

January 8, 2023
Sunday after Theophany



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Christ is baptized! In the Jordan! Christos Krescjetsja! Vo Jordani
Христос Крестается! в Иордане!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 6: pg. 152 and for Theophany: pp. 316 – 318
Panachida: pg. 432

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JAN. 8 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY after THEOPHANY DIVINE LITURGY, Panachida for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI + Phyllis Mahoney, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba
2:30 P.M.	Blessing of waters at Bridgewater Crossing
SUN., JAN. 15 8:30 A.M.	THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST DIVINE LITURGY + Hermancia Mason, offered by Sr. Mary Virginia

Theophany Blessing:

TODAY, Fr. Geoff will administer the Great Blessing of the Water at the confluence of the Beaver and Ohio Rivers at Bridgewater Crossing at **2:30 PM**. Bridgewater Crossing is located on Mulberry Street Extension, Beaver, PA.

Pirohi Sale this Friday, January 13

Our next pirohi sale will be this Friday, January 13. Friday we will begin cooking at 6:30 AM. If you would like to help. Orders should be called in by Thursday at noon at (724) 375-6652.

Thank you!

Happy Birthday Greetings:

January 10: Anne Gural, January 11: Diane Ketterer,

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

January 13: Kenneth & Joanne Futato

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

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

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

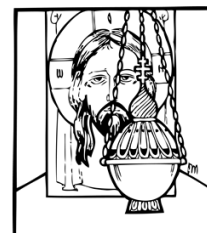
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – Jan. 8: Louisa Hersh – Jan 15: Joanne Futato

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Jan. 8: M. Bobanic – Jan. 15: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

January 8 - 14, 2023

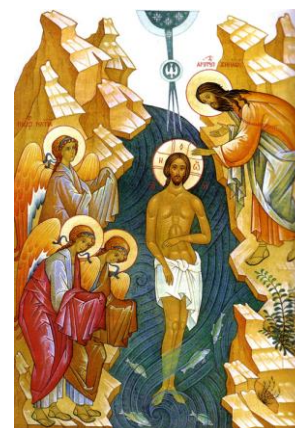
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Michael Popovich

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Daughters, Diane & Mary Ann



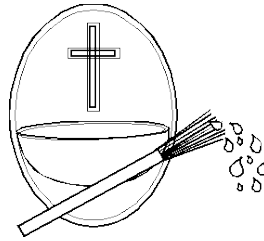
In the Old Slavonic, the feast of Theophany is called “Bohojavlenije,” equivalent to the Greek “Theophany,” which means the manifestation of the Godhead.

Christ is baptized! In the Jordan!

Christos Krescjetsja! Vo Jordani

House Blessings

Blessing homes is done each year on or after the Feast of Theophany of Our Lord. This act is the central sign of God's sanctification of all things through Christ's baptism in the river Jordan and his epiphany to the world. This is an ancient tradition of the Eastern Church and through it we extend "the blessing of the Jordan" into our homes and private places. This blessing of our homes underscores and enhances the connection between our parish life and our "HOME CHURCH". All of this strengthens our relationship with God and His Holy Church.



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).

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.*



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Free Adult Formation Opportunity:

Wednesdays, January 11th & 25th 8:00 – 9:00 P.M.

God With Us Online will be presenting a free webinar

LIFTING THE VEIL, a Mystical Understanding of the Divine Liturgy

The Divine Liturgy makes present the events of salvation history and allows us to participate in the worship of God along with the whole cosmos. In this three-part series, with Fr. Thomas Moses, we'll be guided by Scripture and saints such as Maximus the Confessor and Symeon of Thessaloniki to explore the Church's mystical interpretation of the Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy draws us to participate in the entirety of salvation, and the Church's rich mystical interpretation of this mystery is key to understanding this great gift.

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today is the Sunday after Theophany. The word "Theophany" means a manifestation or appearance of God. (This is implied in the Western Church's use of the word "Epiphany," which means simply "manifestation.") In the great feast of Theophany, we celebrate a particular appearance of God: The appearance of the Holy Trinity in the Baptism of our Lord. Here we have God the Father (present by his voice), God the Son (Christ, the Word Incarnate who is being baptized), and God the Holy Spirit (who appears in the form of a Dove).

In the Baptism of our Lord, we have a kind of *re-creation* of the world. It has all of the same elements that were there in the beginning of Creation in Genesis chapter one. While the historical commemoration is of one particular person - Our Lord - being baptized; and while it may bring to remembrance our *own* baptisms, by which we are united to Christ and his redemption; there is actually something far greater happening as well. The great spiritual master, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, of blessed memory, wrote:

The joy of Epiphany is in the recovery of a cosmic experience of the world, of recovering faith that everything, and everyone can always be washed, purified, renewed, reborn, and that regardless how dirty and clouded with mud our life has become, no matter what swamp we might have rolled in, we always have access to a purifying stream of living water, because humanity's thirst for heaven, goodness, perfection, and beauty is not dead, nor can it ever die. Indeed, this thirst alone makes us human beings. "Great art thou, O Lord, and marvelous are thy works, and there are no words which suffice to hymn thy wonders..." Who said that Christianity is depressing and grim, morbid and sad, and pulls human beings away from life? Look at the faces of worshippers on [Theophany] and see the light and joy that shines as they listen to the psalm thundering its exultation, "The voice of the Lord is upon the waters," as they watch the priest sprinkling volleys of blessed water throughout the church, and those glittering drops fly as if throughout the whole world, making that world once again a possibility and a promise, the raw material for a mysterious miracle of transformation and transfiguration. God himself entered this water in the form of a man; he united himself not only with humanity, but with all matter, and made all of it a radiant, light-bearing stream flowing toward life and joy.

What a beautiful and profound way to state something of the mystery that we celebrate in the Theophany of our Lord. With the eyes of faith, we can see the whole world as translucent with the brightness of the divinity that was united to it. May Christ's baptism in the Jordan always be an encouragement to us as we seek to live in the reality of his redemption.

And may our Lord graciously give us the grace to live our Christian lives with great joy.

Christ is Baptized!

Fr. Geoff

Sunday after the Theophany of Our Lord

“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

Our answer to the light: three candles, candles of faith, of hope and of love

In the life of Jesus three lights were manifested: 1) the light of Nativity symbolized by the star that lead the Magi from the East to worship the Savior, it is the light of faith: we believe that Jesus is the Son of God; 2) the light of the Resurrection, which is the light of hope in eternal life; 3) the light of Pentecost, which is the light of Love; for the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Love.

The story of our Christian life is the story of our illumination by Jesus. Jesus comes as “a great light” to those who languish in the darkness of ignorance, despair, and hatred. 1) To those who sit in the darkness of ignorance, He lights the candle of knowledge; 2) to those who sit in the darkness of despair, He lights the candle of hope; 3) to those who sit in the darkness of hatred, He lights the candle of love. And with these three theological virtues He lights candles of joy, forgiveness, peace, and meaning in the lives of people today.

When we enter the Church we light a candle. The processions of the Gospel and of the offerings are accompanied by candles. This is to remind us that we have received light from Christ and that, like Him, we too, ought to be lighting candles in the lives of people. We have the mission to spread the light of Christ in the world. He said of himself: “I am the light of the world.” The same thing He said to us: “You are the light of the world.” Then He added explaining what does mean to be the light of the world: “A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Mat. 5:14-16).

-Archbishop Cyril (Bustros)



“... But now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light.” Ephesians 5:8 Read: Matthew 5:14-16

Lamps were among the most valued possessions in Israelite homes. Light was a symbol of life, and a good lamp provided light for every household function. In fact, an Israelite woman checked her lamp all through the night, adding more oil or fixing the wick, to make sure the light stayed strong and sent the message "all is well."

Jesus wants our lives to be like a good lamp, sending out the daily signal that all is well in our relationship with Him. When people see you, they should see the light of Christ and give glory to God. Can those around you see Jesus in the way you behave and the way you talk? Does your life communicate His positive truth, or do you send negative statements of criticism or discouragement? Do your actions make someone want to know more about your Lord?

Perhaps the statement your life is making right now is not what it should be. Maybe you are discouraged by inconsistency or feelings of inadequacy. Remember that Jesus gives you the strength and wisdom you need because He is the "light of life." God promises to continue building His truth into your life day by day, so that your character and conduct reflect His distinguishing presence.

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*)



Oh things strange beyond compare! How should the boundless River that makes glad the city of God have been dipped in a little water? The illimitable Spring that bears life to all, and has no end, was covered by poor and temporary waters! He who is present everywhere, and absent nowhere, who is incomprehensible to angels and invisible to men, comes to baptism according to His own good pleasure.

St. Hippolytus

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ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

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



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the pastor

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the pastor 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

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

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

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