



Welcome to our Visitors: We are honored to have you come to worship with us. You may find the worship of the Ancient Church rather different. If you are unfamiliar with the worship of the Byzantine Church, simply listen to the Liturgy and allow the rest of the congregation to carry you in worship. We understand Communion to be an act of the unity of our Faith; however, while we work towards it, this unity regrettably does not now exist. There-

fore, only baptized Catholics in the State of Grace are permitted to participate in Holy Communion.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR MILITARY:** Dennis Lloyd, Scott Nale, Michael Perko, Matt Reynolds, Robert Skopecck Jr.

**OUR ALTAR SERVERS**

Erik Cline, Anthony Gath, Greg Gath, Ian, Nigel and Liam Ward, Jonny Weil & Andrew Sarsam

**EPISTLE READER / CANTOR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

1/4/2015	REHEARSAL	9:00 - 9:45 am
	George Petyo	2 Timothy 4:5-8
1/11/2015	REHEARSAL	9:00 - 9:45 am
	Steve Kopko	Ephesians 4:7-13
1/18/2015	REHEARSAL	9:00 - 9:45 am
	Jon Weil	1 Timothy 4:9-15
1/25/2015	REHEARSAL	9:00 - 9:45 am
	Ron Pasmant	2 Timothy 3:10-15
2/1/2015	REHEARSAL	9:00 - 9:45 am
	Marc Brown	1 Corinthians 6:12-20
2/8/2015	REHEARSAL	9:00 - 9:45 am
	Kester Bailey	1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

**DIVINE LITURGY AND PARISH CALENDAR**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Theophany

10 am Living & Deceased Parishioners

**THEOPHANY: Holy Day of Obligation**

Mon. 5<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm GREAT WATER BLESSING OF THEOPHANY  
Blessings to Gilbert Pasmant (Ron Pasmant)

Tues. 6<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am LESSER WATER BLESSING OF THEOPHANY

Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Divine Liturgy Blessings to Jean Washicko  
(Washicko Family)

Thurs. 8<sup>th</sup> No Liturgy

Fri. 9<sup>th</sup> No Liturgy

Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> Saturday After Theophany

6 pm No Vespers

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Theophany

10 am Living & Deceased Parishioners

**Tithes, Gifts & Finances:  
Christmas & 28 December, 2014**

Tithes	\$4,365.00
Youth	8.00
Christmas Flowers	75.00
Christmas	5,039.20
Children's Christmas	78.92
Candles	24.00
Gift Shop	68.00
Thanksgiving	20.00
Peter's Pence	25.00
Missions	25.00
Religious Retirement	45.00
Mortgage Reduction	120.00
Principal Reduction	3,150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,043.12</b>

**Weeklong Candle Intentions**

**ETERNAL LIGHT: Special Intentions of Fr. James**

**CHRIST: Special Intention (Ron Pasmant)**

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**THEOTOKOS: Special Intention (Ron Pasmant)**

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**CHRIST NARTHEX: Special Intention (Ron Pasmant)**

Candle Intentions can be requested by filling out an envelope found in the Narthex. Donation is \$4.00



Please remember in your prayers: David (brother of Marilyn Cooper), Mons. Vida and Mons. Moran, Richard Sesma, Deanna Keefe, Jean Mayo (Rita's Mother), Rita and Robert Pipta, Ron Lowery & Family, Libby Distefano, Alex Vida, Susan Dovin, Evdokiya Obushko, Robert M. Weil and Kay Weil, Janet Lambert, Dolores Demko, and Ron & Carol and Gilbert & Sally Pasmant, Ethan McArthur. That the Lord have mercy and save His people undergoing persecution in Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Egypt and other lands.

On behalf of Father George and Father Michael, and myself, I would like to thank everyone who remembered us this Christmas with cards and gifts. Blessings to all of you and may 2015 be a year of many graces. Fr. James

Please congratulate our dedicated Bakers and all who donated and bought items for the Christmas bake sale. After expense the parish received over \$6,000!

Our thanks to the dedicated ladies who ran the Christmas Boutique. The Boutique brought in over \$1,700. this year.



**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY: Universal:**

That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.

**Evangelization:** That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.

**The 12th Annual West Coast  
Biblical Studies Conference:**

**“Mystery of Christ in the Church: A Study of Ephesians.”  
January 9-10<sup>th</sup> San Diego, California**

On January 9 -10<sup>th</sup> 2015, you’re invited to join the St. Paul Center and John Paul the Great Catholic Un. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in San Diego, CA. Starting Friday evening and continuing all day Saturday, some of the Church’s most insightful scholars and speakers, including St. Paul Center President Dr. Scott Hahn, and Senior Fellows Dr. Brant Pitre, Dr. Michael Barber, and Dr. John Kincaid will explore St. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians.

The Christian community in Ephesus was like no other Christian community in the ancient world. The Apostle John lived there. The Blessed Mother lived there. And St. Paul himself spent years there, teaching, living and working alongside the people.

Not surprisingly, St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians is like no other letter of Paul’s. No other letter has such a highly developed theology of Christ. No other letter has such a highly developed theology of the Church or the Sacrament of Marriage.

**When:** Saturday, January 9-10<sup>th</sup> 2015

**Registration Cost:** \$40 at the door. (no food included). You may purchase conference tickets and register by going to [John Paul the Great Catholic University](http://www.jpccatholic.com/Biblical_Conference.php). [http://www.jpccatholic.com/Biblical\\_Conference.php](http://www.jpccatholic.com/Biblical_Conference.php)

**Where:** Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, 13541 Stoney Creek Rd., San Diego, CA 92129

**Friday**

- 6pm: Registration
- 6:30-7:30pm: Scott Hahn —“The Mystery of Christ in Ephesians: An Overview
- 7:30-8pm: Break
- 8pm-9pm: Brant Pitre —“What Must I Do to Be Saved: Faith, Works, and Eternal Life”

**Saturday**

- 7:30am: Registration
- 8-9am: Michael Barber —“The Power of Christ within Us: The Church as Temple in Ephesians Three”
- 9-9:30am: Break
- 9:30-10:30am: John Kincaid —“Being Clothed with Christ: Ephesians Four and the Life of Righteousness”
- 10:30-11am Break
- 11am-12pm: Brant Pitre —“Wives Do What?!: Ephesians Five and St. Paul’s Life-Changing Vision of the Christian Family”
- 12pm-1:30pm: Lunch break
- 1:30-2:30pm: Scott Hahn —“Be Strong in the Lord: The Armor of God and Spiritual Warfare.”
- 2:30-3pm: Break, 3:00-3:45pm: Q & A

**The Great Blessing of Water and the Home**

The Great Blessing of Water takes place at the end of that day’s Liturgy. Since our homes cannot be brought to the Church, the Church through the priest and cantor go to the homes. There the service of blessing, which began in the church, is finished with the sprinkling of water in the home. Traditionally, in most Orthodox parishes, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year [to pray](#) with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany (January 6/13). By sanctifying our living quarters, our private place, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. (In very large parishes a yearly visit may not be possible. In areas of the country where the winter is harsh, I know of at least one parish where houses are blessed at the beginning of the ecclesiastical year in September.)

We also bring the blessed water to our homes to use throughout the year to bless our homes and to drink whether we are ill or as part of our daily prayer life. "There are many occasions in family life when a sip of holy water can help to remind us of the blessing that was given ‘to bestow sanctification’, ‘unto healing of soul and body’, ‘to be a fountain welling forth unto life eternal’, as the priest prayed in the litany of Epiphany day." (*Little Falcons: Water*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 1998, p.33.)

**Weaving Christ into Our Lives** “The blessing of homes by these holy waters maintains the spiritual association between the ‘family church’ and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God’s spiritual XXXXX... This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God. is extended to individual dwellings.” (*Marriage and the Christian Home*, p. 25.)

If the priest comes to bless the home when the children are present, they have the opportunity to see the parish priest in a different and personal situation. If the priest permits, they can lead the way through the house, or hold a candle. They can show him their rooms or pets or favorite toys. They receive a blessing with water. For children, the house blessing shows the connection of the Church to the home.

**In Summary** What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year!

**THEOPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS.** Please sign up on the sheet in the parish hall if you would like to have Fr. James bless your home this Theophany season. Please indicate which day of the week would work best.

**PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

**The Domestic Church** Ultimate union with God, of deification, is a constant pilgrimage which begins at the very inception of an individual's life. As the Church Fathers stated centuries ago, this is man's purpose for existence, and one to which he naturally moves. In order to become deified, one must become more than like Christ, or an imitation of Christ; one must become Christ. There are no other way to achieves this goal; an individual's entire life must be consumed by Christ. Fidelity to the gospel, exercising extreme humility rather than pride, partaking of the sacramental Mysteries, and constant prayer are not separate exercises - all, taken together and without division, are the manifestation (singular case) of metanoia, or the



**MONTHLY LUNCHEONS.** We are looking for people/families to host our monthly luncheons –these have been some of our most consistent fund raisers. It would be a great blessing if you would consider volunteering to turn your favorite receipt into a luncheon for 120 people. We have experts in our kitchen crew who would be very willing to advise you. Please speak with Steve Kopko.

conscientious decision to live totally in, with and for Christ, rather than in, with and for the world.

Although all these aspects, taken together, are absolutely necessary in making the pilgrimage to deification, perhaps the foundation is prayer. Without prayer, there is no mystical union with God; without prayer, there is no point in living the fruits of metanoia. In the Eastern Christian Churches, prayer is the key to metanoia, through which we become deified. Prayer is more than just attending liturgical celebrations and receiving the sacramental Mysteries, whether on occasion or as a constant practice. Prayer must begin in the home - the domestic Church - and must be carried out in practice in the outside world, including Church, the workplace, the school and every other area of life. Without prayer in the home, every other action, even "religious", is futile. Prayer requires discipline - the choice to pray with the same, or greater, fervor that one exercises in fulfilling other duties. It also requires true and sincere effort, coming from the heart, and not just from rote recitation. Prayer is conversation with God, and through this conversing, the individual comes to mystically know God, through Jesus Christ, as his Lord.



**The Icon Corner** One's home should be a place of tangible prayer. Each Christian home should have an "Icon Corner." This constitutes the Home Altar or Family Shrine. It serves as the focal point for prayer. The Icon Corner usually consists of a table, stand or shelf with a linen or other cloth covering. Over the

table are the icons of Our Lord (on the right) and Our Lady (on the left), often with a crucifix in-between. Other icons of personal choice may and should flank the icon corner. A perpetual candle can be burned if it is not a safety hazard. Otherwise, candles are lit during times of prayer. Placed on the table are normally the following items: a festal icon depicting the season; the Bible; prayer books; holy water; blessed candles; the blessed palms and willows from Flowery Sunday; flowers from the Feast of the Dormition, and rosaries. The Icon Corner is placed in a prominent room, such as the living room, the family room or the master bedroom. Traditionally, it faces east, if such an arrangement is possible.

**Daily Prayers:** (after the *Usual Beginning Prayers* some of the following prayers may be taken...)

**The Angelic Salutation** (The "Hail Mary") Hail, Mother of God, Virgin Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb. For you have given birth to Christ, the Savior and Deliverer of our souls. Amen.

**The Common Hirmos** (*The "It is Truly Proper"*) It is truly proper to glorify you, who have borne God, the ever-blessed, immaculate and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who, a Virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you - truly - the Theotokos we magnify. Amen.

**The Paschal Hirmos** (*The "Angel Exclaimed to Her"*) Recited in place of the Common Hirmos from Easter until the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday. The Angel exclaimed to her, full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say rejoice! Your Son is risen from the grace on the third day and has raised the dead! Let all nations rejoice! Shine in splendor, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord is risen upon you, O Zion. Sing with joy and rejoice, and you - pure Theotokos- rejoice in the Resurrection of your Son! Amen.

**The Prayer to the Holy Protection** We fly to your Protection, O Virgin Theotokos. Do not despise our prayers in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers, for you - alone - are pure and blessed. O most glorious ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ our God, accept our prayers and present them to your Son and our God, so that - through you, Mother of God - He may enlighten and save our souls. Amen.

**The Jesus Prayer** *Lord Jesus Christ +, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*



**Prayer to St Nicholas of Myra** O Saint Nicholas, bountiful Father and special Patron of our Byzantine Catholic Church; you are a shepherd and teacher to all who invoke your protection, and who, by devout prayer, call upon you for aid. Hasten and save the flock of Christ from ravenous wolves, and by your holy prayers protect all Christians and save them from worldly disturbances, earthquakes, attacks from abroad, from internal strife, from

famine, flood, fire, sword, and sudden death. As you had mercy on those three men in prison and saved them from the king's wrath, now also have mercy on me who, by word, deed, and thought, have sunk into the darkness of sin. Save me from the just anger of God, and from eternal punishment. Through your intercession and aid, as well as through His own mercy and grace, may Christ our God allow me to lead a tranquil and sinless life, and save me from standing at His left, but deem me worthy to stand at His right with all the saints. Amen

**Guardian Angel:** O Angel of God, my Holy Guardian, safeguard my life in the fear of Christ the God, set my mind on the right path, and strengthen my soul in the love of God. Guide me that I may receive a great mercy from Christ the God. Amen

O Holy Angel, standing by my miserable soul and by my life affected by passions: Leave me not alone, nor depart from me because of my intemperance. Leave no chance to the crafty demon to get hold of me by overpowering this mortal flesh of mine. Strengthen my miserable and feeble hand, and set me upon the path of [salvation](#). Yea, O Holy Angel of God, the guardian and protector of my miserable soul and body: Forgive me everything whereinsoever I have offended thee in all the days of my life; And if I have committed any sin during the last night, protect me during the coming day, And save me from every temptation of the adversary so that with no sin of mine should I incur the anger of God. [Pray to God](#) for me that He may fortify me in the fear of Him, and make me a servant worthy of His kindness. Amen.

**ADVERTISEMENT:**



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