



# THE PROTOMARTYR



*A Weekly Bulletin of St. Stephen Cathedral,  
Orthodox Church in America*

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**JANUARY 3, 2010**

**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST  
30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**GLORY FOREVER!  
TONE 5**

**30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 5. Sunday Before the Theophany. Forefeast of the Theophany.** Holy Prophet Malachi (400 B.C.). Martyr Gordius at Cæsarea in Cappadocia (4<sup>th</sup> c.). Ven. Genevieve of Paris (5<sup>th</sup> c.).

**EPISTLE:** 2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Sunday Before)

**GOSPEL:** Mark 1:1-8 (Sunday Before)

**Schedule of services and events of the upcoming week:**

Tuesday, January 5 <i>Eve of Theophany</i> (Strict Fast Day)	Theophany Eve Dinner 6:00 PM <b>Compline &amp; Great Blessing of Water 7:00 PM</b>
Wednesday, January 6 <i>Holy Theophany</i>	<b>Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM</b>
Thursday, January 7	(Nativity O.C.) <b>Divine Liturgy (Slavonic) 9:00 AM</b>
Saturday, January 9	<b>Great Vespers 5:00 PM</b> Confessions
Sunday, January 10	<b>Divine Liturgy 10 AM</b>

**Happy New Year:** we wish all our parishioners a happy, healthy and blessed New 2010 Year. As we look forward to the next year, let us make a resolution to strengthen our spiritual lives so that we do everything that is pleasing to our Lord. On the insert of this bulletin you can find parts of “Action Statement” that was proposed by our Diocesan Hierarch, His Grace Bishop Tikhon as something that we, as the clergy and laity of the Diocese can resolve to follow in this coming year. Let us make our best effort in following this leadership of our Hierarch.

**73rd Annual Novogodny Ball** sponsored by our St. Stephen OCF of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America will be held on Sunday evening January 17, 2010 at the Radisson Hotel Philadelphia Northeast. Please see the bulletin board for details & contact Lisa Lelo at Lmlelo@verizon.net or Paul Fedoronko at (610) 328 - 6911 for additional information and for reservations

**Thank you for poinsettias donations:** We thank all our parishioners that made donations towards the purchase of poinsettias flowers to beautify our church for the feast of Nativity. Please don't forget to pick up your flowers today.

**CHAPTER MEETING: ST. STEPHEN'S ORTHODOX CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP:** St. Stephen's OCF, Chapter #82 of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA), will hold a chapter meeting on Saturday, January 23, following Vespers. Topics to discuss will include the recent 73rd annual Novogodny Ball which was held on Sunday, January 17, and the ever popular ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS. It's been too long since our last regularly scheduled meeting so all members are strongly encouraged to attend. The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, a 75 year old national organization of active Orthodox Christians, is officially recognized by the Orthodox Church in America. If you are even a little bit curious or would like to join us in fellowship, please come to our meeting. You will be welcomed.

**St. Stephen Shirts:** orders for St. Stephen Cathedral polo shirts are now being taken. The shirts are gray with red lettering and are available in Small, Medium, Large, and Extra Large. The cost for each shirt is \$25. Please stop downstairs to see a sample and place your orders with Nina Rapak.

**March For Life Trip:** on Friday, Jan. 22 many citizens of our country will gather in Washington DC for Annual March for Life in witnessing to sanctity of all human life, especially of those unborn. Every year Orthodox Church is represented by a number of bishops, clergy and faithful. This year His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah made a special appeal to the faithful of our Church to show their support by coming to the capital of our country on that day. The clergy of our Diocese have been able to arrange for a bus that will be going from Scranton area with a stop in Harrisburg. If there is anybody from our parish who is interested in coming for March for Life, please let Fr. Victor know. We will consider car pool either to Harrisburg or DC from Philadelphia.

## **AN ACTION STATEMENT FOR THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

We, the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, resolve:

To preserve at all times the kingdom of heaven as the constant reality in all that we do, whether in our personal and family lives, in our parish and deanery activities, and within the larger community.

To implement the Lord's command to preach the Gospel to all the ends of the world by actively living our Orthodox Faith, without shame, before others and boldly sharing with them, without arrogance and with humility, the truth of Holy Orthodoxy.

To increase the liturgical life of our parishes: for the clergy, by offering more divine services, particularly services during the week and at times when they have not hitherto been served; for the faithful, by requesting such services from their priests and by attending those services, not out of compulsion but out of love for Christ and the sanctification offered through those services.

To engage our local community by inviting them to our divine services, lectures and social activities, and by freely offering them hospitality in word, in deed and in thought.

To dedicate ourselves to concrete acts of mercy through volunteering in local soup kitchens and homeless shelters, not only on a personal level, but through the energizing of our own parish and further, by yoking parish to parish to better increase these acts of mercy.

To strengthen the bond of unity between clergy and faithful, knowing that all human beings are created in the image and likeness of God and our communication one with another should not be based on the passions that darken us, but on the love of Jesus Christ.

To refuse to be ensnared by the snares of the enemy and of the world by becoming despondent, lazy, judgmental or bitter but rather to do all things, in our parish life, in our family life and in our personal life, for the glory of God and for the sake of our salvation, with joy in our hearts, with humility in our actions and with hope for eternal salvation in the heavenly kingdom.