

JANUARY 12, 2025
BULLETIN – SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

ChurchOffice@ssppaoc.org ♦ (831) 336-2228 ♦ Office hours: 9 am-1 pm, Mon.-Thurs.

Father's office hours: 9 am-3 pm, Mon.-Thurs. or by appt. ♦ (805) 708-6066 ♦ frchristopherdillon@gmail.com

Bulletin Submissions Deadline – **10 am Wed.** ♦ church website: <https://ssppaoc.org>

Ss Peter & Paul Mission: preserve, practice, and proclaim the Gospel of our Lord, God, & Savior Jesus Christ in order to glorify God in the parish and wider community.

This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul – January 13-19, 2025

- 1/13 Mo 7:00 pm – Bible Study – James
- 1/14 Tu 7:00 am – Readers Orthros
5:00 pm – Akathist to the Theotokos
for healing
- 1/15 Wd 6:00 pm – Vespers
7:00 pm – Parish Council
- 1/16 Th 7:00 am – Men's Reading Group
- 1/17-19 Fr-Su Young Adult Winter Retreat
- 1/17 Fr 6:00 am – Divine Lit.–Anthony the Great
- 1/18 Sa 5:30 pm – Learn Byzantine Tones
6:00 pm – Great Vespers & Compline
- 1/19 Su 8:20 am – Orthros
9:30 am – Divine Liturgy – 29th Sunday
after Pentecost
10:20 am – Church School
Adult choir rehearsal

Looking Ahead—

- January 20 Bible Study – James
- January 21 Morning Divine Liturgy
- January 22 Paraklesis
- January 25 Walk for Life
- January 26 Catechism
Adult choir rehearsal
Youth choir practice
Community Dinner
- January 27 Bible Study
- January 30 Morning Divine Liturgy

DONATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE & BUILDING

Designate cash/check donations for **regular church maintenance** as “Maintenance Fund.”
Designate cash/check donations for **long term building project** as “Building Fund.”

<i>Many Years – Birthday</i>	
<i>Kathleen Elwell</i>	<i>January 14</i>
<i>Amy Nicholas</i>	<i>January 15</i>
<i>Rdr. Nikodemos Steiger</i>	<i>January 18</i>
<i>Many Years – Anniversary</i>	
<i>Stephen & Amanda Baillie</i>	<i>January 18</i>

**6:00 - 8:00 pm – Barn Game Night
TONIGHT**

HOUSE BLESSINGS

It's that time of year again! Please talk to those in your neighborhood so that you can coordinate house blessings. Plan to get them on the calendar after January 6.

CATECHISM RESUMES

Sunday catechism resumes **today**. Class meets after the Divine Liturgy, usually in the nave of the church.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you goes to the Feast Day Ministry Team who prepared brunch to celebrate the Feast of Theophany. The food was delicious, and the fellowship was grand!

***New Bible Study on the Book of James
begins Monday, January 13***

SUMMER CAMPING TRIP

This year's summer camping trip will be at **Arroyo Seco**. The dates are June 9-13. If you want to join the group camp site, please contact Kh. Claire at (760) 408-5973.

PARISH COUNCIL

All are invited to the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday, January 15 at 7:00 pm in the parish hall.

**6:00 am Friday, January 17
Divine Liturgy – Anthony the Great**

January 19 & 26 – Adult choir rehearsal

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE BOXES

Please return your loaded FFHP boxes to the Narthex to be counted and included in our church's contribution to the program.

21st Annual Walk for Life January 25, 2025

Featuring Speakers
**Ryan Bomberger, Kelly Lester,
Sister Deirdre Byrne,
Rev. Cleonard Childress**
More info [here](#)

House Blessings

Why do we bless homes?

We spend a good amount of time in our homes. Some work from home, raise children, study, pray, eat meals, and sleep. We want these activities to take place in a blessed context. As Christ sanctified the waters of the Jordan by his presence, we bless our homes with holy water to cleanse it from anything evil or sinful.

I had my home blessed last year. Why does it need to be blessed again?

Throughout the year we think, say, and do things that are sinful in our home. These things tarnish the purity of the home, in addition to ourselves. Some did not have their homes blessed last year which means they are especially in need of God's blessing and purity. If your home has never been blessed (especially if you moved or you are new to Orthodoxy), there is a special blessing that is done. Please let the priest know if this applies.

What do I need to do before the priest arrives?

It is customary to pick up around the home before the priest arrives. This not only allows a clear path to walk through the house, but also allows all the surfaces to be blessed. If you are able, have a small surface near your icon corner where the priest can set Holy Water, a candle, and cross. You may have a cloth and your own candle set-up if you like.

The service text for the house blessings can be found at <http://www.dowama.org/sites/docs/TheophanyHouseBlessing.PDF> link:

Community Dinner

Sunday, January 26 – 2:00 pm

Donations of non-perishable food items, money, and helpers to make and distribute the dinner needed.

Leave food items in the parish hall kitchen or industrial refrigerator marked for Community Dinner, not the residential refrigerator. To volunteer, contact Nicholas Salibi at (831) 359-0088

January 26 – Youth choir practice

Holy Water

Holy water is that water which is blessed on the Feast of Theophany, the celebration of Christ's baptism in the Jordan, blessing the waters (and all of creation) by His presence therein.

On Theophany, the faithful bring Holy Water containers to fill and take home. It is sprinkled and consumed "for the purification of the souls and bodies of all those who, with faith, shall draw and partake of it," "that Satan may speedily be crushed under our feet, and that every evil counsel directed against us may be brought to naught," and to "illumine us with the light of understanding and of piety, and with the descent of the Holy Spirit." (*service of the Blessing of the Waters, Feast of Theophany*)

Holy Water is kept in the church so that the faithful may use it, for healing and strength in the case of illness or dealing with struggles in life, especially of a spiritual nature. The Holy Water in the church is also available to replenish your home containers. **Whether at home or at church, Holy Water should always be consumed with prayer.** Holy Water should be kept in a container set apart and dedicated for that purpose.

St. Luke of Crimea advised, "Drink holy water as often as possible. It is the best and the most effective medicine. I'm saying that not just as a priest but also from experience as a doctor."

+Fr Christopher

Memory Eternal

January 12	Dn. Michael Russell
January 14	Jim Decker
January 14	Jim Buchfuehrer
January 16	Constance Werner
January 18	Jessica Breeze