

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; Amelia Bordas, Joanne and Randall Borden & family, Christian and Eileen Braunlich & family, Stephen and Alexandra Braunlich, Rose Brodnos, Mary Brooks & family, M. Gabriele Brown, and from the Mission, John and Belinda Radko & family. 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 10th, is Deacon El Pekarik by Sally Pekarik, celebrating the 20th anniversary of Ordination. 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 Theophany 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.

**Condolences.** We offer our condolences to the family of Paul Vrabel who passed away January 1, 2021. The interment will be Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM at Fairfax Memorial Park There is a limit on the number of people who can attend. The Divine Liturgy will be Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM. The Mercy Meal for the family will follow at the Parish Center following covid19 directives.

**Friday Fast Resumes.** Fridays resume as a Day of Penance.

**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.

**Epiphany Men's Club.** A virtual meeting of the EMC will take place on Thursday, January 14th at 7:30 PM. Details and invitation will be emailed to you.

**2021 Calendars.** Parishioners if you not able to pick up a 2021 liturgical calendar over the past two Sundays and wish to request a calendar, please call the parish office. We will put one in the mail to you. We are asking that distribution be limited to 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.

**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.colbcc.org](http://www.colbcc.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.** Goshen Enterprises, Inc. has finished winterizing the Mission property as requested by Fr. John. James Dillon, the liturgical furnishings contractor, including the iconostas, has refined the concept drawings made while he and Fr. John earlier in the development of this renovation project.

**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 \$16,950. The parishioners at the mission have pledged or given \$4,225. 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.

**ByzanTEENS Night Out.** The monthly virtual meetings of Byzantine Catholic teens continue this year with the general theme of "Roadmap to the Rally" at Mt. St. Mary, Emmitsburg, MD. The January meeting is Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30PM. The teens are from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Florida. Epiphany teens are participants. Each month there are new participants who join. Deacon Tom Schubeck, a deacon at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Rahway and a licensed psychologist and a professor at Seton Hall University, is one of the hosts. For information on the virtual Night Out write to him at [frdeacontom@gmail.com](mailto:frdeacontom@gmail.com).

**God With Us Online.** The study series resumes with the offering *Partakers of the Divine Nature: A Patristic Study of Deification*. The course examines the work of God in which humans can become divinized by studying the fathers of the Church. The course is led from Father Nathan Scott Adams and will be presented online for three Wednesdays, January 13<sup>-27</sup> at 9:00PM. God to [www.GodWithUsOnline.org](http://www.GodWithUsOnline.org) to register.

Sunday after Theophany

## COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Parish Office Safety Protocols
- ByzanTEEN Night Out
- 2021 Calendars
- Mission Development
- EMC Meeting (Virtual)
- On Line Contributions
- Bishop's Appeal

### EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

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 12/20/20, 12/25/20, and 12/27/20.01/10/21. The next report will cover weeks 01/03/21 and 01/10/21. "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, Richard Wytko, Tim Ryan, and Fr. Lee Gross.

January 10, 2021

## TITHING & GIVING



# 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**

<b>Christ is baptized! In the Jordan!</b>	<b>January 10, 2021</b>	<b>Christos Krestisja! Vo Jordani!</b>
---	-------------------------	--

## DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

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

*Thirty-third Week after Pentecost  
 Postfestive Day of Theophany*

Tue. Jan. 12 10:00 AM +Elizabeth Lichvarcik by Elizabeth Basarab

Sat. Jan. 16 10:00 AM Memorial Divine Liturgy +Paul Vrabell

### SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

Sun. Jan. 17 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

### ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – January 17, 2020

Sun. Jan. 17 One server will be assigned under Phase Three Reopening Plan.

### USHER SCHEDULE – January 17, 2020

Sun. Jan. 17 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.**

## 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.

<p align="center"><b>Epiphany of our Lord Church, Annandale, VA</b>  <a href="http://www.eolbcc.org">http://www.eolbcc.org</a>  <b>Epiphany of our Lord does not conduct business on the website email.</b></p>
---

The Order for the Divine Liturgy  
Sunday after Theophany

**PLACE RIBBONS AT:**

BLUE	p. 11	Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy
GREEN	p. 156	Resurrection Tone 7
RED	p. 316	Sunday after Theophany

**ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: C**

**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 Theophany p. 316 RED
3. At the Troparia:
  - Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 7 p. 156-157 GREEN
  - Troparion of Theophany Tone 1 p. 317 RED
  - Kontakion of Theophany Tone 4 p. 317 RED
4. Scripture readings:
  - Prokeimenon of the Post-festive Tone 1 p. 317 RED
  - Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13
  - Alleluia of the Post-festive Tone 1 p. 314 RED
  - Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17
5. *Instead of* "It is truly proper..." Magnification and Irmos p. 315 RED

i 4n a4 Božij, bezsmerten syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi voplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i 4n a4i-d'ivy Mariji, nepreložno vočelov'ičivysja, raspnysja že, Christe Bože, smertiju smert' popravyj, 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 životvorjasščej Trojc'i trisvjatuju p'isň prinosjasšče, vsjakuju nyňi zitejskoje otveržim pečal'.

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

**SVJAT, SVJAT, SVJAT – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Svjat, svjat, svjat, Hospod' savaoth, ispolň nebo i zeml'a slavy Tvojeja: osanna vo vyšnich, blahosloven hrjadyj 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. Češňišuju Cheruvim i slavňišuju 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 prijedet carstvije Tvoje, da budet vol'a Tvoja, jako na nebesi, i na zemli. Chl'ib naš nasučnyj 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**

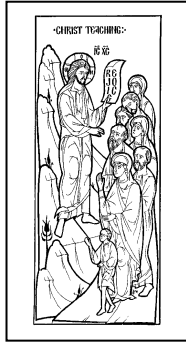
Vid'ichom svit istinnyj, i prijachom Ducha nebesnaho, obr'itochom v'iru istinnuju, nerazd'ilnij Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklanjajemsja, T'a bo nas spasla jest'.

**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 Tvojeje. Alliluja.

~~ONLY BEGOTTEN SON – JEDINORODNYJ SYNE~~

**Meditation on Today's Readings**



## Sunday After Theophany

Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”  
Matthew 4:12-17

The Synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, narrate what takes place immediately after the Lord Jesus is baptized. His baptism is an epiphany for at his baptism, Jesus is revealed as true God, and God is revealed as the Holy Trinity. Just as the gospel according to Matthew was chosen for the Liturgy gospel reading of Theophany the holy fathers continue to utilize the account in the gospel according to Matthew in order to inform what took place following the baptism. The account is divided into two readings, the first proclaimed on the Saturday after Theophany,

explains that immediately upon coming from the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit into the Judean wilderness where He fasts for forty days and triumphs over the temptations of Satan.

The second part of the narrative is read the following day, today, for the Sunday after Theophany. After the forty days, Jesus hears that John the Baptist had been imprisoned by Herod. Jesus travels from Judea in the south to Galilee in the north, into the territory of Herod to begin His preaching, and primarily so that the prophecy of Isaiah could be fulfilled about where the Messiah would begin to preach, that is, the land of Zebulon and Naphtali. The Messiah is to begin preaching, not where one would expect—in religious Judea—but in Galilee, the frontier between the Holy Land and the pagan rest of the world. This is an indication that Christ’s disciples are to have one foot planted in the Church community and the other in the secular world where they are to witness and preach in order to invite people to be saved.

The prophecy of Isaiah does not sugarcoat the plight of humanity. The Holy Spirit, speaking through Isaiah, says the world is in darkness because human intellect is darkened because of Original Sin. The earth is a world of death where humans sit in “the region and shadow of death”. Since death is the result of sin and all humans must die so death is the shadow hanging over us all.

Jesus begins to preach the same message John the Baptist proclaimed, “Repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand.” The Greek word *metanoiēte* means to completely have a change of mind, to have a radical change of spirit, mind, thought and heart, a complete reorientation of life. This attitude must precede and lead to baptism and must follow after baptism. In this account the holy fathers are preparing us to begin the Great Forty Day Fast because we have to stir up that *metanoia* attitude in ourselves and prepare for the Great and Holy Week and Easter.

The final part is that the Kingdom of God is at hand. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in *Jesus of Nazareth* that the Greek word of the original gospel *basileia* and the Hebrew word *malikut* that is behind it are action words and means the action of the King, so that Kingdom of God means the reign of God. Pope Benedict writes, “We can put it even more simply: When Jesus speaks of the Kingdom of God, He is quite simply proclaiming God, and proclaiming him to be the living God, who is able to act concretely in the world and in history and is acting so even now. He is telling us ‘God exists’ and ‘God is really God’ which means that He holds in his hands the threads of the world.”

Every human deserves to hear this message. And every human is faced with the choice to enter into the Kingdom where God is acting to save humans or to take a chance on their own or someone else’s power to save.

Grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift...And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the Body of Christ.  
Ephesians 4:7-13

The holy fathers appointed this epistle passage for the Sunday after Theophany, the Sunday after the feast of the Baptism of Christ, because of verse 13: “‘He ascended,’ what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth?” This image of Christ in the Jordan River Valley descending even lower when He goes into the water is an image of humbling Himself before the person He created, John the Baptist, in order to take our sins on Himself. Saint Paul had written in verse 8, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives...” This is a quote from Psalm 68 whose first verses our Church uses at Pascha, “Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered...” as a prophecy of Christ’s death and resurrection. Saint Paul is saying that this psalm is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Through Him, through His death and burial, through His resurrection, God’s gift of grace was given to each of us. These gifts are given to each in the measure Christ bestows not just for oneself (although it is for one’s good) but for each of us to serve one other in order to build up

From *Ignatius Study Bible: Matthew, The Navarre Bible: Matthew, The Navarre Bible*

### Children’s Corner

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

2

---

3

---

2

---

3

---

1

---

2

---

1

---

2

---

1

---

3

---

2

---

3

---

2

---

3

---

2

---

1

---

2

---

3

---

2

---

3

---

1

---

2

---

1

---

2

---

1

---

2

---

1

---

2

---

1 2 3  
solemn  
promise

1 2 3  
cloud  
location

1 2 3  
knee  
location

1 2 3  
what  
sprinters  
do

1 2 3  
cloud  
location

1 2 3  
d  
not  
bright

1 2 3  
mouse  
catcher

In each shape, write a 3-letter word that matches the clue. Then use the code to find 4 ways in which Christians should grow.

The body of Christ is growing in ...