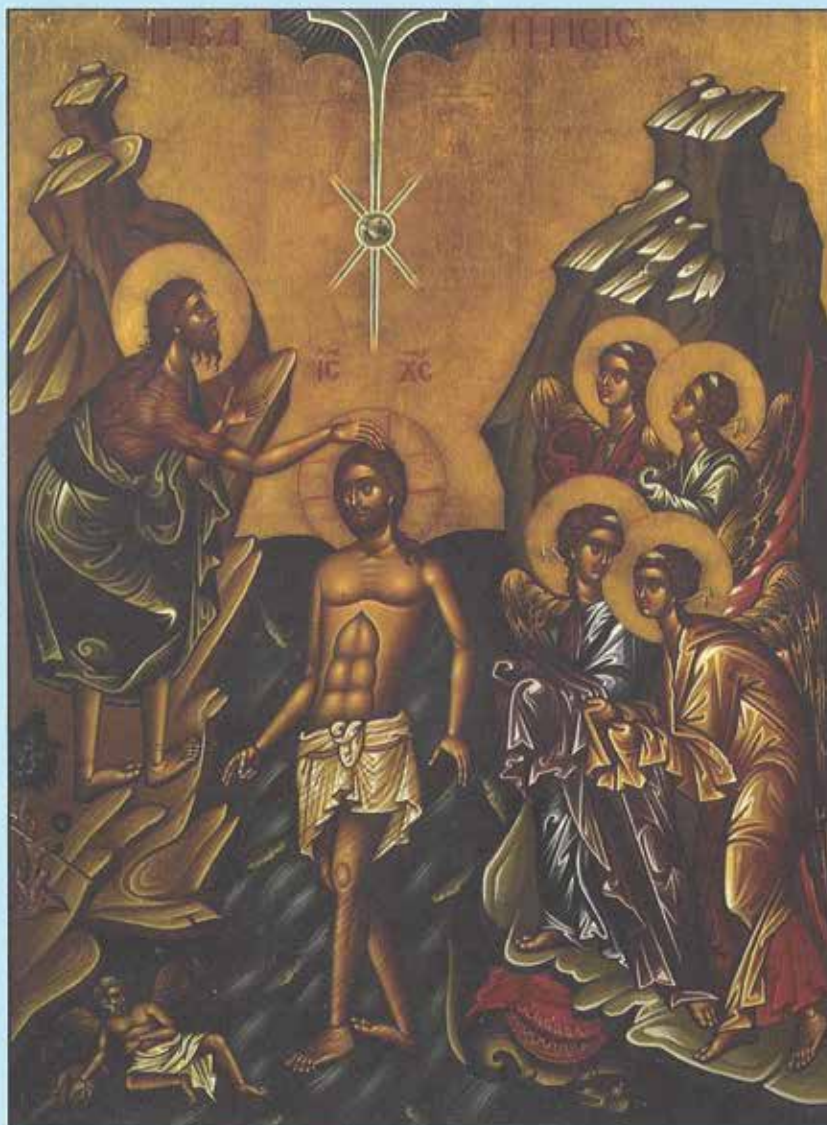


SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



*Icon of the Theophany (Epiphany) of Our Lord*

**Dec. 31, 2017: Sunday After Christmas**

Epistle: Gal. 1: 11-19

Gospel: Mt. 2: 13-23

<b>Mon., Jan. 1</b>		<b>Circumcision of Our Lord: New Year's Day</b>
	10:00	+ Andy Baranik (Howard Smith)
<b>Tues., Jan. 2</b>	8:00	Health of Tom Bulzoni (A Friend)
<b>Wed., Jan 3</b>	8:00	God's Blessings on Anna Krug Smith (Husband Howard)
<b>Thurs., Jan. 4</b>	8:00	+ Thomas Mielechowski (Elaine Crambo)
<b>Fri., Jan. 5</b>	8:00	+ Ann Slaboda (Roger & Beverly Barren)
<b>Sat., Jan. 6</b>		<b>Theophany of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)</b>
	9:00	+ Patrick Marcinko, Jr. (Dorothy Zinsky); Solemn Blessing of Water
		<b>No Confessions Today</b>
	4:00 pm	For Our Parishioners
<b>Sun., Jan. 7</b>	9:00	+ Evelyn Augustinsky (St. Cyril's Choir)
	11:30	+ Gene Turko (Bob & Joan Yeck & Family)

**Antiphon 1**

I will confess You, Lord, with all my heart,\* I will declare all Your wondrous deeds.

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God,\* O Savior, save us.*

In the council of the just and the congregation,\* great are the works of the Lord, conforming to His will in every way.

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God,\* O Savior, save us.*

His work is filled with praise and majesty,\* and His righteousness endures forever.

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God,\* O Savior, save us.*



**Antiphon 3**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Savior.

*Son of God, born of a Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms.  
*Son of God, born of a Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*  
For God is the great Lord, and the great king over all the earth.  
*Son of God, born of a Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

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**Entrance Hymn**

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.  
*Son of God, born of a Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

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**Hymn to the Mother of God**

O my soul, magnify Christ the King born in a manger. A strange and glorious mystery do I behold:\* the cave is heaven;\* the Virgin, the throne of the cherubim;\* the manger, a dwelling place\* in which is laid Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain.\* Singing His praises, we magnify Him.

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**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest.  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;\* praise befits the righteous.  
Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.

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**New Year's Greetings**



My Dear Friends in Christ,

As we stand today on the threshold of a brand New Year, I offered this prayer of faith and anticipation for all of you. A New Year always stands before us like a gift not yet unwrapped - we wonder what's inside, what will come our way with this New Year. No matter what: happy, sad, easy, difficult, challenging - we can handle it all by holding fast to our faith in

God and in His love for us.

So, to all of our parishioners, your families, and your friends: Happy New Year! God bless you all in this

New Year 2018, most especially with the best of health! And please pray for me too!

*Father Nestor*

## Christmas Spirit

Christ is Born! - Glorify Him! So much thanks - so little space!

Our beloved Church and the surroundings were breathtaking to behold with the glorious decorations. I wish to say a very heartfelt THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU to all the angels who helped to decorate the Church. All of you demonstrate the true spirit of Christmas. Everything was perfect.

To all the Altar Boys of St. Cyril's - a big thank you! You are the best Altar Boys around. You have made my life

much easier during Divine Services.

I thank the cantors and St. Cyril's Choir for gifting us with "heavenly music" throughout this Christmas Season. And, as we all know, "He who sings, prays twice!"

To the "heavenly bakers" who provided all the bread for the services (and some goodies for the rectory), our sincerest thanks.

I also wish to thank all of you who sent cards, remembrances and the delicious baked goodies!

## Keep Greeting One Another

A reminder to all: just as we prepared for Christmas with a 40 day preparation and fasting period, so now we celebrate the bright days of Christmas, New Year's, and Theophany for 40 days. Please continue to sing our beautiful Christmas carols, and to greet one another with our traditional "*Christos Razhdayetsia! Slavite Yeho!*" Christ is

Born! Glorify Him!" During the darkness of the Winter months, do all you can to keep the bright light of Christ burning brightly! Let Christ shine through you!

**Note:** according to tradition, we continue to sing Christmas carols up until the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Holy Water Kept At Home The Year Around

It is customary to take holy water home and preserve it for use from time

to time. St. John Chrysostom alluded to this practice when he wrote: “The faithful take water home and keep it throughout the year.” Some bless themselves with it after confession, crossing their foreheads with it as a physical expression that the Master has cleansed His soiled disciple. Others blessed themselves with it each morning. Others keep the holy water

and home in order to partake of it in time of illness or other personal or family needs.

This year the Solemn Blessing of Water will take place on Saturday, January 6, 2018, during the 9:00 Divine Liturgy. And just a friendly reminder, the Feast of the Theophany is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

## The Safest Place On Earth

**How to stay safe in the world today.**

1. Avoid riding in automobiles, because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home, because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks, because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water, because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transporta-

tion.

5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

**BUT...**

You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur during Church services and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is in church!

## Holy Name Society Raffle

Once again St. Cyril’s Holy Name Society mailed raffle tickets to our Parishioners. Please support the work of St. Cyril’s Holy Name Society by

dropping your returns into the Sunday Collection Basket as soon as possible. Additional tickets may be obtained from any Holy Name Society member.

## Christ Our Pascha

The New Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, *Christ Our Pas-*

*cha*, is Now Available to Read Online. You can now access and read the on-

line English language version of the Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Christ Our Pascha at: <http://catechism.royaldoors.net/catechism/>

Every household should use this on-line text as a resource for family mem-

bers to grow in knowledge and understanding of their faith and their church. Parents should especially use this text to share and teach the faith with their children.

## **A Visit from Saint Nicholas**

On behalf of St. Nicholas of Myra, The Wonderworker (St. Mykola) The Very Reverend Father Nestor Iwasiw, wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to St. Nicholas and his Heavenly Court who were so warmly received by the youth of our parish, parents, and guests who participated in this year's, "A Visit from St. Nicholas." A special thank you is extended to the youth of our parish: Altar Servers: Thomas, Jordan and Brian Radle; and, Brett Lowe; Ukrainian Youths: Cole and Brennan Marcinko, Patrick Marcinko IV, and Kyler Sestili; The Traditional Ukrainian Welcome and Presentation of "The Kleba E Soly" (Bread and Salt), Miss Gabriella, and

Nathan Dennis; The Angel of The Spirit of Ancestry/Prosperity, who carried "The Didukh," (Sheaf of Wheat), Miss Ann Victoria Nasevich; and, The Angel of The Spirit of Christmas, Miss Lauren Lowe. Narrator, Mr. Joseph Nasevich. Photography, Mr. Eugene Maslar. A special thank you to: Fr. Nestor, John Nasevich, Assistants and Patrons/Patronesses of St. Nicholas, especially, Mr. Billy Krenitsky of Quinn's Market, for his donation of "Heavenly Halos." (Acknowledgements. Thank you to the private collectors who provided the authentic costumes, and, to a patroness of St. Nicholas who donated two new angel gowns and assorted accessories.)

## **A Sincere Thank You from I.H.M. Sisters**

Dear Fr. Nestor, Rummage Sale Chair, Volunteers & Parishioners, It is with hearts brimming with gratitude, and sincere thanks for the miscellaneous items donated to our congregation from your 2017 Rummage Sale! We also wish to acknowledge those within your parish, who requested to remain

anonymous, who added additional donations, along with the Rummage Sale items to our house. We were delighted when we seen the SUV brimming with all of the precious cargo! We have over 90 Sisters in residence, & it thrilled us to have something small to exchange with one another on Christmas Day!

The assorted items we received were very much appreciated. Of all we received, the most popular items were several dozen Christmas theme mugs, which are always in high demand and very popular with the Sisters! Also, included within the donations were: Christmas cookie tins; miniature table top Christmas trees; Christmas Wreaths, miniature ornaments, votive candles, Christmas figurines, delicate domestics, such as crocheted cozies

and tablecloths, and, assorted Catholic plaques and assorted religious items. We were so blessed by your generosity that we were able to also distribute to lay members of our staff, and, especially, to our various community ministries in Lackawanna County. Wishing that all of you had a Beautiful Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord, and a Blessed, Healthy and Happy New Year. Fondly, The Sisters of The Immaculate Heart of Mary

## **Annual Festival of Christmas Carols**

The Annual Festival of Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 3 p.m. at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate

Conception in Philadelphia. Choirs from different parishes will participate. Everyone is welcome.

## **Collection Processing Team...**

The Collection Processing Team for the month of December 2017 is Team #4: Ed Stecco and Joe Smagula. We also thank all those volunteers who

helped throughout the year! Since Monday is New Years Day, the Collection will be processed on Tuesday following the 8:00 Divine Liturgy.

## **Sunday Collection for Dec. 23 - 26, 2017: \$**

### **Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for January 6 & 7, 2018**

	<b>Altar Boys</b>	<b>Lectors</b>
4:00 pm	Brett Lowe -- Nicholas Chylak	Michael Shumek
9:00 am	Patrick Marcinko -- John Nasevich	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	David Slachtish -- Samuel Sczesniak	Frank Lesnefsky

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *The Anointing with the Holy Spirit*

When we were baptized into Christ and clothed ourselves in Him, we were transformed into the likeness of the Son of God. Having destined us to be His adopted sons, God gave us a likeness to Christ in his glory, and living as we do in communion with Christ, God's anointed, we ourselves are rightly called "the anointed ones." When He said: Do not touch my anointed ones, God was speaking of us.

We became "the anointed ones" when we received the sign of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, everything took place in us by means of images, because we ourselves are images of Christ. Christ bathed in the river Jordan, imparting to its waters the fragrance of His divinity, and when He came up from them the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, like resting upon like. So we also, after coming up from the sacred waters of baptism, were anointed with chrism, which signifies the Holy Spirit, by whom Christ was anointed and of whom blessed Isaiah prophesied in the name of the Lord: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because

he has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor.

The oil of gladness with which Christ was anointed was a spiritual oil; it was in fact the Holy Spirit Himself, who is called the oil of gladness because He is the source of spiritual joy. But we too have been anointed with oil, and by this anointing we have entered into fellowship with Christ and have received a share in His life. Beware of thinking that this holy oil is simply ordinary oil and nothing else. After the invocation of the Spirit it is no longer ordinary oil but the gift of Christ, and by the presence of His divinity it becomes the instrument through which we receive the Holy Spirit. While symbolically, on our foreheads and senses, our bodies are anointed with this oil that we see, our souls are sanctified by the Holy and Life-giving Spirit.

*St. Cyril of Jerusalem*

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