

# HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023**

## **THE FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION FEAST OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT**

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

**Sunday, January 1: The Feast of the Circumcision ~ The Sunday Before Theophany**

10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy  
for the deceased George Bacasa, by Anthony E. DiSaia

**Monday, January 2:** 4:30pm Confessions, 5:30pm Vespers

**Father Michael will not be in the office Wednesday due to the feast and a funeral.**

**Friday, January 6: The Theophany of Our Lord (Obligation)**

9am Festal Matins ~ 5:30pm Divine Liturgy

*The vigil will be celebrated at St. Pius X at 5:30pm with Great Vespers at 4:30*

**Saturday, January 7:** 4:30pm Confession, 5:30pm Great Vespers

**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

**PARISH MEETING:** Please do not miss our next parish-wide meeting immediately after Liturgy (about 12:30pm) in the parish hall 1/8. This is our periodic opportunity to review the growth and needs of the parish as a community. It is imperative that all who wish their comments and concerns to be heard attend.

Fr. Michael **will be back** from St. Pius for the meeting. He has a substitute for the Liturgy due to a baptism at St. Pius. Thank you for understanding.

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.**

**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!

**MANY THANKS** to all who helped the parish prepare for and celebrate Christmas, through prayer, donation, and time. Please continue to pray for our community in the coming year!

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**, who passed 12/31 at the age of 95. Blessed repose and eternal memory!

## **EPISTLE: Timothy 4: 5-8**

Timothy my son: Be steady and self-possessed; put up with hardship, perform your work as an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. I for my part am already being poured out like a libation. The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on a merited crown awaits me; on that Day the Lord, just judge that he is, will award it to me – and not only to me, but to all who have looked for his appearing with eager longing.

## **Colossians 2: 8-12**

See to it that no one captivate you with an empty, seductive philosophy according to human tradition, according to the elemental powers of the world and not according to Christ. For in him dwells the whole fullness of the deity-bodily, and you share in this fullness in him, who is the head of every principality and power. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by hand, by stripping off the carnal body, with the circumcision of Christ. You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.<sup>i</sup>

~~~~~On this New-Year's Sunday, we read from the Holy Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians where he refers to the rite of CIRCUMCISION as the way of being initiated into the "Chosen People" of God. Paul, however, teaches that this ritual is no longer necessary, for by the sacramental act of baptism, we are inducted into the community of Jesus' believers. With the waters of baptism, Christ Himself makes us His new "Chosen People." As Jesus was submissive to the Mosaic Law in accepting circumcision, so we also must be OBEDIENT to Christ, for He Himself is our New Law.

In the second epistle, Jesus is portrayed as THE High Priest given to humanity. Over the centuries, our Lord has continued to perpetuate His priesthood by calling faithful men to come after Him and become priests of Christ as they follow in His footsteps and share in His priestly office. SAINT BASIL THE GREAT was such a loyal follower, becoming the good shepherd for his faithful flock and encouraging other men and women to commit themselves to Christ. As a priest and an archbishop, Basil imitated the example of Jesus, our great High Priest.

## **FRIDAY IS THE FEAST OF THE SPLENDOROUS THEOPHANY OF THE LORD.....**

The majestic feast of The Triumphant THEOPHANY of our Lord JESUS CHRIST will be celebrated with joy and solemnity on Friday, January 6th. Jesus left Nazareth at age thirty and came to the Jordan River to receive baptism from John the Baptist. After Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened, and God the Father attested to the fact that Jesus was His eternal Son. The Holy Spirit also appeared above the head of Jesus in the form of a dove. For the first time in human history, the TRINITY was revealed at Jesus' baptism. The word theophany comes from two Greek words which indicate "the manifestation of God." At the baptism of Jesus, God manifested Himself as the Trinity—three distinct Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in one unique and undivided Godhead. The Ruthenian people popularly referred to the theophany feast as simply "Jordan" because of the solemn ritual for the great sanctification of water which took place in conjunction with this festival. Liturgically, the illustrious theophany holy day is the most important feast after the Radiant Resurrection of the Lord. Let us now go vicariously to the River Jordan for Jesus' baptism where we shall observe the stupendous theophany event: the revelation of the Divine Trinity. As Christ is baptized, this spiritual occurrence should create an attitude of special joy, inasmuch as Jesus now comes among us as the Messiah, teaching us the way to achieve eternal salvation. Truly Christ is among us, and therefore God is with us!

## **CHRISTIAN GREETING FOR THE BRILLIANT THEOPHANY SEASON.....**

Throughout this festive Theophany holiday season, we shall use as our Christian greeting "Christ is baptized!" ("Christos kreščajetsja!"). In response, we then acknowledge the reality of Jesus' holy baptism by indicating where it occurred: "In the Jordan!" ("Vo Jordan'!") These greetings also are used at mirovanije, the anointing with holy oil

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1: 1-8**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ [the Son of God].-As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" John [the] Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit."

## **Luke 2: 20-21 & 40-52**

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"\* But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

~~~~~The Holy Evangelist Luke records for us that Mary's Child was brought to the Temple eight days after His birth for the Jewish ritual of CIRCUMCISION. Through this act, we observe how Jesus was OBEDIENT to the Mosaic Law. The Infant was given the name JESUS, the name indicated by the angel before He was conceived. Jesus grew-up in Nazareth where the Holy Family ultimately settled. As a child and as a young man, Jesus continued to be submissive to His parents Joseph and Mary. His submissiveness and obedience are worthy examples that all of us should imitate.

**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