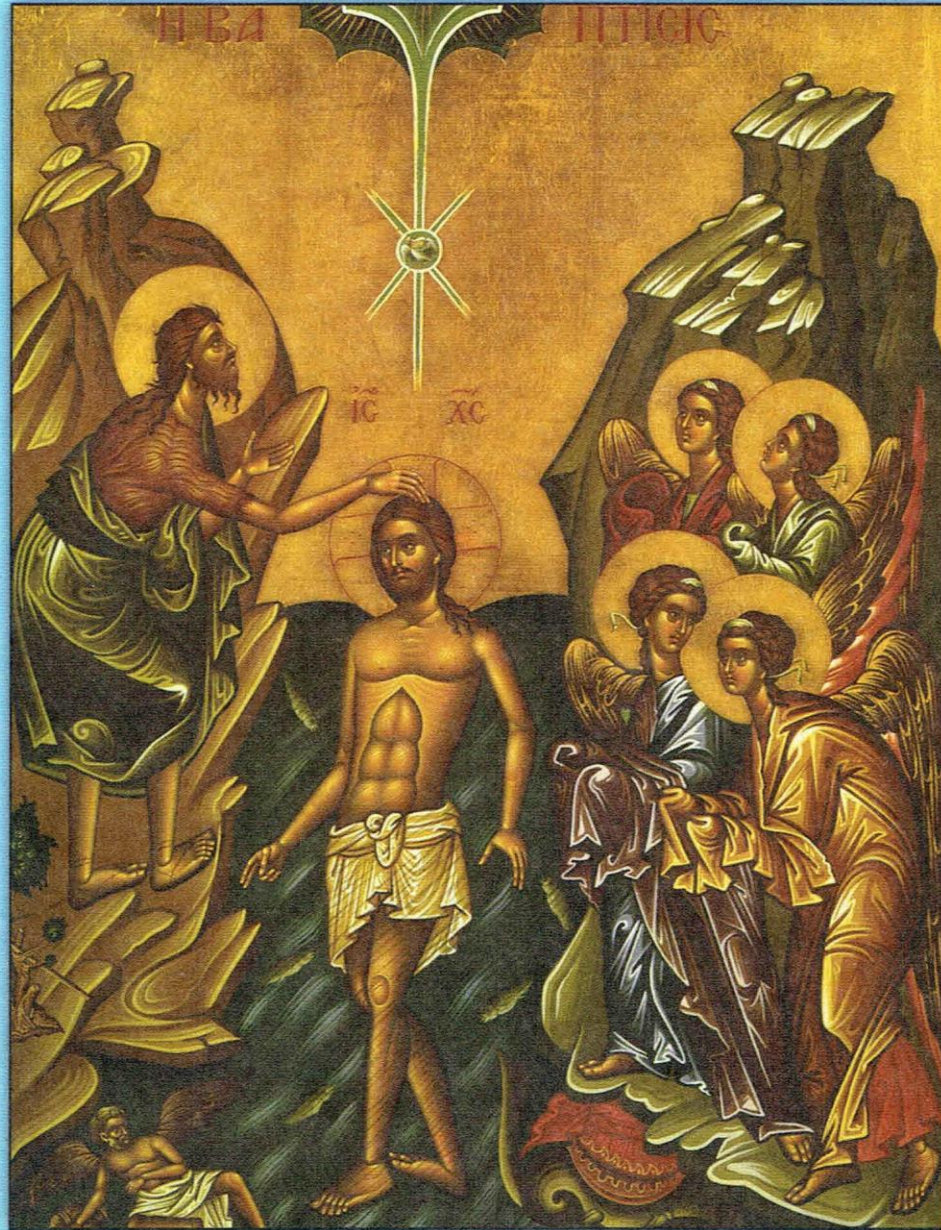


SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD,
GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST



Icon of Theophany -- January 6th

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

(Under the Holy Protection of the Mother of God)



2115 Listravia Ave., Morgantown, WV 26505

Office: (304) 296-2455

Website: HolyProtectionWV.com

Facebook: St. Marys Holy Protection Byzantine Catholic Church

E-mail: holyprotectionwv@gmail.com

Rev. Father James Fraser

Residence (cell): (304) 918-3297

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: 1/2 hour before Liturgy or by appointment

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



DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR JAN 7th to JAN 17th, 2024

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 - pg 156 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
Sunday Jan. 14th 10:30 a.m.	Sunday of Zaccheus - pg 161 Readings: 1 Tim 4:9-15; Lk 19:1-10 Intention: For the people of St Mary's Parish
Wednesday Jan. 17th 7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy - pg 161 Readings: Heb 13:17-21; Lk 6:17-23 Intention: Open

Christ is baptized! In the Jordan!

Today at 3:00 there will be a blessing of the waters of Cheat lake.
Cheat Lake Park Parking, Morgans Run Road, Morgantown, WV 26508, USA

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.
www.goarch.org

How to use Holy Water

Holy water is meant to be consumed in simple ways. It is known that Orthodox Christians may bless themselves with holy water by drinking it. It can be also sprinkled on items that are necessary for spiritual growth, shelter and stability. The place we reside can be home to many spiritual powers. Holy water, through the blessing of a house by a priest, is a means of cleansing a house from evil spirits.

Day-to-day use depends on the person and how they feel compelled. Perhaps a person who loves cooking would use it in their meals. A person who has children may give holy water to their children to drink before an exam or a big event.

The key to its use is through love. Love of other people through the giving of Holy Water to them, and love of oneself out of personal care and faith of healing. Most importantly, love of God by the faith that holy water *will* sanctify our souls and bodies.

It is important to see holy water as medicine both physically and spiritually. It is used to sanctify those who are personally subject to it (through personal consumption) or indirectly (blessings of houses and land). It's really important to not trivialize holy water. The general rule is to treat holy water as a healing ointment (as opposed to a general food).
thegoodshepherd.org.au



The Blessing of Homes



The home blessing at Theophany represents a renewal of our lives in Christ. Washed in the baptismal waters, our homes become temples of the Holy Spirit for the fulfillment of the will of our Heavenly Father. This is why the Church blesses everything that can be found in a Christian home; and if something is not worthy of being blessed, then there should not be a place for it in the home of a Christian.



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

Theresa Glagola at The Madison on Bakers Ridge Rd. Room 204
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:

Anyone celebrating theirs this week

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. 31st, 2023

Envelope Offerings	Loose Offerings	Candles	Christmas	Bake Sale	Flowers	Total
\$390	\$18	\$15	\$15	\$2086	\$5	\$2529

Church Attendance for Sunday was: 29



Sunday after Theophany

Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."



Synaxis of John the Baptist - January 7th

Saint John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. Saint John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior's Baptism.



At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, Saint John is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ.



St. Domnica of Constantinople - January 8th



Saint Domnica came from Carthage to Constantinople in the time of the holy Emperor Theodosius the Great. She was baptized by Patriarch Nectarius and entered a women's monastery.

Through strict and prolonged ascetic efforts, she attained high spiritual perfection. The saint healed the sick, demonstrated power over the natural elements, and predicted the future. By her miracles, she moved inhabitants of the capital towards concerns about life eternal and the soul. Adorned by virtues, the saint departed this life a spotless virgin in her old age.

By permission of the Orthodox Church in America (www.oca.org)

Let Us Venerate Today the Baptism of Christ ... Wash Yourselves and Be Clean

I cannot restrain my joy; my heart is deeply moved and filled with delight. Forgetting my weakness, I long to undertake the mission of the great John the Baptist; though I am not the Forerunner, I have indeed come from the desert!

Christ receives the sacrament of enlightenment, or rather He enlightens us with His brilliance. He is baptized; let us go down into the water with Him so that we may also come up with Him. John is baptizing, and Jesus comes to him. Christ certainly sanctifies the man who now baptizes Him, but His purpose is chiefly to bury the old Adam in the waters and, above all, to sanctify the waters of the Jordan by His baptism in them so that just as He was spirit and flesh, those who would later be baptized might be sanctified by the power of the Spirit and by water.

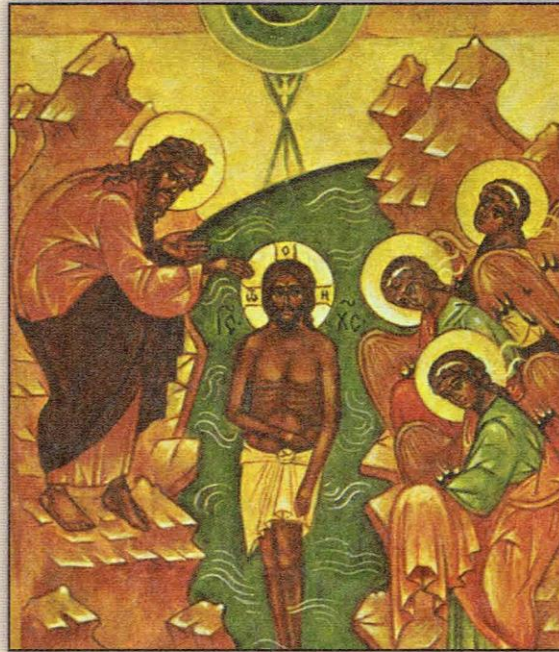
John refuses; Jesus insists. "It is you that should be baptizing me!" says John. The torch addresses the Sun, the voice speaks to the Word. Jesus comes out of the water, drawing the world with Him, as it were, and raising it up when it had hitherto been sunk in the abyss. He sees the heavens not being rent, but opening of their own accord.

The first Adam had of old closed heaven to himself and us, just as he had seen the earthly paradise being closed to him, with a fiery sword barring access. The Holy Spirit bears witness. Here all is in perfect harmony, for the testimony comes from heaven, just as He to whom the Spirit bears witness has come from heaven.

St. Gregory the Theologian

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*

