



January 8, 2017

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Jan. 7 (Sat)	Divine Liturgy	5:00pm
Jan. 8 (Sun)	Sunday after Theophany	
	Divine Liturgy	10:30am
	St. Stephen Parish Dinner	12:00 noon
Jan. 9 (Mon)	Divine Liturgy	8:30am
Jan. 10 (Tue)	Parish Advisory Council	6:30pm
Jan. 11 (Wed)	Divine Liturgy	8:30am
Jan. 13 (Fri)	Divine Liturgy	8:30am
Jan. 14 (Sat)	Divine Liturgy	5:00pm
Jan. 15 (Sun)	35th Sunday after Pentecost	
	ECF Classes	9:00am
	Divine Liturgy	10:30am

The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of Jan 8 thru Jan 14 for the Abraham Family.



Our Tithe to our Church

January 1, 2017 — \$4,991.30

Today all creation glows with light from above ...

Today spiritual beings converse with created ones ...

Today deceit is destroyed and the road to salvation is opened by the coming of the Master ...

Today the Master hastens to be baptized in order to uplift humankind ...

Today we have gained the kingdom of heaven ...



Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Rosella Busko, Marian Campbell, Ted Druga, John Fekete, Marie Klotz, Carl Magdic, Fran Mogush, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko, Maria Rusinko, Ed Suzina, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Cecelia Stephen, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.

ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS FOR 2017

The individual donation envelopes and the calendars for 2017 are now prepared and ready and may be picked up in the hallway of the Educational Wing. If there are any errors, omissions, or other mistakes, please call the parish office on Monday or Tuesday between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

In this festive Nativity-Theophany season ... as we see Light coming from the dark cave of the nativity ... and Life emerging from the drowning waters of the Jordan ... spend some time meditating on these images ... images and poetry are one of the ways God breaks through the barriers to speak to us ... and reveal himself to us.

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

On the feast of the Holy Theophany, we participated in the great sanctification of the Jordan Waters.



This service, with its beautiful and moving prayers, is quite a teaching on the meaning of the "Jordan Water" ... commonly called "holy water."

It tells us that, in the eyes of faith, the water becomes something sacramental ... a holy mystery ... a revelation of God's presence and power in our world. And it also tells us that God's presence is not something only in the past ... but that God is present *today*.

Let's listen again to some of the images from the prayer of blessing.

Today is the time for celebration. The choir of Saints joins with us, and the Angels celebrate with us.

Today the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends upon the waters ...

Today the sins of humanity are cleansed by the waters of the Jordan ...

Today paradise is opened ...

Today we have been delivered from darkness ...

THE MAN WHO WAS A LAMP

The cave of Christmas
is hidden
in the center of the earth.
You will need a lamp for the journey.
A man named John
is a step ahead of you.
His torch sweeps the ground
so that you do not stumble.
He brings you,
at your own pace,
to the entrance of the cave.
His smile is complete,
perfect,
whole,
lacking nothing.

Inside
there is a sudden light,
but it does not hurt your eyes.
The darkness has been pushed back by radiance.
You feel like an underwater swimmer
who has just broken the surface of the Jordan
and is breathing in the sky.
John is gone.
Notice
from whom the light is shining,
beloved child.

(from Starlight by John Shea)

Indeed, John is our guide on the feast of the Holy Theophany ... he carries his lamp to point out the one who is the Light ... he is the friend of the bridegroom to prepares everything for the Bridegroom himself ...

