

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Administrator: Reverend Michael D. Kunitz, M. Div.

Email: FrMichaelKunitz@gmail.com

Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

January 05, 2025 - Sunday Before Theophany

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, January 5: Sunday Before Theophany

10:00am Readers Matins, 10:45am Rosary, 11:00am Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water

IMO Michael Dubansky By siblings Mark Dubansky & Sandy Anderson

6:00 pm Great Vespers for the Feast of Theophany

Monday, January 6: Theophany of Our Lord (Obligation)

8:00 am Festal Matins

6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy (open intention)

At our sister parish St. Pius X in Carrick: 11:00 am Confessions 12:00 Noon Divine Liturgy

Friday, January 10: Feast of St. Gregory of Nyssa

6:00 PM Confessions, 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy (Open Intention)

Saturday, January 11: Saturday After Theophany

5:00 PM Confessions, 6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, January 12: Sunday After Theophany

10:25 am: Rosary, 10:45 am: Third Hour Prayer, 11:00 am Divine Liturgy

IMO Deberorah Simak By Judi Ann Mackin

Parish Meeting to follow Liturgy

Plenty of Divine Liturgies are open for intentions for this new year. If you would like to make an intention for a Liturgy, please call the office or fill out request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in learning to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday before Liturgy, please see Father Michael. Matins is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

ICONS AVAILABLE: There are several blessed icons in the church hall, there is no charge to take these home, though a free will offering for the benefit of the parish is welcome.

PARISH MEETING, SUNDAY, JAN 12 – SAVE THE DATE: Please plan to attend this meeting, which will provide updates on the state of the parish, as well as discuss plans for the coming year.

For this Sunday please mark with the ribbons in your Liturgy Book pages 309-312 for the Sunday Before Theophany.

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!

EPISTLE: 2 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.

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.”

TOMORROW IS THE FEAST OF THE SPLENDOROUS THEOPHANY OF THE LORD..... The majestic feast of The Triumphal THEOPHANY of our Lord JESUS CHRIST will be celebrated with joy and solemnity on Monday, 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’i!”) These greetings also are used at mirovanije, the anointing with holy oil

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May God grant our community many happy and blessed years!

7 - Anne Petro

13 - Liz Anne Parker and Michaelangelo Revilak

17 - Simeon Kunitz

25 - Olga Revilak

If you’d like your birthday or anniversary included, please contact Pani Janine.

ON-LINE GIVING IS HERE! If you wish to make a monetary donation to our parish – you can do so on our website or by using this QR code. Remember every dollar helps support the mission of our parish community. Thank you.



PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS: Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly 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 Avenue, 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