

SS Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

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Martyr Boniface, Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Sunday January 1, 2017

Hebrews 11:9-10;17-23;32-40, Matthew 1:1-25

Tropar and Kondak Tone 3 and p. 129

- Friday January 6th 8:00 PM Vigil Service for the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- Saturday January 7th 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy of the Feast of Nativity of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
- Sunday January 8th 10:00 Divine Liturgy - Commemorating Joseph the Betrothed, David the Kind, James the Brother of our Lord, and the Synaxis of the Theotokos.
- Saturday January 14th 9:00 AM Liturgy for the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord and Julian New Year.
- Sunday January 15th 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Sunday before Theophany
- Wednesday January 18th

6:00 PM Theophany Eve supper (strict fast) and

7:00 PM Vigil service for Theophany, commemorating the baptism of Jesus Christ with the blessing of water.

He has come, He Who by a single word called all things visible and invisible from non-existence into existence, Who by a word called into being birds, fishes, quadrupeds, insects, and all creatures, existing under His almighty providence and care; He has come, He Whom the innumerable hosts of Angels continually and joy. And in what humility has He come! He is born of a poor Virgin, in a cave, wrapped in poor swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. Riches, honours, glory of this world! fall down, fall down in humility, tearful devotion, and deep gratitude before the Saviour of men, and share your riches with the poor and needy. St. John of Kronstadt

Hours and Communion Prayers 9:30 AM. Confessions: ½ hour before services.

Please bring cookies to share in our fellowship downstairs after the Nativity Liturgy. Thank you in advance!

Orthodox Practice

The **Exapteriga** (Slavonic: rapidia) is a fan made with a representation of a six-winged [Seraphim](#), the highest order of [angel](#), mounted on a pole or staff for hand carrying. The seraphim, according to Isaiah's vision of God, surround the throne of God in Heaven. The image of the seraphim is often engraved on a circular, usually metal, disk on the end of the staff.

Two fans are found in most Orthodox churches placed on either side of the [tabernacle](#) when not in the hands of servers. The fans are reminders that these same angels surround the throne of God on earth — the Holy [Altar](#).

During the [Divine Liturgy](#) the exapteriga are used to accompany the Holy Gifts during the [Great Entrance](#) and the [Gospel Book](#) when brought out for the Gospel reading.

Some people tell me that they are scandalized because they see many things wrong in the Church. I tell them that if you ask a fly, "Are there any flowers in this area?" it will say, "I don't know about flowers, but over there in that heap of rubbish you can find all the filth you want." And it will go on to list all the unclean things it has been to.

Now, if you ask a honeybee, "Have you seen any unclean things in this area?" it will reply, "Unclean things? No, I have not seen any; the place here is full of the most fragrant flowers." And it will go on to name all the flowers of the garden or the meadow. + St. Paisios of Mt. Athos, "Good and Evil Thoughts," *Spiritual Counsels III: Spiritual Struggle*

January 22 – Presentation by the diocesan chairman, Andrew Podolak on Mission and Stewardship.

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org> Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>
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