

## Announcements

- **Welcome Guests and Visitors.** You are invited to join us for lunch after the service. We would love to greet you and answer any questions.
- **Icon Project.** Have you had a chance to pray before the new icons? His Eminence is planning on blessing all of the new icons painted in 2023 that are now adorning our cathedral on Sunday, January 7.
- **Theophany and House Blessings.** The great feast of Epiphany on January 6 is preceded by a cycle of services that is a source of blessings and strength for the believer. On the feast itself, creation is renewed in the Great Blessing of Water. It is proper for our homes to be blessed every year with this Holy Water on the days following Theophany (in any case, we do not keep last year's water past January 6; please dispose of any remaining water by drinking of it or, if the quantity is too great, placing it under a plant that won't be trodden); please schedule your appointment with Fr. Kirill. You can just send a quick note with your time preferences!

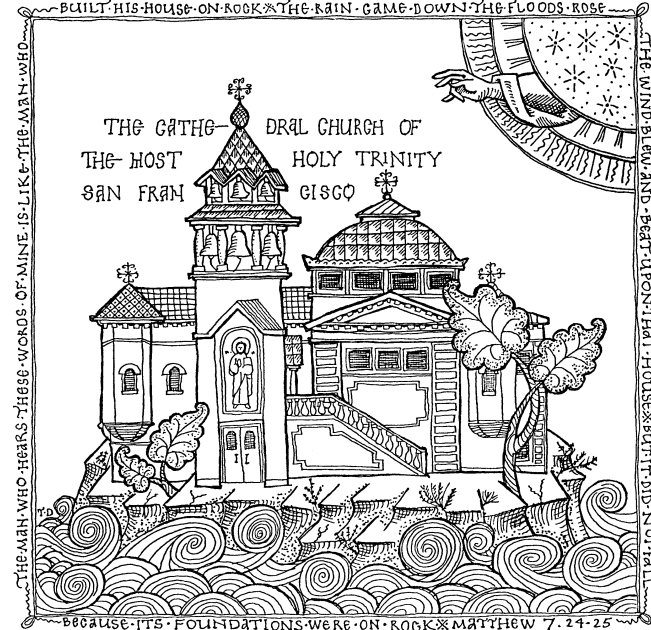
## This Week & Theophany at Holy Trinity

- Mon. Jan. 1:**      **The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**  
**St. Basil the Great. Civil New Year.**  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
- Tue. Jan. 2:**      9:30 am St. Seraphim Day Divine Liturgy in Santa Rosa
- Wed. Jan 3:**      6:00 pm Vespers
- Thu. Jan. 4:**      6:00 pm Royal Hours for the Theophany  
*Parking available at St. Brigid's*
- Fri. Jan. 5:**      **Eve of the Theophany**  
*(strict fast)*      9:30 am Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great  
6:00 pm Festal Vigil  
*Parking available at St. Brigid School for Vigil only*
- Sat. Jan. 6:**      **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**  
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water  
*(home blessings commence; by appointment thru February)*  
6:00 pm Great Vespers  
*Parking available at St. Brigid's for both services*
- Sun. Jan. 7:**      **Afterfeast; St. John the Baptist; Nativity on Old Calendar**  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy & Blessing of New Ikons  
followed by fellowship hour  
*Parking available Sunday at St. Brigid's*

### Contact Fr. Kirill

Question? Want to talk? Or be on the email list?  
FrKirill@holy-trinity.org • 415-673-8565

# Holy Trinity Cathedral



## Sunday, December 31, 2023

Most Reverend Benjamin,  
Archbishop of San Francisco and the West

Very Reverend Dr. Kirill Sokolov, Dean

1520 Green Street  
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Orthodox Church in America  
Diocese of the West

We are delighted to be together with you in worshipping the Holy Trinity.  
Welcome!

**Today's Epistle**  
Galatians 1:11-19  
**Today's Gospel**  
Matthew 2:13-23

**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.**  
**SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF**  
**CHRIST. Holy Righteous Ones:**  
**Joseph the Betrothed, David the**  
**King, and James the Brother of the**  
**Lord. Tone 5.**

### **Today's Epistle Reading**

*Galatians 1:11-19*

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel which was preached by me is not of man. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it; but I received it by a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure, and ravaged it. And I advanced in Judaism above many of my contemporaries among my people, showing much more zeal for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, immediately, without taking counsel with flesh and blood, and without going up to Jerusalem to those who were appointed apostles before me, I went away into Arabia and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter and abode with him fifteen days. But of the other apostles I saw none, save James the Lord's brother.

### **Today's Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 2:13-23*

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the

wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children,  
Refusing to be comforted,  
Because they are no more."

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

### **On Christ's Nativity**

The child in that distant Bethlehem cave has no desire that we fear Him; He enters our hearts not by frightening us, by proving His power and authority, but by love alone. He is given to us as a child, and only as children can we in turn love Him and give ourselves to Him. The world is ruled by authority and power, by fear and domination. The Child God liberates us from that. All He desires from us is our love, freely given and joyful; all He desires is that we give Him our heart. And we give it to a defenseless, endlessly trusting child.

—Fr. Alexander Schmemmann



### **Many Years!**

#### **Namedays**

David Lee (Sunday after Nativity)  
Joseph Doherty  
(Sunday after Nativity)  
Quête (Amelia) Disney (Jan 1)  
Juliana Sokolov (Jan 2)

#### **Birthdays**

Steven Belonick (Jan 5)

### **Many Years!**

#### **Wedding Anniversary**

David & Peggy Lee (Jan 1)

### **Christ is born!**

Welcome guests and visitors! Please join us for coffee and potluck refreshments after the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to saying hello.