



January 7, 2018

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Liturgical Schedule

Jan. 6 (Sat) Divine Liturgy	5:00pm
<i>Health & Blessings for George & Jude Bodnar</i>	
Jan. 7 (Sun) SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY	
Divine Liturgy	10:30am
<i>+Catherine Wesdock req by Julee Lindberg</i>	
Jan. 8 (Mon) Divine Liturgy	8:30am
<i>+Ann Frenzel req by Albert & Helen Ferencz</i>	
Jan. 9 (Tue) Parish Advisory Council Meeting	6:30pm
Jan. 10 (Wed) Divine Liturgy	8:30am
<i>+Denis Rinkacs req by Family and Friends</i>	
Jan. 12 (Fri) Divine Liturgy	8:30am
<i>Intention of Helen Bruce</i>	
Jan. 13 (Sat) Divine Liturgy	5:00pm
<i>Intention of our Parish Family</i>	
Jan. 14 (Sun) 32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	
SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS	
Divine Liturgy	10:30am
<i>+Theodore Druga req by Ann & Michael Andrejczak</i>	
St. Stephen Dinner	12:00noon



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.7 thru Jan. 13 for +Charles Jackowski.

December 31, 2017

Our Tithe to our Parish - \$2,031.00

Additional Christmas Donation— \$1,690.00



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, Marion Campbell, John Fekete, Fr. Edward Lucas, Carl Magdic, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko, Sue Sabol, Ed Suzina, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.

2018 Envelopes and Calendars

The donation envelopes and the church calendars are now available in the Educational Wing of the church. If there are any question or names missing, there is a sheet available to make any comments or changes.

Thank You

As they have done for many years, our special *Thank You* to the James Shirley Funeral Home for sponsoring our 2018 Parish Calendars.

It is only the loving condescension of the Lord ... his extreme humility ... that allows him to seek baptism. And when he entered the Jordan, *the very nature of water is changed* ... water now becomes a means through which God manifests his presence among us ... the blessed Jordan water carries the Lord's presence and blessing with it.

Hence, we take it into our homes ... we bless ourselves with it ... we keep it through the year and use it as a sacramental sign of God's presence and blessing in times of need.

BLESSING OF HOMES

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 the various 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.



SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY



Well, if we lived in the Old Country in my family's ancestral village, we would have been trekking through the snow yesterday to the stream in the village of Jakubjany to bless the waters! No matter how deep the snow... no matter how low the temperature may be... the water is blessed. And all the people had their buckets (yes, buckets, not little jars!) to take home the newly blessed water.

However today in our country, water has been blessed and sanctified on the great feast of the Holy Theophany in the warm confines of our church. In fact, the water blessing forms a key element in this feast ... and it is one of the dominant images that stays in our memory.

Many of us remember water blessing through the years and have cherished memories of huge vats of water in the church ... carrying bottles, jars and various containers to bring the water to our homes ... blessing ourselves with it ... drinking it ... having the priest visit our homes and sprinkling them with the blessing of the Jordan ...

What is this "Jordan Water"? How do we use it?

The very ancient ritual of our church calls for the "great blessing and sanctification of water" on the feast of the Theophany. It is rooted in the experience of the Lord himself entering the Jordan River to be baptized.

When the Lord entered the Jordan seeking baptism ... the very waters themselves trembled ... How is it that "he who created the waters" now seeks to be baptized in them? How does he seek baptism from the hand of John? ... How does the One who purifies and cleanses all creation now seek baptism at the hand of a sinful servant?

(cont.)