



January 5, 2025

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

- Jan. 4 (Sat) Vigil Divine Liturgy 5:00pm**
For our parish family
- Jan. 5 (Sun) SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY**
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
+Catherine Wesdock req by Julee Lindberg
**** **Vespers and Blessing of Holy Water 4:00pm *******
- Jan. 6 (Mon) THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD**
Divine Liturgy of Basil the Great 6:30pm
for our parish family
- Jan. 11 (Sat) Vigil Divine Liturgy 5:00pm**
For our parish family
- Jan. 12 (Sun) SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
For our parish family



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 the health and well-being of our homebound parishioners.

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



- Pamela Seech Dawson, Steve Fekete, Margaret Gegick
- Barbara Gulich, John Hresko, Helen Magdic, Mike Pochan
- Ted Race, Helen Rizzi, Mark Sethman, Jerry Lee Simpson
- Eleanor Timko

Our tithes to our Parish -

December 26 - December 29 \$ 2,411.00
December 24 - Christmas Day \$ 4,567.00

With the previous donations (Dec. 22, Christmas \$ 3,350.00) the total donations for Christmas is \$ 7917.00 as of Dec. 29. Thank you for your generosity and may God bless you in the New Year.

Superbowl pool Fundraiser

\$20 a square - Numbers change every quarter
Payouts: 1st & 3rd - \$125
Half - \$250 Final - \$500 All Money due by Sunday, Feb. 2nd
Contact Julee for info 412-378-6953

A special *Thank You* to Dave Pcsolar for the beautiful work he did in the Sacristy. He spent many hours cleaning and painting the walls. May God bless him.

Christmas is always such a joyous time with family and friends. We can continue to celebrate after Christmas with a coffee and donut social following liturgy on Sunday, January 12. Please plan on joining fellow parishioners and Saturday people, please consider stopping by also.

We also had a lot of activity this past year. Like the news channels say "for a year in review" check out our website photos: ststephenbcc.org

Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!

THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY

January 6

The word theophany is a combination of two Greek words, meaning **God and appearance**. A theophany is an appearance of God.

Great Blessing of Water

The Great Blessing of Water is perhaps the most memorable part of the Theophany services. Water, as a symbol of purification and cleansing, was at one time blessed as often as once a month. But, the blessing of water, connected explicitly with the blessing of the Jordan River which occurred at the baptism of the Lord, is done each year.

In the context of the Christian tradition, "Vespers before blessing of holy water" refers to the evening prayer service (Vespers) that is typically held on the eve of a special feast day, like the Feast of Theophany, where the blessing of holy water is a central part of the liturgy, meaning the holy water is blessed after the Vespers service is completed.

Note: Due to the possible severe weather on Monday, Vespers and Blessing of Holy Water will be celebrated on Sunday, January 5 at 4:00pm. Vespers is a beautiful service, please plan on attending.

CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD

FEAST OF ST BASIL

January 1

Following the prescriptions of the Law, Mary and Joseph took their child to be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. At this time he was given the name "Jesus", which means God saves [his people].

We also remember St. Basil the Great, a monk, bishop and great teacher of the Church. As we begin this New Year, we are surrounded with images calling us to holiness and dedication.



BLESSING OF HOMES

Father Vasyl will be available for those who wish to have their homes blessed.

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 corners of our parish.

Please call Father to arrange a time for his visit. **412-627-1678**