



## ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES

Saturday, Jan. 1      **Circumcision of our Lord/St. Basil the Great**  
 Readings: 2 Tim. 4:5-8; Mk. 1:1-8  
**6:30 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)**

Sunday, Jan. 2      **Sunday before Theophany**  
 Readings: 2 Tim. 4:5-8; Mk. 1:1-8  
**9:10 A.M. Third Hour;**  
**9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy**  
 Supplications will be offered for + Maria Perkun, given by Don & Jane Rubolino

Thursday, Jan. 6      **The Holy Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
 Readings: Titus 2:11-14 & 3:4-7; Mt. 3:13-17  
 (St. John's parish)      **10:00 A. M. Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water**  
 (St. George's parish)      **7:00 P.M. Vesperral Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water**

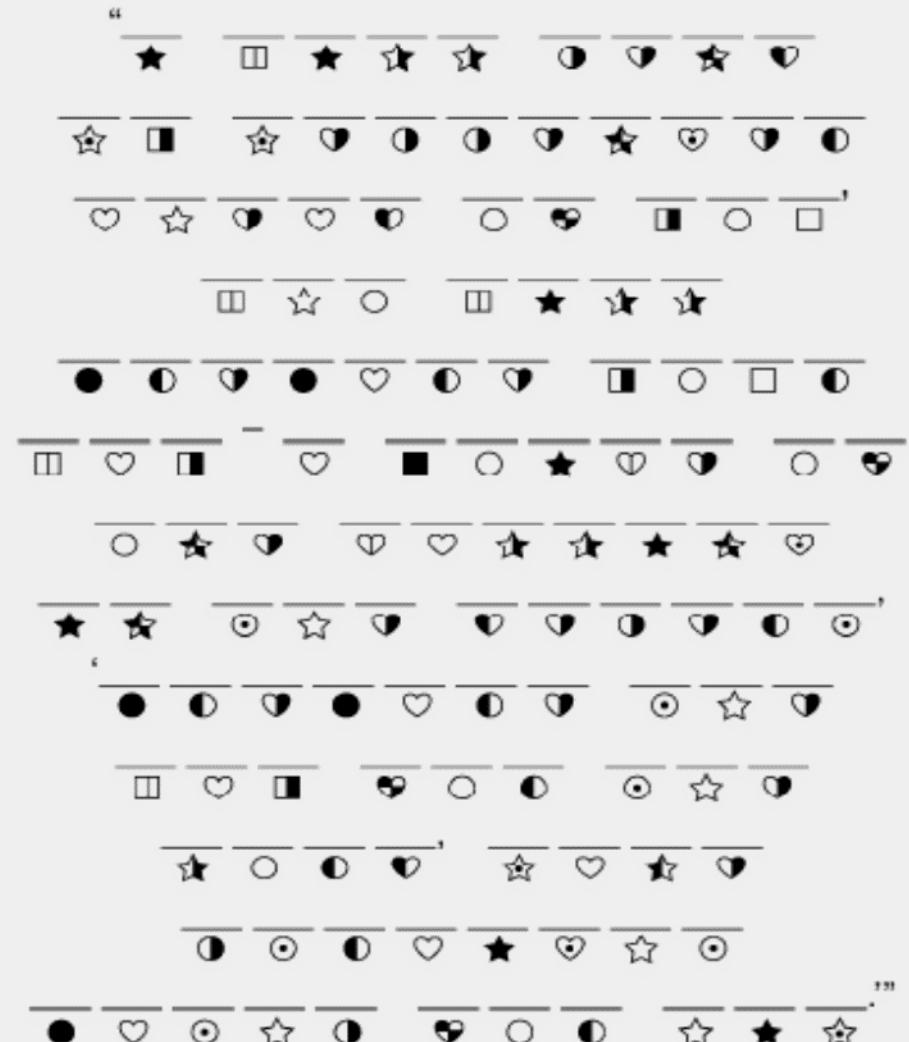
Saturday, Jan. 8      **Saturday after Theophany**  
 Readings: Eph. 4:7-13; Mt. 4:12-17  
**6:30 P.M. NO SERVICE**

Sunday, Jan. 9      **Sunday after Theophany**  
 Readings: Eph. 4:7-13; Mt. 4:12-17  
**9:10 A.M. Third Hour;**  
**9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy**  
 Supplications will be offered for + Maria Perkun, given by Patricia Barr

What does this other book of the Bible say?

Use this code to fill in the blanks.

♥ = A	♥ = E	★ = I	★ = M	○ = Q	□ = U	■ = Y
♥ = B	♥ = F	★ = J	★ = N	○ = R	■ = V	□ = Z
♥ = C	♥ = G	★ = K	○ = O	○ = S	□ = W	
♥ = D	★ = H	★ = L	● = P	○ = T	■ = X	





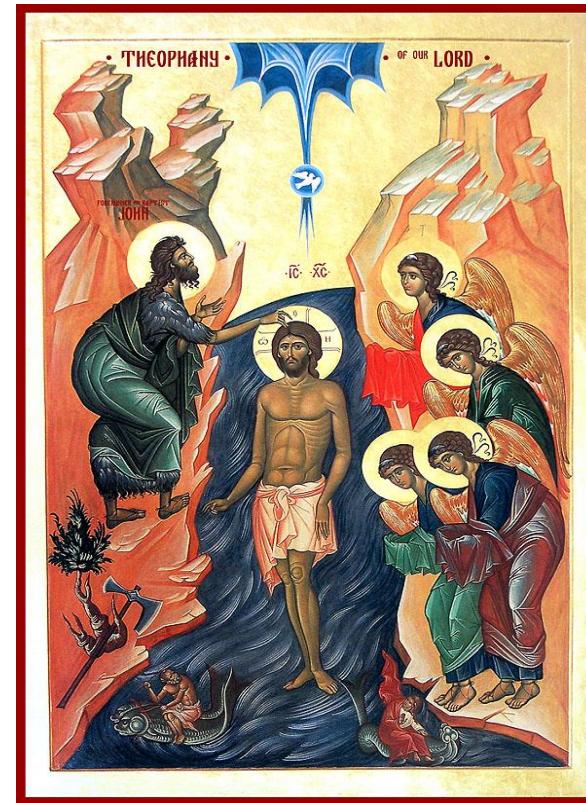
### *The Holy Theophany of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ*

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by St. John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine "those who sat in darkness," and "in the region of the shadow of death" (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of St. Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast. There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and St. Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany. St. John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but "to bury human sin by water," to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify "the nature of water" and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Indivisible. The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for "As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ" (Gal 3:27).

- Translation by Fr. Stephen Janos from the Reference Book for Clergy – Server



**January 2, 2022**

**Sunday before Theophany,  
Octoechos Feast Tone; Our  
Holy father Sylvester, Pope  
of Rome (335)**

**Changeable Part: Pages 16-17**  
*In the Booklet of Changeable Parts  
(Small white book)*

## **Announcements:**

### **Feast of Theophany**

On Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. On this Feast Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. at parish of St. John's (McKees Rocks) and also Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. at parish of St. George's (North Side) Please come to celebrate one of the oldest Feast Days, which has been celebrated in the Eastern Church since the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

### **Sincere Thanks!**

During this festive season, together with my family we want to thank you all for your prayers, beautiful Christmas cards and gifts. We ask the Newborn King born in Bethlehem to bless you and reward you for your kindness and generosity.

## Statement of Contribution

Those parishioners who would like to receive a statement of contribution for the year 2021 for tax purposes please sign your name on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

## Envelopes 2022-Calendars 2022

We start the distribution of the Church offering envelopes for the year 2022 and the Church Calendar for 2021. They are available in the hallway off the Church vestibule. Sincere thanks to Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home for sponsoring the calendars for 2022. Should you not see your envelopes (or a mistake, or address change), please let Father Igor or Ms. Olga Perkun know, following the Divine Liturgy. Thank you all for your support and generosity throughout the year.

## Prayers for the Living & Deceased

As we slowly come to the beginning of the year 2022, I ask that if you have any special dates throughout the year on which you would like to have prayers offered for the living or for the blessed repose of your loved ones, you please contact the parish office now to reserve that day. Remember that during the Great Fast and Holy Week) the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on weekdays due to the fact that these are aliturgical (without Divine Liturgy) days.

## Pyrohy

This past week was one of the busiest week in our pyrohy activity. From the previous week our total income was **\$5,363.00**. An enormous THANK YOU to all our dedicated pyrohy workers. We will reopen on Thursday, January 20st, 2022. Enjoy your well-deserved Christmas vacation!

## Prayer List:

Make a point of praying for everyone on the prayer list. If you don't have one, contact the office and we'll send you one. In a special way, at this time, remember the following members of our parish family: **Barbara Fedora, Patricia Della-Regione, Rose Shedno, Orysia Barshowski, Kathleen Shabla, Lillian Chlibun and Thomas Kunsak.**

## Collection- May God bless you...

The grand total for Sunday of December 26, 2021 was **\$1,310.27+ \$2,110.00**

(Collection: Christmas Eve & Christmas day: \$1,860.00, Online donation: \$250.00)

***Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!***



## Holy Water



In the Eastern Church, Holy Water is used frequently in rites of blessing and exorcism, and the water for baptism is always sanctified with a special blessing. Holy Water is often sprinkled on items or people when they are blessed outside of the Church building, as part of the prayers of blessing. For instance, in Alaska, the fishing boats are sprinkled with Holy Water at the start of the fishing season as the priest prays for the crews' safety and success. Also, cars (on the feast of the prophet Elijah) and homes are blessed with Holy Water as a way of invoking God's blessing and protection.

The use of Holy Water is based on the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. Reading Holy Scripture we see that John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, and the people came to have their sins washed away by the water. Since Jesus had no sin, but was God incarnate, his baptism had the effect not of washing away Jesus' sins, but of blessing the water, making it holy - and with it all of creation, so that it may be used fully for its original created purpose to be an instrument of life.

Every family should have Holy Water at home, and make use of it at every need: sanctification of our homes, in cases of illness, leaving on a journey, etc. The Holy Water strengthens the powers of our soul - if it is done with prayer and reverence, and one does not merely expect a mechanical result from it.

As we read in the prayers for the Great Blessing of Water the true nature of water has its destiny in the salvation of man and the world. The blessing of waters doesn't "make bad water good". It restores the water to its original state. The prayer at the blessing of water causes the revelation of the true 'nature' and 'destiny' of water, and thus of the world. By being restored through the blessing to its proper function water becomes again a means of communion with God. Christ in His baptism purified the nature of the waters. He came to redeem not only human beings but, through them, the entire material created world.

***O King, Who loves mankind, be present now as Thou was at the Jordan through the coming of Thy Holy Spirit and sanctify this water.***