



January 9, 2022  
*SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY*

**Parish Schedule**

- Jan. 8 (Sat) Divine Liturgy** **5:00pm**  
*+Alfred & Mary Crocker req by Steve & Judi Muchoney*
- Jan. 9 (Sun) SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**  
**Divine Liturgy** **10:30am**  
*+Charles Zeleznik req by Family*
- Jan. 15 (Sat) Divine Liturgy** **5:00pm**  
*Janet Belliveau & David Yarosik - 10th Anniversary*
- Jan. 16 (Sun) THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Divine Liturgy** **10:30am**  
*+Deborah Vasko req by Dan Vasko*

Our Tithe to our Parish - January 2, 2022 - \$1057.00

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. 9 thru Jan. 15 for the health and well-being of Fr. John Petro.



*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, Ron Bishop, George Bodnar , Monica Boggs,  
Pamela Seech Dawson, Steve Fekete, Margaret Gegick, Kevin Ianni,  
Ted Race, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko Sr.

*HOLY WATER*



In the Byzantine Church, Holy Water is used very often throughout the year. Every family should take some of this Holy Water from the Church and have it at home, and make use of it at every time of need: in time of spiritual need, in cases of illness, leaving on a journey, etc. The Holy Water strengthens the powers of our soul - if it is done with prayer and reverence, and one does not merely expect a mechanical result from it. As we read in the prayers for the Great Blessing of Water, the true nature of water has its destiny in the salvation of humanity and the world. The blessing of waters doesn't "make bad water good". It restores the water to its original state. The prayer at the blessing of water causes the revelation of the true 'nature' and 'destiny' of water, and thus of the world. By being restored through the blessing to its proper function water becomes again a means of communion with God. Christ in his baptism purified the nature of the waters. He came to redeem not only human beings, but through them, the entire material created world.

*A special "Thank You" to the James Shirley Funeral Home for again sponsoring our yearly calendars.*

The calendars are available, however, due to a shipping delay we have not received the "2022 donation envelopes". Hopefully they will arrive soon. Please be patient, and until they arrive, please use a plain envelope with your name on it and # if you still have it. Thank you.

## THE MAN WHO WAS A LAMP

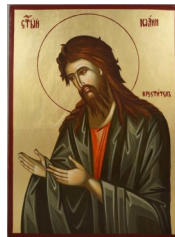
The cave of Christmas  
Is hidden  
in the center of the earth.  
You will need a lamp for the journey.  
A man named John  
is a step ahead of you.  
his torch sweeps the ground  
so that you do not stumble.  
He brings you,  
at your own pace  
to the entrance of the cave.  
His smile is complete,  
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 who prepares everything for the Bridegroom himself ...

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 THE HOLY THEOPHANY

This Sunday after the feast of the Holy Theophany brings our festive cycle to a close.

Our journey to the cave in Bethlehem and our entrance into this cave to dwell on the mystery of Christ's birth - God taking on a human face - has been completed.

Then we continued our journey to the banks of the Jordan with John the Baptizer as a guide ... and we came to see the Holy Trinity revealed in the voice of the Father ... the spirit in the form of a dove ... descending upon the Lord Jesus ... and we saw that the nature of water has been transformed.



We have shared in the blessing of this water.  
We have been sprinkled with it ... we have tasted it ... we have sprinkled our homes with it ... it has touched all the corners of our lives with God's blessing.

Today's Gospel gives us an echo of all that has taken place.

*A people living in darkness  
has seen a great light.  
On those who inhabit a land overshadowed by death,  
light has risen.*

Yes, indeed, this has been a "Festival of Lights" for us.

May we continue to be filled with light ... and recognize all the ways in which God is indeed present in our lives. In this way we will continue to grow into the full measure of Christ ... so that He may dwell completely in us.