

St. Nicholas Newsletter

January 2024

Schedule for Theophany



Friday, Jan 5th - 10am Royal Hours

The name Royal Hours originates from the tradition of Byzantine emperors attending these solemn services, emphasizing their liturgical, spiritual importance, as well as their social significance. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Saturday, Jan 6th - 9am Festal Orthros; **10am** Festal Liturgy with Blessing of Water followed by a Lunch Outing

Sunday, Jan 7th - 9am Orthros; **10am** Divine Liturgy & Fellowship; **1pm** Outdoor Water Blessing

Join us as we offer the outdoor water blessing with St. John Church in Rogers. We will meet at the Monte Ne boat ramp (10118 Charlton Drive, Rogers, AR 72758). Dress warmly!

That these waters may be sanctified by the power, and effectual operation, and descent of the Holy Spirit

That the Lord our God will send down the blessing of Jordan and sanctify these waters

That this water may be a fountain welling forth unto life eternal

Excerpts from the Litany of the Great Blessing of Water

Celebrations

God grant you many years!

Birthdays

Sneha Virippil - Jan 1st
Gretchen Baclig - Jan 12th
Michael Baclig - Jan 14th
Kristin Potoski - Jan 15th
Manoj Virippil - Jan 18th

Wedding Anniversaries

Fr. Paul and Ramia Fuller - Jan 11th
Steve and Niki Kolokithas - Jan 15th

Namedays

Diana Wilson - Jan 12th Martyr Tatiana of Rome
Caleb Mackey - Jan 19th St. Mark of Ephesus
Paula Haydar - Jan 26th St. Paula of Rome

based on returned 2024 stewardship & membership forms

2024 Stewardship & Membership Forms

2024 Stewardship & Membership forms are currently available. Please prayerfully consider what you are willing and able to financially contribute to the operation and functioning of our growing parish community to support its various ministries and services. This is an annual responsibility of everyone in our parish! Access the print or online form by clicking the image below.

We are planning to commemorate those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and Name's Days of our faithful in 2024. This information is requested on the stewardship & membership form – please fill out online or use a printed copy available at church, so we can celebrate with you in the new year!



*Make your
Financial
Pledge Here*

**Stewardship
2024**

2023 Snapshot



Holy Friday 2023



The Antiochian Men completed many amazing renovations to the blue house in 2023!



On December 3rd, our parish said farewell to the mortgage early with His Grace Bishop Nicholas and celebrated our Patronal Feast of Saint Nicholas with a parish banquet!



The Blessing of the Community Garden on the Feast of the Transfiguration



Theophany 2023 (above)



Youth Summer Get-Together - June 2023 (left) & the start of our [Orthodox Homeschool Co-op](#) this past fall!

“Come and See” education sessions before Divine Liturgy (below)



Parish baseball game outing in July (left)



St. Genevieve of Paris

January 3rd



Icon by Aidan Hart

Saint Genevieve (Geneviève) was born of wealthy parents in Gaul (modern France) in the village of Nanterre, near Paris, around 422. Her father's name was Severus, and her mother was called Gerontia. According to the custom of the time, she often tended her father's sheep on Mount Valerien.

When the child was about seven years old, Saint Germanus of Auxerre (July 31) noticed her as he was passing through Nanterre. During the Service that night the Bishop placed his hand on her head and told her parents that she would become great in the sight of God, and would lead many to salvation. When Genevieve told him that she wished to dedicate herself to Christ, he gave her a brass medal with the image of the Cross to wear around her neck. Saint Germanus told her never to wear bracelets, or necklaces made with

pearls, gold, or silver, and to avoid wearing any other ornaments around her neck, or on her fingers.

When she was fifteen, Genevieve was taken to Paris to enter the monastic life. Through fasting, vigil and prayer, she progressed in monasticism, and received from God the gifts of clairvoyance and of working miracles. Gradually, the people of Paris and the surrounding area regarded Genevieve as a holy vessel (2 Timothy 2:21).

Years later, Saint Genevieve was told that Attila the Hun was approaching Paris, Genevieve and the other nuns prayed and fasted, entreating God to spare the city.

Suddenly, the barbarians turned away from Paris and went off in another direction.

Saint Genevieve considered the Saturday night Vigil service to be very important, since it symbolizes how our entire life should be. "We must keep vigil in prayer and fasting so that the Lord will find us ready when He comes," she said. She was on her way to church with her nuns one stormy Saturday night when the wind extinguished her lantern. The nuns could not find their way without a light, since it was dark and stormy, and the road was rough and muddy. Saint Genevieve made the Sign of the Cross over the lantern, and the candle within burned with a bright

flame. In this manner they were able to make their way to the church for the service.

There is a tradition that the church which Saint Genevieve suggested King Clovis should build in honor of Saints Peter and Paul, would become her own resting place when she fell asleep in the Lord around 512 at the age of eighty-nine. Her holy relics were later transferred to the church of Saint-Étienne-du-Mont in Paris. Most of her relics, and those of other saints, were destroyed at the time of the French Revolution.

During the Middle Ages, Saint Genevieve was regarded as the patron Saint of wine makers.

She is considered the patron saint of the city of Paris, together with St. Denis.



A picture of her tomb, across from the Pantheon in Paris. Most of her relics were dumped into the Seine by the radical atheists of the French Revolution, but others were collected from churches around France to which they had already been distributed.



Icon of Ss. Geneviève and Simeon the Stylite at her tomb in Paris - St. Symeon the Stylite sent her a letter after seeing her in a vision.

Troparion — Tone 1

Your abundant tears have watered and made fertile the desert of barren hearts, / your prayers and sighs have produced fruit a hundredfold. / Pray for your city, O Saint Geneviève, / and for those who lovingly venerate your holy memory.

Troparion — Tone 1

O Shepherdess and guardian of the flock at Nanterre against the horde of wolves and the Scourge of God,¹ / you are the protector of the city of Paris. / O Saint Geneviève, do not forget to preserve your spiritual flock even now, / from Heaven where you live after death.

¹ Attila the Hun.



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