

Prayers for our Parishioners. The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs that the pastor is to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish entrusted to him on Sundays and days of precept [holydays of obligation]" (canon 294). This liturgy intention for all parishioners is "For the Intention of Parishioners." The faithful who attend the Divine Liturgy for the parishioners who participate, according to their state, in praying for that intention. We can continue this prayer for one another during the week by remembering several parishioners and families each week. Please remember this week: David and Jennifer Valeck & family, Lynn Valko, Anthony Vara, John Vernoski, Mary E. Vierira, Mary Elizabeth Vieira, Paul Vrabel, and from the Mission, Nancy Sesok & family.

Holyday of Obligation. Theophany is a holyday of obligation for all Eastern Catholics. There will be two Divine Liturgies for the convenience of the parishioners, 10:00AM and 7:30PM. Water will be blessed at the 10:00AM Divine Liturgy.

Epiphany of our Lord. The Lord Jesus was baptized by St. John the Baptist in the Jordan River although John rightly protested that it would be more proper for Jesus to baptize him. When Jesus replied, "Give in for now" John baptized Jesus. The baptism of Jesus that then followed became the occasion for the manifestation or revelation of God to the human race, an epiphany or Theophany. In this epiphany Jesus, who had appeared as Perfect Man, was revealed to be Perfect God as God the Son by the voice of God the Father. At the same time, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity was revealed, the Holy Spirit, who is seen as a dove hovering over the waters and over the Lord Jesus in the water. This is to call to mind that the dove flying over the flood waters bringing the olive branch to Noah in the ark was the sign of

reconciliation with God that brought about the end of the flood. Here, too, at the baptism, the Holy Spirit indicates reconciliation, that God is reconciling the human race to Himself by God the Son taking on the sins of the human race. One theologian described this by recalling that the gospel accounts say the people went into the Jordan to be baptized by John while confessing their sins. As a result, the Jordan was heavy with sins, polluted by the evil done by humans, when the Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of man, was immersed in the transgression-fouled, sin-polluted water. Jesus takes on all those sins and all sins committed or to be committed by humans. Also, Jesus cleanses the water and makes it an effective, not merely symbolic, remedy in baptism. Finally, John the Baptist is clothed like the prophet Elias was when the Jordan was split in two so Elias could pass and ascend to heaven in a fiery chariot. This is the sign that what the Lord Jesus did here was to open a path through baptismal water to heaven. By the power of the Holy Spirit operating in the Liturgy, we participate in this saving event and are given the opportunity at the Liturgy and blessing of water to reaffirm our intention to God that we still desire to have God open heaven for us at the completion of our earthly journey as was affirmed at first at our baptism.

Fasting prescriptions. The fasting prescriptions resume after the fasting free period of Christmas. Fridays resume as Days of Penance when we abstain from meat and meat products or perform an equivalent penance.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Parish Office Schedule. The parish office will be closed tomorrow, January 6th, in observance of the Feast of Theophany, a holy day of obligation for all Eastern Catholics. Office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 7th.

Epiphany Holy Supper. The Holy Supper for the parish titular feast is today after the 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy at the parish center. Please join us in partaking of the delicious traditional foods and the good company of fellow parishioners and their families.

Sacraments of Initiation. We welcome into the Mystical Body of Christ Matthias Athanasius Cassella, son of Elijah and Danielle Cassella, baptized, chrismated and received First Holy Communion, last Sunday, December 29, 2019. May God grant Matthias Athanasius a pure Profession of the Faith all the days of his life. Mnohaja l'ita!

Condolences. Jeffrey Sesok, one of the founders of Epiphany mission Gaithersburg, has passed away. Jeff was originally a parishioner of Epiphany church Annandale and was a member of Epiphany Men's Club. He and his wife, Nancy Dennis Sesok, were married at Epiphany church Annandale in 1988. We offer our condolences to his wife, Nancy, and their children, Christina and Nicholas upon the death of their husband and father. Visitation at DeVol Funeral Home, Gaithersburg, MD Wednesday, January 8th from 2-4 PM and 6-8PM. Funeral Services will be held at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Gaithersburg, MD Thursday, January 9 at 10:30AM. May God grant His departed servant, +Jeffrey, peaceful repose, Vičnaja jemu pamjat'.

EMC Awards Club. The Awards Club weekly drawings have been completed. Thank you for your participation. Weeks one through nine Winners of \$50 each. Tenth week winner received \$1000. Week 1: #265 – Mike Dalton; Week 2: #299 – Marlene McCracken; Week 3: #283 – John Kuklish; Week 4: #086 – Mike Hancher; Week 5: #262 – Mary Goodspeed; Week 6: #192 – Mary Michaels; Week 7: # 078

-- John Soyka; Week 8: #052 – Frank Polink Sr.; Week 9: #136 – William Michael Cervenek; Week 10: #103 – Michael Hamas.

EMC Meeting Rescheduled. The next meeting of the Epiphany Men's Club has been rescheduled to Thursday, January 9. Dinner is served at 7:00 PM with the meeting following at 7:30 PM. All men of the parish are encouraged to attend.

ELG Meeting with Special Presentation Following the Meeting. The next meeting of Epiphany Ladies Guild is Monday, January 13th Light refreshments will be served at 7:00 PM with the meeting following at 7:30 PM. Following the meeting, **Jack Figel** will present a 40-minute summary video of the pilgrimage he led to Constantinople, the Holy Land, Jerusalem and Rome last July. Highlights include visits to the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, the Tomb of St Peter in Rome, and private audiences with Patriarch Bartholomew and Cardinal Kurt Koch in Rome. A short Q&A will follow. Please join us for this special event.

2020 Calendars. The calendars for 2020 are available for pick up in the Narthex of the church today. Take only one per family, please.

Parish Organizations Calendar. All parish organization Presidents and/or Secretaries, please make sure you have informed Marsha Puhak, Hall Manager, of any planned activities your organization may have upcoming for 2020. If dates and times have not been reserved on the Chapel Hall or Parish Center calendar, your planned activity will not happen. All activities have to be cleared and transferred to the parish office calendar to prevent conflicts of scheduling.

EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop's Appeal. The 2019 Bishop's Appeal has begun. You should have received your mailing from the Eparchy with the magnetic icon included. The goal for Epiphany church remains the same \$19,800. Our parish has met its goal each year thanks to the sacrificial offerings of our parishioners and the generosity of Epiphany Ladies Guild. Costs for our seminarians' formation at the seminary in Pittsburgh, the financial support of our eparchies in Europe, support of the Office of Eastern Christian Formation, the young adult run Theosis In Motion, and God-With-Us on-line providing on line classes in Scripture, Evangelization, and other topics. There is no charge for participants because the Eparchy funds this popular program. Because we have reached our goal each year, we received the 40% reversions which benefited our parish. The reversions were used for parish repair and maintenance projects, like the roof replacements, parish center boiler replacement, and chapel AC HVAC replacement. This year if we reach our goal the reversion would go to the fund the repair of our parking lot.

God With Us On-Line. As we begin the New Year and celebrate the upcoming feast of Theophany, the revelation of the Holy Trinity at the baptism of the Lord Jesus in the Jordan, we invite you to register for our upcoming Bible study exploring the Mysteries of Initiation into the Church, Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist, and our identity as the people of God. There are many good resolutions to make for the beginning of the year but none more important than the resolution to deepen our relationship

with Christ and our knowledge of Him. Also, please share this wonderful opportunity with friends, family, and fellow parishioners. Live on-line January 8th, 15th, and 22nd at 8:00 PM. To register go to www.easterncatholic.org.

Sunday before Theophany

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Parish Office Schedule
- 2020 Calendars
- Awards Club Final
- Bishop's Appeal
- ELG Meeting
- EMC Meeting

EMC BINGO

01/07/20 Team A
01/07/20 Team B
01/14/20 Team C
01/21/20 Team D
<http://EMCBINGO.com>

January 5, 2020


TITHING & GIVING

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Adults | \$5,034.55 |
| Initial Offering | \$5.00 |
| Building Fund | \$640.00 |
| Holy Days | \$815.00 |
| Candles | \$60.00 |
| School of Religion | \$21.00 |
| Christmas | \$5,135.00 |
| Retired Religious | \$125.00 |
| St. Nicholas Fund | \$20.00 |
| TOTAL | \$11,855.35 |

"Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth." (Dt. 8:18)

LITURGY AND LIFE

Prayer Intentions. Please remember in prayer: Msgr. George Dobes, Michael Mikulak, David Sayen, Mary McDonnell, Justine Ferrari, Louis Shanks, Caroline Zurun, Mary Beth Vieira, Irene Markovich, Mary Gaydos, Betty Markovchick, John Vernoski, Marge Rusnak, and Paul Vrabel. Please pray for these friends and relatives of parishioners: Shirley Anne Markham, Jeffrey Mikulak, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Patricia Delfine, Rev. Joseph Jugan, Steven Goula, Eileen Gray, James Seman, Fr. Lee Gross, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Ed Livingston, Richard Doering, Julia Zdynak, Mary Catharine Bishop, Tim Berty, Joyce Rose, Ethan Augliera, Krista Brazzill, Jean Figel, Doris Stender, June Parrell, Richard Ryaby, Kelly Kunder, Jim Bacigalupi, and Katherine Sikoryak.



EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Byzantine Catholic Church
3410 Woodburn Road, Annandale, VA 22003
Phone: 703-573-3986 --- Fax: 703-573-0344
Very Rev. John G. Basarab - Pastor

**Christ is baptized!
 In the Jordan!**

January 5, 2020

**Christos Krestisja!
 Vo Jordani!**

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY – VIGIL OF THEOPHANY

Jan. 05 Sun. 8:00 AM Brecken Kosiba by Helen and Peter Wegman
 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

Thirty-first Week after Pentecost

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

Jan. 06 Mon. 10:00 AM LaDonna Rodock by Epiphany Sacristans
 7:30 PM Intention of Parishioners

Jan. 10 Fri. 10:00 AM +Joseph Blake by Joseph Stone

Saturday after Theophany

Jan. 11 Sat. 10:00 AM +Deacon Gerry McDonnell by Jamie Bacigalupi

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Jan. 12 Sun. 8:00 AM Intention of Parishioners
 10:30 AM +Louise and +Jimmy Cason by Monica Koshuta

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – January 12, 2020

Jan. 12 Sun. 8:00 AM T. Hughes (L), J. Cooke, J. Lampl
 10:30 AM J. Naccash (L), J. Cassella, A. Naccash, G. Naccash

USHER SCHEDULE – January 12, 2020

Jan. 12 Sun. 8:00 AM H. Katawczik (L), K. Koshute, T. Ryan
 10:30 AM T. Soyka (L), J. Naccash, D. Semanco

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD Byzantine Catholic Church

The Sacraments – Our Life in Christ

Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation - (Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist). We follow the command of the Lord to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Chrismation (Confirmation) and Holy Eucharist (First Holy Communion) is imparted at the same time immediately following baptism.

Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Infants – is scheduled at the Divine Liturgy on Saturdays or Sundays during the year except certain fast periods. Sponsors must be Catholics in good standing and supply a sponsor card attesting to that from their parish. While two Catholics in good standing is usual, one baptized non-Catholic can function as a Christian Witness with the Catholic sponsor. Both must be at least sixteen years of age. Details are available at the parish office.

Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Adults – follows a period of catechumenate. This is a period of spiritual formation. Please see the priest or deacon.

Mystery (Sacrament) of Crowning in Marriage – According to the Pastoral Policy and Guidelines for Marriage Preparation for the Catholic Church in New Jersey, couples wishing to marry must inform the pastor one year before the date of the wedding and be free to marry in the Catholic Church. Couples will meet with the priest and deacon in four sessions – to begin the pre-nuptial investigation, to take FOCUS, a communications, values and religious inventory approved for use in the Catholic dioceses/eparchies, to complete the pre-nuptial investigation and for a session on the theology of the mystery (sacrament). They are also required to attend Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter.

Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance – The Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance is regularly available each Saturday 11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon. In addition, confessions are heard during the Christmas Fast (Advent) and the Great Fast (Lent) on Sundays between the Divine Liturgies. Visiting confessors are also scheduled at special times during the Great Fast. Confessions are also heard on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Great and Holy Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life endangering medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves Week to prepare for the observance of the Lord's Resurrection.

Anointing of the Sick – of the sacrament of penance and anointing of the sick. If surgery is scheduled, please consider confession and anointing at the church before entering the hospital since there is more privacy for confession and less chance of interruption for confession and anointing. If you are unable to come to church, please call the rectory. Families of parishioners who have a medical emergency should contact the rectory office so one of the priests can go the hospital.

Holy Communion and Visitation of the Sick – Holy Communion is brought to our parishioners who are ill at the hospital or at home by the deacon on Sundays and at other times by arrangement. Please contact the deacon or the rectory office by Friday prior to the Sunday communion visitation.

Funeral Services – The Office of Christian Burial is offered in ways to accommodate the needs of the family. The Epiphany Ladies Guild as part of their charity offers a Mercy Meal for families at the Parish Center following the interment. Epiphany of our Lord cemetery is a portion of Fairfax Memorial Park. Parishioners who are interested in purchasing cemetery plots should see the deacon.

Byzantine Catholic Mission of Montgomery County - Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM; Religious Education & Social Hour 11:15-12:15: 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg, MD; (301) 482-0282.

Parish Administration

"The Church is not an organization with sacraments but a sacrament with organization."

Parish Clergy

Very Rev. John G. Basarab, Pastor
 Deacon Elmer Pekarik, Deacon Peter Turko

Parish Office Staff

Jamie Bacigalupi, Administrative Assistant
 Lucie Cantsilieris, Financial Assistant

Parish Council of Administration

Emil Koval, Greg Puhak, Sally Green

Parish Office Hours: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Monday- Friday
 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Sunday

School of Religion - School of Religion classes meet on Sundays between Liturgies (9:20 AM - 10:20 AM) throughout the school year (September - June). Classes are offered for children grades Preschool & Kindergarten - High School

Announcements may be dropped off in the Parish Office, faxed to the office (703-573-1088) or email to epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net.

Registration - Individuals who wish to register in the Parish should stop by the Parish Office and complete a census form.

Meditation on Today's Readings

Sunday before Theophany

“One mightier than I is coming after me...I have baptized you with water, he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”
Mark 1:1-8

The gospel according to Saint Mark is held to be the first gospel composed and the shortest. While St. Mark was too young to be one of the Twelve Apostles, he is mentioned in the gospels as an eyewitness of the events of the gospel and of the resurrection. It is held from Papias that he wrote the testimony of St. Peter.

The opening sentence of the gospel is the title and a summary explanation of the *Gospel* or *Good News* of Jesus and the revelation of who He is. This word gospel or good news in Greek, *euangelion*, was a term used to mean the announcement of a philanthropic act of an emperor toward the people. Mark picks up the use of this term from Jesus Himself who called His message about Himself not a gospel but **the** Gospel, the Good News that God was not appearing to humans to mete out the punishment that their sins and evil deserve but was coming to save them from this punishment. Jesus is the Christ, the Greek word which translates the Hebrew word Messiah, meaning Anointed One, the way kings were inaugurated. Not only is He the Messiah or Savior who was promised, He is God from God, the Son of God. All this is expressed in the first sentence.

Each book of the Bible has two authors, the Holy Spirit and the human author who cooperates with the Holy Spirit to make known God's Word in human words. The Holy Spirit begins here through quoting the Spirit's own words spoken through the prophets, first Isaiah, then Exodus, and Malachi (the last book of the Old Testament. Malachi in Hebrew means My Messenger). The quotation from Malachi refers to the last verse of the Old Testament, “Lo, I will send you Elijah the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and terrible day” (Malachi 3:24).

John the Baptist (by his father Zechariah John is a priest of the Old Testament, and by his mother Elizabeth he is a cousin of Jesus) dresses like Elijah (Old Testament 2nd Kings 1:8) to show that he is the Elijah who was to come. He fulfills the prophecy “to prepare the way of the Lord and make straight His path” by clearing away the clutter of peoples' minds to what is important to their survival: admitting our sinfulness, confessing our sins as a sign of sorrow and desire to renounce this behavior. This prepares and makes straight the way to the Messiah. And people respond. It is as if we humans were in a drunken stupor as we try to forget our human plight of being slaves of sin and death and John wakes us up with his hopeful message: the Forgiver of Sins is near, prepare for His baptism.

As the Church is preparing for Theophany, we are called to be like John the Baptist, first to ourselves then to our neighbor. It would be wrong to not do everything possible to save victims of suffering. When we are on a jet that is losing cabin pressure we are instructed to put on our oxygen first and then put it on others. So we must follow the example of John the Baptist, priest, and prophet, and waken ourselves first and then not neglect the great duty to begin to awaken others.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but to all who have loved his appearing.
2 Timothy 4:8

Saint Paul is near the end of his life on earth. The Holy Spirit inspires him to write that his life and the life of each disciple of Christ can be thought of like an athletic contest. As a sport has rules and a goal so does life. The judge of the sport that is life is Christ. Success is measured by being faithful to Christ despite all difficulties. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta said, “God is not calling me to be successful. He is calling me to be faithful.”

The word “appearing” in the original Greek that St. Paul wrote is epiphany. This is why the holy fathers appointed this reading for the Sunday before Theophany or Epiphany. The epiphany of the Lord Jesus at His birth in Bethlehem and in His baptism in the Jordan is in order to save the human race. To be saved by those Epiphanies a person has to believe that it is truly God who is revealing Himself in those manifestations or Epiphanies and to follow what those manifestations reveal. Let us love Him in His appearing (Epiphany) because He appeared because He loves us.

PARISH USTAV

Order for the Divine Liturgy
for
Sunday before Theophany

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

| | | |
|-------|--------|--|
| BLUE | p. 11 | Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy |
| GREEN | p. 146 | Resurrection Tone 5 |
| RED | p. 310 | Sunday before Theophany |

ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: A

EXCEPT: Cherubic Hymn

We Praise You

Communion Hymn Christmas p. 292

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE

2. At the Troparia:

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 5 p. 146 GREEN

Troparion of the Vigil of Theophany Tone 4 p. 310 RED

Kontakion of the Vigil of Theophany Tone 4 p. 311 RED

3. Scripture readings:

Prokeimenon of the Sunday before Theophany Tone 6 p. 311 RED

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Alleluia of the Sunday before Theophany Tone 8 p. 311 RED

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

