

## 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

### Schedule of Services for November 2023

[All services (except Reader’s Vespers) will be live-streamed unless otherwise noted.

All liturgies are those of St John Chrysostom; Hours for Sunday Liturgy start at 9:40 AM.]

- Saturday, Nov 4, 5 PM – Reader’s Vesper (Set clocks back 1 hour at 2 AM Sunday: CDT to CST.)
- Sunday, Nov 5, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, Nov 7, 5:30 PM – Vespers Liturgy for Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers
- Saturday, Nov 11, 5 PM – Reader’s Vespers
- Sunday, Nov 12, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy
- Monday, Nov 13, 6:30 PM. Fr John’s presentation at SS Cyril and Methodius Church (MKE) and by Zoom on “Moved by Compassion: Christ the Good Samaritan”
- Wednesday, Nov. 15, Beginning of the Nativity (St Philip’s) Fast (see pastoral reflection for fasting guidance)
- Saturday, Nov 18, 5 PM – Great Vespers followed by General Confession
- Sunday, Nov 19, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy
- Monday, Nov 20, Vespers Liturgy for Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
- Saturday, Nov 25, 5 PM – Akathist: Glory to God for All Things
- Sunday, Nov 26, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy

Join the Eastern Wisconsin OCA parishes for a special retreat as we begin Advent!

### Moved by Compassion: Christ the Good Samaritan



**Monday, November 13, at 6:30 pm**

**with Fr. John D. Jones**

*in person at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church  
in Milwaukee, WI, and also on Zoom [\[click here\]](#) (Passcode: 026946)*

**Fr. John is the parish priest at Holy Theophany Mission, Walworth, WI, and professor emeritus of philosophy at Marquette University. In 2022 he published a book with SVS Press titled: Moved by Compassion: Exploring the Core of Orthodox Christian Spiritual Life.**





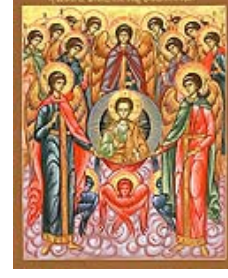
Entrance of Theotokos in the Temple (11/21)



St John Chrysostom (11/13)



Holy Unmercenary Cosmas and Damian (11/1)



Synaxis of the Bodiless Powers (11/08)

*Pastoral reflection: Fasting in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord.* The Philip's or Nativity Fast is the second major fast in our church after the fasting during Great Lent. It is designed to help us in struggling with and hopefully subduing the passions that lead us away from God and to assist with drawing near to God. I found an excellent article about the true meaning of fasting. The author, Dr Phipip Kariatlis, draws on several hymns from the Triodion about the purpose of fasting. I find no similar hymns during the Nativity Fast. But they can certainly be applied to this fast. He begins by noting that simply focusing on the foods to be prepared and when they are to be eaten is not the true meaning of purpose of fasting as part of our spiritual journey towards meeting Christ and our deification. By way on contrast he cites several hymns from the Triodion about fasting along with his own comments that I would encourage you to ponder as you prepare to engage in the Nativity Fast:

Let us fast in a way that is acceptable and pleasing to the Lord. True fasting is flight from evils, temperance of the tongue, refrain from anger, separation from lustful desires, and from lies, from falsehood and from perjury. The absence of all these makes our fasting true and acceptable (Great Vespers of Pure Monday).

Dr Kariatlis observes: "This hymn 'is an injunction for purity.' The meaning of purity, like fasting, ought not to be impoverished... Accordingly, purification is understood as internal consistency or integrity of character which, in the face of temptation, remains totally devoted to God."

Let us observe the fast, not only by abstinence from food, but also by separating ourselves from every bodily passion... so that we may be counted worthy to partake of the Lamb... the Son of God... Thus, we shall be lifted up on high in the joy of virtue and by the delight of excellent works we shall be glad in God, the Lover of Humankind (A troparion from Tuesday during the first week of Great Lent).

Dr. Kariatlis observes: "fasting finds its true meaning when the outward abstinence of food is connected with the inward struggle to intensify our longing for God through the dynamic of purity and repentance—the consummation of which is realized in Holy Communion."

While fasting with the body, o brethren, let us also fast in spirit; let us loosen every connection with injustice... Let us give bread to the hungry and introduce into our house the poor who have no roof to cover them, that we may receive from Christ our God the great mercy (From the first liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts).

Dr Kariatlis observes: "True fasting requires not only fasting from foods but also practical works of compassion which, in this case, include working towards overcoming injustice and extending hospitality—*philoxenia*—especially to those in need. In simple terms, the hymn underscores that there cannot be genuine fasting without love towards the 'other, especially those in most need.'" ("The True Meaning of Fasting in the Orthodox Church")

<https://publicorthodoxy.org/2018/02/17/true-meaning-of-fasting/>

Guidance for Nativity Fast from past SS Cyril and Methodius bulletins:

- 1) Be consistent and regular in prayer/
- 2) Confess sometime during this season/
- 3) Keep the fast as best you can/
- 4) Do these things in order prepare for the feasts of the appearing of the Lord, the birth and the Baptism of Christ

Thanks for service to Holy Theophany Church in October 2023! Cleaning the Church and Parish Hall: Filitsa Amirsakis, Olga Buranicz, Mary Kanelos; Christopher Thies, Alex Cook, Lamont; Prospora Bread: Filitsa, Mary K.; Music/chanting: Adela Fazio, Maria, David, & Sofia Klesmith, Kristy Danna, and everyone participating in community singing; Artos: Pres. Anastasia, Mary K.; Stewardship: Thanks to everyone who provides financial support for us; Reading: Pres. Eileen, Christopher, Damian Constantinescu, Kristy, Lamont, Maria & Sofia, Joseph, and Olga; Service in the sanctuary: David and Christopher; Setting up for services): Mary, Pres. Eileen, and Lamont; Attendance Report: Bessie Mantes; Coffee Hour: Maria & David K., Mary, Filitsa, Kristy, Bessie, and everyone who provides food or beverages; Outside repairs/cleanup: David and Christopher; Donating Flowers: Kristy and Mary K; Thanks to Nick Klesmith for helping with redoing the audio/visual equipment in the church. Sincere apologies if we overlooked anyone for the help they provided.

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

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