



Saint Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

146 Third Avenue, Rankin, PA 15104
Pastor: Very Reverend Nicholas Ferencz, PhD
Cantor: Professor Jerry Jumba
Parish President : Carole Bushak



Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu! Slava vo v'iki!

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JANUARY 12, 2020

**SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS AND BEFORE THEOPHANY:
REMEMBERING THE HOLY RELATIVES OF OUR LORD: KING DAVID, JOSEPH THE
BETROTHED, AND JAMES, BROTHER OF THE LORD**

	CarpathoRussian	Greek	Serbian	Russian
CHRIST IS BORN!	Christos Roždajetsja!	Christos Gennatai!	Hristos se Rodi!	Kristos Rozhdaetsya!
GLORIFY HIM!	Slavite Jeho!	Doxasate!	Voistinu se Rodi!	Slav'te ego!

Sun., Jan. 12 *Sunday after Christmas and before Theophany. Remembering the Relatives of Our Lord: King David, Joseph the Betrothed, and James, brother of the Lord*
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Panachida: Vaia Costianes – Pañi Joanna

Mon., Jan. 13 Last Day of Christmas. Nun Melania
7:00 PM **Parish Council meets** for regular monthly meeting

Tue., Jan. 14 *Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord. Also of St. Basil the Great [Old Calendar New Year]*
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

SERVICES FOR THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

Sat., Jan. 18 VIGIL OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD. Martyrs Theopemptus et al.
6:45 PM Christmas Carols and the Theophany Canon
7:00 PM Velikij Povečerije - Great Compline with the Blessing of the Jordan Water.
Sun., Jan. 19 THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

Holy Mystery of Confession: Before Divine Liturgy and other services. We can also meet other times (after Liturgy, or by appointment). Just let me know.

PEOPLE STUFF

Prayer List: *Deceased:* Fr. Stephen Shuga. Edward Pehanich, Sr. Stelian Popescu, father of Pañi Alexandra Urban. Elizabeth Beck.

Living: Fr. Joseph Cervo. Pañi Dorothy Hutnyan. Pañi Eleanor Pribish. Dana Andrade. Gloria Andrade. Gregory Michael Aurilio. Walter Bolbat. John Bonga. Donald Bodnar. Charlene Borsic. Jaime Budesca. Barbara Chappie. Steve Bournius. Rebecca, David & Bradley Noah Cozad. Mary Ann Crouse. Martha Danchak. George & Margaret Dorogy. Patty Ferrence. Breanne Glass. Dorothy Glass. Eddie Gombos. Jennifer Hartrick. Joseph Hlavac. Shirley Hrubic. Kevin Ianni. Gary Ingelido. Andrea Kerkentzes. Jeanne Lesko. Bobby Malackany. Joan Martell. Bill and Barbara McCauley. Jake McLaughlin. Helen Mihalik. Frank Palmieri. Diane Phillips. Millie and Edward Phillips. Anna Senich. Peter Simonoff. Bernice Sindak. Terry Slezak. Milton and Thelma Supak. Diana Terezis. Bobby and Dee Triffanoff. Josh Walendziewicz. Paul Worst. Paul & Valerie Yednak. Jim Zajac.
Prospora Bakers: Trudy Trifanoff. Delores Cubakovic, and their intentions.

January Birthdays: Frank Bujakowski 1/1. Sharon Stemler 1/4. Jeanne Zajac & Rebecca Nesbitt 1/9. Bethanne Mascilak 1/10. Brianna Nesbit 1/11. Trey Fedak 1/23. Denise Mihalik 1/26. *Many, blessed and spiritually fruitful years!*

Eternal memory: Elizabeth Beck, mother of Pañi Carol Paproski, fell asleep in the Lord December 31; the funeral was held last week. Please pray for the repose of Elizabeth's soul. Please also keep Fr. Peter Pañi Carol and their family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Welcome! We welcome to our church this morning all visitors, guests, relatives, and friends of Saint Michael Church. We invite *everyone* present today to chant the Liturgy along with the cantor.

Our Gifts to God and our Church		
December 29, 2019		
	Sunday	Christmas
Attendance	38	90
Communions	21	24
Collections		
Monthly		110.00
Sunday		1075.00
Christmas Vigil		360.00
Christmas Day		2832.00
All Votive Candles		245.00
Christmas Candles		65.00
Building Maintenance		25.00
Diocesan Membership'		72.00
Building Repairs		100.00
Banquet Donation		<u>30.00</u>
Total Offerings:		4914.00
<i>Building and Repairs Donations which are available for upcoming repairs to date are \$2441! God bless your generosity!</i>		

F(E)ASTING

CHRISTMAS FEAST – As we celebrate the coming of Our Lord into the world, we do not fast during Christmastide. There is no fasting from January 7 until January 18, Theophany Eve.

Theophany Eve Fast: Since January 18 falls on a Saturday, we fast only from meat on this day.

FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD: Please see Schedule for service times. We will celebrate **Velikij Povečerije [Great Compline]** with the **Blessing of the New Jordan Water** on **Saturday, Jan. 18, at 7 PM.** The Divine Liturgy will be on Sunday, January 19, at 9:00 AM.

All are encouraged to bring your Holy Water container to receive some of the newly blessed water. *[Note: if you have leftover water from last year or previous years, pour it out on the ground in your garden or wherever people do not walk. Then clean out your jar/bottle and bring it to church for the New Water]*

DIOCESE, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF

IOCC Pittsburgh News: To participate in any or all of the events below, see iocc.org/pgh.

- Annual **Soup Sampling Fund Raiser Saturday**, February 8, 11 AM to 2 PM, at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Road, Mount Lebanon (across from the Galleria). Details on flyer in hall.
- **Emergency Health Kit Drive & Assembly Project** - same time and place as the Soup Sampling. Flyer in hall.
- Team IOCC at the **Pittsburgh Marathon Weekend** - May 2, 2020

IRS News that could save you some money! Are you taking a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA? You probably can make contributions to St. Michael's AND save on federal income taxes. Once you have reached age 70 1/2, there is a minimum amount that you are required to take from your IRA. However, you can ask that bank to make a check payable to St. Michael's. When this is done, this is not taxable. Your 1099R form will not include this dollar amount. For example, \$1,000 can save most of us \$120 or \$220 in taxes. If this helps you save on taxes, we would be happy to get a few larger checks instead of weekly contributions. Perhaps on your budget, you can contribute the savings -- \$1,120 or \$1,220 would benefit St. Michael's.

To take advantage of this opportunity, just contact the bank or broker or the financial institution that holds your funds. Tell them you want to make a qualified charitable contribution from your IRA. If you are paying any federal income taxes, then this will save something. *For example*, generally speaking, single people are taxed for any adjusted income over \$12,200, and married couple are taxed for any adjusted income over \$24,200. This may help to reduce your taxable income. Also, as an added bonus, this also reduces your income for the calculation of your Medicare premiums for many people.

Of course, as with anything that involves money and taxes, you should seek advice from qualified sources before you go ahead. *Also*, Christina Duranko has offered to help anyone with questions, etc.

PARISH STUFF

New! Parish “Library.” It has been sitting there in the hall for at least a year now, with no real explanation, so I thought one would be a good idea. We are slowly putting together a small library of theological, religious and spiritual writings for everyone’s use and benefit. The small bookcase we have is slowly filling up with books that we hope will be interesting and valuable to anyone. You are free to browse the library and, if you find anything of interest, take it with you, read it, enjoy it, absorb it. If you want to talk about anything you have read, or have any questions, I will be happy sit with you. If you think you have a book you would like to donate, please see Fr. Nik for requirements, etc.

New! Home Blessings I very much would like to bless everyone’s home with the New Jordan Water this year. I also realize that that is not always possible. If you would like to have your home blessed, please fill in the little form in the vestibule, or email or text me that you would like to have me come this year. I will contact you to make arrangements!

Reminder! The Parish Council meets for its regular January meeting on *Monday, January 13* (moved because of the Holy Day) at 7 PM.

Reminder! 2020 Contribution Envelopes: 2020 Envelopes are available in the hall. If you haven’t picked yours up yet, please do so!

Reminder! Divine Liturgy Intentions: *Praying for the Living and the Deceased.* This is just a reminder of something we’ve been doing for some time now. If you would like to have someone remembered during today’s Liturgy, just put their name(s) on the form in the vestibule (Allen, Denny, Bobby or any one of the guys back there can help you out). The list is brought to the altar after the Gospel Entrance, and we will remember them at the Anaphora.

2nd Official Announcement: The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, after the Divine Liturgy, More info soon.

Update! Christmas Candle Offering for Special Intention: We continue to collect for Christmas Candles through Christmas.

Emilia Phillips – Special Intention

Update! Agape Offerings: *Today:* Jeanne and Jim Zajac for Jeanne’s Birthday. *Next week:* No One. *Jan. 26:* Annual Meeting.

Also, a big thanks! To those who prepared the agape on Christmas Day after Liturgy. It was a great example of the loving welcome our parishioners have for everyone who enters our church, and I know was much appreciated [*I know it was much appreciated because no one wanted to leave!*]. **God bless you!**

Update! Church Repairs: we have available at this time **\$2441 in donations** towards repairs in the church and rectory. 2019 – 2020 donations have totaled so far **\$5855**, some of it already used.

BAPTISM / THEOPHANY 101

By Fr. Jonathan Bannon



This week we honor the baptism of our new born King, Christ one of the Holy Trinity. This took place in the Jordan River that flows from the sea of Galilee above that pours into the Dead Sea below. Christ is the Messiah as John the Baptist taught. It is here Jesus begins His ministry with receiving the Holy Spirit sent from the Father making it possible for all of us to have God dwell in us and renew us, as anew creation! It is a regeneration of humanity for Christ did not need baptism, we did. Do you see the humility of our God and His love in this action? Before Christ all of life flowed towards death much like the Jordan to the dead sea. With Christ entering the Jordan we read in Psalm 113 that the Jordan turned back! The spiritual depth of this is that life that flowed toward death now turns back to its source of life... to God, to eternal life!

Water is an element used to clean things and it has long been viewed as a symbol of life. To enter Christ's body "The Church" we begin with baptism. When we are baptized under water the font becomes a tomb and this symbolizes our death to our old sinful/fallen selves and we rise up out of the water clean and having put on "Christ"

the font becomes "a womb" and we born again in/ through Jesus Christ! We bless water to bless all of creation for this is what Christ did when He was submerged by the hand of John, God Himself blessed the waters for He is pure!

Thoughts on the feast of Theophany

Blessing water on the feast of Theophany this morning! Christ enters the waters of the Jordan as both lamb of God (servant) and Shepherd (the Master), leading the way home from the front not with a whip from behind. Like the prophecy fulfilled in Psalm 113, "the Jordan turned back" fleeing the Dead Sea and returning to its source, we find the course of our life turns back in this regenerative act of baptism/Theophany! We return to our original source of life: The Creator Himself, away from the sea of death, Christ calls the world to the kingdom (eternal life) in the midst of the Jordan. What an incredible feast! The culmination of the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord is the feast of Theophany. What was manifested/revealed to a select few at the Nativity (Shepherds, Angels, Magi..) is now offered for the entire world to behold, a freeing truth of God in the Trinity, a communion/community of love that we are brought back into the fold of. What incredible dispensation of compassion from our God to His creation.