



January 5, 2020
SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

Parish Schedule

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|---------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Jan 4 (Sat) | ECF Teachers' Meeting Divine Liturgy <i>+George Yarosik by Geraldine Yarosik</i> | 9:00am 5:00pm |
| Jan 5 (Sun) | SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY No Children's ECF Divine Liturgy <i>+Carl Magdic req by Family & Friends</i> | 10:30am |
| Jan 6 (Mon) | THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD Divine Liturgy Solemn Blessing of Water | 7:00pm |
| Jan 7 (Tue) | Parastas: Thomas Vozar James Shirley Funeral Home | 7:00pm |
| Jan 8 (Wed) | Funeral Liturgy: Thomas Vozar | 10:00am |
| Jan 11 (Sat) | Divine Liturgy <i>+Maria Rusinko req by Judy Fekete</i> | 5:00pm |
| Jan 12 (Sun) | SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY Children's ECF Divine Liturgy <i>+Mary Soltis req by Ruth & Ray Seech</i> | 9:00am 10:30am |

Our Tithe to our Parish - December 25 - \$ 6,217.00
December 29 - \$ 1,716.00



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 5 thru Jan 11 for +Husband James, & +Son James req by Tillie Abraham.



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.

Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Jude Bodnar, Steve Fekete, Kevin Ianni, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko Sr, Sue Sabol, Ruth Seech, Debby Vasko



Our sincere condolences

Our Parish Family offers our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Thomas Vozar of our parish who recently fell asleep in the Lord. Thomas had attended our parish regularly until his health failed and he then went to live with his family in Maryland.

The Services for him will be held here at St Stephen Church as follows: Parastas at the James Shirley Funeral Home on Tuesday, 7 January 2020, at 7:00 pm. Funeral at St Stephen Church on Wednesday, 8 January 2020, at 10:00 am.

We also offer our heartfelt condolences to Ron and Jan Bishop on the occasion of the passing of Ron's brother, James, this past week. His funeral will take place at the George Green Funeral Home on Main Street in Munhall PA on Sunday, 5 January 2020, at 5:30 pm.

May the Lord God give comfort and consolation to the bereaved families, and may he give eternal rest to his departed servants Thomas and James.

THANK YOU!!!

To all who have offered their prayers, cards, notes & gifts during this sacred season, I offer my heartfelt gratitude. It is a blessing for me to be able to serve the people of St Stephen Parish, and I look forward to a very healthy and happy New Year for all.

Fr John

BLESSING OF HOMES



For those who wish, the blessing of homes will begin this week, right after the feastday and the solemn blessing of water. A schedule will be made for all those who request Father John to visit them for this blessing, and you will be notified as to the day and time of Father John's visit.

As is customary for this blessing, a table should be prepared with a candle, and icon or cross, and some of the blessed water. There will be a short service in which all participate, and this is followed by the sprinkling of the home with the Jordan water. In this way, the blessing of the Jordan is carried to all the corners of our parish.

If Father John is not coming to your home, you may still take some of the water and sprinkle each of the rooms of your home ... thus extending the blessings of this feast into your own homes.

God With us - ONLINE

BAPTIZED into CHRIST

The Mystery of Initiation & Identity of the People of God
Live webinar - Wednesdays, Jan. 8, 15 & 22 - 8:00—9:00pm
Presented by Rev. Sebastian Carnazzo

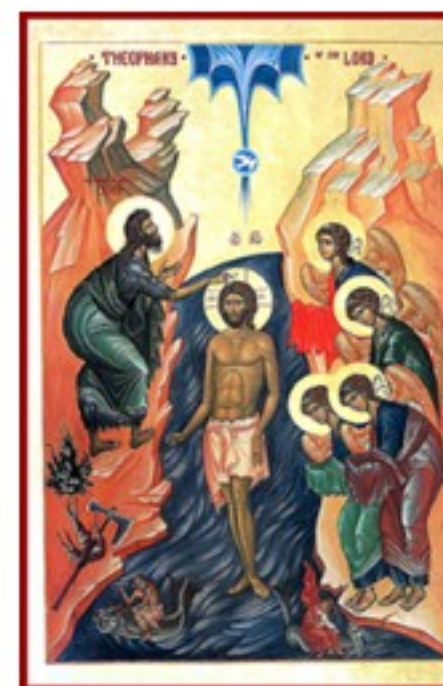
The celebration of baptism, chrismation and Eucharist together is not simply a practicality. These mysteries are closely connected and must be understood in light of each other. Using Scripture Fr. Sebastian will show us how these mysteries are not just a symbol, but truly make us the People of God.

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

*The true Light has appeared
to bestow enlightenment upon all.
The all-pure Christ is baptized with us;
He sanctifies the water
and it becomes a cleansing for our souls ...
Salvation is bestowed through washing,
and the Spirit is received through water.
By descending into the water
we ascend to God ...
How wonderful are your works, O Lord ...!*

God created this world as a sign of his presence among us.

All creation is a reflection of God and points to God.



For example, in the opening pages of the Bible, we see Adam and Eve at peace with each other ... with the animals and with the earth ... and also with God; they walked in the garden and talked with God. It was a picture of God's dream for the world.

But sin shattered all that.

After their sin, Adam and Eve realize that they are naked ... they must struggle with the earth to produce food ... and when God calls, they hide, because they are afraid.

Christ comes into the world to restore God's dream ... to restore the good relationship between God and us ... between God and his world.

In this feast, Christ enters the waters of the Jordan ... and the nature of water is changed. Water now becomes a means by which God is present to us.

Our eyes see water ... by our mind understands salvation. By coming in contact with this Jordan water, we enter into God's saving mystery.