

SOBORNOST

St. Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church

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American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

*ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
OF CONSTANTINOPLE*

SERVICES

Wed: Moleben to the Theotokos 6:00 AM

Friday: Moleben to the Cross 6:00 AM

Saturday: Confession 5:00 PM,

Great Vespers 5:30 PM

Sunday: Matins (Orthros) 8:45 AM

Children's Sunday School 9:30 AM | Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.

January 12, 2020 – Sunday After Theophany

Martyr Tatiana of Rome

The sixth day of the Afterfeast of Theophany falls on January 12. Divine grace shines forth so that we might be freed from the power of the devil, and cleansed of our sins in Baptism.

St. Tatiana was the daughter of a rich and famous Roman who nurtured her in the Christian faith. Arriving at maturity, she "turned away from wealth to divine love alone", always refusing the married life and because of her virtuous life she was appointed deaconess of the Roman Church. In this office she zealously went to the sick, visited prisons, and helped the needy, constantly trying to please God through prayers and good deeds. In the year 225 during the reign of Emperor Alexander Severus, because of her confession of Jesus Christ, she "rejoicing passed through the martyr's suffering" administered by the Roman city magistrate Julpian and together with her father she was beheaded by the sword. Eight of the servants of the city magistrate who tormented the Saint, seeing the wonderful power of God over her, believed in Jesus Christ and after torture were also beheaded. According to the witness of Deacon Zosimus in 1420, the head of Tatiana was in the Peribleptou District in Constantinople. (*adapted from oca.org and Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., by S. V. Bulgakov (Trans. Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris)*)



Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13

Brethren, to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Today's Gospel Lesson – Saint Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

A Word From the Holy Fathers

Let us purify ourselves, brethren, through the martyrs; or rather, through Him through whom they too were purified in blood and truth. Let us free ourselves "from every defilement of body and spirit" (2. Cor. 7:1). Let us wash; let us become clean; yea, let us present our very bodies and souls "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is [our] spiritual worship" (Rom. 12:1) and petition. For nothing is so precious to the Pure as purity and purification. Let us enter the lists for the sake of the athletes; let us be victorious for the victors; let us witness to the truth for the witnesses. The contribution that we should make to their achievements is this, that we ourselves too win the crown of victory and claim as our inheritance the same glory that we have bestowed upon them here and that is reserved for them in heaven, of which the visible world around us is but a shallow hint and impress. Let us struggle "against the principalities, against the powers," against lurking tyrants and persecutors, "against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12) and among the celestial beings, against the war which goes on even within ourselves among the passions, against the daily onslaught of external events.

Let us handle our anger as if it were a ferocious beast and our tongue as a sharp sword, and let us extinguish our love of pleasure like a flame. Let us place shutters over our ears that can be duly opened and closed; and let us curb our roving eye; let us control our wanton touch and ravenous taste lest death come up into our windows (this means, I believe, our senses); and let us scorn inordinate laughter. Let us not bow a knee to Baal out of want, nor worship the golden image out of fear. Our one and only fear should be fearing anything more than God and in our wickedness defiling his image. Let us in all things take “the shield of faith” and let us deflect “all the darts of the evil one” (Eph. 6:16). Dread is this war too and mighty this line of battle; mighty too are the spoils. If this is the purpose of our meeting and assembly, then our festival truly is in Christ; we truly have done honor to the martyrs, or shall do so; we truly have cause for triumphal celebration. But if we are here to gratify the pleasures of the belly and to indulge passing delights and ingest what is voided, and if we think this is a place for carousing rather than sobriety, an opportunity for transactions and trade instead of ascent or, if I may be so bold, deification, of which the martyrs are the intercessors, I do not even accept the occasion in the first place.

– St. Gregory the Theologian, *Oration 11*

Also Commemorated Today: St. Sava, First Archbishop of Serbia

In the world Rastko (Rostislav), son of the Serbian King Stephan (see Feb. 13), at the age of 18, he abandoned the local principedom given to him by his father and left for Mt. Athos with a Russian monk who came to Serbia and accepted the little tonsure in the Russian St. Panteleimon Monastery. Soon after that, at the urgent invitation of the monks of the Greek Vatopedi Monastery, he went over to this monastery and here received the great tonsure with the name Sabbas. "Having transformed the height of nobility to the humility of a servant", he "oppressed his body with many labors and enlightened his soul with prayer". Joining to the asceticism of abstinence, humility, prayer and good deeds of a hermit and the Vatopedi Monastery, he gave charity to all from what he received from his father in Serbia. Then with the grants from his father he built the Chilandari Monastery on Mt. Athos, settled in this monastery, gave it a Typikon [Ustav], established a strict way of life, created a charitable institution in it and engaged in education. Within eight years for a short time he became Hegumen of the Serbian Studenica Monastery, but then, being zealous for the increase of piety in Serbia, together with his brother Stephen (see Sept. 24), he built a new monastery in district of Zhicha on the Ibar River. After this, St. Sabbas returned a second time to Mt. Athos and from there to Nicaea where at that time the Greek emperor and patriarch were residing, from whom St. Sabbas tried, although with greater effort, to get approval

for the establishment of an autocephalous or independent Archdiocese in Serbia. The Emperor insisted that the same Sabbas accept this calling, and St. Sabbas, in humility, refused, but had to agree, and he was consecrated to the archiepiscopacy by Patriarch Germanus in 1219 and thus "he adorned the first Serbian see". On his return he visited Mt. Athos and arrived in Salonika and here "wrote many legal books about the exercise of the faith." [The Rudder – ed.]

Having arrived in Serbia, he immediately undertook the building of the church. He was zealous about destroying the rest of the pagan superstitions and "destroyed the transgressing heresies". Sometimes he went around the country correcting inadequacies, exposing errors and thin morals, and strengthening the people in faith and piety. As a deep patriot, St. Sabbas was zealous for the security of Serbia, threatened by the neighboring Ugars and for the defense and elevation of the political values and national worthiness of Serbia. St. Sabbas practiced asceticism for 14 years for church and country and in 1233 appointed his disciple Arsenius as his successor, and then he traveled to the Far East and arrived in Tirnovo [Trnovo], Bulgaria. He died in this city on January 14 (according to others on the 12th), 1236. A half-year later, the relics of St. Sabbas were solemnly transferred to the Milesheva Monastery in southwest Herzegovina, near the small town Prepolie on the Mileshevka River. In 1595 the relics of St. Sabbas were burnt by Sinan Pasha, who died a shameful death that same year. The Serbs glorify St. Sabbas as the enlightener of Serbia. During his lifetime he was a great advocate of Orthodoxy, taught the flock entrusted to him that the right faith and good life are necessary for salvation, inspired them not to rely on wealth and to be merciful, to love one's neighbor, not to render evil for evil, begged with tears for all to protect their chastity and to defend widows and orphans. After his death St. Sabbas became glorified for wonders. (*adapted from Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., by S. V. Bulgakov (Trans. Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris)*)

House Blessings

Fr. Joseph blessed holy water last week. Please contact him if you'd like to schedule a house blessing. Holy water is available at the church; please bring a container if you'd like to take some home.

Social Team for January 19

Team 2 is up next week – Cooper, Dewey, Hanbury, Kish. Thank you!





Orthodox Christians Walking Together at The March for Life

Friday, January 24, 2020
The National Mall, Washington, DC

Text "MARCHFORLIFE" to (844) 334-5548

to opt-in to receive texts for day-of updates on our gathering schedule & location

Our Facebook Event Page will be kept up to date
[Facebook.com/events/432441117439851/](https://www.facebook.com/events/432441117439851/)

AGENDA - Friday, January 24

8:30AM - 10/10:30AM Pre-March Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral
Located: 3500 Massachusetts Ave NW DC

11:30AM Meet at the National Mall at the intersection of 12th St NW & Madison Dr NW

- **EXACT detailed spot will be announced via text and Facebook**
- *May need to adjust to a nearby location (within 5 min walk) due to the nature of this event. Please opt-in for texting for real-time updates. You will also spot our signs there.*

12PM - 1PM Pre-March Rally His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia will lead all in prayer on stage

About 12:30/12:45 Orthodox faithful and hierarchs will gather for a brief prayer for the unborn

1PM March peacefully with hierarchs and clergy up Constitution Ave to US Supreme Court

After March Please join us for fellowship at St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral

MESSAGE & FOLLOW US [Facebook.com/OrthodoxMarchForLife/](https://www.facebook.com/OrthodoxMarchForLife/)

See official **March for Life website** for schedule, tips, and other info: [MarchForLife.org](https://www.MarchForLife.org)

Please support  an Orthodox Christian Initiative ([ZoeForLife.org](https://www.ZoeForLife.org))
ZOE for Life!® affirms the value of all life by helping women in a confidential manner during and after crisis pregnancies

For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. **Psalm 139:13**

Follow Our Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>

Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>

You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

In Your Prayers – Please Remember... His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW, His Eminence Metropolitan GREGORY, Fr. Joseph & Family, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi of Aleppo, Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim of Aleppo, His Grace Bishop Neofitos of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya, Fr. John & Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Presbytera Katie Baker and family, Dn. Steve Hall, Santiago Alzugaray, Jeffrey Carey, Tatyana and Slava Chumak & family, Xenia Chilkowich, Jon Church, Ramius Connour, Curtis Cooper, Luke Cooper, Tina Crull, Mary Diane David, Ron Dominiecki, Linda A. Georgiev, Heather Himler, John Homick, Cameron Houk, Helen Janowiak, John M. Janowiak, Tucker Karl and family, Robert & Pam Karpin, Andrew Kinn, Kopan family, Brian, Helen, and Luke Mahony, Valentina Makowelski, Susan Matula, Anna Meinhold, Dn. Henry Middleton, David & Kathryn Newman, Bobby Nutter & Family, Henry & Lisa Osborne, Westin Perry & Parents, John Reece, Mary Reed, Chris & Kaitlin Rixey, Jerry Von Ronne, Anne Rosario, James, Theodore and Christina Ristas, Samson Family, Sharon Sheptak, Alexander Shostko, Bernie Takabayashi & family, Dawn & Faith Ulmschneider, Lydia Vita, Christine, Marshall, Nathaniel, Dcn. Nectarios and Ia, the Syrian Christians displaced by war, Mother Virginia Marie and the Carmelite Nuns of Port Tobacco, and all those in need of our prayers. (Please advise Fr. Joseph of changes.)