

**January 2018: The Liturgical Services Calendar - Grande Prairie Pastoral District - [www.gp.eeparchy.com](http://www.gp.eeparchy.com) & [www.facebook.com/gpdormition/](https://www.facebook.com/gpdormition/)**

Sunday: <i>Resurrection</i>	Monday: <i>Angels</i>	Tuesday: John the Baptist	Wednesday: Betrayal of Jesus Fast	Thursday: <i>Apostles &amp; Nicholas</i>	Friday: Cross Fast	Saturday: Departed
<p><b>Why we bless our homes:</b> We, as Christians, are engaged in a struggle to reclaim fallen nature for the Kingdom of God. We often talk about this in terms of our own salvation, but the Church, addressing all of creation in a wholistic manner, also reaches out and reclaims a bit here and a bit there of creation in general. We do this in order that we might restore the usefulness of creation for working out our own salvation. Hence we bless anything that might help us in our salvation - and by blessing it we reclaim it for the Kingdom of God.</p>						
<p>There are few things more vital to our lives than our homes. In our homes we pray, we work, we talk to others, we order our lives, we work out our marriages, etc. What more important place to reclaim for the Kingdom of God - or is it better to continue living in a place which is occupied by the enemy.</p>	<p>1 - The Circumcision of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Our Father Among the Saints Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (379) <b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE: DIVINE LITURGY</b></p>	2	3	4	<p>5 - <i>Strict Day of Fasting</i> <b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE: VIGIL SERVICE (COMPLINE AND MATINS)</b></p>	<p>6 - <i>Holy Theophany of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ -</i> <b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE: DIVINE LITURGY; GREAT BLESSING OF WATER</b> <b>4 PM PEACE RIVER: DIVINE LITURGY (AT Our Lady of Peace RC Church)</b></p>
<p>7 - <i>Sunday after Theophany, Tone 6; Synaxis of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John *OLD CALENDAR* Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ</i> <b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b> <b>4 PM MANNING: CONFESSIONS, COMPLINE, DIVINE LITURGY &amp; AGAPE CHRISTMAS MEAL</b></p>	<p>8 <b>GP Home Blessings: Jan 8 - Feb 10</b></p>	<p>9 - Singing Practice <b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b></p>	<p>10 - <i>Martyrs of Pratulini; Gregory, Bp. of Nyssa</i> <b>9 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE: Divine Liturgy</b></p>	11	<p>12 - Altar Server Training: <b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b></p>	<p>13 <b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE: GREAT VESPERS and Confession</b></p>
<p>14 – Zacchaeus Sunday, Tone 7; Leave-taking of the Feast of the Holy Theophany; Our Venerable Fathers Massacred in Sinai and Rhaithu (c. 370); the Repose of the Holy Equal-to-the Apostles Nina, Enlightener of Georgia <b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b> <b>2:30 PM HINES CREEK – Blessing of Water</b></p>	15	<p>16 - <i>Bible Study Group:</i> <b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b></p>	17	18	<p>19 - <b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE: Myrrh Bearers Night</b></p>	<p>20 <b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE: GREAT VESPERS and Confession</b></p>
<p>21 – <i>Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, Tone 8; Our Venerable Father Maximus the Confessor (662); the Holy Martyr Neophytus (284-305); the Holy Martyrs Eugene, Candidus, Valerian, and Aquilas</i> <b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b></p>	22	23	<p>24 <b>9 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE: Divine Liturgy</b></p>	25	<p>26 - <b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE: Youth Group Gathering</b></p>	<p>27 - <b>10:00AM HIGH PRAIRIE: Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Water and Blessing of Homes</b> <b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE: DIVINE LITURGY</b></p>
<p>28 - Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Tone 1; Our Venerable Father Ephrem the Syrian (373) <b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b> Agape Meal after Divine Liturgy.</p>	29	<p>30 - <i>The Three Holy and Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom</i>  Bible Study Group: <b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b></p>	31	<p>For the most effective working out of our salvation, we must drive the enemy out of our homes, and keep him at bay by our prayers, our righteous life, and the annual sprinkling by Holy Water at Theophany.</p> <p><b>Fr. Roman:</b> (780) 513-1175 (<i>Home</i>) or (780) 933-4468 (<i>Cell</i>) <b>Please Note:</b> Confession is scheduled after all vesper services and also by appointment before or after any liturgical service. For Baptism or Marriage please contact Fr. Roman.</p>		

## *Bring the Blessing of the Jordan Home*

The blessing of homes constitutes an *invocative blessing*, meaning that by his prayer and by the sprinkling of Holy Water the priest *invokes* God's blessings and protection upon the home and those living in it. We bless homes for many reasons:

- \* To reveal the home as what God had created it to be, a way to Heaven
- \* To rid the home of every evil
- \* To show that the family is a small Church unit in Christ
- \* To consecrate the home and all activity in it to God
- \* To fill the home and all who live in it with the fullness of God

Traditionally, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our homes we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings.

Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants. As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective.

### *What should we do during a home blessing*

As we welcome our priest during the holy season of Theophany to bless our home, let us be mindful that he is bringing to us the "blessing of the Jordan," and that unless God protects and blesses our home, we "labour in vain." ([Ps. 127:1](#))

Each family is considered a small church and the family table is the home altar. When the priest comes, have as many family members there as possible. If you do not have an icon corner, ensure that you set up a place for prayer either at the kitchen or dining table. On the table include an icon and a lit candle. You may also include anything that you may want to have blessed (i.e. icon, cross, personal item, etc.) Make sure that the lights are on in every room. The priest will begin the blessing at the icon corner or table. If you have children, they may lead the priest, while holding a candle, to each room in the house.

This is also a wonderful time for you and your priest to visit and to get to know each other better.

[From: *Our Faith - Nasha Vira* (Religion education newsletter of the Eparchy of Edmonton) January-February 2011]