

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, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Kelly Kunder, Jim Bacigalupi, Katherine Sikoryak, Margaret Hospodar, John Ryaby III, Guillermina Donalson, and Steve Smith.

**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' families each week. Please pray for these parishioners; John Barba, Rand and Debra Bass, Frank and Lisa Behnke & family, James and Joyce Beiermann & family, Kevin and Theresa Bell & family, John and Patricia Berenzny & family, J. Charles Bernard, and from the Mission, Ronald Pytel. If a second Sunday Liturgy is offered, an intention can be accepted. Since we have had only one Sunday Divine Liturgy for fourteen Sundays, the Liturgy was for the Intention of our Parishioners. As a result, the intentions requested for the second Liturgy on Sundays have not been offered. The celebrant can pray for additional intentions during the Liturgy, for example, the priest is required to pray for the bishop who ordained him at every Liturgy he offers. The celebrant will pray for the intention parishioners have offered. Please note that this does not persolve the Liturgy intention requested. The intention requested for January 3rd, is +Rose Murphy by Monica Koshuta. Any Sunday liturgy intention previously scheduled will be rescheduled when a priest is assigned which would make two liturgies a possibility again.

**Public Liturgies.** The Commonwealth of Virginia began Phase Three July 1<sup>st</sup>. In his episcopal letter of May 13<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Kurt Burnette announced that churches may reopen for public worship according to the directives of the public health authorities and with the bishop's permission. For churches, Phase Three requirements are the same as Phase One requirements. This means that the Parish Strategic Plan and the Eparchial Checklist is still applicable. This means churches may open at 50% of capacity provided health department requirements are met. It is important for public health not to slacken in observing the Strategic Plan. Bishop Kurt continues to dispense so those who are at risk or feel unsafe may remain at home. Please keep in mind that Divine Law still requires us to keep the Lord's Day holy by prayer and by refraining from unnecessary work. The bishop cannot dispense Divine Law. Further, the Bishop had encouraged all to make a good confession later in the year when it is safe.

**Live Streaming.** In response to the spiritual needs the Faithful of Epiphany, the Divine Liturgy of the Sunday after Christmas - Memory of David, Joseph & James today will be live streamed.

**Praying at Home Together.** If you are remaining safe at home, you may consider praying the Divine Liturgy in your homes so that we can be united in praying the same prayers. These are available on the web site of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, <https://mci.archpitt.org>. The entire People's Molitvennik is available under Publications tab to use when participating in the live streaming Liturgy.

**Messages from the Pastor.** Father John has been sending email messages to the parishioners whose email addresses we have on our roster. If you have not been receiving these email messages, it might be because we do not have your email address, or you have changed it and we do not have it. We would like to have your email address to keep contact with you during this time when

some parishioners are remaining safe at home. Simply email the parish.

**Fast-free Week.** There is no fasting from Christmas to January 4<sup>th</sup> including Fridays, December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Intentions to be Rescheduled.** If you have offered a Divine Liturgy for an intention to be celebrated during the suspension, you will be contacted to reschedule. Jamie has begun rescheduling weekday liturgy requests according to the date of the request. If you have scheduled a weekday liturgy, that liturgy will remain on the date requested. However, if you scheduled a liturgy on a Sunday, the intention will not be rescheduled until after the pandemic or until Bishop Kurt is able to assign a second priest to be able to celebrate two Sunday liturgies.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**2021 Calendars.** Parishioners who were not able to pick up the new 2021 calendars last week, will have another opportunity to pick up one this Sunday. Cars will line up in the same order as used for car blessing and distributed by gloved and masked ushers. We ask that you take one per family.

**Offering Envelopes.** It has come to our attention that several parishioners have not yet received their envelopes for this quarter. Cathedral Corporation, the envelope company, reported the envelopes were sent out December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The rectory office just received a set.

**# EMC Awards Club Winners.** The winner of the tenth and final drawing and \$1000, is Clarence Thomason, #055. Thank you to all of you who contributed so generously to the Fall EMC Awards Club, which began October 18<sup>th</sup>. The winners for the ten week drawings are as follow: 1. Dottie Smith, 253; 2. Glen Warden, #175; 3. Terry Abell, #100; 4. Olga Osterberg, #025; 5. Mary McDonnell, #099; 6. Emil Koval, #075; 7. Nancy Hencken, #151; 8. Annie Koval,

103; 9. Rand Bass, #169; 10. Clarence Thomason, #055. Congratulations!

**On-line Giving Now Set Up.** Bishop Kurt directed that all parishes have online giving service in place with [www.tithe.ly.com](http://www.tithe.ly.com) by August 31, 2020. Both the parish and the mission now have online accounts with tithe.ly and these can be accessed at the church or mission web sites. To make an online contribution, go to the church web site. On the home page is a link that says Epiphany of our Lord online donation. Click on that and you will be directed to Epiphany's tithe.ly account. Please note that where you see Offertory, that is a drop-down menu that allows the donor to specify what the donation is for: Sunday offertory, Building Fund, St. Nicholas Fund, or eparchial collections. Please show care in the category Recurring Giving. If it is not a donation to be given each week or month, please make that adjustment that this is a one-time donation.

**EMC Bingo.** Due to the Pandemic, Bingo has been suspended indefinitely. Observance of local, state, Catholic Mutual, and eparchial requirements for safe distancing and sanitizing does not make reopening Bingo economically feasible. We will continue to monitor health and scientific information as it becomes available to guide the determination of opening safely for our parishioners and Bingo patrons.

**Parish Bulletin.** The parish bulletin will continue to be posted weekly on the Epiphany website: [www.eolbcc.org](http://www.eolbcc.org). It will also be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and photograph of the bulletin can be taken.

**Parish Office Schedule and Safety Protocols.** In accordance with Bishop Kurt Burnette's and Governor Northam's most recent Orders, the office hours for Epiphany of our Lord continue to be amended to the following: Monday through Friday - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Jamie, the administrative assistant, will cover the office during those hours from home two days of the week. She will be teleworking Tuesday afternoon and all day Thursday. She will be physically in

the parish office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday only. Lucie, the financial assistant, is working in the office only three days a week. She will be in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Given that response to this crisis is so fluid and schedules can change so quickly, please call the office phone number before venturing out. Parish staff has established safety and health protocols at the parish office, as well. If you have business at the office, please use the new doorbell. We will respond through the intercom after verifying your presence at the door. Jamie is able to respond to the door from home as well. Please wear a mask and use the hand sanitizer station when you come into the office and observe social distancing. We are only able to accommodate three adults in the office including two staff members observing safe distancing.

**Mission Update.** According to Jack McLaurin Montgomery County has informed him 11/10/20 that we could not use the "Right of Entry" agreement to inspect the dry wells due to change of use and are asking for easements for the dry wells. If this is the case, there will be a fee of \$2,000 for VIKA to prepare the easements and will have to be reviewed by eparchial counsel. That would mean the Forest Management Exemption would have to be amended to show the dry wells and the fee for VIKA would be \$2,500.

**Book Store.** The Bookstore is open by appointment only. Please contact a Bookstore manager and be prepared to wear a mask and not to use the rest rooms in the Social Hall.

**Restroom Availability FYI.** There are no campus restrooms open to the public, including our vendors. We have only two buildings being cleaned weekly, the church for our parishioners and the parish office for our office staff. The day care bathrooms are for the exclusive use of the day care children and staff and restricted for their safety.

## EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bishop's Appeal.** The Bishop's Appeal 2020 began October 1st. Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 1, 2021. Any contributions received after December 31, 2020, must be attributed to the 2021 tax year. The goal for this year's campaign is the same as last year, \$19,800 for the church and \$6,000 for the mission. The parishioners at the church have pledged or given \$11,550. The parishioners at the mission have pledged or given \$3,225. This is an incredible response in this difficult time. May God bless you for your sacrificial offerings to our eparchy and for our eparchy's donations to European eparchies. If we reach our goal, we will receive a 40% refund of the total received.

Sunday before Theophany

### COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Parish Office Safety Protocols
- Phones
- 2021 Calendars
- Mission details
- EMC Bingo – Suspended Indefinitely
- On Line Contributions
- Bishop's Appeal

#### EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

### TITHING & GIVING

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Adults             | \$14,448.00 |
| Initial Offering   | \$10.00     |
| Building Fund      | \$4,515.00  |
| Holy Days          | \$1,115.00  |
| Candles            | \$369.30    |
| BCY                | \$10.00     |
| Flowers            | \$50.00     |
| Christmas          | \$4,455.00  |
| Christmas Candles  | \$40.00     |
| Retired Religious  | \$280.00    |
| Catholic Charities | \$10.00     |
| School of Religion | \$32.00     |
| IBM                | \$180.93    |
| St. Nicholas Fund  | \$2,390.13  |
|                    | <hr/>       |
|                    | \$27,890.36 |

**Tithing & Giving.** Above accounting represents weeks 12/06 and 12/13. The next report will cover weeks 12/20, 12/25, and 12/27. "Online Donation" represents donations for Epiphany contributed by parishioners online and sent to Epiphany from our online giving account. Our online giving is operational and can be accessed through the parish or mission web sites. Thank you for continuing to use your giving envelopes.

*"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, Paul Vrabel, Richard Wytko, Tim Ryan, and Fr. Lee Gross.

January 3, 2021



# 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 3, 2021** **Christos Krestisja!  
Vo Jordani!**

## DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

Sun. Jan. 03 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

### Thirty-second Week after Pentecost

#### Vigil of Theophany

Tue. Jan. 05 10:00 AM Royal Hours of Theophany  
7:30 PM Intention of Parishioners

### THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

Wed. Jan. 06 10:00 AM +Mary Ellen Kepick by SOR & BCY

### Saturday after Theophany

Sat. Jan. 09 10:00 AM

### SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Sun. Jan. 03 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

### ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – January 3, 2020

Sun. Jan. 03 One server will be assigned under Phase Three Reopening Plan.

### USHER SCHEDULE – January 3, 2020

Sun. Jan. 03 Ushers check with Bob Wargo for assignments next Sunday.

**All public services in church in Phase Three in Virginia can have 50% of capacity.  
People in attendance must wear masks and maintain social distancing.**

# 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 FOCCUS, 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) at other scheduled times. 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** – Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life-threatening medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves 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](mailto:epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net).

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

Epiphany of our Lord Church, Annandale, VA  
<http://www.eolbcc.org>  
Epiphany of our Lord does not conduct business on the website email.

## PARISH USTAV

The Order for the Divine Liturgy  
Sunday before Theophany

### PLACE RIBBONS AT:

|       |        |  |
|-------|--------|--|
| BLUE  | p. 11  | Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy |
| GREEN | p. 149 | Resurrection Tone 6                                  |
| RED   | p. 309 | Sunday before Theophany                              |

### ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: B

#### EXCEPT:

Cherubic Hymn Christmas p. 222  
We Praise You p. 293

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Antiphons 1 & 2 of the feast of Christmas p. 302 RED
3. At the Troparia:
  - Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 6 p. 149 GREEN
  - Troparion of the Pre-feast Tone 4 p.309
  - Kontakion of Sunday of the Pre-feast Tone 4 p. 310 RED
4. Scripture readings:
  - Prokeimenon of the Pre-feast Tone 6 p. 311 RED
  - Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8
  - Alleluia of the Pre-feast Tone 8 p. 311 RED
  - Gospel: Mark
5. *Instead of* “It is truly proper...” Magnification and Irmos p. 304 RED

ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON – JEDINORODNYJ SYNE

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i 4n a4i, 4n a v'iki v'ikov. Amiň. Jedinorodnyj Syne,

i 4n a4 Božij, bezsmerten syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi vplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i 4n a4i-d'ivy Mariji, nepreložno vočelov'ičivysja, raspnysja že, Christe Bože, smertiju smert' popravjy, jedin syj Svjatyja Trojcy, sproslavl'ajemyj Otcu i Svjatomu Duchu, spasi nas.

### SVJATYJ BOŽE – HOLY GOD

Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas. (3)  
Slava Otcu, i Synu, i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amin.  
Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.  
Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.

### IŽE CHERUVIMY – LET US WHO MYSTICALLY

Iže Cheruvimy tajno obrazujušče, i životvorjasšče Trojc'i trisvjatuju p'isň prinosjasšče, vsjakuju nyňi zitejskoje otveržim pečal'.

Amiň. Jako da Carja vs'ich podimem, anhel'skimi nevidimo dorinosima činmi. Alliluaia. Alliluaia. Alliluaia.

### SVJAT, SVJAT, SVJAT – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Svjat, svjat, svjat, Hospod' savaoth, ispolň nebo i zeml'a slavy Tvojeja: osanna vo vyšnich, blahosloven hrjadjy vo imja Hospodne, osanna vo vyšnich.

### TEBE POJEM – WE PRAISE YOU

Tebe pojem, Tebe blahoslovim, Teb'i blahodarim, Hospodi, i molimtisja Bože naš.

### DOSTOJNO JEST' – IT IS TRULY PROPER

Dostojno jest' jako voistinnu blažiti t'a bohorodicu, prisnoblaženuju i preneporočnuju i Mater' Boha našeho. Česňijšuju Cheruvim i slavnišuju bez sravnenija Serafim, bez istl'inija Boha Slova roždšuju, suščuju Bohorodicu, t'a veličajem.

### OTČE NAŠ – OUR FATHER

Otče naš, iže jesi na nebes'ich, da svjatitsja imja Tvoje. Da prijdet carstvije Tvoje, da budet vol'a Tvoja, jako na nebesi, i na zemli. Chl'ib naš nasuščnyj dažd nam dnes'. I ostavi nam dolhi naša, jakože i my ostavl'ajem dolžnikom našim. I ne vvedi nas vo iskušeniye, no izbavi nas ot lukavaho.

### VID'ICHOM SVIT ISTINNYJ – WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT

Vid'ichom svit istinnyj, i prijachom Ducha nebesnaho, obr'itochom v'iru istinnuju, nerazd'ilnij Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklanjajemsja, T'a bo nas spasla jest'.

### DA ISPOLŇATSJA – MAY OUR MOUTH BE FILLED

Da ispolňatsja usta naša chvalenija tvojeho Hospodi, jako da pojem slavu tvoju, jako spodobil jesi nas pričastitsja svjatym tvojim, božestvennym, bezsmertnym, i životvor'ascim Tajnam; utverdi nas Bože vo Tvojej svjatyni vsja dni poučatisja pravd'i Tvojej. Alliluja.

## 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 that he also writes 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

From the *Navarre Bible—New Testament, Navarre Bible-Mark*, the *Ignatius Study Bible-The Gospel of Mark* and John S. Custer, *The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspectives*.

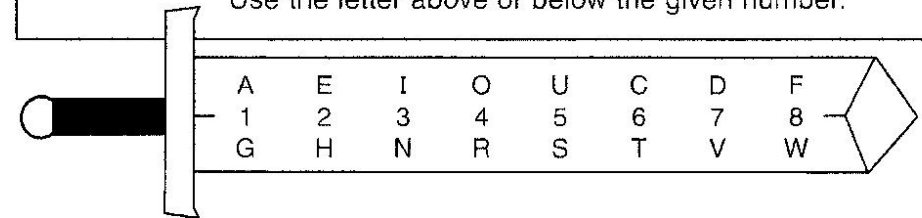
### Children's Corner

2021 CRI • PO Box 6360, Beaufort, SC 29903 • 800 992-2144 • www.ChildrensBulletins.com

## I Have Kept the Faith

Paul compared his Christian life to a runner who has finished a race or to a soldier who has fought well.

Use the letters on the sword to complete Paul's statement.  
Use the letter above or below the given number.



“

|        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| ↑<br>3 | 2<br>↓ | ↑<br>1 | 7<br>↓ | ↑<br>2 | 8<br>↓ | ↑<br>4 | ↑<br>5 | 1<br>↓ | 2<br>↓ | 6<br>↓ |
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