



St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

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Priest Silouan Cohen

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Week of January 12, 2025

Sunday, January 12

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 4. SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. MARTYR TATIANA AND THOSE WHO SUFFERED WITH HER.

9:05am -The 3rd & 6th hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy followed by *OUTDOOR blessing of the waters at Waterloo Park after the Agape Meal*

11:30am - Agape meal (coffee hour)

This Sunday's Hymns and Readings

Tone 4 Troparion

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

Tone 1 Troparion

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Tone 4 Kontakion

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

Tone 4 Kontakion

In thy sufferings thou didst shine brightly in the royal purple of thy blood, and like a beautiful dove thou didst fly to heaven, passion-bearer Tatiana. Therefore, always pray for those who honor thee!

Tone 4 Kontakion

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: "Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O unapproachable Light."

Tone 1 Prokeimenon

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee! *(Ps. 32:22)*
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! *(Ps. 32:1)*

Epistle Ephesians 4:7-13

Tone 5 Alleluias

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. (Ps. 88:1-2) For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. (Ps. 88:3)

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-17

This Week's Schedule

Monday, January 13. Afterfeast of Theophany. Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus of Belgrade. Saint Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.

- **No services or offices hours**

Tuesday, January 14. Leavetaking of the Theophany. Saint Savva I, first Archbishop of Serbia. Holy Monastic Fathers slain at Sinai and Raithu. Saint Nino, Equal of the Apostles, Enlightener of Georgia.

- **9:30am - 11:30am Fr Silouan's office hours**

Wednesday, January 15. Venerable Paul of Thebes. Venerable John Calabytes, the "hut-dweller."

- **2:30pm - 5:30pm Fr Silouan's office hours**
- **6:00pm - Daily vespers**

Thursday, January 16. Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All Glorious Apostle Peter.

- **No office hours or services**

Friday, January 17. Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony.

- **No services or office hours.**

Saturday, January 18. St. Athanasius the Great, Archbishop of Alexandria. St. Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria.

- **5:00pm Great Vespers**

Announcements

Outdoor blessing of the waters

This Sunday, January 12, just after a shorter-than-usual coffee hour (begin cleaning at 12:15, then leave by 12:45, ideally), we will make our way to Waterloo Park for the outdoor blessing of the waters. The address is 1101 Waterloo Park drive, Denison, TX, 75020.

On the use of holy water (revised!)

Holy water is sanctified for our spiritual benefit. It is used to bless the faithful at church, to bless their homes, vehicles, boats, livestock, gardens, beehives, icons, church items, clerical vestments, etc. It is also given to the sick and suffering for the healing of soul and body. Due to its sanctification, I do not encourage the faithful to take holy water home **in large amounts which are often neglected.**

Instead, the faithful are encouraged to take home a small amount of holy water for certain needs: for one's own illness, or that of one's spouse or children; for blessing a vehicle; for consuming on fasting days of the week, etc. The faithful are also encouraged to drink a bit of holy water **any time they are at church, except the morning of and during the Divine Liturgy.** The holy water will be stored in a large glass container with a spigot for easy dispensing, held up by the wooden frame already in the narthex. A stainless steel cup will be hung on the frame for common use. If we run low on holy water, there are other times throughout the year when water is typically blessed, such as the mid-feast of Pentecost and the Procession of the Cross in August.

House blessings

There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board of the narthex. Please sign up ASAP. If you live outside of Grayson County, however, or the suggested times truly do not work for you, contact me directly to schedule. Before I arrive, please make sure your home is clean, all electronic devices are turned off, your prayer corner is neat, and you have a candle and a list of *immediate* living and departed ready. No meal or honorarium is expected, but you may provide either one if you wish.

Annual meeting

Please make sure that you mark your calendars for Sunday, January 26 as we will hold our annual church meeting after a shortened coffee hour. We will discuss our financial status and outlook for 2025. I also will formally introduce myself and my intentions as the priest of St Paul's: all liturgical, sacramental, and non-liturgical intentions and expectations. All are encouraged to attend, but only members are allowed to vote (recall the defining terms of membership on your Time, Talent, and Treasure cards).

Confession and office hours

I will resume hearing confessions beginning this Wednesday, January 8. Eventually, confessions will be heard only in my office, as I would like to keep the Nave as a place only for the words of the divine services and the proclamation of the scriptures. When that time comes (that is, when my office is ready) I will notify everyone.

My office hours are included in the weekly schedule. These are times when I will be at the church working in my office. You are free to come by and just talk with me if you would like. It is also a time you can come and pray in the church. Just stop by and let me know and I will let you in. **My office hours are for confession as well.**

A Word from the Fathers

““The gates of the Mysteries are far more august and beneficial than the gates of Paradise. The latter will not be opened to anyone who has not first entered through the gates of the Mysteries, but these were opened when the gates of Paradise had been closed. The latter were able to let out those who were within, while the former only lead inside and let no one out.”

-Nicholas Cabasilas, *The Life in Christ*, (SVS Press, 1997).