



*January 6th is the Holyday of the Baptism of Christ, known as “Theophany” (the Revelation of God) or “Epiphany” (Revelation). In this picture, the Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem performs the Blessing of Water at the site of Christ’s Baptism in the River Jordan in the Holy Land.*

**BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 3-16, 2021**  
***HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

<b>Sunday, Jan. 3</b>	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy ( <i>Live Streamed</i> ) Panachida: ++Walko Family ( <i>Perpetual</i> ) +John Sekerak ( <i>Perpetual</i> )
<b>Tuesday, Jan. 5</b>	6:00 PM	<b>Theophany Eve (<i>Strict Fast Day</i>)</b> Vespers
<b>Wednesday, Jan. 6</b>	9:00 AM	<b>THEOPHANY: BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (<i>Fast Free</i>)</b> Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water ( <i>Live Streamed</i> )
<b>Thursday, Jan. 7</b>	9:00 AM	<b>Second Day of Theophany: St. John the Baptist</b> Divine Liturgy With 40th Day Commemoration of +Anne Kudelko, by the Family
<b>Sunday, Jan. 10</b>	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy ( <i>Live Streamed</i> ) Panachida: +Peter & +Helen Gula ( <i>Perpetual</i> )
<b>Sunday, Jan. 17</b>	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy ( <i>Live Streamed</i> ) Panachida: ++Soroka Family ( <i>Perpetual</i> )



“The Lord was baptized, not to be cleansed himself but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of baptism. Whoever comes, therefore, to the washing of Christ lays aside his sins” (*St. Ambrose of Milan, Commentary on Luke 2:83 [A.D. 389]*).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**January 6 is the holyday of the Baptism of Christ**, known as Theophany (“the Revelation of God” in Greek). Divine Liturgy for the holyday will be on Wednesday, January 6th at 9:00 AM. The second day of the feast on January 7th is dedicated to our Patron Saint, John the Baptist, and will be marked by Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM.

**Public Service Announcement—Don’t Hoard Old Holy Water!** As we celebrate the Blessing of Water, remember: while holy water doesn’t have an “expiration date”, replenish your supply yearly. Holy Water from the previous year should be poured outside (preferably onto the ground on a place where people don’t ordinarily walk).

### **House Blessings: POSTPONED!**

In the last bulletin, Fr. David said that he would be available for house blessings in January “*unless directives to the contrary are received from the Diocese.*” Our Dean, Fr. Ken Bachofsky, spoke with His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory and received instructions that house blessings will *not* be done this January. So, we will postpone house blessings until later in the year. You may, of course, sprinkle your home with the newly-blessed water—see the prayers later in this bulletin for this purpose.

**Offering Envelopes for 2021** are available. Please make sure that you get your envelopes and use them throughout the year.

**2021 Wall Calendars**, donated by Tomon’s Funeral Home, are available. Please help yourself!

**2021 Sponsorships Available:** Please visit our church office if you would like to sponsor the Bulletin, Eternal Lamp, Candelabrum, or order altar flowers in 2021. Be sure to clearly print all information. This is a great way to honor someone, remember the departed, or simply make a donation to the church!

### **Graduate Day**

We are looking at scheduling a day to honor our 2020 graduates. Parents/Graduates, please alert Fr. David to any graduates in your family!

# THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

*By Dan Hromyak*

*"...they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh..." - Matthew 2:11*

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

*"And a voice came from the heavens, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" - Mark 1:11*

Through our baptism, we too, are daughters and sons of God. We are disciples of Jesus. As true disciples we are called to actively to participate in our Orthodox faith, not just be mere bystanders. This means working in collaboration with the Holy Spirit and discerning how we are being asked to use our gifts. Using our gifts for the benefit of others and not just for our own interests and comfort.

*Our gratitude is expressed to all those who made a pledge for the support of our parish in 2021! THANK YOU!*

*If you have yet to do so, there is still time to make a pledge! Please fill out a pledge card and either mail it to the church office or place it in the box in the vestibule.*

*Through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure, we are able to continue the ministry of Saint John's Orthodox Church!*

*As a parish community, we express our condolences at the passing of...*

## **George Ristvey**

Who fell asleep in the Lord on December 15th, 2020

## **Robert Maykowski**

Who fell asleep in the Lord on December 18th, 2020

## **Margaret Sirb**

Who fell asleep in the Lord on December 25th, 2020

## **Mary Jane Repasky**

Who fell asleep in the Lord on December 26th, 2020



***Blessed Repose and Eternal Memory!***

### **About Theophany—The Baptism of Christ**

Theophany is one of the most important and oldest feast days in our Holy Orthodox Church, with its observance being traced back to apostolic times. Historically, it commemorates the baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist. Theologically, its significance is even greater, for on this day, the Holy Trinity was revealed. Through the centuries, many of our Church Fathers commented on this Feast in their writings. St. Proclus of Constantinople, a 5th century disciple of St. John Chrysostom, wrote a powerful sermon about Theophany. Putting words into the mouth of St. John the Baptist, Proclus writes: "How dare I stretch forth my hand and place it on the head of Him Who sustains all things? How dare I baptize the Creator of nature? I can only say: You, O Lord, are the Master and I am the servant. You are the Sun and I am the star. You are the Shepherd and I am the sheep. You are the King and I am the soldier. You are the Light and I am the candlestick." St. Gregory the Theologian calls Theophany the "feast of lights," while St. John of Damascus points out that "... the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need of cleansing, but to bury sin by water; to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify the nature of water and offer us the form and example of Baptism." (*The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin—Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey*)

## Asking God's Blessing on Your Home This Theophany Season

*With House Blessings being postponed this year, you are invited to take the newly-blessed water you receive at church and prayerfully sprinkle it in your home. You may use the following prayers:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who are in all places and fill all things. Treasury of blessings, and giver of Life, come and dwell within us, and cleanse us from every blemish, and save our souls, O blessed One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us! (*three times*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

O most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, cleanse us of our sins; O Master, forgive our transgressions; O Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*three times*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

### Psalm 127

Unless the LORD builds the house,  
those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the LORD watches over the city,

the watchman stays awake in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early  
and go late to rest,

eating the bread of anxious toil;  
for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Lo, sons are a heritage from the LORD,  
the fruit of the womb a reward.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior  
are the sons of one's youth.

Happy is the man who has  
his quiver full of them!

He shall not be put to shame

when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

*Then sing or say the Tropar of the Baptism:*

At your baptism in the River Jordan, O Lord, \* worship of the Trinity was revealed, \* for the Father's voice bore witness to You, calling You His beloved Son; \* and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. \* O Christ God, Who appeared and enlightened the world, glory to You!

*Now sprinkle the Holy Water throughout your home. You may repeat the above Tropar, or simply say "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." as you do so.*

*Conclude with the following prayers:*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*three times*)

O Lord, bless us!

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of Your Most-Pure Mother and all the saints, have mercy on us! Amen!

# SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Clergy:

*Rev. Father David Mastroberte*

*Very Rev. Protopresbyter Michael Polanichka*

*Rev. Deacon John Anderson*

*A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese – Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*

## Sacramental and Membership Information

**Sick Calls** can be made at any time. Please phone the rectory (724-346-4457) when a family member is admitted to the hospital, or to request a home visit. Hospitals do *not* call to alert the parish when someone is admitted.

**Marriages** are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. Circumstances may require a dispensation from the diocesan bishop. Consult the pastor at least six months in advance and before any plans have been made for the wedding reception. Marriages cannot be celebrated during the fasting seasons of the church, or on Fridays.

**Baptisms** are usually scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays. Consult the pastor. Two godparents (godfather and godmother) are required, at least one of whom must be a practicing Orthodox Christian in good standing at an Orthodox parish, and the other (at least) a practicing, baptized Christian.

**Church Funerals** are, under ordinary circumstances, provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and material obligations to the parish; otherwise, the funeral service is conducted at the funeral home. The Church does *not* permit cremation.

**Parishioners in “good standing”** are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John's Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular church attendance, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (and receive these sacraments no less than once a year); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and financially support the parish (especially through an annual “pledge”).

**Prospective members and returning members** are asked to fill out an application form, copies of which are available in the church office.

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**Website:** [stjohnacroc.org](http://stjohnacroc.org)

**YouTube:** [youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon](http://youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA](http://facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA)

**Instagram:** [instagram.com/saintjohnhermitagepa](http://instagram.com/saintjohnhermitagepa)

**Diocese:** [acrod.org](http://acrod.org)



**MEN TO HOLD**  
**CANDLES**

**Sunday, January 10**

Jason Baker  
Dave Beight  
Dennis Burprich  
Jerry Chupak  
Tom Doyle

**Sunday, January 17**

Ed Fabian  
Matt Fabian  
Dave Firster  
Mike Holmes  
Jim Hynes

**Happy January Birthday!**

January 3 Julie Chupak  
January 3 Taylor Moon  
January 6 Julie Gordon  
January 7 Gary Yonchak  
January 13 Melinda Ristvey  
January 15 Michelle McMahon

**Happy Wedding Anniversary**

Kathleen & Ed Chuba

January 15

Margaret & Peter Tatusko

January 15

