

VARIABLES – JANUARY 4, 2026

SS. PETER & PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

HIS GRACE BISHOP ANTHONY, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES AND THE WEST

REVEREND FATHER CHRISTOPHER DILLON, PASTOR

REVEREND FATHER GEORGE WASHBURN, REVEREND FATHER JOHN CHRISTIANSON

“The Nativity of John the Baptist is the first joy sent down by God to the human race, the beginning of its deliverance from the power of the devil, sin and eternal death.” ~ St. John Maximovitch

Welcome to all our visitors worshipping with us this morning! Please sign our Guest Register as you enter the church and be our guest for coffee and refreshments this morning after the service is over. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to Ss. Peter and Paul.

Sunday Before Theophany

SYNAXIS OF THE 70 APOSTLES; VENERABLE THEOKTISTOS OF SICILY

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom—Hymns & Scriptures

Variable Hymns – see music in packet

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tn. 5, Byzantine

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion of the Forefeast of Theophany, Tn. 4, Byzantine

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sov'reign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

Troparion of Ss Peter & Paul, Tn. 4, Russian

O first enthroned of the Apostles, teachers of the universe, entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Clergy only – Kontakion of the Forefeast of Theophany, Tn. 4, Byzantine

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy (4:5-8).

My child Timothy, be watchful in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the season of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, and I have guarded the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will reward me at that day, and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved His appearing.

Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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 thy face, who shall prepare thy 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 strap

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.”

Receiving Holy Communion: Only Orthodox Christians prepared through prayer, fasting, and a recent sacramental confession should approach the chalice for the Eucharist. The Orthodox Church does not practice “open communion” and has no intercommunion with non-Orthodox churches.

After taking Communion: Please return to your place and continue standing until the announcements.

Today’s Commemorations and Prayer Requests

Take this list of prayer requests home with you and keep these people in your prayers this week.

For the living: Bp. Anthony; Prs. John, Thomas, Christopher; Khs. Barbara, Carla; Michael, Karl, Aaron, George, Elizabeth, George, Cecilia, Celestine, Elias, Krista, Alfonso, Rory & Hayley; Christina, Bianca, Amber, Xavier, Tim, Hugh, Mike, Alexander, Jeremiah, Alex, Sophia, Hector, Saoirse, Michael, Persephone, Samuel, Verity, Christine, Fiona, Atticus, Evelyn, Enrica, Tony, Jon, Serenity, Ada, Grayson, Emmett, Sage, Beverly, Rosanna, Garrett, Ian, Elliott, Dawn, Dan, Russell, Kevin.

For those who are pregnant and their unborn children: Jessica, Allie.

For the departed: Newly departed Milton; Met. Philip; Aps. Gordon, Jack; Prs. Tom, Stephen, Basil, David, Terry; Igm. Leonty; Hmks. Ephraim, John, Athanasios; Mnk. Simeon; Dns. Mark, John, Mark, Nathaniel, David, Joseph, Michael; Khs. Judy, Jedonne, Terry Elizabeth, Doris; Pres. Zinnia, Barbara; Mka. Anna; Boris, Glaphyra; Christopher, Tatiana; Charles, Lois, Rick, James, Ronald Rachel, Hudson, Jannie, John Henry.

For those serving in the Armed Forces: Jacob, Brycen, Jonathan, David, Gregory, Daniel, Don, Scott, Michelle, Noah.