

BLESSING OF HOMES- WHY IS A HOME OR PLACE OF BUSINESS BLESSED?

As is the custom during the Season of Epiphany, anyone wishing to have their homes blessed should contact Fr. Leonard and arrange for a suitable time. This is a beautiful tradition and all families should avail themselves of it.

Fr. Leonard will bless homes until the beginning of Great Lent (March 11th) and after Holy Pascha (April 27th).

We all know that when a monument is unveiled; when a building is opened; when significant undertaking is begun, it is customary for a ceremony of dedication to be held. So too, our Holy Orthodox Church has special blessings for those moving into a new home, a newly constructed or renovated home, a place of business, as well as the annual blessing of the home during the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6. With these rites the home is dedicated or rededicated and sanctified as an abode of a Christian believer under the Holy Trinity.

In the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 19: 1-10 we read of the time our Blessed Lord visited the home of Zacchaeus, the rich publican. When Jesus entered Zacchaeus' house he said: "today salvation has come to this house since he too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save what is lost."

Therefore, during the services for the Blessing of homes, the priest prays that God will grant sanctification, blessings, purification, and health to those whose home is blest. He also prays for their spiritual and temporal welfare throughout the year. The Holy Orthodox Church sanctifies the lives of her faithful, to consecrate them, and to insure their salvation by every means at Her command.

During the Blessing of homes, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Have as many family members there as possible.
2. Set up a place for prayers, in the dining room or kitchen, with an Icon and candle.
3. Take this time to get to know the priest better, asking any questions you may have.
4. Please don't feed the priest! We don't want to play favorites, and we also don't want to gain weight by eating everything that is offered to us.

Dear Father Leonard,

Yes, I/we would like to have my/our home blessed in 2019. The most convenient days and times are as follows:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Best day: Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Best time: AM PM