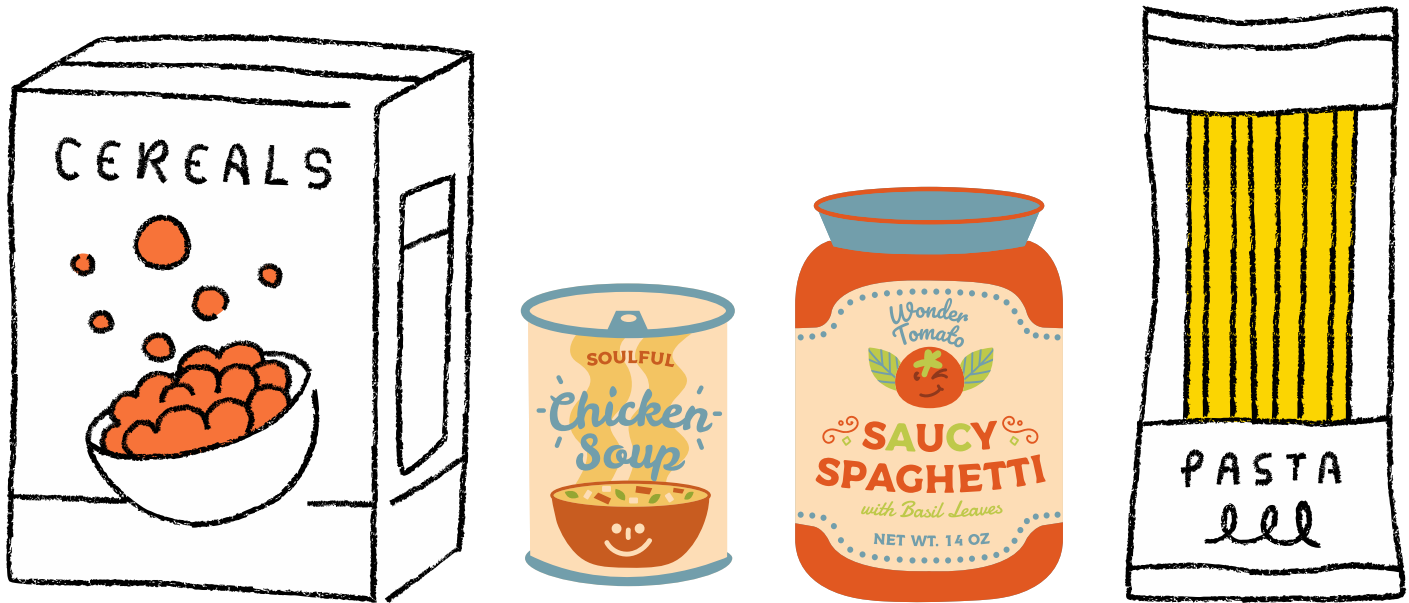
Guest Speakers

Ambrose Bushelli  
2022 PLC and National  
Oratorical Winner!  
Cynthia Long

Professor at Holy Family  
University

# Support the Upper Darby Food Bank

with a  
Shelf-Stable Food Donation



## Requested Items

Peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, juice, crackers, cookies, baked beans (meat and vegetarian) , spam, canned chili, beef stew, soup.

## Additional Option: Support a Family When You go Shopping

*Buy the foods below and then that bag will be directly given to a family who comes to the pantry.  
They need all bags to be basically the same to make this fair to all families.*

One box of cereal: preferably Cheerios, Corn Flakes, or Frosted Flakes

One container of oatmeal

One jar of peanut butter & One jar of strawberry or grape jelly

One jar of regular marinara pasta sauce & One box of spaghetti

One box of granola bars

One pack of juice boxes

One can of tuna

One can of fruit (peaches, cocktail, etc.)

A package of Tastykakes

One box of crackers (like Triscuits) or a bag of pretzels

**Food Donations accepted in the St. George Narthex.**

*Antiochian Women of the East*

Invite You to Attend Our

# 2024 AWE WINTER RETREAT CONNECTING MONASTICISM TO LIFE IN THE WORLD

Presentation by Mother Aemiliane  
with Monastery Tour & Service Project Activity

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024

RSVP by January 6

*to [office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org)*

The Sacred Monastery of Saint Nina  
Union Bridge, Maryland

Liturgy 9 am

Retreat 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

Vespers 5 pm (optional)

Registration Fee \$25 Payable at the Door

Post-Liturgy Meal & Snacks Included

Kindly Pre-Register by January 7th

Additional Information & Registration at

<https://tinyurl.com/AWE2024WinterRetreat>



**Save the Date**

**Sunday, February 4**

**Annual Parish Meeting**  
after Liturgy

***The Way of a Pilgrim***  
Reading Group

Wednesday nights,  
starting January 24  
7:30 - 9 p.m.



See Kerry San Chirico for information.





*“When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.” --Apolytikion of Theophany*

## JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 7 – 8 p.m. Akathist	3	4 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 8 p.m. 12 Baskets	5 9:30 a.m. Royal Hours for Theophany 6:30 p.m. Orthros 7:30 p.m. Liturgy for Theophany & Blessing of Water	6 <b>NO</b> Bible Study 5 p.m. Vespers
7 9:30 a.m. Orthros 10:30 a.m. Liturgy St. Katherine Women	8 8 pm FSMB	9 9:30 a.m. Matins 7 – 8 p.m. Akathist 8 p.m. Maintenance Cmt	10	11 9:30 a.m. Third Hour	12	13 3:30 p.m. Bible Study 5 p.m. Vespers
14 9:30 a.m. Orthros 10:30 a.m. Liturgy Parish Council Mtg	15 <i>M L King Day</i>	16 9:30 a.m. Matins 7 – 8 p.m. Akathist	17 9:30 a.m. Liturgy for St. Anthony the Great 7 p.m. Stewardship Cmt. (Zoom)	18 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 8 p.m. Icon Cmt	19	20 <b>NO</b> Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Readers Vespers & Family Vespers
21 9:30 a.m. Orthros 10:30 a.m. Liturgy	22 6:30 p.m. LTP (Zoom)	23 9:30 a.m. Matins 7 – 8 p.m. Akathist	24 7:30 p.m. Book Group 6:30 p.m. SOYO sandwich preparation	25 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 8 – 9 p.m. Teen SOYO serves 12 Baskets	26	27 3:30 p.m. Bible Study 5 p.m. Vespers
28 9:30 a.m. Orthros 10:30 a.m. Liturgy  Potluck Coffee Hour	29	30 9:30 a.m. Liturgy for Three Hierarchs 7 – 8 p.m. Akathist	31 7:30 p.m. Book Group	<b>Thursday, February 1 – 12 Baskets Project at 8 p.m.</b> <b>Friday, February 2 – Orthros &amp; Liturgy for the Presentation of Christ at 9:30 a.m.</b> <b>Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 4</b>		

## January 30: Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs

By the will of God, St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom appeared to Saint John the Bishop of Euchaita in the year 1084, and said that they were equal before God. “There are no divisions among us, and no opposition to one another.” Bishop John chose January 30 for their joint Feast, ending controversy and restoring peace.

