

Η ΓΕΝΝΗ

CIC ΤΩ ΧΡΩ

MP ΘΥ

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(Under the Holy Protection of the Mother of God)

Office: (304) 296-2455

Facebook: St. Marys Holy Protection Byzantine Catholic Church

Rev. Father James Fraser

Residence (cell): (304) 918-3297

Holy Mystery of Anointing: prior to surgery or whenever requested

Holy Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation: Arrange with Father Jim

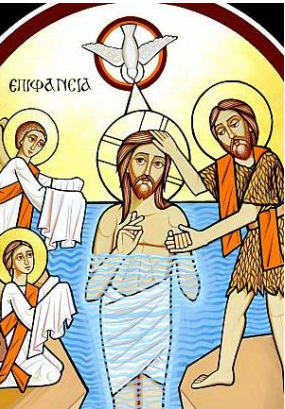
New Parishioners: Welcome! Please see Father for registration



Sunday Dec. 31st 10:30 a.m.	Sunday After the Nativity, David, Joseph & James - pgs 152, 302 Readings: Gal 1:11-19; Mt 2:13-23 Intention: For the people of St Mary's Parish
Wednesday Jan. 3rd 7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy Readings: 2 Tim 4:5-8; Mk 1:1-8 Intention: +Leonard by Sam Mazza
Saturday Jan. 6th 9:00 a.m.	Theophany - Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Waters - p 312 Readings: Titus 2:11-14 & 3:4-7; Mt 3:13-17 Intention: Open
Sunday Jan. 7th 10:30 a.m.	Sunday After Theophany - pgs 156, 302 Readings: Eph 4:7-13; Mt 4:12-17 Intention: For the people of St Mary's Parish
Sunday Jan. 7th 3:00 p.m.	Blessing of Cheat Lake Pan-Catholic blessing of Cheat Lake with Byzantine, Maronite, and Roman Catholic clergy, prayers, and faithful. Lake jump to follow! This year outdoor heaters will be on-site.
Wednesday Jan. 10th 7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy Readings: James 3:11-4:6; Mk 11:23-26 Intention: Open
Friday Jan. 12th 7:00 p.m.	Akathist to the Theotokos, Searcher for the Lost

Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - January 6

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.



On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).
www.oca.org

The Blessing of the Waters is conducted in the church; however in many places throughout the world services are conducted near open bodies of water. As a sign of blessing as Christ blessed the Jordan, holy water is poured into the body of water. An associated tradition has been the tossing of a cross into the water to be retrieved by divers.

The holy water from the church is given to the faithful to consume and to use in blessing their homes. In the weeks following the Feast, clergy visit the homes of parishioners and conduct a service of blessing using the holy water that was blessed on the Feast of Theophany.
www.goarch.org

“Today You have shown forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us. Knowing You, we sing Your praises. You have come and revealed Yourself, O unapproachable Light.”



Pray for the Sick, Recovering, and Shut-Ins:

Theresa Glagola at the Madison on Bakers Ridge Rd. Room 202

May we keep all our ailing and healing parishioners in our prayers every day.

Please let Father Jim know to include any family and parish members who are ill, hospitalized, or need a visit for blessing, anointing, confession, or request of prayers. Kindly call Father Jim at (304) 918-3297 Thank You.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES go to:

Lisa Kovalic on Jan. 5th

May God bless you with Peace, Health, and Happiness!
For many happy and blessed years!



O Holy Spirit,

I have my own expectations about what I should and should not do.
I surrender to You my ideas, my limitations, my preferences, and my goals.

Fill me, Holy Spirit, with Your supernatural gifts!
Empower me to accept and grow in the supernatural life as much as the early disciples.

I want to be useful to You. I want to go where You lead me.
Holy Spirit, send me forth gifted and empowered to make a difference spreading the
Good News of God’s forgiving love.



Offertory Collection for Dec. 24th, 2023

Envelope Offerings	Loose Offerings	Candles		Feast Days	Total
\$	\$	\$		\$	\$

Church Attendance for Sunday was:



Sunday after the Nativity
Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James.

Saint Joseph had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah, Joses, and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian.

www.oca.org



The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - January 1

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God’s Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants [Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3].

After this ritual, the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos [Luke 1:31-33, 2:21]. The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled.



by *Gerges Samir*

The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics had taught.

www.oca.org

Celebrate and Be Glad

Let us strive to comprehend the mystery. The reason God is in the flesh is to kill the death that lurks there. As diseases are cured by medicines and assimilated by the body, and as darkness in a house is dispelled by the coming of light, so death, which held sway over human nature, is done away with by the coming of God. And as ice formed on water covers its surface as long as night and darkness last but melts under the warmth of the sun, so death reigned until the coming of Christ; but when the grace of God our Savior appeared and the Sun of Justice rose, death was swallowed up in victory, unable to bear the presence of true life. How great is God’s goodness, how deep his love for us!

Let us join the shepherds in giving glory to God, let us dance with the angels and sing: Today a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ the Lord. The Lord is God and He has appeared to us, not as God, which would have been terrifying for our weakness, but as a slave so as to free those who live in slavery. Who could be so lacking in sensibility and so ungrateful as not to join all here present in our gladness, exultation, and radiant joy? This feast belongs to the whole of creation. Let everyone join in and be grateful. Let our voices too ring out in songs of jubilation!

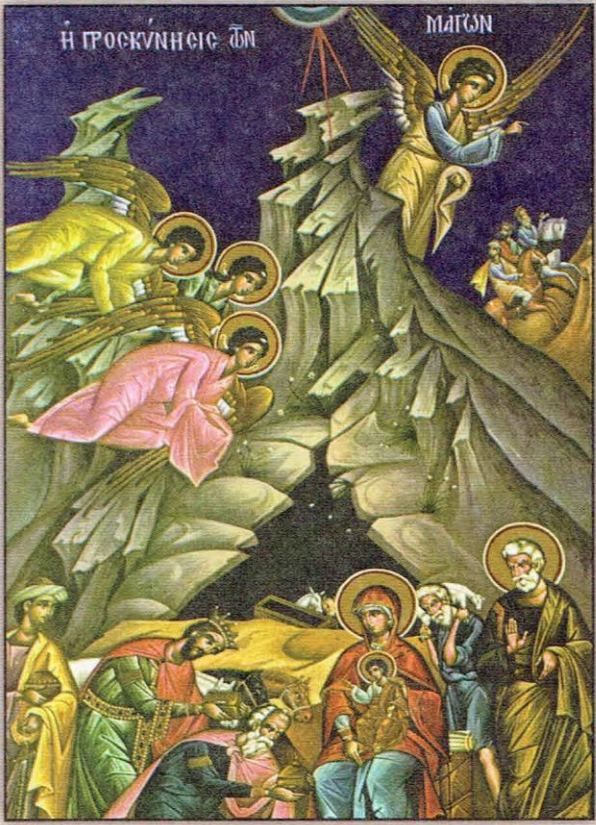
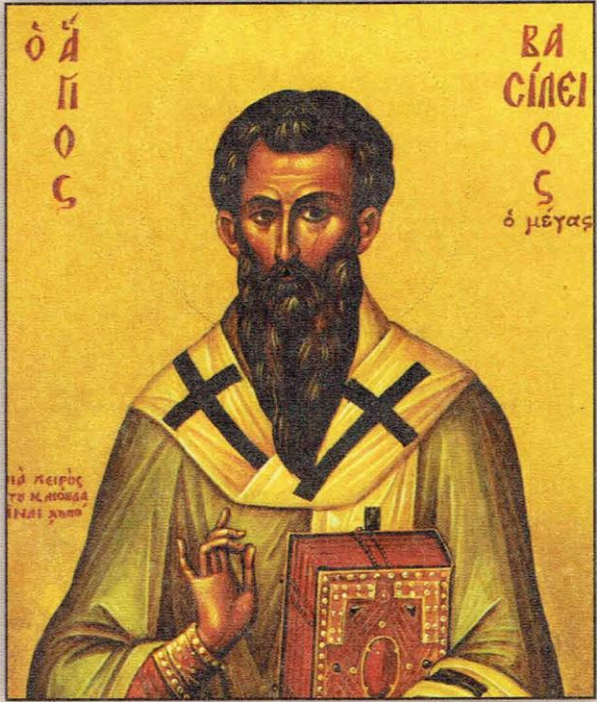
St. Basil the Great

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit www.ecpubs.com

*Synaxis of the Holy Mother of God
December 26th*

O Christ our God, your kingdom is eternal, and your reign is from generation to generation. You became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and became man from the ever-virgin Mary. Your coming, O Christ, has shed a great light upon us. You are the Light of Light and the radiance of the Father. You have illumined the whole creation. Therefore, everything that breathes sings a hymn of praise to You. You are the image of the Father's glory. You are the eternal God, existing before all ages, who shone forth from the Virgin. O Lord our God, have mercy on us.

Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth. Today Bethlehem receives the One who at all times sits with the Father. Today the angels sing the praises of the newborn infant. Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will to all.



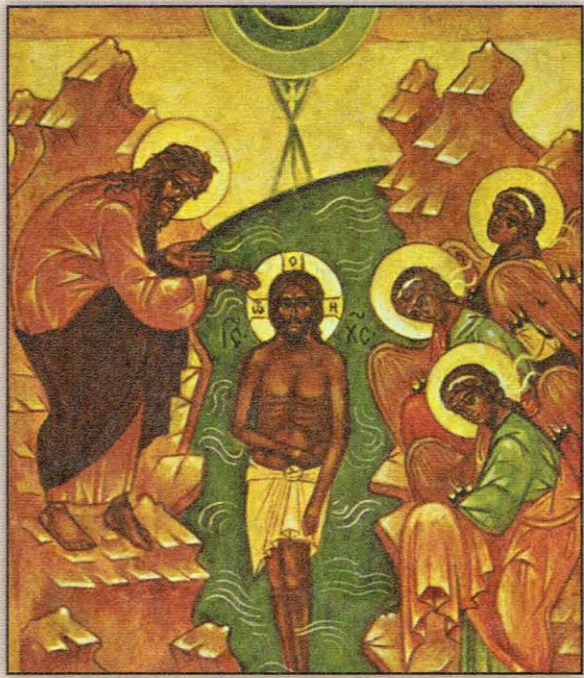
*Saint Basil the Great
January 1st*

O venerable Father, you became a lover of wisdom, preferring life with God to all possessions of the world. Your contemplation of death made you forsake the wealth of the earth, and by your perseverance in fastings, you overcame the sting of passions. By study of the divine law you preserved the freedom within your soul.

By your generous practice of virtue you subjected the passions of the flesh to the spirit. You renounced the flesh, the world, and the princes of the earth; now you stand in the presence of Christ. Intercede with Him for great mercy upon our souls.

*Theophany of Our Lord in the Jordan
January 6th*

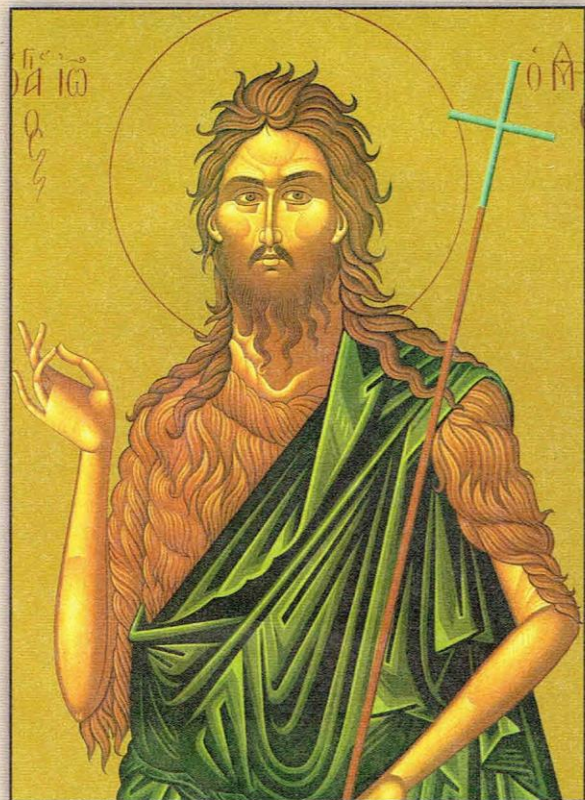
O our Savior, the armies of angels trembled when they saw You baptized by your servant, and the Holy Spirit bearing witness and descending, and when they heard the voice of the Father speaking from heaven: This One upon whom the Forerunner lays his hands is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. O Christ our God, glory to You! O God and Lord, when you resolved to save those who had strayed from You, You condescended to take the form of a servant, for it was fitting that You assumed our human nature for us. And when You were baptized in the flesh, O our Redeemer, it made us worthy of your forgiveness. Therefore, we cry out to You: O Christ our God, our Benefactor, glory to You!



*Synaxis of John the Baptist
January 7th*

When the Jordan River received You, O Fountainhead, the Comforter descended in the form of a dove. Now behold the marvel: the One who bowed the heavens bows his head to the Forerunner, and the one made of clay cries out to his Maker: Why do You command me to perform what is beyond my power? It is I who need to be baptized by You. O Christ our God, O Sinless One, glory to You!

I manifest myself as completely human. I who am rich have willingly become poor, so that I may enrich with incorruption and deliverance all the poor. Come! Baptize the One who is not subject to corruption and who frees the world from decay.



*All text from Vesper Stichera, The Festal Menaion,
Sisters of Saint Basil, Uniontown, PA*