January 6, 2019

Theophany of Our Lord

Liturgical Schedule

Jan. 5 (Sat)	**Vespers/Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water**	
	Vigil of Theophany	
	Divine Liturgy	**5:00pm**
Jan. 6 (Sun)	**Theophany of Our Lord**	
	Divine Liturgy	**10:30am**
	+Nancy Voron req by John Foley	
Jan. 12 (Sat)	**Divine Liturgy**	**5:00pm**
	+Theodore Druga req by Ray and Linda Kubacki	
Jan. 13 (Sun)	**Divine Liturgy**	**10:30am**
	+George Lucas req by the Pasternak Family	

Our Tithe to our parish
December 25, 2018: $6,725.00
December 30, 2019: $1,190.26

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, Marion Campbell, Steven Fekete, Kevin Ianni, Fr. John Petro, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko Sr., Sue Sabol, Ruth Seech, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, Debbie Vasko, John Voron Sr

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 January 6 thru January 12 for a healthy and prosperous New Year for the parishioners of St. Stephen.

THE FEAST OF HOLY THEOPHANY

Time moves quickly.

Not only in our own fast-paced lives,
but even in the celebration of our faith.

Yes, the time of Bethlehem and Nazareth slips way,
and it is now time to journey to the Jordan.

As there were angels and shepherds, magi and a star,
to guide us to the cave in Bethlehem,
so now there are again angels and an angel in the flesh
to bring us to the banks of the Jordan.

There the Lord of all comes to his servant,
the sinless One bows his head before a sinner,
and Jesus seeks baptism from the hand of John.

Not that He needed to be baptized,
but He sanctified the nature of water by his presence.

When the Lord stepped into the Jordan,
the waters were touched and sanctified.
they became a source of healing and forgiveness,
a source of enlightenment and renewal.

Such is the double gift of this feast:

We who share the waters of the Jordan
are also healed and forgiven,
filled with light and made new.

MOUNT SAINT MACRINA

HOUSE OF PRAYER

Program Schedule 724-438-7149

"**WINTER RESPITE**"

Sr. Carol Petrasovich, OSBM

Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019

10:00am - 1:00pm Includes Lunch

Offering: $35 Registration Due: Jan. 30

The stillness and unhurried days of Winter are an ideal time to experience "Rest in the Lord."

A HUGE THANK YOU

I am extremely grateful to all the members of our parish family and friends for your kindness and generosity, your prayer, good wishes and gifts during this Christmas season. Even though I have not been quite up to par, I am now feeling quite well and hopefully be serving our parish as it deserves to be served. As always, if there is anything I can do for you, please be free to contact me. All the contact information is always in the weekly bulletin. We have a wonderful parish, and I am grateful for the cooperation of so many folks in all the various aspects of our parish life.

Fr John

Congratulations to Jacob Astalos son of Mitchell and Lisa Astalos and grandson of Norman and Eileen Heinack on his recent graduation from Duquesne University. Jacob received a degree of Bachelor of Business Administration and Finance with a Specialization in International Studies with Honors.

THE ICON OF THEOPHANY

The Feast of Theophany is celebrated in the Church 12 days after Christmas (January 6). The feast of Theophany is when Christ was baptized by John the Baptist. We can find the account of Christ's baptism by John in all four Gospels (Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-9, Luke 3:21-22, John 1:31-34).

At first, John did not want to Baptize Jesus, saying. "I need to be baptized by You, and You are coming to me? (Mt. 3:14). Jesus answered and said, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. (Mt. 3:15). Jesus' baptism symbolizes what He would do for all of us - lifting us up and cleansing us from our sins. St. Gregory of Nyssa writes, "Jesus enters the filthy (sinful) waters of the world and when He comes out, brings us (purifies) the entire world with Him."

The word Theophany means a "manifestation of God to the world." The events of this feast are a Theophany because it was the beginning of Christ's earthly ministry but also because it was a revelation of the Trinity. The Father's voice is heard saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" and the Holy Spirit appears in the form of a dove, resting upon the head of Christ.

We see this and so much more in the icon of the Feast. We see the dove above the head of Christ representing the Holy Spirit. The dove is surrounded by blue and white light, representing the presence of God the Father. Notice the three rays of light below the dove, representing the three persons of the Trinity.

On the left of the icon, we see John the Baptist. One of his hands is on Christ's head, representing that Jesus is man, while one of his hands is pointing towards the heavens, representing that Jesus is also God. We see Christ Himself, of course, in the center of the icon, in the waters of the Jordan River. On the right side, we see angels, with their heads bowed in reverence to Christ.

Dear Parishioners

For all of you who might have been thinking about going and thought you missed your chance **GUESS WHAT**? You have another weekend to redeem yourselves and signup for the delicious dinner celebrating our beloved Patron Saint, St. Stephen. We have had a tremendous response of 70 of your fellow parishioners who have elected to participate. So stop procrastinating and come along and join us for wonderful dinner, good conversation and as an added attraction our very talented cantor Michelle is bring her course group to perform for us. This will absolutely your last chance to sign up at church or email me at madzura@verizon.net

After speaking with the banquet manager she would like everyone seated by 12:30 to start the dinner service.

For payment, envelopes are near the signup sheets, give them to any of the ushers, drop them in the collection basket or give them to Fr. John.

As in years past there will be a cookie table set up so bring your favorites for all to enjoy and to take home (if there are any left).

This year's get together will be held on Sunday January 13, 2019 at Woody's Piazza Ristorante inside the Antonelli Event Center at 100 Colony Drive just off Rt.30. It is located up the hill behind the Howard Hanna Real Estate building. Festivities will start at 12:00 noon followed by a sit down dinner at **12:30pm**. You will be able to choose one of three entrees from a menu that will be on the tables where you will be sitting. Children up to age 12 will be able to select spaghetti with meatball or chicken fingers and fries. Everyone will be able to enjoy homemade wedding soup, tossed salad, fresh baked Italian bread and non-alcoholic beverages. The cost for all of this delicious food is just $25.00 for adults and, as in the past, children and our young adults in high school are free of charge. Signup sheets are in the vestibule of the church. Although there is no cost for children and young adults, please indicate their ages in the appropriate column on the signup sheet because these meals vary according to age groups.

Mark Your Calendars for January 13, 2019

Hope to see you all there.

Fr. John

And the Parish Advisory Council