



# “Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 74 January 2015



## *Homily on the Nativity of the Lord* by St John Chrysostom

**I** behold a new and wondrous mystery! My ears resound to the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn.

*The Angels sing!*

*The Archangels blend their voices in harmony!*

*The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise!*

*The Seraphim exalt His glory!*

All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and He that was lowly is by divine mercy raised.

Bethlehem this day resembles heaven; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in place of the sun, enfolds within itself on every side the Sun of Justice.

And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed, He had the power, He descended, He redeemed; all things move in obedience to God.

This day He Who Is, is Born; and He Who Is becomes what He was not. For when He was God, He became man; yet not departing from the Godhead that is His. Nor yet by any loss of divinity became He man, nor through increase became He God from man; but being the Word He became flesh, His nature, because of impassibility, remaining unchanged.

And so the kings have come, and they have seen the heavenly King that has come upon the earth, not bringing with Him Angels, nor Archangels, nor Thrones, nor Dominations, nor Powers, nor Principalities, but, treading a new and solitary path, He has come forth from a spotless womb.

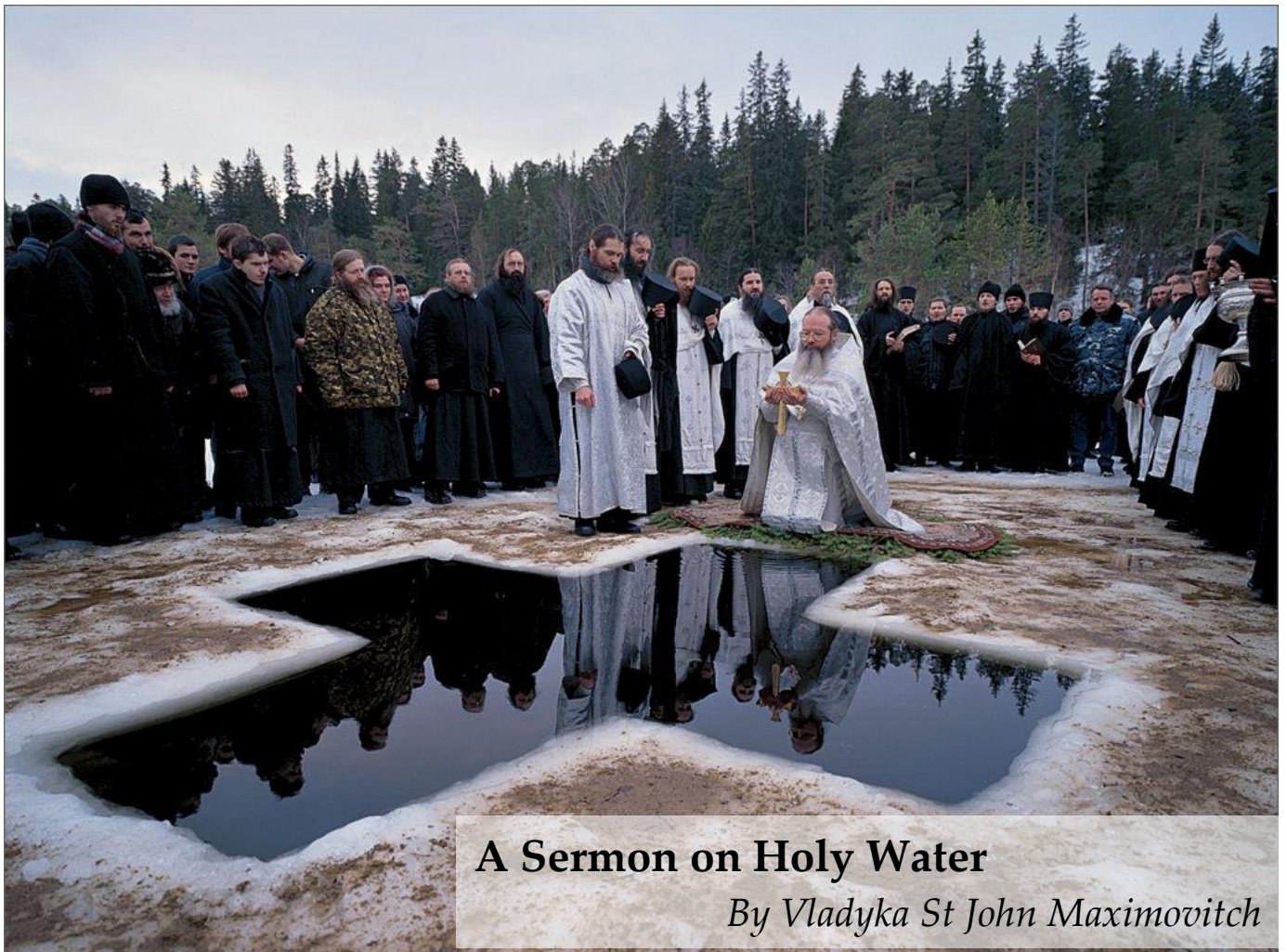
Yet He has not forsaken His angels, nor left them deprived of His care, nor because of His Incarnation has he departed from the Godhead. And behold,

*Kings have come, that they might adore the heavenly King of glory;  
Soldiers, that they might serve the Leader of the Hosts of Heaven;  
Women, that they might adore Him Who was born of a woman so that He might  
change the pains of child-birth into joy;  
Virgins, to the Son of the Virgin, beholding with joy, that He Who is the Giver of  
milk, Who has decreed that the fountains of the breast pour forth in ready streams,  
receives from a Virgin Mother the food of infancy;  
Infants, that they may adore Him Who became a little child, so that out of the  
mouth of infants and sucklings, He might perfect praise;  
Children, to the Child Who raised up martyrs through the rage of Herod;  
Men, to Him Who became man, that He might heal the miseries of His servants;  
Shepherds, to the Good Shepherd Who has laid down His life for His sheep;  
Priests, to Him Who has become a High Priest according to the order of  
Melchizedek;  
Servants, to Him Who took upon Himself the form of a servant that He might bless  
our servitude with the reward of freedom;  
Fishermen, to Him Who from amongst fishermen chose catchers of men;  
Publicans, to Him Who from amongst them named a chosen Evangelist;  
Sinful women, to Him Who exposed His feet to the tears of the repentant;*

*And that I may embrace them all together, all sinners have come, that they may  
look upon the Lamb of God Who taketh away the sins of the world.*

Since therefore all rejoice, I too desire to rejoice. I too wish to share the choral dance, to celebrate the festival. But I take my part, not plucking the harp, not shaking the Thyrsian staff, not with the music of pipes, nor holding a torch, but holding in my arms the cradle of Christ. For this is all my hope, this my life, this my salvation, this my pipe, my harp. And bearing it I come, and having from its power received the gift of speech, I too, with the angels, sing:

**Glory to God in the Highest; and with the shepherds: and on earth peace to men of good will.**



## A Sermon on Holy Water

*By Vladyka St John Maximovitch*

On Theophany, that is, the Day of the Lord's Baptism, every year a great miracle is performed. The Holy Spirit, coming down upon the water, changes its natural properties. It becomes incorrupt, that is it does not spoil, remains transparent and fresh for many years, receives the grace to heal illnesses, to drive away demons and every evil power, to preserve people and their dwellings from every danger, to sanctify various objects whether for church or home use. Therefore Orthodox Christians with reverence drink Holy Water - a great *Agiasma* (holy thing), as the Greeks call it.

One should always have at home enough Theophany water so that it will last the whole year, and make use of it at every need; in cases of illness, leaving on a journey, whenever one is upset, students when going to examinations. They do well who daily, before eating any kind of food, drink a little Holy Water. It strengthens the powers of our soul - if it is done, of course, with prayer and reverence, and one does not merely expect from it a mechanical result.

Every priest should take care to bless a sufficient quantity of water for his church, so that it will be on hand for the course of the whole year for every need and to be given out to those who ask for it; and parishioners should provide for themselves at Theophany with Holy Water for the whole year and even so that it can be kept for future years.



*If you would like Fr Antony to come and bless your house around Theophany please contact us, and we will try and arrange a convenient time.*

# Notes & Jottings

## DIARY DATES

Dates to remember in 2015 are basically that Great Lent begins on Monday 23 February and Easter Day is 12 April. A more complete list will be published in the February issue. This will include details of the annual pilgrimage to St Botolph at Iken, which is usually on the last Saturday in June and any other special events. College Day, which is held on the Saturday following Dormition, will be on 29 August.

## SAINT HERMAN CALENDAR 2015

Demand has been greater than anticipated and we have sold out. More stock has been ordered and we trust this will arrive within the next week. Copies retail at £6.50

## COURTYARD

As reported in last month's bulletin, the bricking of the courtyard is now complete. As can be seen from the photos on the backcover, the new courtyard hugely improves the back of the house and we hope that this area will provide an ideal space for summer events as well as for children to play.

## AKATHIST TO ST JOHN THE WONDERWORKER

We are pleased to confirm that the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Akathist to St John the Wonderworker will be published and available by mid-January. The Akathist is a faithful reproduction of the original text published by the St Herman Brotherhood and will retail for £2.50.

## CHRISTMAS AND THEOPHANY SERVICES

Our celebration of the Feast of the Nativity commences on **Tuesday 6 January** with the Royal Hours at 9.30am and the Vigil at 7.30pm and will conclude with **the Hours and Festal Liturgy at 10.10am on Wednesday 7 January**. After the Liturgy all are welcome for a **Christmas Party** in the College. The **Feast of Theophany falls on Monday 19 January** with the Great Blessing of Water served after the Hours and Festal Liturgy at 10.10am. Holy Water will be available in the church for people to drink and to take home, and if you would like your house to be blessed by Fr Antony, then please contact us so that we can arrange this.

## NAMEDAYS



To all celebrating a nameday at this time, we send congratulations and wish them  
**Many Years!**

9 January – **St Stephen, Protomartyr** – Stephen Masterson

11 January – **Sunday after Christmas (St Joseph)** – Joseph Meyer

15 January – **St Seraphim of Sarov** – Serafima Hopper, Seraphima Dembri

27 January – **St Nina, Enlightener of Georgia** – Nina Vinogradova

29 January – **St Anthony the Great** – Priest Antony Bardsley



**COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF THE IKON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**  
**JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW**

**JANUARY 2015**

**DAILY AT 6PM: COMPLINE WITH PRAYERS BEFORE THE IKON**

*(If you would like the name of a friend or loved one to be included in our intercessions list, please contact us)*

**Saturday 3 January**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

❖ **Sunday 4 January** ❖

**10.10am ~ Hours & Festal Liturgy (Sunday of the Holy Fathers)**

**Tuesday 6 January**

9.30am ~ Royal Hours

7.30pm ~ Vigil

❖ **Wednesday 7 January** ❖

**FEAST OF THE NATIVITY**

**10.10am ~ Hours & Festal Liturgy followed by Christmas Party**

**Saturday 10 January**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 11 January**

**10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy (Sunday after Nativity)**

**Saturday 17 January**

7.30pm ~ Vigil

**Sunday 18 January**

**10.10am Hours & Divine Liturgy (Sunday before Theophany)**

7.30pm ~ Vigil

❖ **Monday 19 January** ❖

**FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY**

**10.10am Hours & Festal Liturgy with Blessing of Water**

**Saturday 24 January**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 25 January**

**10.10am Hours & Divine Liturgy (Zaccheus Sunday/ Sunday after Theophany)**



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