

Metropolitan Church directs pastors to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish entrusted to him on Sunday and days of precept [holydays of obligation] (canon 294). This liturgy intention for 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 remembering several parishioners and families each week. Please remember this week; Gayle and Rolf Dietrich, Lynn Doering, Gregg and Danielle Dojcek & family, John Dubiansky and Noelle Sitthikul & family, Sean and Natalie Durista, Theodore and Leslie Dykman & family, Roseann and Robert Esser & family, from the Mission, Nancy Sesok.

**Governor's Orders.** The Governor of Virginia has issued the seventh revised Executive Order Seventy-two and Executive Order Seventy-nine. According to the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Emergency expired July 1, 2021, and all executive orders are expired or terminated.

**Episcopal Guidelines.** Bishop Kurt issued directives for his parishes effective May 28, 2021. 1.) The Bishop directs that state and local health directives should be observed. 2) Parishioners do not have to wear a mask except for personal choice. 3) Priests, deacons, and those assisting with the distribution of Holy Communion should wear a mask. 4) The priest and deacon are to receive from chalices other than the one to be used for the Faithful. 5) Individual spoons must continue to be used to distribute Holy Communion. 6) The priest and deacon must continue to exercise caution in handling the offered and prepared gifts before they are consecrated, and handling, speaking, or singing near the metal ware (chalice, discos, zeon) and continue to sanitize their hands prior to touching them. 7) No one should be asked if they have received the covid vaccine in order

to allow entrance to the church. 8) People are encouraged to continue to practice safe distancing in the pews and Communion procession. 9) The Bishop has not lifted the prohibition to have the prayer books or Bibles or bulletins in church.

**Sunday Obligation.** The Bishop has revoked the dispensation regarding the Sunday precept or obligation to assist at Divine Liturgy on June 6, 2021. Watching a live stream no longer fulfills the obligation to assist at Divine Liturgy. However, the Bishop reminds everyone that "just as before the pandemic, anyone is relieved of the obligation for serious reason such as sickness, immobility, fear, caring for someone else, to protect your own health or the health of others."

**Parish Adjustments to Plan.** As a response to the governor's amended executive order and Bishop Kurt Burnette's guidelines of May 26, 2021, Epiphany will have certain adjustments in public worship and assembly. At the present time, no executive orders have been issued. The Virginia Department of Health classifies gathering for public worship as a high-risk activity in the response to the covid variants, delta and omicron. Please continue to follow the directions of the ushers. The sanitizing stations will still be at the same places, and all are asked to avail themselves of their use. The collection will continue to be taken by the basket in the narthex for the present. Please note that adjustments to pew seating have been made to accommodate the Faithful since the Bishop's dispensation from the Sunday obligation has been revoked. The Bishop has not made any changes to allow the distribution of bulletins or replacing the books in the pew racks. However, the ushers will have Divine Liturgy books available if you desire. If you ask for a book, please take it home with you and bring it back for use each time you come to church. The sacristans will continue to sanitize surfaces and doors regularly. The chapel continues to remain closed at present.

**Praying at home together.** If you are remaining safe at home, you may consider praying the Divine

Liturgy in your homes so we can be united by the same prayer. Visit the <https://mci.archpitt.org> web site under Publications tab to use on your smart phone when participating in the 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 office.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank You.** My family and I want to thank all of the Epiphany parishioners who have held us in your prayers through these past two and a half years. Everyone has been so generous with your prayers for us, words of encouragement, rides to work for me, and so many expressions of support that have given us strength and have allowed us to move forward in Hope. And please know your kindnesses are most appreciated and cherished.

– Jamie Bacigalupi & family

**Building Fund.** The fourth quarter interest payment on the loan for the new church is \$6,272.12 and it has been paid last month. The loan balance is \$836,282.67. This year the total interest payments were \$26,775.98. The total principal payment made this year was \$75,000. This is made possible by your generosity and by the gift of your time, talents and your dedicated hard work  
**On-line Giving.** 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 have online accounts with tithe.ly and these can be accessed at the church or mission web sites.

To make a 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.

**Tax Planning Opportunities.** For those of you currently taking required minimum distributions from your IRA, consider making Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) to Epiphany Church directly from your IRA. This will not only benefit our church, but it reduces your taxable income even if you do not itemize. Contact the parish office for more information.

**2022 Church Calendars.** The Church calendars for 2022 have not been received. Jamie has tried to contact Byzantine Seminary Press but was unable to speak with anyone as to when we are in the process. The Press office voicemail was full and there has been no response to the email.

**EMC Bingo.** New legislation went into effect July 1, 2021, that changes aspects of Bingo in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This legislation allows only those organizations who have corporate offices in Virginia to hold Bingo. Epiphany Men's Club has retained counsel, Attorney John Rodock of Baker, Donalson. A subcommittee of lawmakers has been formed to study the negative impacts of the legislation. Members of EMC Men's Club plan to meet with members of the subcommittee to share the impact the legislation has on our Bingo. EMC is asking parishioners if anyone is interested to work Bingo one Tuesday per month.

**Epiphany Holy Supper.** To observe our parish's titular feast day, the traditional Holy Supper will be served today, Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, after the 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy. The Epiphany Ladies Guild will host the Holy Supper.

**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.

**Mission Development.** The chandelier has been installed. Jack had new candle light sconces installed on the chapel wall. The icons on canvas have been donated by Christine Loya of Eikona Studios. Christine Loya had sent computer generated photographs with measurements to indicate how the icon canvases are to be installed. Jeff Nashwinter built the frames for the icons, attached the canvas, and installed them on Thursday, December 30. Jeff is also preparing the poles for the new chapel-size ripidia. Father John took the bells, the Last Supper icon, and the Crucifix for the top of the icon screen to the mission and gave them to Jack McLaurin. Work on the tabernacle and the staining of the liturgical furnishings were delayed because of the snow. East Coast Commercial met Jamie at the mission estate January 8<sup>th</sup> to give the price for the complete cleaning. Lisabeth McLaurin filled and removed twelve bags of items in preparation for the cleaners.

**Epiphany Men's Club Meeting.** In observation of Theophany, a holyday of obligation for most Eastern Rite Catholics, the Epiphany Men's Club meeting has been moved to this Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM followed by the meeting at 7:30 PM.

## EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bishop's Appeal 2020.** The Bishop's Appeal 2020 began November 1, 2021. The

goal for Epiphany of our Lord, Annandale is the same as last year, \$19,800.00. The goal for Epiphany of our Lord Montgomery

County Mission also remains the same as the previous year, \$6,000. Parishioners should be receiving your Bishop's Appeal forms shortly. If you do not receive your Appeal information, please call the parish office at 703-573-3986 or email to [epiphanyofourlord3420@gmail.com](mailto:epiphanyofourlord3420@gmail.com). Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 30, 2021. Any contributions received after December 31, 2021, must be attributed to the 2022 tax year. As in previous years, if we reach or exceed our goal, the parish will receive a 40% refund of the total received.

**God with Us Online** The first course offered for 2022 will be "Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy: The History of the Ecumenical Councils. The professor will be Father Christian Kappes, PhD, SLD. Join us as Father Kappes leads us through the breath-taking story how the holy fathers of the ecumenical councils battled to preserve the integrity of the Faith as Jesus presented it to the apostles against heresies in the decisive first centuries of the Church. Sessions will be Wednesdays, January 12-26 and February 9-16 from 8-9PM.

## Sunday after Theophany

### COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- On Line Contributions
- Amended Safety Protocols
- Mission Development
- God with Us online
- Parish Loan
- Bishop's Appeal
- Epiphany Holy Supper today
- Epiphany Men's Club Meeting

#### EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

January 9, 2022

### TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$15,614.00
Initial Offering	\$115.00
Building Fund	\$2,600.00
Holy Days	\$780.00.00
Candles	\$174.00.
BCY	\$10.00
SOR	\$151.00
Christmas	\$5.00
Water bottles	\$25.18
<u>St. Nicholas Fund</u>	<u>\$33.00</u>
	<u>\$19,507.18</u>

**Tithing & Giving.** This report represents donations made in person during the week 12/26/21. It does not include online donations. Building Fund is a pass through item from other accounts to be transferred to Building Fund and is not General Fund income.

*"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, David Sayen, Mary McDonnell, Justine Ferrari, Louis Shanks, Caroline Zurun, Mary Beth Vieira, Irene Markovich, Mary Gaydos, Betty Markovchick, John Vernoski, Marge Rusnak, Steve Seman, Damon Seman, Tim Ryan, Fr. Lee Gross, Greta Koehl, and Monica Koshuta. Please pray for these relatives and friends of our parishioners: Eileen Gray, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Kelly Kunder, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Patricia Delfine, Katherine Sikoryak, Margaret Hospodar, John Ryaby III, Guillermina Donalson, Steve Smith, Caleb Joseph Lugo.



**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 9, 2022</b>	<b>Christos Krestisja! Vo lordani!</b>
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***SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY***

Jan. 09 Sun. 9:00 AM Intention of Parishioners

***Thirty-fourth Week after Pentecost***

Jan. 11 Tues. 10:00 AM +Dcn. Gerald McDonnell by Mary McDonnell & family

***Leave-taking of Theophany***

Jan. 14 Fri. 10:00 AM +Nicholas DeLuca by Joseph Stone

***VIGIL OF THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***

Jan. 15 Sat. 5:00 PM +Elizabeth Basarab by Lucie Cantisiliairs

***THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***

Jan. 16 Sun. 9:00 AM Intention of Parishioners

***ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – January 15 & January 16, 2022***

Sat. Jan. 15 5:00 PM Michael Sirotniak, Robert Riley

Sun. Jan. 16 9:00 AM James Hughes, Robert Riley

***USHER SCHEDULE - January 15 & January 16, 2022***

Sat. Jan. 15 5:00 PM Volunteers

Sun. Jan. 16 9:00 AM Volunteers

**People in attendance can wear masks but do not have to do so if vaccinated. No one will be asked to provide proof. People are requested to 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 Cantisilieris, 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.

**Epiphany of our Lord Church, Annandale, VA**

**<http://www.colbcc.org>**

Epiphany of our Lord does not conduct pastoral business on the website email.

## PARISH USTAV

The Order for the Divine Liturgy  
for  
Sunday after Theophany  
Post-festive of Theophany

### PLACE RIBBONS AT:

BLUE	p. 11	Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy
GREEN	p. 156	Resurrection Tone 8
RED	p. 309	Sunday after Theophany

### ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: A

#### EXCEPT:

Cherubic Hymn Christmas p 292  
We praise You p. 293

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Antiphons of the feast of Theophany p. 316 RED
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Antiphon of the week day p. 316-317 RED
4. At the Troparia:  
Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 8 p. 161 GREEN  
Troparion of Theophany, Tone 1 p. 317 RED  
Kontakion of the Theophany Tone 4 p. 310 RED
5. Scripture readings:  
Prokeimenon of Sunday after Theophany Tone 1 p. 317 RED  
Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13  
Alleluia of Sunday after Theophany Tone 8 p. 318 RED  
Gospel: Mark 4:12-17
6. Instead of “It is truly proper” Exaltation and Irmos of Theophany p. 318 RED

## ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON – JEDINORODNYJ SYNE

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i prisno i vo v’iki v’ikov. Amiň. Jedinorodnyj Syne, i na Božij, bezsmerten syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi voplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i nai-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 životvorjasščej Trojce i trisvjatuju p’išn 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 inja 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, prisenoblaženuju i preneporočuju i Mater’ Boha našeho. Česňjšuju Cheruvim i slavňjšuju 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 inja Tvoje. Da prijedet carstvije Tvoje, da budet vol’a Tvoja, jako na nebesi, i na zemli. Chl’ib aš 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.

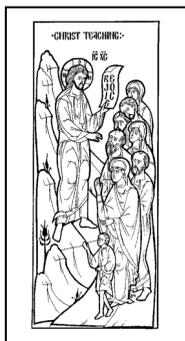
### VID’ICHOM SVIT ISTINNYJ – WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT

Vid’ichom svit istinnyj, i prijachom Ducha nebesnaho, obr’itochom v’iru istinnuju, nerazd’ilnij Svjat’ij Trojce 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. Alliluja.

## Meditations 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.

According to God's command in the Law of Moses, annually, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest was to sacrifice one goat and take a second goat, impose his hands on the goat and recite all the sins the Chosen People committed in the past year. Then he was to send the goat out to the Judean desert as a symbol of sending the sins to the devil who inhabited this realm (there is no water in a desert and water is necessary for human life, so in the world of symbols it is a perfect place for the devil, for the devil hates human beings and would deprive them of life). Now, the sacrifice of goats does not take sins away; it only shows the desire for people that they wish their sins to be forgiven and that they understand the high cost of sin—that cost is death.

But when Jesus goes into the Jordan, He is completely sinless and He takes on the sins of all humans who were alive, who had lived, and who would live. Then God the Holy Spirit, not the High Priest, leads Him into the Judean desert to face Satan and Satan's temptations

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, so that Herod will not interrupt His preaching, and primarily so that the prophecy of Isaiah could Jesus begins to preach the same message John the Baptist proclaimed, "Repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand." The Greek word *metanoiete* 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 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. 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. 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. 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.

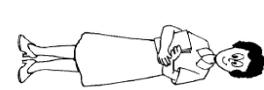
*Grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift...And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the Body of Christ.*  
Ephesians 4:7-13

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.

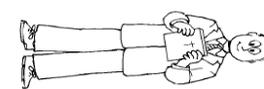
From *Ignatius Study Bible: Matthew, The Navarre Bible: Matthew, The Navarre Bible.*

### Children's Corner

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FOR WORKS OF  
6 2 1 7 8 9 2



T O    0 1 2 0 3 1 2    G O D ' S  
SALES ..... 3 P O 6 T 5  
SHORE ..... P 4 P 2 T  
SINGLE ..... 7 V A E 8 S T  
STARS ..... 0 P O 1  
CHEERS ..... T A 9

Use the letters of the word that is supplied to complete each word.  
Then place the numbered letters into the blanks.

Paul listed some of the roles Christians may have in the church.  
While their duties vary, they all have 1 ultimate purpose