

# HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Emanuel Revilak

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023**

**THE SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**

## SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

**Sunday, January 8: Sunday After Theophany**

10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy  
for the deceased Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

**Monday, January 9:** 4:30pm Confessions, 5:30pm Vespers

**Friday, January 13:** 4:30pm Confessions 5:30pm Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, January 14:** 4:30pm Confession, 5:30pm Great Vespers

**Sunday, January 15:** 10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy

Confessions are available before Divine Liturgy. All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out the request form in the back of church and leave it in the sacristy.

**PLEASE NOTE: Evening College Ministry Divine Liturgies are on hiatus for the winter break. They will resume January 15. All are welcome to attend any of the regularly scheduled Liturgies at local Byzantine churches.**

**AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY.....** We commemorate the initiation of Jesus' messianic ministry begun after His BAPTISM and after the revelation of God as a Divine Trinity. The Church thus calls us today to renew our own baptismal enlightenment. As Paul tells the Ephesians, we are called to be followers of Jesus, and as such, we are to be enlightened: JESUS' LIGHT must permeate our entire being. His light is to be reflected through us to others.

**Important note regarding Liturgy intentions:** If you are requesting a Divine Liturgy for the deceased, please note if the date requested is the anniversary of their death. This will help schedule the Liturgy as accurately as possible, and will let Father know which setting to use. Thank you.

**PARISH CALENDARS** are now available in the narthex (back of the church).

**HOUSE BLESSINGS FOR THE THEOPHANY SEASON:** Fr. Michael will be blessing homes as part of our Theophany Season tradition. Please sign up in the back of the church (narthex). This blessing can be done every year!

**The Ramp Is In!** Please spread the word to friends and family that the ramp is now installed on the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue side of the church. Thank you to Cathy Warhola for facilitating logistics with the installers.

## **EPISTLE: Ephesians 4:7-13 (Section 224)**

But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it says: "He ascended on high and took prisoners captive; he gave gifts to men." What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended into the lower [regions] of the earth? The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers,

to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry,\* for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,\* to the extent of the full stature of Christ,

~~~~~In writing this letter to the community of Christians at Ephesus, the Holy Apostle Paul speaks here of the “calling” that the Ephesians have received. He is referring to the “call” that every person receives in the Holy Mystery of BAPTISM. At our baptism, each of us receives the “call” to become a truly dedicated Christian—a real follower of Jesus. In baptism, JESUS’ LIGHT is made to shine within our souls, and we thus have become “enlightened” through this Light. Paul tells the Ephesians that their lives must reflect this “Light of Christ.” Their actions must manifest this “high calling” to be one who is committed to the Lord Jesus. Peace, unity, and tranquility should characterize Jesus’ followers since they are all united by virtue of baptism within the Mystical Body of the Lord—His holy Church. Since baptized persons are enlightened by Jesus’ “Light,” they should emit this light as beacons within this darkened world.

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-17 (Section 8)**

When he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.” From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

~~~~~After Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, the Holy Evangelist Matthew tells us in this pericope that Jesus now begins His public ministry in the province of Galilee. When Jesus heard that King Herod Antipas had arrested John, He withdrew from His hometown of Nazareth and went into another territory within Galilee to live in Capernaum by the sea, near the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. Thus Isaiah’s ancient prophecy was fulfilled, for it foretold of a great “Light” (referring to Jesus) being seen by the pagan people living in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali. The gentile people of this district observed this great “Light” (JESUS’ LIGHT), and Jesus proclaimed the theme of His messianic mission: “Reform your lives! The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!” We have been initiated into Jesus’ Church through BAPTISM. And the Church, in continuing to preach the Lord’s message of salvation, still echoes this same advice to us even to this very day: repentance, reformation, and renewal. How well do we heed it?

### **TODAY IS THE SUNDAY AFTER THE SACRED ENLIGHTENMENT.....**

On this Sunday within the post-festive period of the luminous Feast of the Triumphant Theophany, we continue our celebration of the revelation of the Divine Trinity at this wondrous Jordan event. In the early Christian Church, the Holy Mystery of Baptism customarily was referred to as the “enlightenment.” Furthermore, it was the usual practice in the Church of antiquity to administer the enlightenment (baptism) on the Splendid Theophany Feast since Jesus’ own baptism was commemorated on this great feastday. Thus, those catechumens who were ready to become full-fledged Christians were initiated into the Church on the Glorious Theophany through the Blessed Mystery of Baptism. On this Sunday After The Illustrious Enlightenment, our Byzantine Catholic Church asks us to reflect upon the relevance and personal effect of our own BAPTISM. We have been initiated into Jesus’ community of “Chosen People,” and we have been exposed to the radiance of JESUS’ LIGHT. We have tasted the sanctified Jordan waters, and we have been invested with Christ Himself as our “Garment.” Have we lived as though we are part of Jesus’ Church? Are we truly committed to Him as our Lord and Savior? Has baptism been our personal “enlightenment?”

**Please pray for the causes of our four Sainly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions:** O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator’s office, 54 Riverview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

**PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS:** Saints Cyril and Methodius, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen. St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen