

January 12, 2020
Sunday after Theophany



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan! ~ Christos Krescjetsja! Vo Jordani!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone: 6, pg. 152, and Sunday after Theophany pp. 316 - 318

Divine Services Schedule:

SUN., JAN. 12

SUNDAY after THEOPHANY

8:00 A.M.

Holy Rosary

8:30 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY

+ **Wayne Doughty**, offered by Fran & Connie Hersh

SUN., JAN. 19

THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST

8:00 A.M.

Holy Rosary

8:30 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY

+ **Pamela Klacik**, offered by David & Suzanne Klacik

Eternal Memory

Our Church family offers prayerful condolences to the family of Bertha Jean Gall who fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, January 7. Her Funeral Divine Liturgy was on Friday. Bertha was a faithful member of our St. George Church for over 80 years and was a dedicated pirohi worker for many years. In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to the soul of Your departed servant Bertha and remember her forever! *Vičnaja jej pamjat'.*

Take Holy Water to Your Homes

Please fill up a container with Holy Water to take to your home. You should drink Holy water when you feel a spiritual need, that is when you find yourself strongly tempted; feel in an evil way; are about to set out on a journey; will miss the divine services; before a difficult encounter; in illness, afflictions, etc. *The taking of the Holy Water to our homes is to have in it a fount of continued blessings and protection against all evil. Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan! Christos Krescjetsja! Vo Jordani!*

Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:

January 13: Quincy Sirko, January 17: Ann Trombulak

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

January 13: Kenneth & Joanne Futato

Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all those who are in need of our prayers:

HOME – Eileen Batcha, Natalie Jugan-Diaz, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Alice Haber, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Josephine Maruhnich, Mary Salamon, John Simunick, Bonnie Taylor

Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

West Hills Health & Rehab Center (951 Brodhead Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108) – Margaret Klacik

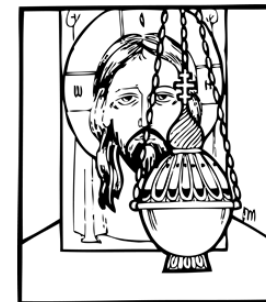
Beaver Meadows (5130 Tuscarawas Rd, Beaver, PA 15009) - Angie Yuhasz

Brighton Rehabilitation and Wellness Center (246 Friendship Cir, Beaver, PA 15009) - Carole Panella

Epistle Readers: January 12: Louisa Hersh – January 19: Jo Ann Hersh

Ushers: January 12: F. Hersh/R. Mudron – January 19: M. Bobanic/F. Hersh

Troica Holders: January 12: R. Dzumba – January 19: R. Mudron



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

January 12 – 18, 2020

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ **Michael Popovich**

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Daughters, Diane & Mary Ann

Visit our Church Library!

Our Church Library is located at our Church store display in St. George Center. We offer Eastern Christian and other books for adults and children to borrow as well as free resources. Our Church Library is an ongoing and growing project to enhance our spiritual growth through commitment to prayer, reading Scripture, and trying to stay close to the Lord in our everyday lives.

Seven days without prayer makes one weak,

Upcoming Calendar of Events

January 12, 19, 26 ECF classes in session
January 30 Three Holy Hierarchs HolyDay
February 2 Meeting of the Lord Holy Day
February 14 Pirohi Sale
February 15 First All-Souls Saturday



What's Your New Year's Resolution?

A few weeks into the New Year, many of us may be thinking of ways we can improve our daily lives. While New Year's resolutions are not particularly a feature of Eastern spirituality, change definitely is, and resolving to change is certainly part of our spiritual growth. Here are a few suggestions which every Eastern Christian can resolve for 2020...

Just pick one to start!

✚ Make every effort to come to Divine Liturgy weekly and participate fully; this is where we encounter God in all his majesty, glory, fatherhood and compassion ... face to face!

✚ Get to know God better: attend Adult Education. (*Coming throughout the year*)

✚ Bring your children to weekly Catechism every Sunday.

✚ Begin each day with the "Our Father" and spend a few minutes talking with God before retiring; take 10 minutes to read the Scriptures for the coming Sunday. (*they are listed on the calendar*)

✚ Read the Psalter, pick your favorite psalm (short or long), memorize it and make it your own every day; psalms are very powerful prayers since they are from the Word of God.

✚ Make confession part of your regular spiritual life, especially during the times of fasting;

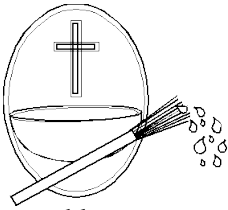
✚ Read a spiritual book for your journey. (*Our library has many selections with more to come*)

✚ Volunteer to help out at our parish; not only does it help us be grateful for what God has given us, it also sets an example of "belonging" to and caring for our spiritual home, the Church.

Church Family News... Do you have any news you would like published in our bulletin? Please send articles and/or pictures to: stgbyz@gmail.com

Why Should I Have my Home Blessed?

As our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and, consequently, lose God's protective power. Every year, then, at the Feast of Theophany, they should be blessed again to secure for them God's blessings and protection. 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. 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 Jordan," and that unless God protect and bless our home, we "labor in vain." (Ps. 127:1)



Those parishioners who wish to have their house blessed are asked to fill out the form, which is available in the Narthex and Center. Each household that requests this blessing will be contacted by phone to schedule this pastoral visitation.

*In our Byzantine Rite, we have inherited many meaningful customs which make our liturgical worship inspiring, spiritually rich and close to the heart of our people. **The Holy Spirit reminds us "not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers"***

(Sirach 8:9).

Contacting Father Geoff

From time to time, a parishioner may need to contact the priest about an issue of a more personal or urgent pastoral matter.

To contact Fr. Geoff directly, you may dial **412-356-3698**.

For questions or concerns that are of a less urgent nature, please call the church office at **724-375-2742**.

Let us go Forth in Peace

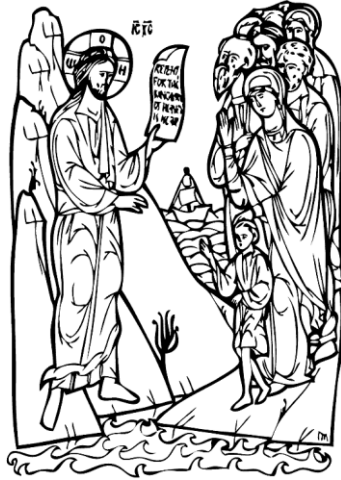
"Let us go forth in peace" is the last commandment of the Liturgy. It means, surely, that the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy is not an end but a **beginning**. Those words are not merely a comforting epilogue. They are a call to serve and bear witness. In effect, those words mean the Liturgy is over and the liturgy after the Liturgy is about to begin. The aim of the Liturgy is that we should return to the world with the doors of our perceptions cleansed, seeing Christ in every human person, especially in those who suffer. The Christian is the one who wherever he or she looks, everywhere sees Christ and rejoices in him.

Bishop Kalistos of Diokleia

Christos Krescajetsja! Vo Jordani!

Sunday after Theophany

Today's Gospel reading must be one of the shortest of the Sunday Gospel readings. There is no story. We are simply told that Jesus left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, and that this was to fulfil a prophecy by the prophet Isaiah. The prophecy is then quoted, culminating in the stirring words: "*The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light*". (Matt. 4:16) This is a key phrase, for Jesus is indeed the *Light of the World*, and it points to the last sentence of today's reading: "*From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*" (Matt.4:17)



To "repent" means to "change one's mind". To change one's whole way of life. Surely never was repentance more needed than today. It is not just a matter of the contemporary world's gross sins; the wars and conflicts, the growth of crime in civilized countries to levels not seen for a century and a half, the decline of personal morality and the breakdown of basic human relationships like marriage and the family.

This call to repentance by Christ began as we see in today's Gospel reading with a message, a sermon. That is why the sermon is an integral part of the Divine Liturgy – and of the Divine Services, in general. Sermons are the way the Church tries to teach God's eternal truths. They are to be based on the truths of the Bible, on the commentary of the Fathers and Mothers of the Church (who were such great exegetes, or interpreters of the Biblical text) and in the Holy Tradition of the Church. Sermons are there to solve any puzzles and difficulties we have with the Scriptural passage, because "Christians are not born, they become". One should never be afraid to admit that some things puzzle us in our spiritual life; only in that way, we will be able to find out the answers to our questions. No Saint of the Church was ever content with the knowledge they knew; rather, they strove to find out more and more about Jesus Christ and His wonders. Discussing the sermon after the Divine Liturgy is a great way for families and friends to grow together in faith. When we strive to find out more about Jesus Christ, we will experience that "metanoia-μετάνοια", we will change our mind, we will learn to love Him more and more every single day.



Christos Krescjetsja! ~ Vo Jordani!

A WORD ABOUT PRAYER

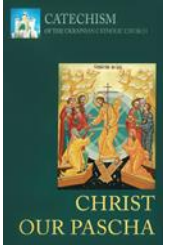
The essence of evening prayer is to thank God for the day and for everything that one has met in the course of it, both good and bad. For the wrong which has been done, one must repent and ask for forgiveness, promising to make amends the next day; also one prays to God for protection during sleep.

The essence of morning prayer is to thank God for sleep and revitalization, and to ask Him for help to do things throughout the day for His glory. Say your prayers with all your heart and mind. Make known to God your vital needs, both spiritual and material, speaking to God like a child: "See, Lord, my infirmities and weakness! Help me and heal me!" Never read a prayer hurriedly. Try to learn your prayers by heart. This greatly aids undistracted prayer. A prayer must be learned just like anything else.

- An Instruction of St. Theophan the Recluse (†1894)

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

The Promise of the Messiah's Coming. The fall of Adam did not turn away the love of God for humanity. God shows mercy to the fallen human race: "And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and his wife, and clothed them" (Gn 3:21). By offering the promise of salvation, God assures us that with respect to our growth in God-likeness, divine adoption, and divinization, God's plan remains immutable. The power of God's promise is stronger than the weakness of human sin: "[We] have gained still greater things through Christ's unspeakable grace than we have lost through the devil's malice." In the Old Testament preaching of the prophets, God's promise is gradually associated with the figure of God's Anointed One, the Messiah, who "in the fullness of time" (Gal 4:4) appears as the incarnate Word of God. (#159)



Receive Him

John's preaching of repentance was not precisely the same as the preaching of Jesus, yet the Savior preaches in ways commensurable with John, for there is one God who sent them both. John first says "repent" in order to make ready a "people prepared" for God. Jesus, when he has received a people who have been made ready and who have already repented, does not merely say to them "Repent." For he does not preach in competition with the law and the prophets. When John had fulfilled the old covenant, Jesus "began to preach" the new, being himself the beginning of it. For this reason the words "he began" are not written of John, for he was an end. Moreover, the one preaches in the wilderness, the other in the midst of the people. (Origen)

Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

PASTOR: FATHER GEOFFREY MACKEY

Fr. Geoffrey's Direct Line: (412) 356-3698

OFFICE PHONE: 724-375-2742

FAX: 724-375-8776

ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org



**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, David Klacik,
Louisa Hersh**

**E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh
Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff**

- Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies
- Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the church office
- Holy Mystery of Anointing Ask prior to surgery or serious illness
- Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding
- Religious Education Classes September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy
- Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month, Sept. through May
- St. George Ladies’ Guild & Men’s Club Everyone welcome to participate

Great are you, O Lord, and wonderful are your works; no word suffices to give praise to your wonders
(From Great Blessing of water)