

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY



Icon of Theophany -- January 6th

The Christ

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of "Christification", Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation

as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind. The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the "Christification" of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection. "And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and with men" (Lk2:52). In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ.

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

8111 Brecksville Road ✕ Brecksville, Ohio 44141

"The Byzz Line"



"Living the Word of Christ Together"

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January 6: *Epiphany/Theophany— the Baptism of Our Lord*

Although the redemptive mystery of Christ toward us is truly beyond human comprehension, the life of intimacy of the Son with the Father and the Spirit becomes evident at Theophany and is a far greater reality. God in the Person of His Son having become one of us, begins His ministry in a very public way baptized in the water of the Jordan bringing us not only the grace of purification but more importantly the grace of spiritual illumination.

The light of Christ at Christmas, recently celebrated, was a bright star in a dark night. At Theophany, that light becomes the rising sun which will spread and shine only to be eclipsed on Good Friday, bursting forth from its tomb three days later on the glorious morning of Easter. It will beam with fiery tongues on Pentecost, guiding us with that inner life of saving grace.



With Theophany, Jesus is proclaimed and identified as the long-awaited Messiah Who would establish not an earthly Kingdom as many thought would happen to overthrow the oppressive yoke of Roman rule, but to re-open for us the kingdom of heaven through His very life among us, His death and Resurrection. Jesus makes it possible for us to enter that Kingdom through baptism as He commanded before His Ascension into heaven when He instructed His disciples to go out into the world among people, make them His disciple and proclaim His teachings.

As we celebrate this important feast, may we renew our own commitment of Christ and give thanks for the life of grace begun for us when we were baptized in the hope of everlasting life provided we faithfully follow His teachings.



Friday is a Holyday of Obligation. For your convenience liturgies will be offered at **10:00 a.m.** and **7:00 p.m.** Water will be blessed at the 10:00 am service.

January 1, 2023

Christ is Born!

Liturgy Schedule

Monday	January 2	8:30 a.m.	†Tom Thanos by Deacon Bill and Nancy Fredrick
Tuesday	January 3	8:30 a.m.	†Ann Wargo by Delores Grisin
Wednesday	January 4	8:30 a.m.	†Gerald and Marian Mutz by the Mutz Family
Thursday	January 5	No Liturgy	
Friday	January 6	Holyday of Obligation: Epiphany/Theophany	
		10:00 a.m.	Intention of the Parishioners
		7:00 p.m.	†Mike Prischak by Judy Weitzel <i>(Water blessed at 10am liturgy)</i>
Saturday	January 7	4:00 p.m.	Intention of the Parishioners
Sunday	January 8	10:30 a.m.	†Maria E. Loya by the Loya Family

		<u>Altar Servers</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
January 6	7:00 p.m.	L.Tinter & G. Dudick	Volunteers	Volunteers
January 7	4:00 p.m.	J. Bremner	R.Evans	P. Secunde
January 8	10:30 a.m.	D.&O. Kupar	N. Sabo	J.&C. Rohal

Always pray to have eyes that see the best, a heart that forgives the worst,
a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith.

Giving Tree

Unbelievable! All the tags were stripped from the Giving Tree! Many blessings for your "St. Nicholas Spirit of Giving!" (The gift cards will be distributed within St. Joseph to families in need of some assistance.)



Thank You

Fr. Marek, Fr. Vasyl and Deacon Bill wish to thank everyone who helped to make our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ a prayerful, beautiful and joyous experience for everyone. Thank you to the Cantors, Singers, Church Decorators, Ushers, ECF teachers and students, Snow Shovelers, Church Cleaners, Altar servers, Greeters, and everyone else who freely and generously shared their gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure to Glorify God and His only Son, Jesus Christ. May God's Blessings be with everyone in 2023!

Communion Visits

Fr. Vasyl and Deacon Bill will be making Communion visits to our ill and shut-in parishioners on Wednesday, January 4th from 9am-5pm.



There will be a **First Fryday Fish Fry** this week. Serving is scheduled from **3:30-6:30**. Carryouts are available. The "Blue Plate Special" will be Pot Roast.

GCU Holiday Cash Giveaway Raffle

The drawing for the GCU Holiday Cash Giveaway was held on Sunday, December 18th.

The winners are: 1st Prize \$500 Paula Vasickanin
2nd Prize \$100 Joseph Klinkovsky
3rd Prize \$75 Mike Kochilla

Lodge #302 thanks everyone who helped make the raffle a success. Thanks to your generosity more than \$1050 was raised for Kidney Donor Conversations

Your Weekly Offering

December 18 and 25, 2023

Sunday:	\$7,820.00
Student Envelopes:	23.00
Cash:	185.00
Candles:	236.00
Holy Days:	165.00
Initial Envelope Donation:	56.00
Flowers:	105.00
Rectory Renovation:	21,700.00
Christmas:	5260.00
Student Christmas:	27.25
Total:	\$35,577.25

Save the Date

- January 3** - Advisory Board Zoom Call 7pm
- January 6** - **Divine Liturgy 10am** - Blessing of Water
- January 6** - **Divine Liturgy 7pm**
- January 6** - Fish Fry 3:30 - 6:30
- January 8** - ECF 9:30am
- January 8** - Ladies Auxiliary after Liturgy
- January 9** - A-OK Club 11:30am
- January 10** - Sandwich Making 10am
- January 10** - Men's Club 7pm
- January 14** - Volunteer Dinner 5:30pm

Sanctuary Lamp

There was a misprint in the previous bulletin. The Sanctuary Lamp will burn during the month of January for **Michael and Margaret Pinchot**

Blessing of Homes 2023

The Blessing of Homes in January of 2023 will be done on an "as requested" basis. Please contact the church office by phone or email to request that your home be blessed in 2023, and Fr. Vasyl will contact you to schedule a date and time for your home blessing.

COAT FOR KIDS CAMPAIGN

Again this year, the Knights of Columbus Council 4130 is collecting monetary donations that will be given to experienced "coat buyers" who will purchase coats for the needy kids in Northeast Ohio. Envelopes will be available on the desk in the church vestibule, and you can put your donation in the envelope and place it in the collection basket at the Divine Liturgy you attend. Checks should be made out to "K of C 4130", or cash can be donated. Our parish has at least 5 men who are members of the Council, including Fr. Vasyl and Deacon Bill. St. Joe's has always been a generous supporter of Knights of Columbus Charities, and we thank you in advance for your generosity. Especially, the kids who will be warm this winter because you cared will always be grateful for your gift of warmth.

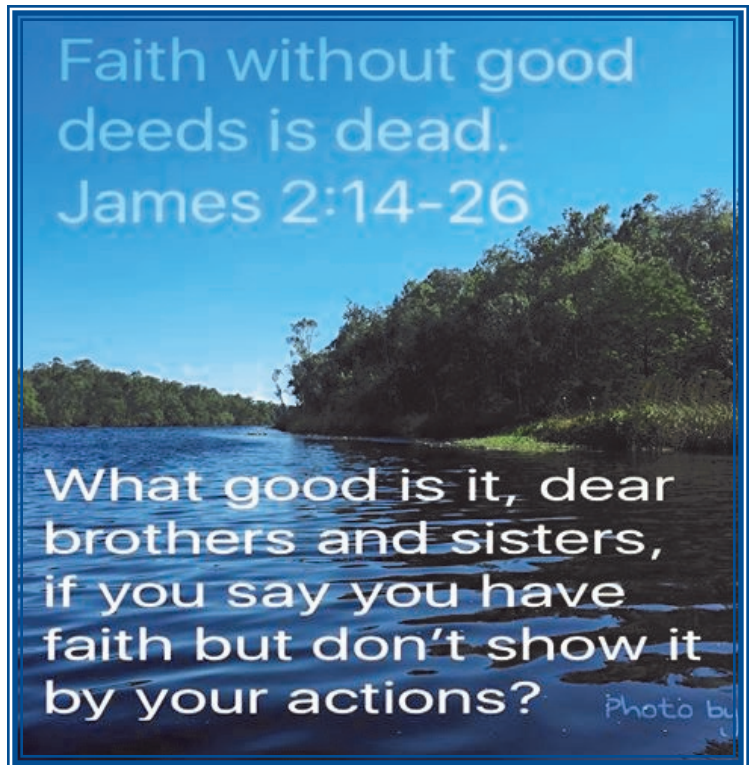


Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on **January 14, 2023** right after the Saturday Divine Liturgy. RSVP's should be returned to the Church Office or Collection Basket no later than January 6, 2023.

Acting on our Good Intentions

The tradition of declaring New Year's resolutions dates back to the ancient Babylonians. It is thought that the most popular resolution at that time was to return borrowed farm equipment. Today we make resolutions based on something that will improve our life. We promise to break some bad habit or start a good one, such as losing weight, eating a healthier diet, or exercising. By the end of the month, however, most people have forgotten or given up on their New Year's resolutions.



Good intentions are no substitute for action. James points this out in his discussion of faith and deeds. He gives the example of a brother or sister in Christ needing food or clothes. If someone tells him or her, "Goodbye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well," but does nothing about that person's physical needs, what good is that? James asserts that in the same way, faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is useless and dead (James 2:14-17).

With our busy lives, it's all too easy to not follow through on our well-meaning intentions. We assure a friend that we will pray for a doctor's appointment, and then we forget about it until we see the friend again. We feel led to call someone or write a note but never get around to it. When we fail to act on our good intention, it doesn't count as a good deed. We create guilt for ourselves and miss an opportunity to be a blessing to someone. That person misses the touch of God in his or her life. All through the year we need to resolve to express our faith through good deeds, not noble intentions.



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PARISH INFORMATION

ACTIVITY CENTER/PAVILION/PARTY CENTER RESERVATIONS:

216-749-6232

CONFESSIONS: 45 minutes before liturgies for half an hour and by request

LADIES' AUXILIARY: 2nd Sunday of the month after liturgy

MEN'S CLUB: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

A-OK CLUB: 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

FOREVER YOUNG CLUB: 3rd Wednesday of the month (12-2)

COFFEE SOCIAL: Every Sunday after liturgy

EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF) CLASSES:

Sundays 9:00 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE: Tuesday noon