

January 4, 2026
Sunday before Theophany



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

*Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan! ~ Christos Krescajetsja! Vo Jordani!
Христос Крестается! в Иордане!*

Propers: Resurrectional Tone 5: pg. 146, Sunday before Theophany, pp. 309 – 312

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JAN. 4 SUNDAY before THEOPHANY

8:15 A.M. FIRST HOUR

8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom

Intention: + Connie Hersh, requested by John & Darlene Simunick

TUE., JAN. 6 THEOPHANY, **Obligation Holy Day**

10:15 A.M. **Chrismation of Christopher Winslow**

11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom

Great Blessing of water

Intention: + Connie Hersh, requested by Butch & Judy Dzumba

SUN., JAN. 11 SUNDAY after THEOPHANY

8:15 A.M. FIRST HOUR

8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom

Intention: Private

Fr. Anthony will be away January 7th to 10th. Please call Fr. Joseph Raptosh our Protopresbyter, at St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Canonsburg at 724-745-7117 in case of a sacramental emergency.

Happy Birthday Greetings:

January 5: Betty Polas, January 6: Sarah Mingrino, January 10: Anne Gural

Please Pray for Our Sick, Shut-ins, and those in need of prayer

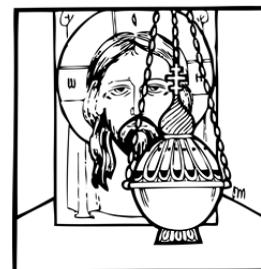
Eileen Batcha, Mary Dickey, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Epistle Readers – Jan. 4: Dan Pinchot – Jan. 11: JoAnn Hersh

Troica Holders – Jan. 4: R. Mudron – Jan. 11: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

January 4 - 10, 2026

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Louis Rossi

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Ed & Isabel Maruhnich

The Theophany: The Theophany at the Jordan is liturgically connected with the feast of the Nativity. In her celebration of both these events, Church tradition emphasizes that both the Incarnation and the Baptism of the Lord are when God appears (in Greek, theophania). In accordance with the text of the Great Blessing of Water at Theophany, “in the preceding feast we have seen you as a babe, and in this present feast as perfect human, appearing as our perfect God.” At the Nativity, God the Word “was born,” but now he “appears in the flesh to the human race.” At the Nativity, the “Sun of Righteousness” rose, and now it “shines forth.” In the liturgical tradition of the Church, the feast of Theophany is also called the feast of Illumination. The sticheras of the feast of Theophany elucidate the bond between the feasts of the Nativity and Theophany: What was announced by the angel is now announced to the people by the Baptist; the spilling of infant blood caused Bethlehem to become childless, but through the sanctified waters of baptism, the Jordan now has many children. What was announced by the star to the magi in Bethlehem is now revealed to the world by the Father himself (#198)

In the Old Slavonic, the feast of Theophany is called “Bohojavlenije,” equivalent to the Greek “Theophany,” which means the manifestation of the Godhead.

Pirohi Sale this Week!

Our next Pirohi sale will be this **Friday, January 9**. We are selling only frozen, dozens of potato or lekvar this month. No call-in on Thursday. Pick up will be on Friday between 10:00 AM and noon, first come first served. Supply is limited. *Thank you!*



Q. Why should I have my home blessed?

A. 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)



*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).

More about Holy Water

St. Basil the Great affirms that the blessing of water came to us as a "mystical tradition" and that the water, through the prayer and blessing of the priest, receives a "quicken power of the Holy Spirit." St. Ambrose also taught that it was the Holy Spirit Who "consecrated the waters through the prayer of the minister." Consequently, in the prayer for the blessing of the water we always find the epiclesis, the invocation of the Holy Spirit.

Lamb and Redeemer

John's baptism was looking toward repentance. Its purpose was to bring hearers to the point of experiencing conviction for their offenses. John, however, did not want anyone to draw the conclusion that Jesus himself also came to the Jordan to repent of his sins. So he sets this point straight from the outset by calling him both Lamb and Redeemer of all the sin that is in the world. He who is able to take away the sins of the whole world was himself without sin.

(St. John Chrysostom, Commentary on Matthew)

St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

MON., JAN. 5 Vigil of Theophany, **Obligation Holy Day**
6:00 P.M. VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great
Great Blessing of Water
Intention: Private

SUN., JAN. 11 SUNDAY after THEOPHANY
10:45 A.M. THIRD HOUR
11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom
Intention: Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Isabella Rubino, requested by Todd and Ann Wilson

St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

TUE., JAN. 6 THEOPHANY, **Obligation Holy Day**
6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom
Intention: For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas Chapel

SAT., JAN. 10 SUNDAY after THEOPHANY
5:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom
Intention: For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas Chapel

Eve of Theophany

In preparation for the Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord, the Eve of the Feast, which is Monday, January 5th, is a day of fasting/strict abstinence for all Byzantine Catholics.

Seasonal Christian Greeting for the Theophany Feast

The greeting that we salute each other with January 6 - 14 is *Christ is Baptized!* The response is *In the Jordan!* And in Slavonic, *Christos Krescajetsja!* With the response *Vo Jordani!* Let us glorify the Lord this festive season by greeting and responding with this traditional custom celebrating the Lord Jesus' Baptism!



A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

A reminder that Theophany, is a **Holy Day of Obligation**, meaning it is to be treated the same way as a Sunday. Its vigil, January 5th is a traditional day of strict fast.

I am pleased to announce that on Theophany, Christopher Winslow will be chrismated and received into the Catholic Church at St. George prior to the 11:00am Divine Liturgy. It is always a joy to welcome a new member of the Catholic Faith.

Please note we will have no weekday services this week Jan 7th to 9th or Vespers on Jan 10th. I am frankly exhausted from the last several weeks and need a little break before resuming our normal cycle of services. Next week we will be back to our "regular" schedule (more or less).

I will be beginning Theophany house blessings next week. If you have not received one yet, please expect a phone call from me to schedule.

Please join us for 6:00pm Great Vespers and 7:00pm Trivia at St. George on Friday, January 16th. We have some great prizes picked out for the winners!

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

The Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord

The Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River reveals wondrous salvific events:

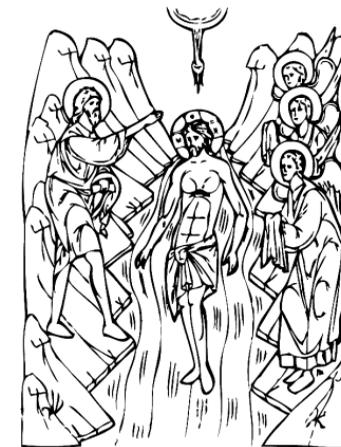
- The Mystery of the Holy Trinity was revealed.
- Christ blessed the water, making it holy water for our renewal and regeneration.
- A model of Baptism was established for the followers of Jesus Christ, so that they could have their sins washed away and be freed from the tyranny of demons.
- The Forerunner, St. John the Baptist was blessed by Christ.

The word Theophany (meaning manifestation of God) comes from the apostolic passage, "God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16). Another name for the Feast is Epiphany (meaning manifestation from above), "the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11). A third name is the "Feast of Lights", as Christ reveals Himself as the "Light of the World" (John 8:12).

Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!

Sunday before Theophany

John the Baptist's life was fueled by one burning passion -- to point others to Jesus Christ and to the coming of His kingdom. Who is John the Baptist and what is the significance of his message for our lives? Scripture tells us that John was filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15, 41) by Christ himself, whom Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth John leapt in her womb as they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:41).



The fire of the Spirit dwelt in John and made him the forerunner of the coming Messiah. John was led by the Spirit into the wilderness prior to his ministry where he was tested and grew in the word of God. John's clothing was reminiscent of the prophet Elijah (see Kings 1:8). John broke the prophetic silence of the previous centuries when he began to speak the word of God to the people of Israel. His message was similar to the message of the Old Testament prophets who chided the people of God for their unfaithfulness and who tried to awaken true repentance in them. Among a people unconcerned with the things of God, it was his work to awaken their interest, unsettle them from their complacency, and arouse in them enough good will to recognize and receive Christ when He came.

Are you eager to hear God's word and to be changed by it through the power of the Holy Spirit? John the Baptist was more than a prophet (Luke 7:26). John was the voice of the Consoler who is coming (John 1:23; Isaiah 40:1-3). He completed the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah (Matthew 11:13-14). What the prophets had carefully searched for and angels longed to see, now came to completion as John made the way ready for the coming of the Messiah, God's Anointed Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. With John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to the human race of the divine likeness prefiguring what would be achieved with and in the Lord Jesus.

John's baptism was for repentance -- turning away from sin and taking on a new way of life according to God's word. Our baptism in Jesus Christ by water and the Spirit results in a new birth and entry into God's kingdom as his beloved sons and daughters (John 3:5). Jesus is ready to give us the fire of his Spirit that we may radiate the joy and truth of the gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light and truth. His word has power to change and transform our lives that we may be lights pointing others to Christ. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ. Do you point others to Christ in the way you live, work, and speak?

Lord, let your light burn brightly in my heart that I may know the joy and freedom of your kingdom. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and empower me to witness the truth of your gospel and to point others to Jesus Christ.

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO

Fr. Anthony's Cell #: (878) 226-0878

ST. GEORGE PHONE: 724-375-6652

PARISH EMAIL: stgbyz@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org

Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238

Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik, Dan Pinchot

Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Thursdays 4:45-5:45 P.M. & before Sunday Liturgy

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the priest

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the priest prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month, Oct. - May

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club... All men & women are members and welcome to participate

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday, Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month, October – May, Flea Market and food sale: June

Wherefore, O Master, sanctify this water by your Holy Spirit!

Grant sanctification, blessing, cleansing, and health to all who touch it, are blessed with it, or who partake of it...

ADULT TRIVIA Night

Friday, January 16, 2026

**6:00 pm – Great Vespers for
St. Anthony the Great**

7:00 pm – Trivia in the Social Hall

**Snacks & drinks
provided!**

**21 and
over**

**Prizes for the
winners!**

**St. George Byzantine Catholic Church
1001 Clinton St., Aliquippa**



THEOPHANY-EPIPHANY COMMUNITY CONCERT

SUNDAY JANUARY 11, 2026 3:00PM

A program of seasonal choral & chant music in celebration of
The Nativity & Baptism of Jesus Christ

LOCATED AT
ST. GREGORY CHURCH
2005 MOHAWK ROAD
UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA
15241

FEATURING

- ST. GREGORY CHANT GROUP
(ST. GREGORY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH, UPPER ST. CLAIR)
- SCHOLA CANTORUM OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH (PITTSBURGH)
- OUR LADY OF VICTORY MARONITE CHURCH CHOIR
(BEECHVIEW)

Hospitality reception follows in the church hall | Visit us at stgregoryusc.org