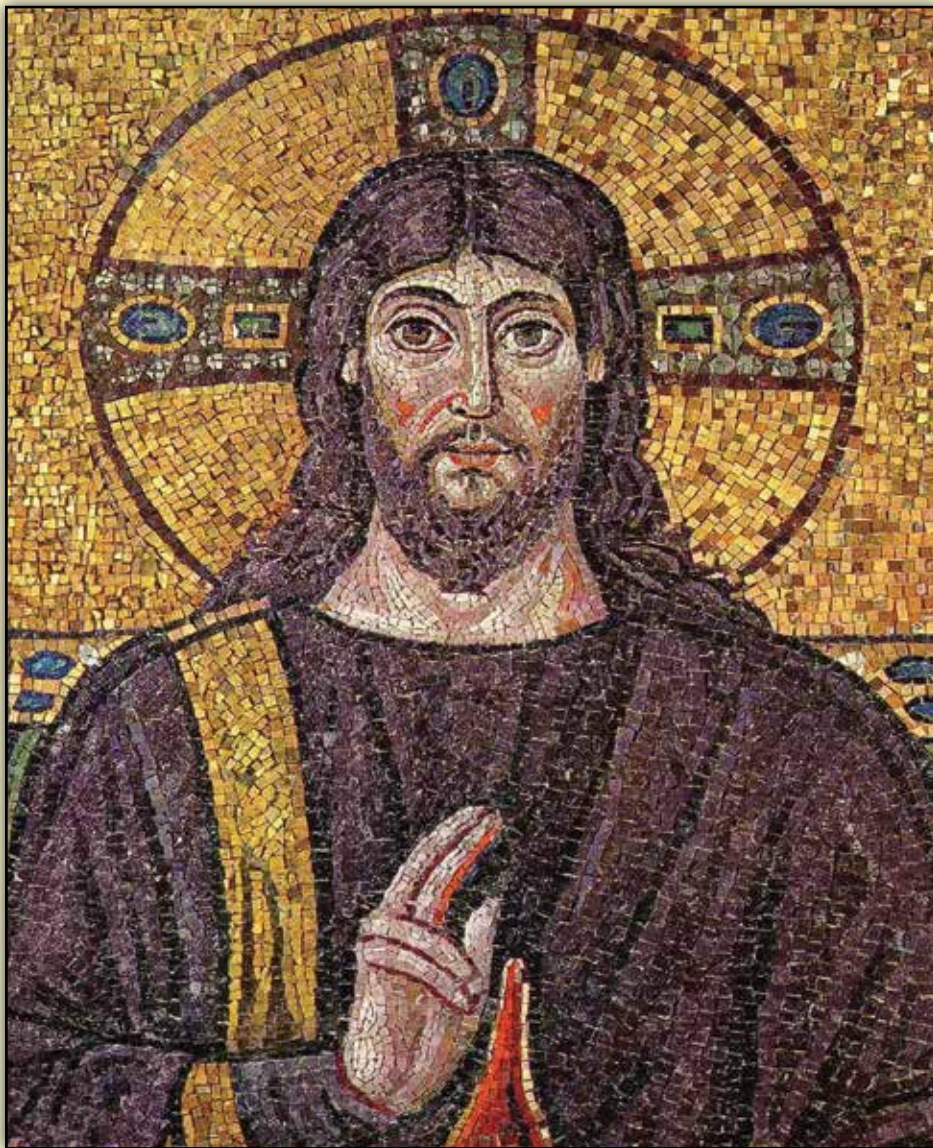


SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY



Icon of Christ Pantocrator

January 8, 2023: Sunday After the Theophany		
Epistle: Eph. 4: 7-13		Gospel: Mt. 4: 12-17
Mon., January 9	9:00	+ Marlene Nestrack (Kenneth & Karen Lilik)
Tues., January 10	9:00	+ Anna Mae Krisanda (Marcella Gawron)
Wed., January 11	9:00	+ Pope Benedict XVI
Thurs., January 12	9:00	Health of Bishop John Bura
Fri., January 13	9:00	+ Jacob, Ann & Karen Jablonski (Gloria Jablonski)
Sat., January 14	No Morning Divine Liturgy	
	2:00	Confessions
	4:00	Brian Westingtonton (Mom, Illona)
Sun., January 15	10:30	For Our Parishioners

Postfeast of The Holy Theophany of Our Lord

Antiphon 1

When Israel and Jacob's children came forth from Egypt, out from a barbarian people, * Judah became His sanctuary, Israel became His domain.

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

The sea saw God's people coming and parted for them; * when the Jordan saw them coming, its running waters ceased to flow.

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

Why is it, O sea, that you parted, * and what caused you,
O Jordan, to turn back your flow?

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, Savior, save us.

* * * * *

Third Antiphon

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

*O Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan,
save us who sing to You Alleluia.*

Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms.

*O Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan,
save us who sing to You Alleluia.*

For God is the great Lord and the great king over all the earth.

*O Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan,
save us who sing to You Alleluia.*

* * * * *

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.

*O Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan,
save us who sing to You Alleluia.*

* * * * *

Hymn to the Mother of God

Extol, my soul, Christ the King, who was baptized in the Jordan. No tongue can fittingly sing your praises. * Even superior intelligences far above your world appear feeble when they praise you, O Mother of God. * But in your goodness, accept our faith; * for you see that godly love we bear towards you, * as you are the Patroness of Christians.

* * * * *

Communion Verse

The grace of God has appeared * bringing salvation to all people.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Christ is Born! - Glorify Him! So many 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.

I thank our Cantors Patrick 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

RELIGIOUS 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.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

"As rain is necessary that plants may live and be refreshed, so prayer is necessary for the nourishment of the life of the soul." -- St. John Chrysostom.

And yet, although prayer is so necessary, why do some people neglect it? A few reasons are: the weakness of human nature as a result of original sin; sloth; a personal attachment to

the materialism of the world; failure to cooperate with the actual grace of God, etc.

Each day **adore** your Creator, the one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; **thank** God for the countless graces received; **make reparation** to God for your offenses; **petition** God for benefits for yourself and for others -- living and departed.

The Divine Liturgy includes the above four purposes, and is the greatest form of prayer that a creature can give to the Creator. Consistently participate in this Sublime Sacrifice!

Say all the traditional prayers

with fixed number of words. But also use your own words to tell God of your anxieties, problems, sufferings, intentions, etc.

Parents and children should pray together at least once a day. *“A family that prays together stays together.”*

In the words of St. Paul: *“pray without ceasing.”* Pray especially in time of spiritual and temporal danger. Never be a prayer-quitter; always persevere. Continue with your efforts to ward off distractions. Finally, as St. Alphonsus Liguori reminds us: *“One who prays will be saved, but one who does not pray will be lost.”*

-- by Msgr. John Squiller

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.

2023 PARISH DUES

We remind our Parish Family Members that at a Parish Meeting in February 2020, it was decided that beginning

2021 Parish Dues will be \$50.00 per adult per year. This is less than \$1 per week.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG

YOU ARE INVITED to join Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish for their 28th Christmas Carol Sing Along in the church on North River Street in Wilkes-Barre, Sunday, January 8th, 2023 starting at 2 p.m. Join in the singing of some very sacred, joyful and inspiring Christmas

Carols. Afterwards, please join us in the lower church hall for a Christmas Fellowship Social. Please bring a friend or family member, and share the joy of Christmas with them, as we welcome the Newborn Son of God into our hearts and homes.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

It is very rare that the Divine Liturgy is canceled, especially on a Sunday. I want to encourage those of you who must walk further or more importantly, who drive to church, to PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE, when making a determination about attending the Divine Liturgy on the snowy, icy,

inclement weekend or even more so on the weekday. If attendance means putting yourself and others at risk, I am sure the Lord understands if you should decide to pray at home. Please use common sense and a well-informed conscience when making such a decision.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of January 2023 is Team #1:

Jerry Sereditch, Michaelene Davis, and Gloria Jablonski.

Sunday Collection for Dec. 31 & Jan. 1: \$

New Parish Tradition

I would like to begin the practice of honoring everyone in our Parish Family on their Birthday or Wedding Anniversary. Beginning in January, we will designate the last Saturday/Sunday of each month to honor everyone born or married in that month. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, we will sing Mnohaya Leeta to the monthly honorees and print their names in the bulletin.

I will need your help to do this. Please fill in your information below and drop it in the collection box. PRINT CLEARLY and indicate if it is a birth or wedding anniversary, especially if it is a milestone year. One form per family is okay. Also, don't forget to put down your name.

January:

July:

February:

August:

March:

September:

April:

October:

May:

November:

June:

December:

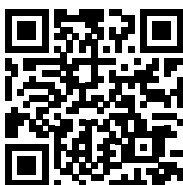
Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451 Fax: 570-489-6918

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net



Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The True Light of Revelation to the Gentiles

The Evangelist commemorates in this passage [today's Gospel] the prophet's words: "Beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." In what darkness? Certainly in the profound error of ignorance. What great light did they see? The light concerning which it is written: "He was the true light that illumines everyone who comes into this world." This was the light about which the just man Simeon in the Gospel declared, "A light of revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel." That light had arisen according to what David had announced, saying a light has arisen in the darkness to the upright of heart." Also, Isaiah demonstrated that light about to come for the enlightenment of the

Church when he said, "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." Concerning that light also Daniel noted, "It reveals the profound and hidden things, knowing those things which are in darkness and the light is with it," that is, the Son with the Father, for even as the Father is light, so too is the Son light. And David also speaks in the psalm: "In your light shall we see light," for the Father is seen in the Son, as the Lord tells us in the Gospel: "Who sees me, sees the Father." From the true light, indeed, the true light proceeded, and from the invisible the visible. "He is the image of the invisible God," as the apostle notes.

St. Chromatius