

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY



Icon of Saints Theona, Theopempt, and Synclitica -- January 5th

January 5, 2020: Sunday Before Theophany	
Epistle: 2 Tim. 4: 5-8	Gospel: Mk. 1: 1-8
Mon., Jan. 6	Theophany of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation) 9:00 + Patrick Marcinko Jr. (Carol & Nick Chaykosky) 7:00 pm For Our Parishioners)
Tues., Jan. 7	8:00 + Martha Augustine (Joan & Michael Marshalek)
Wed., Jan. 8	8:00 + Gene Turko (Bob & Joan Yeck)
Thurs., Jan. 9	No Divine Liturgy Today.
Fri., Jan. 10	8:00 + Evelyn Trently (Helen Hrycyszyn)
Sat., Jan. 11	No Morning Divine Liturgy 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Peter & Nellie Nestor (Family)
Sun., Jan. 12	9:00 + Julia & Leo Anderson (Daughter, Mickey) 11:30 For Our Parishioners

**FROM THE ARCHBISHOP'S CHANCERY:
HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATIONS IN 2020**

1. All Sundays of the year
2. Theophany of Our Lord (January 6th)
3. Annunciation of the Mother of God (March 25th)
4. Ascension of Our Lord (May 21st)
5. Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul (June 29th)
6. Dormition of the Mother of God (August 15th)
7. Nativity of Our Lord (December 25th)

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

We remind our Parishioners that the is a Holy Day of Obligation in our Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church. There

will be two Divine Liturgies tomorrow (Monday): the first one will be at 9:00 am followed by the Solemn Blessing of

Water; the second Divine Liturgy will be Monday evening at 7:00 pm.

Q & A

QUESTION: What is the symbolism of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that magi brought to Jesus?"

ANSWER: Gold is a precious metal and as such was a very valuable commodity. Its value could very well have financed Joseph and Mary's trip to Egypt. Gold is a symbol of divinity and is mentioned throughout the Bible. The gift of gold to the Christ child was symbolic of His divinity — God in the flesh.

Frankincense is a white resin or gum. It is obtained from a tree by making incisions in the bark and allowing the gum to flow out. It is highly fragrant when burned and was therefore used in worship, where it was burned as a pleasant offering to God (Exodus 30:34). Frankincense is a symbol of holiness and righteousness. The gift of

frankincense to the Christ-child was symbolic of His willingness to become a sacrifice, wholly giving Himself up, analogous to a burnt offering.

Myrrh was also a product of Arabia, and was obtained from a tree in the same manner as frankincense. It was a spice and was used in embalming. It was also sometimes mingled with wine to form an article of drink. Such a drink was given to our Savior when He was about to be crucified, as a stupefying potion (Mark 15:23). Matthew 27:34 refers to it as "gall." Myrrh symbolizes bitterness, suffering, and affliction. The baby Jesus would grow to suffer greatly as a man and would pay the ultimate price when He gave His life on the cross for all who would believe in Him.

WHY DID JESUS ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE BAPTIZED?

John's baptism was not a baptism of salvation; it was a baptism of repentance for sinners. The Jews held a unique belief about repentance. This

belief held that if Israel could repent perfectly for even one day, the Messiah would come. It was only the hardness of their hearts that was delaying

the coming of God's Redeemer into the world. John was aware of this conviction, and his actions cemented his reputation as the forerunner of the Messiah.

An interesting feature of John's baptism was the fact that Jews did not need baptism. Only converts to the Jewish religion were baptized. No Jew ever conceived that he or she, a member of the Chosen People, a son or daughter of Abraham assured of God's salvation, could ever need baptism. Yet Jews, after hearing John preach his message of repentance, were submitting to his baptism as a way of demonstrating their change of heart and of experiencing God's forgiveness of sins. When Jesus requested baptism from John, he wanted to demonstrate

that he identified himself with his people's search for God.

Identifying with his people's sinfulness, Jesus allowed himself to be baptized at the hands of John to demonstrate his solidarity with the people and to signal the beginning of the Messianic Age that John had promised. After Jesus' baptism, John's mission was accomplished and Jesus took center stage.

We know the rest of the story. Later, Jesus would commission his apostles to go baptize all nations. This baptism would not be a baptism of repentance but a baptism of water and the Spirit, which would signify that the baptized had found Jesus and were living in forgiveness and freedom.

WE ARE THE CHURCH

So, why do we drag ourselves out of bed on Sunday mornings and make the trek to River Street? Habit? Obligation? Piety? Fulfillment? Our answers are often these and more, and may not be the same from week to week. It is also just as easy to do the contrary and stay home. Tired? Ill? Overcommitted? Angry? Newspaper and breakfast? There will always be a Liturgy again next week... These

answers are equally varied and, at times, valid for those who are "absent with just cause," but they are more often easily rebutted.

Do we come for the beauty of the edifice, the icons, the hymnody, the sermon? While these are often pleasant, what we tend to forget is they are only external aspects of the Liturgy. Our presence at Church should not be solely for our emotional

support, or even for working on our salvation, important though they are, but the simple fact that without our presence the Church ceases to be. The essence of the Church is the coming together of believers to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ our Savior, to join with Him, with the Saints, in communion with other believers, with all that have gone before and all that will come, in a singular point of time – outside of time. And we do that not simply by attending, but by active participation in the Divine Liturgy. The priests, the deacons, the choir and the people all contribute. The people say the word “I” in only two places in the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom – the Creed and the Communion Prayer, everything else said by the people is as

a corporate act. To be Christian is to be in the Community, in the Church and of the Church.

We have a weekly opportunity to experience heaven on earth, to live momentarily in eternity “putting aside all earthly cares,” and to renew in ourselves a right spirit so that we may, by putting on Christ, be able to keep the faith, fight the good fight, and be the proper Christian example to our families, our friends and our community. And maybe, take one more step on that long journey toward heaven.

My dear parishioners, in the New Year of 2020, don’t just come for the services out of habit, don’t just come to Church – **Be a part of the Church!** God bless you!

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 2nd.

BE HAPPY WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

Should you find it hard to get to sleep tonight, remember the homeless family without beds to sleep in. Should you find yourself frustrated, stuck in traffic, don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege. Should you have a bad day at work, think of the man who has been out of work for years. Should you despair over a relationship gone bad, think of the person who has never known what it is like to love and be loved in return. Should you grieve the passing of another weekend, think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day seven days a week to feed her children. Should your car break down, leaving

you miles from any assistance, think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take a walk. Should you notice a few gray hairs in the mirror, think of the cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy who wishes she had hair to examine. Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what life is all about, asking "what is my purpose", be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity. Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities, remember, things could be worse. You could be them!

OUR CONDOLENCES

In your Christian charity, please remember the soul of + Dorothy Chezik who recently fell asleep in the Lord. +

Dorothy was buried from St. Cyril's on Friday, January 3rd. May her memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

KANZ FOR KIDS 2.0

Just a little reminder to all of us soda-guzzling individuals: When you are finished with the soda can, or other aluminum can (such as V8), please rinse out the can, and put in into a plastic store bag. When you have accumulated a few cans, please bring them to Church. Sandra Berta has been very generous

with her time and energy, and picks up these cans. In turn, they are sold, and all the proceeds go to purchasing supplies for the children enrolled in our Religious Education Program. This is a wonderful project, and not exactly a walk in the park.

We truly appreciate Sandra's

continuing efforts, not only with collecting the cans, but also being completely involved in our Religious Education

Program. We thank you Sandra, and thank our Parish Family Members for helping fund our program!

HOLY NAME MEETING

St. Cyril's Holy Name Society will meet next Sunday, January 12, 2020 following the 9:00 Divine Liturgy. All members

are invited and encourage to attend this monthly meeting.

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.

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The annual Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 3:00 pm at our Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the

Immaculate Conception. All are invited to attend this annual celebration to praise our new-born King and our Lord Jesus Christ at this Christmas time.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of January 2020 is Team #1: Jer-

ry Sereiditch, Michael Davis and Gloria Jablonski.

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for January 11 & 12, 2020

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Nathan Dennis -- Nicholas Borowski	Andrew Augustine
9:00 am	Brennin Marcinko -- Cole Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Brian Radle -- Thomas Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

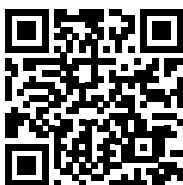
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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Make Another Shot

So how many New Year's resolutions have you broken already? If you are like me, though you might be a little scared about even making a resolution. The experience of making resolutions, and failing to keep them again and again and again, can be somewhat off-putting: we have failed so much in the past that the prospect of another failure is more daunting than what we want to resolve to do or change in our lives. I ran into an expression from basketball the other day. It read, "You are 100% certain not to make the shots you don't attempt." How true that is! If you don't make the shot, you can't hit the basket! Similarly, if you don't make the effort, you never realize the success. This is such an ingrained part of human experience that it is no wonder that one of the central mysteries of our faith is repentance.

The New Testament word for "repentance" is, in Greek, metanoia, which literally means "change of mind" or "change of heart." St. John the Baptist's great message was "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" – a cry that was taken up by Our

Lord Himself as the first words of His public ministry.

The sacramental mystery of Holy Baptism means, first of all, the forgiveness of sins, becoming a new person, being born again. Likewise, the mystery of Confession recognizes that, even as committed, born-again, believing Christians, we continue to experience failure in our lives as we try to live out our baptismal commitments. Repentance, meaning that we recognize our failure and make a resolution to do better next time, is not something that happens once and for all, but something that becomes as natural and repetitive in our daily lives as breathing.

If you have not broken any of your New Year's resolutions, good for you! Give thanks to Almighty God for having preserved your good intention by His grace. If you have broken some, however, give thanks to Almighty God for giving you another chance, and make your shot one more time.

Bishop John Michael Botean