

ST. JAMES ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Very Reverend Fr. Steven Ritter, Pastor

The Reverend Fr. Anthony Bridges, Deacon

3579 McEver Road, Gainesville, GA 30504

(770) 639-3641 :: [facebook.com/GwinnettOrthodox](https://www.facebook.com/GwinnettOrthodox) :: saintjamesorthodoxchurch.org

Saturday Great Vespers @ 4:00 p.m. :: Sunday Orthros @ 9:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 a.m.



January 5, 2025





THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST (TRANSFERRED)



DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST TONE 1

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST TONE 4

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (*thrice*) *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Dynamis!

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

As a friendly reminder, only Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through fasting, prayer, and recent confession may approach the Holy Chalice to receive Holy Communion.

Confession is available after Divine Liturgy, as well as before or after Vespers on Saturday evenings. You can also Contact Fr. Steven to set up an appointment.

We welcome all our visitors and are eager to share our faith with you! Please join us for coffee hour and take a few moments to fill out the VISITORS INFORMATION CARD that is found in the narthex



THE EPISTLE READING

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus. (2:11-14; 3:4-7)

My son Titus, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world; awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

THE GOSPEL READING

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (3:13-17)

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by Thee, and Thou dost come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Mon., Dec. 6 @ 11 AM – Great Blessing of Water (Lake Lanier)

Wed., Jan. 8 @ 7 PM – Catechumen/ Inquirer Class

Thurs., Jan. 9 @ 10:30 AM – St. Maria of Paris Ladies' Prayer Group



Your Prayers are Requested:

REMEMBER, O LORD: The Catechumens: Anthony, Gabriel, Elias, Xenia, Joshua, Alexis, Anthusa, Justin, Olga, Kevin, George, Longinus, Xenia, John, Nectarios, Cassiane, Michael; Constantine, Jay, Mary, Madeline, Jeannette, Nectarios, Barbara, Mary, Maria, Alex, Sarah, Sara, Joshua, Shirley, Theodore, Elizabeth; Newly-departed Katherine, Helen, Adam
PLEASE REMEMBER ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of St Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and St Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.



St. James Orthodox Church is a mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese under His Eminence SABA, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America. If you have any questions or comments, or if you would like more information about the Orthodox Faith, please contact Fr. Steven (frstevenr@gmail.com).