

January 9, 2022  
Sunday after Theophany



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan! ~ Christos Krescajetsja! Vo Jordani!*

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 8: pg. 161 & for Theophany: pp. 316 - 318

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JAN. 9  
8:30 A.M.

SUNDAY after THEOPHANY  
DIVINE LITURGY  
+ Joseph Jn. Baptiste, offered by Sr. Mary Virginia

SUN., JAN. 16  
8:30 A.M.

THIRTY FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST  
DIVINE LITURGY  
+ Hermancia Mason, offered by Sr. Mary Virginia

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*)



**Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:**

January 10: Anne Gural, January 11: Dianne Ketterer

**Wedding Anniversaries this Week:**

January 13: Kenneth & Joanne Futato

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

**HOME** – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

Ann Trombulak – **Rochester Manor:** (174 Virginia Ave., Rochester, PA 15074)

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

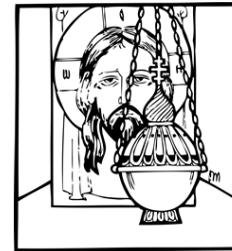
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

**Epistle Readers – Jan. 9: Joanne Futato – Jan. 16: Prudy Peya**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – Jan. 9: R. Mudron – Jan. 16: J. Yurosky**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

January 9 – 15, 2022

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

+ Michael Popovich

*(In Loving Memory)*

Offered By:

Daughters, Dianne & Mary Ann

*Christ was baptized for our sake, in order to sanctify the waters. The Spirit descended in the form of a dove, because wherever there is reconciliation with God there is a dove, like in the case of Noah's ark ... announcing God's mercy to the world and at the same time making clear that what is spiritual should be meek and without wickedness, simple and without guile.*

*Origen*

*Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan! ~ Christos Krescajetsja! Vo Jordani!*

## Pirohi Sale This Week



Our next Pirohi sale will be this **Friday, January 14**. We encourage all who are able to please come and help. Work days are **Monday 9:00 AM, Tuesday 9:00 AM, and Thursday 9:00 AM. Friday we begin at 6:30 AM. Our Pirohi Project takes a lot of help to make it a success.** Spread the word and please **come and help**, if you can, any of the days you are able. Orders should be called in by **Thursday at noon at (724) 375-6652**. God Bless our pirohi workers and customers! *Thank you!*

### Christmas Decoration Take-Down

We are going to take down the Christmas decorations in the Church next Sunday, January 16 after Liturgy. If you are able, please stay and help next Sunday. *Thank you!*

**Seasonal Christian Greeting for the Theophany Feast** - Through January 14, the greeting that we salute each other with 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!

### Excerpt from Christ our Pascha: The Incarnation of the Son of God

**Theophany:** Christ brings regeneration to humankind, and he chooses the waters of the Jordan to signify this. In Holy Scripture, water is a symbol of elemental forces and death, and simultaneously a symbol of cleansing, rebirth, life, and the grace of the Holy Spirit. By means of water, God "drowned sin ... in the days of Noah ... [and] at the hand of Moses he set free the Hebrew nation from the bondage of Pharaoh ... [and] by fire and water through Elijah brought back Israel from the error of Baal." By immersion into water (baptism), Christ washes away the record of Adam's sins. The waters of the Jordan regenerate all creation. In the Jordan, Christ "has renewed through water and the Spirit our nature grown old through sin." (#200)

### New Resources Today, Jan. 9: Let it be done for You as You Wish & Theophany

We again have **CATECHETICAL RESOURCES** to share with you for the renewal of our Eastern Churches! Today we have a reflection for January: Let it be done for You as You Wish and for Theophany available for your personal formation. Kindly bring these resources and your Church bulletin home with you weekly for **deeper review** and family discussion. *Many thanks!*



### A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians, he begins by writing very profoundly about the grace of God which has been given to us in Jesus Christ. If you have a few moments, I'd encourage you to read Ephesians 1:3-14. It's so moving to read of the gratuitous, unmerited, gracious activity of our Lord by which he has saved, glorified, and adopted us as sons and daughters! We are the family of God!

I was reminded of this passage of Scripture recently when a friend of mine, who was reading the works of some of the early Church fathers, told me about a prayer he came across by St. John of Damascus. I would like to share it with you. Perhaps, if you find it helpful, you would like to incorporate it into your own prayer rule:

*Well done, O Christ,*

*O Wisdom and Power and Word of God, and God Almighty!*

*What should we, resourceless people, give you in return for all things?*

*For all things are yours*

*and you ask nothing of us but that we be saved.*

*Even this you have given us,*

*and by your indescribable goodness you are grateful to those who accept it.*

*Thanks be to you who have given being and the grace of well-being*

*and who by your indescribable condescension*

*have brought back to this state those who fell from it.*

The Lord has been so gracious to us. As the Psalmist writes, "He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities." (Ps. 102.10) He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing, granting us time for true repentance, and inviting us into the divine life of his most blessed Son.

May our Lord Jesus bless and keep you, and defend you by his grace, as we enter into 2022. And may our grateful hearts rise up to give him thanks for our salvation and the grace of well-being!

Christ is baptized!

*In the Jordan!*

*Fr. Geoff*

## Sunday after Theophany

In today's Gospel we hear the announcement of the "Kingdom of Heaven." With this announcement, Jesus begins his public ministry in which he will exercise his kingship by reclaiming dominion over his creation and most importantly reclaiming his dominion over man who is made in his image and likeness.

The great Biblical scholar Origen explains that "the kingdom of heaven" is not in a place but in disposition. For it is "within" us."

Just as with any earthly kingdom, so with the heavenly kingdom, the citizens of the kingdom are invited to obey the King and follow the laws set out by the king for the common good of the entire kingdom.

We who accept the invitation to divine citizenship are invited to do just this, to accept Jesus as the King of our life and to begin to live our life in accord with the laws of His divine kingdom.

And what are those laws? For Jesus, and for we who call him our King, our law is simply the law of love – to love God above all things and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

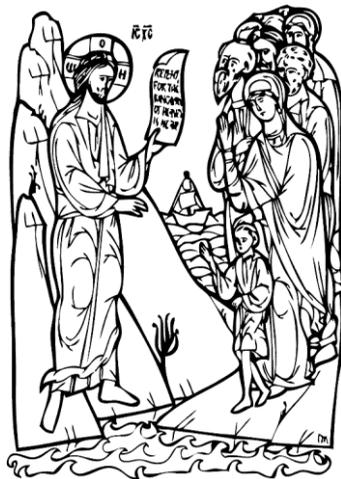
### Take Holy Water to Your Homes

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 Krescajetsja! Vo Jordani!*

*"At your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, worship of the Trinity was revealed; for the Father's voice bore witness to you, calling you His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ, Who appeared and enlightened the world, glory to You!*



*Christos Krescajetsja! ~ Vo Jordani!*

## About the Baptism of Saint John

Saint John the Baptist plays one of the most important roles in the history of salvation. He was a man of great fame for his asceticism, spiritual purity, and preaching. This is witnessed by the fact that "Jerusalem and all Judea went out to him, and all the region round about Jordan." (Matthew 3:5) But he is known primarily for his role as Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

*As Forerunner, he:*

- comes in the spirit of Elijah.
- preaches repentance for the coming Messiah
- calls for the bearing of fruit warning that those who do not bear fruit will be "cut down and cast into the fire"
- fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah by serving as "the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight" (Is 40:3)
- fulfills the prophecy of Malachi, "Behold, I send My messenger before Thy face, who shall prepare Thy way before Thee" (Mal 3:1)

*As Baptist, he:*

- baptizes for the remission of sins (literally "to let go" of sins – Mk 1:4)
- points to one greater than he, Who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire
- after first hesitating, he baptizes the Lord, in order to "full all righteousness"

"The ax is laid to the root of the trees" The ax means the judgment of Christ, and the trees stand for each one of us.

When asked who he was, St. John very clearly explained that he was not the Christ, but that the One was coming, "whose sandal strap he was not worthy to stoop down and loosen" for the Christ would baptize not with water, but with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

"Comes in the spirit of Elijah", in Matthew 11:14, the Lord says that St. John is this Elijah who was to come. Even in appearance St. John looked like the prophet Elijah, as "John had his clothing of camel's hair and leather girdle about his loins" (Matthew 3:4) and Elijah "was a hairy man who wore a leather belt around his loins." (2 Kings 1:8)

### *Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan! ~ Christos Krescajetsja! Vo Jordani!*



# SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

**PASTOR: FATHER GEOFFREY MACKEY**

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

Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

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

OFFICE PHONE: 724-375-2742

FAX: 724-375-8776

ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

PARISH EMAIL: [stgbyz@gmail.com](mailto:stgbyz@gmail.com)

PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org](http://www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org)

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

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club ..... Everyone welcome to participate

---

*Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan! ~ Christos Krescajetsja! Vo Jordani!*

