

January 1, 2017

Sunday Before Theophany

From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy and Blessed New Year to you and your family!

Last week, a man who was visiting from Florida shared with me his admiration for manual laborers who were working diligently on his property. They were so grateful to have a job, to have a good salary and to have an employer who treated them with respect and who valued their very hard work. It reminded me of the humility that God requires of us to enter into the living waters of his Kingdom. For this reason, when I think of this upcoming feast, Theophany, I think of God's humility. But, as we look at people in this world who have power we usually see hubris and arrogance; it is definitely not a quality we normally associate with power. Powerful people aren't usually humble, because they don't have to be. Those who need to be humble are the poor and powerless. The powerful can afford to boss, throw tantrums against their workers, not caring whether or not they are liked, for they are answerable to few or none. The poor man, on the other hand, is the man who needs every penny and dare not lose his job, and so must keep a close watch on his tongue. If his employer screams at him without cause, he can only accept it and plead for forgiveness. As we read in the Bible, "The poor man uses entreaties; the rich answer roughly" (Proverbs 18:23). This is the paradox of our existence: on earth, it is sinful men who are proud, those with inflated egos, and who rage when that will is crossed. It is God, the Mighty One, who is humble.

To expand upon this, allow me to paraphrase from Fr. Lawrence Farley. Basically, the point is that we see this divine humility throughout the entire life of Christ. In the way that He entered this life and in the way that He left it, He manifested the divine humility and showed where true glory lay hidden. Though He was the Mighty King, worshipped by angels and archangels and by all the vast company of heaven, He entered His world as a child born not to a princess, but to a simple peasant girl of Galilee. His legal father and guardian was not a king or even a servant of kings, but a carpenter, an artisan who had to earn his living by the sweat of his brow. His parents were of such modest means that when the time came for His mother to offer the sacrifice in the Temple for her purification, she offered not the usual sacrifice of a lamb and a pigeon, but the sacrifice of the poor, two pigeons (Leviticus 12:6-8, Luke 2:24). At the time of His birth, earth had no place for Him, so that He was born in a cavern, and laid in a manger—i.e. a feeding trough for animals. (Calling it a "manger" sounds so much more romantic.) It was the same when He left this world, for not only did He die the shameful death of a slave by being crucified, and numbered with criminals, He did not even have a tomb of His own to be buried in. Rather, He had to borrow the tomb of another. Evidently there were no depths of humility and humiliation to which God was not

ready to sink for our sakes. He can love us when we're at the lowest because He's been there.

The center-piece of this divine humility is our feast of Theophany. Christ was baptized to set His seal upon the controversial ministry of John. There were only two views regarding John—some considered him a true prophet, sent by God after the silence of centuries, while others considered him a crack-pot, propelled not by God's Spirit but by his own demented ego. Those who considered John to be a true prophet came to be baptized, and so Jesus came to join them, setting His seal on John's work. He came to the waters of baptism in solidarity with sinners, surrounded by tax-collectors and former prostitutes and others whose consciences smote them and filled their hearts with shame. Even as He would later hang on the Cross among thieves, so He waded into the water among sinners, for the steps leading down to the Jordan were the first steps on the long road to Golgotha. As He once laid aside the form of God to take on the form of a slave (Philippians 2:6-7), so now once again He laid aside His clothes to enter the cold waters of this life and stood in the Jordan before an St. John.

This divine humility sets the pattern for our life as well. If our God has shown such humility, we must ourselves lay aside the vestments of pride and walk more lightly upon the earth. Too often we strut, stepping heavily as if we were kings. When our will is thwarted, we rage as if we were the center of the universe—even if the thwarting of our will consisted of nothing more than too much traffic in the road in front of us. If Christ our God, the high king of heaven, lived such a life of shining humility on earth, we must follow after Him. When our will is thwarted, let us not rage, but quietly intone the prayer, "Teach me to treat whatever may happen to me throughout the day with peace of soul and with firm conviction that Your will governs all". This is true humility, and this is our true glory. For the feast of Theophany reveals the glory of God walking among men, and the only path to peace.

In Christ,

Jason, priest and sinner

PS: If you wish for your home to be blessed this year I will make my way there before February. If you don't get a visit by then, please call office. If you would rather that your home NOT be blessed this year, please call office and have your house put on the no-visit-list. Thank you!

PSS: This coming Theophany is a Holy Day of Obligation. Vigil Liturgy will be at 6pm on Thursday, Jan. 5th, with Fr. Alex Wroblicky because by 6:30pm I'll need to be in Wheeling at OLPH. Friday, Jan. 6th, we will have Matins here at 8am, followed by Liturgy at 9am.

New Things Happening at Holy Trinity:

- **Please arrive on time for Liturgy. 4pm, 8:30am or 11am. Not at the Gospel.**
- **Please find toward the end of this bulletin some of the prayers of St Basil the Great.** This weekend and again on Theophany we use his liturgy and those prayers should be a source of *great* spiritual edification and strength for us all.
- **A huge thank you to those people who helped make the nutroll project a success:** Ming Medwig, Anne Konecky, Marika Zaliszczuk, Ginny David, Shirley DeMark, Gina Maloney, Anna and Harry Kohl, Ted and Marian Sywy, Janet & Mary Shiwarski, Lyudmyla and Borys Bednarchuk. This project brought in \$2,009 (Thanksgiving/Christmas combined collection).
- **Likewise, a huge thank you** to our bread-makers (Msgr. Appleyard, Carol Ostaffe, Jean Kincak, Arlene Esterburg, Maryann Steranka and Bill Jula). Their combined net was \$859 (Thanksgiving/Christmas combined).
- **And finally, another huge thank you** to all the people who decorated the church at Christmas. As always, it was absolutely beautiful!!!
- **Holy Trinity 2017 Calendars and Church Envelopes** are in the church vestibule.
- **2017 House blessings are upon us as of January 6th.** If you do not wish for your house to be blessed, please call and have your name put on the “do not visit list.”
- **Revised Malanka Dance Announcement:** The annual Malanka Dance will be **Saturday, January 21, 2017** at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club, Carnegie. Doors and kitchen open at 7:30pm. As always from Youngstown, the Fred Yasnowsky Orchestra from 8:30pm-12:30am. Tickets: \$15-early registration until Jan.18th. After that, tickets are \$20 for adults, children and students \$5. Cash Bar – Ukrainian food will be available for purchase. For reservations: call Debra Walenchok at 412-276-4007 on weekends and evenings. The Credit Union and Kolos can take your reservation at \$15, but you must call Deb for a table reservation.
- **Save the Dates: May 26 to June 16, 2017** for volunteering in Ukraine with the Sisters of St. Basil in their ministry to Ukraine’s needy. The sisters & seminarians collaborate with the volunteers to teach children English and to visit orphanages & psychiatric institutions. For an *application*, and additional information contact Sr. Ann Laszok OSBM at



srannl@aol.com or 412-260-1607. Michael Haritan, photographer, produced a *Wonderful* video of the trip last year. Go to: <https://youtu.be/qr4YjE5H-TM>.
Finally, we are asking for monetary gifts and your prayers!!! Donations are tax exempt if payable to: Sisters of St. Basil and sent to: 542 Melrose Ave., Ambridge, PA 15003.

Prayer List: Make a point of praying for everyone on the prayer list. If you don't have a prayer list, contact the office and we'll send you one. **Keep in your prayers:** Anastasia Chruszcz, Stephanya Borszcz, Pauline Danesky, Alice Haritan, Luba and Peter Hlutkowsky, Daniel Holowaty, John Maslany, Helen Novak, Joe Popivchak, Mary Simek, Tillie Volanski, Donald Schultz, Dr. Justine Perhosky, James Holdcroft, Rich Hurey, Theodore Hritzko, John Yenchik, Frances Ingram and John Mosur.

Spiritually Adopt a Priest Program. Our priests are indispensable. They give their lives to their saving mission of Christ and His church. It is our duty to pray for our priests. And so we are officially starting our "Adopt a Priest Program." We will send interested parishioners a prayer card with the specific name of a priest, bishop or seminarian for whom to pray. And each year thereafter, at the beginning of our church year, September 1st, we will send a different priest to include in your prayers. **To participate, please e-mail your name and address to: spirituallyadoptapriest@gmail.com.** Indicate your preference for an English or Ukrainian prayer card. Thank you for interceding on behalf of our priests.

ПРОГРАМА ДУХОВНОЇ ПІДТРИМКИ СВЯЩЕНИКІВ
Наші священники незамінні. Вони присвятили своє життя для спасительної місії Христа і Його Церкви. Наш обов'язок молитися за наших священників. І тому ми офіційно починаємо програму духовної підтримки священників. Ми направимо зацікавленим парафіянам молитовну картку з ім'ям певного священника, єпископа або семінариста, за кого слід молитися. Щороку на початку нашого церковного року, 1 вересня, ми будемо посилати Вам ім'я іншого священника, щоб додати його до Ваших молитов. **Для участі надішліть будь-ласка своє ім'я та адресу на електронну пошту: spirituallyadoptapriest@gmail.com.** Складаємо щирю подяку від імені наших священників за Вашу турботу.

Men Following Jesus Christ has been asked once again to serve dinners at the Light of Life Rescue Mission (LOLRM) on **Monday January 9th**. Please let me know if you &/or your friends are available at that time to help? *Thank you for helping on November 14th*. We need at least seven volunteers to serve dinners (to work approximately from 4:45 p.m. through 6:15 p.m.). Call Deacon Myron at [412-303-9086](tel:412-303-9086) or mjspak@verizon.net.

Christmas Caroling at Holy Trinity parishioner's homes by our Youth Group will take place **THIS Friday, January 6th** (predominately Ukrainian) 6pm - 10pm. ***Please call the rectory if you would like the carolers to come to your home!*** 412-279-4652. The Christmas Caroling is a big fundraiser for our Youth Group, so any donations are gratefully accepted.



Bishop Canevin's \$8,000 Super Bingo will be held on **Saturday, New Year's Eve**. There will be a buffet dinner, party favors and black light bingo after midnight to rock and roll music. Watch the ball drop on our big screen TV(s) and toast with champagne at midnight. Ticket Price: \$119 per person. Make your reservation with a \$20 deposit and pay only \$80 at the door! Call Mike 412-523-2220 to make a reservation. For more information go to: www.bingo-at-bc.com.

Do you need Estate Planning, Last Will and Testament, Living Will? If so, consider giving John Sembrat a call. His number is: 412-260-8605

The Church was a Mother to you in Life, providing for your Spiritual Needs: Please Remember the Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma in your Last Will and Testament. The wording to do this is as follows: "I give and bequeath to the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of St. Josaphat in Parma, located in Parma, Ohio, ___% of the residue of my estate [or: the sum of \$_____]."

Vital Stats for Christmas, Dec 25th: \$3,094 was offered in the collection with another \$268 for candles, \$25 for the Eparchy, \$5 for Utilities, \$8,609 for Christmas, \$10 for Seminary, \$5 for Conception of St. Anne, \$25 for Thanksgiving, \$85 Special Offering, \$157 for Poinsettias, \$482.50 for Bread Project, \$2,009 for Nutroll Project, \$500 donation towards Rectory repairs, \$25 memorial donation, \$25 alms for the pregnant woman, \$38 for the Natalia Protynyak in Ukraine Fund, and a \$1,000 donation towards acolyte vestments, all for a grand total of \$16,362.50 The Pyrohi "Marathon" Project brought in an additional "net amount" of \$622. Many blessings to all of our contributors whose sacrificial giving is known by God.

Lector Schedule:

- Thursday, Jan 5 (Vigil of Theophany) - 6pm: Cantor
- Friday, Jan 6 (Theophany of Our Lord) - 9am: Nick Spak
- Saturday, Jan 7 - 4pm: Helen Zaletski
- Sunday, Jan. 8 - 8:30am: Terry Styran
- Sunday, Jan. 8 - 11am: Cantor

What's happening in our parish this week....

Sat. *Our venerable mother Melania the Roman*
12/31

4:00pm Divine Liturgy to mark the 5th anniversary of the late Sam Davis and all deceased in the Davis Family requested by Tim and Maryann Davis & Family IS
also Divine Liturgy for the People JC

Sun **New Year's Day: Sunday Before Theophany**
 1/1

8:30am Divine Liturgy for the repose of Theophil "Ted" Konecky requested by Stephen H. Zinski IS
also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Emily Stecko requested by Arlene Dorn JC

11:00am Divine Liturgy to mark the 6th anniversary of the late Denise Neczypir requested by the Neczypir Family IS
also Divine Liturgy for the repose of John & Catherine Patross requested by Eleanor Patross JC

Mon. *Our father among the saints, Pope Sylvester*
 1/2 The pastor's day off

Tues. *The holy prophet Malachi*
 1/3

8:00am Divine Liturgy for the repose of Theophil "Ted" Konecky requested by Romana Dyhalo (moved from 12-21-16) JC

Wed. *Synaxis of the holy 70 apostles*
 1/4

8:00am Divine Liturgy for the repose of Julia Maksin & all poor souls requested by Conrad & Margie Kulik (moved from 12-22-16) JC

Thurs. **Vigil of Theophany**
 1/5

6:00pm Theophany Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil – followed by Great Blessing of Water - for the repose of Bishop Seminack requested by Angela Honchar AW

6:30pm **(In Wheeling, WV at OLPH)** Theophany Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil – followed by Great Blessing of Water

Fri. **Theophany of Our Lord**

1/6

8am Matins

9am Divine Liturgy (*Blessing of Water moved to Sunday after 11am Divine Liturgy*) for the people

JC

Sat.

1/7

Synaxis of the holy glorious prophet John the Baptist

4:00pm Divine Liturgy for the repose of Stephen & Helen Zaletski requested by Stephen P. Zaletski & Family

JC

....also Divine Liturgy to mark the 4th anniversary of the late Mary Stapinski requested by Barbara Stein

IS

.....followed by **SHCHEDRIY VECHIR** in the church hall

Sun

1/8

Our venerable fathers George the Chozebite

8:30am Divine Liturgy for the repose of Ted Konecky requested by Zhynyk Bohonok

IS

11:00am Divine Liturgy for the people

JC

.....also Divine Liturgy for the health of the child, Marko

IS



BIRTHDAYS

Lubomyr Chubko
Nataliya Milligan
Ronald Artinger
James Bogdon
July Krisovenski

Luba Hlutkowsky
Volodymyr Sapuzhak
Anastasia Chruszcz
Jonathan Hoover
Adrienne English

Dan Pituch
Roman Lutsiv
Vasyl Zhurybida
Sheerena Zaletski
Bohdan Mykhailiv

Yuri Wowczuk
Sophia Chubko
Nestor Lernatovych
Nadia Kazitska

Voldamyr Matviiev
Braden Hoover
Stephen Medwig

Natalia Charron
Roman Konecky
Jessica Petrovych

Prayers of St. Basil the Great:

Together with these blessed powers, loving Master we sinners also cry out and say: Truly You are holy and most holy, and there are no bounds to the majesty of Your holiness. You are holy in all Your works, for with righteousness and true judgment You have ordered all things for us. For having made man by taking dust from the earth, and having honored him with Your own image, O God, You placed him in a garden of delight, promising him eternal life and the enjoyment of everlasting blessings in the observance of Your commandments. But when he disobeyed You, the true God who had created him, and was led astray by the deception of the serpent becoming subject to death through his own transgressions, You, O God, in Your righteous judgment, expelled him from paradise into this world, returning him to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Your Christ. For You did not forever reject Your creature whom You made, O Good One, nor did You forget the work of Your hands, but because of Your tender compassion, You visited him in various ways: You sent forth prophets; You performed mighty works by Your saints who in every generation have pleased You. You spoke to us by the mouth of Your servants the prophets, announcing to us the salvation which was to come; You gave us the law to help us; You appointed angels as guardians. And when the fullness of time had come, You spoke to us through Your Son Himself, through whom You created the ages. He, being the splendor of Your glory and the image of Your being, upholding all things by the word of His power, thought it not robbery to be equal with You, God and Father. But, being God before all ages, He appeared on earth and lived with humankind. Becoming incarnate from a holy Virgin, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, conforming to the body of our lowliness, that He might change us in the likeness of the image of His glory. For, since through man sin came into the world and through sin death, it pleased Your only begotten Son, who is in Your bosom, God and Father, born of a woman, the holy Theotokos and ever virgin Mary; born under the law, to condemn sin in His flesh, so that those who died in Adam may be brought to life in Him, Your Christ. He lived in this world, and gave us precepts of salvation. Releasing us from the delusions of idolatry, He guided us to the sure knowledge of You, the true God and Father. He acquired us for Himself, as His chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. Having cleansed us by water and sanctified us with the Holy Spirit, He gave Himself as ransom to death in which we were held captive, sold under sin. Descending into Hades through the cross, that He might fill all things with Himself, He loosed the bonds of death. He rose on the third day, having opened a path for all flesh to the resurrection from the dead, since it was not possible that the Author of life would be dominated by corruption. So He became the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep, the first born of the dead, that He might be Himself the first in all things. Ascending into heaven, He sat at the right hand of Your majesty on high and He will come to render to each according to His works. As memorials of His saving passion, He has left us these gifts which we have set forth before You according to His commands. For when He was about to go forth to His voluntary, ever memorable, and life-giving death, on the night on which He was

delivered up for the life of the world, He took bread in His holy and pure hands, and presenting it to You, God and Father, and offering thanks, blessing, sanctifying, and breaking it...

And, later, in the Liturgy this beautiful prayer:

Again, we pray to You, be mindful of Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, which is from one end of the inhabited earth to the other. Grant peace to her which You have obtained with the precious blood of Your Christ. Strengthen also this holy house to the end of the ages. Remember, Lord, those who have brought You these gifts, and for whom and through whom and the intentions for which they were offered. Remember, Lord, those who bear fruit and do good works in Your holy churches, and those who remember the poor. Reward them with Your rich and heavenly gifts. Grant them in return for earthly things, heavenly gifts; for temporal, eternal; for corruptible, incorruptible. Remember, Lord, those who are in the deserts, on mountains, in caverns, and in the chambers of the earth. Remember, Lord, those living in chastity and godliness, in asceticism and holiness of life. Remember, Lord, this country and all those in public service whom you have allowed to govern on earth. Grant them profound and lasting peace. Speak to their hearts good things concerning your Church and all your people that through the faithful conduct of their duties we may live peaceful and serene lives in all piety and holiness. Sustain the good in their goodness; make the wicked good through Your goodness. Remember, Lord, the people here presented and those who are absent with good cause. Have mercy on them and on us according to the multitude of Your mercy. Fill their treasuries with every good thing; preserve their marriages in peace and harmony; nurture the infants; instruct the youth; strengthen the aged; give courage to the faint hearted; reunite those separated; bring back those in error and unite them to Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. Free those who are held captive by unclean spirits; sail with those who sail; travel with those who travel; defend the widows; protect the orphans; liberate the captives; heal the sick. Remember, Lord, those who are in mines, in exile, in harsh labor, and those in every kind of affliction, necessity, or distress; those who entreat your loving kindness; those who love us and those who hate us; those who have asked us to pray for them, unworthy though we may be. Remember, Lord our God, all Your people, and pour out Your rich mercy upon them, granting them their petitions for salvation. Remember, O God, all those whom we have not remembered through ignorance, forgetfulness or because of their multitude since You know the name and age of each, even from their mother's womb. For You, Lord, are the helper of the helpless, the hope of the hopeless, the savior of the afflicted, the haven of the voyager, and the physician of the sick. Be all things to all, You who know each person, his requests, his household, and his need. Deliver this community and city, O Lord, and every city and town, from famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, foreign invasion, and civil war.