

HOLY THEOPHANY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

“The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins. Nothing is so joyous in our life as the thanksgiving that we experience in the Church. In the Church, the joyful sustain their joy. In the Church, those worried acquire merriment, and those saddened, joy. In the Church, the troubled find relief, and the heavy-laden, rest.” ~St John Chrysostom

Location of Services: Holy Theophany Church, N2107 State Road 67, Walworth, WI 53184

~Bulletin: May 2025~

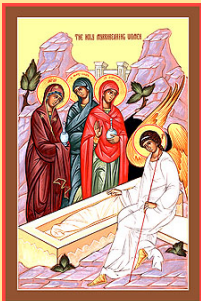


Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

Schedule for May 2025

[Services (except Reader’s Vespers) will be live-streamed. Hours for Sunday Liturgy start at 9:40 AM.]

- Saturday, May 3, 5:00 PM—Reader’s Vespers
- Sunday, May 4, (Sunday, Myrrhbearing Women), 10 AM—Divine Liturgy (St John Chrysostom)
- Saturday, May 10, 5:00 PM—Reader’s Vespers
- Sunday, May 11, (Sunday Paralytic), 10 AM—Divine Liturgy (St John Chrysostom). Commemoration of mothers living and departed
- Saturday, May 17, 11 AM—Baptism Naomi Fazio (Adela and Michael parents)
- Saturday, May 17, 5:00 PM—Reader’s Vespers
- Sunday, May 18, (Sunday, Samaritan Woman), 10 AM—Divine Liturgy (St John Chrysostom)
- Wednesday, May 21, 5:30 PM—Unction Service
- Saturday, May 24, 5:00 PM—Reader’s Vespers
- Sunday, May 25, (Sunday, Blind Man), 10 AM—Divine Liturgy (St John Chrysostom) preceded by General Confession at 9:40 AM
- Wednesday, May 28, 5:30 PM—Vespersal Liturgy Ascension of the Lord
- Thursday, May 29, (Ascension of the Lord)
- Saturday, May 31, 5:00 PM—Reader’s Vespers



Myrrhbearing Women



Healing of the Paralytic



The Samaritan Woman



Healing of the Blind Man

Thanks for everyone who joined in our second annual participation in the National Orthodox Baby Shower project. We contributed (items are counted individually): 1075 diapers, 35 packages of wipes, 25 outfits shoes socks, 12 baby towel sets, 3 car seats, 10 \$10 gas cards, stuffed toys for siblings .

Thanks for service to Holy Theophany Church April, 2025! *Cleaning Church and Parish Hall:* Olga Buranicz, Christopher Thies, Lamont Prospect, Pres. Anastasia, Pasie Gregory; *Prophora Bread:* Filitsa Amirsakis, Mary Kanelos; *Music:* Adela, Elijah Nelson, Maria and Sofia Klesmith, Kristy Danna, and everyone for congregational singing; *Artos:* Pres. Anastasia, Filitsa, Maria Condos; *Stewardship:* Thanks to everyone for their financial support; *Reading:* Pres Eileen, Roger Farrell, Damian C, Juliana C, Kristy D, Maria, David and Sophia , Maria Condos, Elijah N, Dinnis Smith, Pasie G, Steve and Amy Meyer, Lamont, Andrew Krout; *Service in sanctuary:* David K., Christopher T, Lamont, Giovanni Wilson; *Setting up for services:* Pres. Eileen, Pres. Anastasia, Christoper, and Lamont; *Attendance Report:* Bessie Mantes; *Coffee Hour:* Maria & David K, Filitsa, Kristy, Bessie, Pres. Anastasia, Maria C, Mary Kanelos, and everyone providing food or beverages; *Washing of Communion Cloths:* Pres. Anastasia, Mary K; *Agape Vespers readers:* Fr John, Pres Eileen, Maria C., Kristy, Andrew, Heather, Elijah, Dr. Joe, Vali, Gina, Olga, Alex S., Fr. George; *Setup in Church during Holy Week and Pascha:* Christopher, Lamont, Fr. George; *Egg Dying:* Sofia, David K., Maria K., Christopher, Lamont, Fr. George; *Palm crosses:* Damian, Juliana, Roger, Natalia, Darcy, Sofia, Mary K., Maria C., LaMont; *Flowers and Palms:* Renee Cerny and Damian C; *Agape Vespers Luncheon:* Thanks to everyone in the community who helped prepare for, provide food and hospitality, and cleaned up afterwards. *Raising the center of the table for the Epitaphio;* Christopher T; *Sincere apologies for overlooking anyone for the help they provided..*

Pastoral Reflection: Three Sundays of Pascha are devoted to the healing ministry of Christ: the Sundays of the Paralytic, the Samaritan Woman, and the Blind Man. They bracket the Midfeast of Pentecost when we look back to the Resurrection and forward to the Feast of Pentecost – the Descent of the Holy Spirit. In each of these events, Christ takes the initiative to approach individuals and offer healing both physical and spiritual even though they are at the margins of society: the paralytic who lies by the pool of Bethesda for thirty-eight years ignored by those around him (John 5:1-15); the Samaritan woman, for whom Jews had great animosity and who comes to the well to draw water at the heat of day rather than with the other women in the morning (John 4:5-42); and the man born blind who has been reduced to living as a beggar (John 9:1-32). The events of these Sundays look back to the Resurrection because they remind us that Christ's suffering, death and resurrection are an extension and fulfillment of the compassion and love of his healing ministry while He lived among us.

Yet after His resurrection, He ascends into heaven. Matthew (28.17) notes that even some of the disciples had doubts or perplexities about Christ after His Resurrection. In contrast to the Theotokos, the Apostles are portrayed in the Icon for the Ascension in a state of some disarray. So, for all of those who were healed by and drawn into a communion with Christ during His life, what happens when He departs? Will they be abandoned or only "gain access" to Christ at a distance? Christ himself gives the answer when He meets the Samaritan woman: "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4.23-24). The Spirit is the Comforter whom Christ promised to the disciples but only if He departed from this earth (John 16:7).

The Holy Spirit unites the Theotokos, the disciples and all of us in the Body of Christ (the Church). As St John Chrysostom writes: "The Church is a hospital for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins. In the Church, the joyful sustain their joy. In the Church, those worried acquire merriment, and those saddened, joy. In the Church, the troubled find relief, and the heavy-laden, rest." In the Church, we are graced with the sacraments which are made possible through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit. The aim of this: to draw us, everyone, into deification: the complete fullness of our lives united with God at the general resurrection. Indeed, even those who have departed their life in Christ are now drawn into a "place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sighing, and sorrow have fled away." (Orthodox Funeral Service)

CONTACT INFORMATION: Website: <https://holytheophanychurch.org/>

Fr. Protodeacon George Potym
Telephone (414) 254-5783
Email: gpotym@yahoo.com

Very Rev. John D. Jones (Priest-in-Charge)
Telephone (414) 241-7702
Email: jdjones1947@gmail.com

Maria Klesmith
Telephone (262) 275-0449
Email: mkleSmith@charter.net