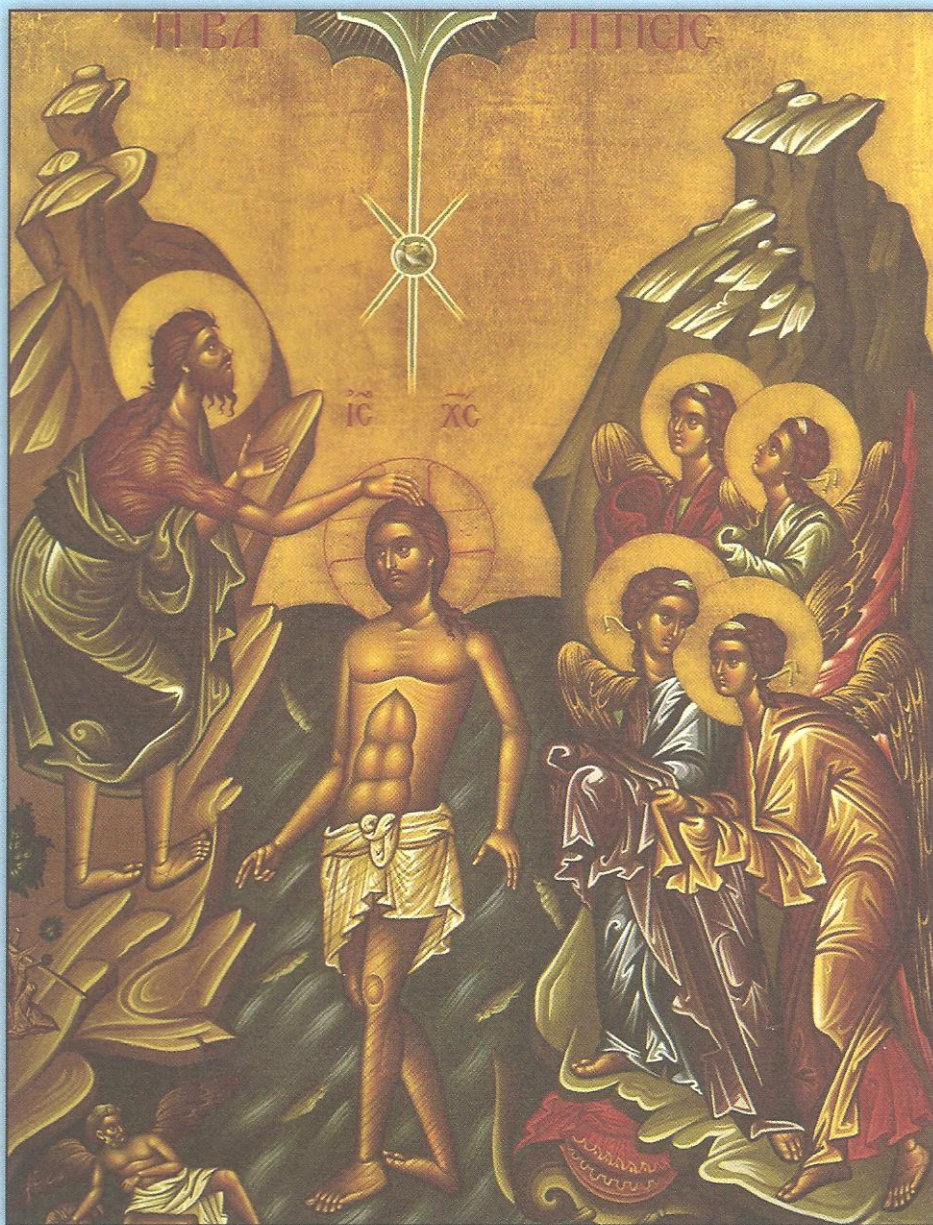


THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD,
GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST



Icon of Theophany -- January 6th

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

Rev. Dr. Ronald Popivchak
Pastor

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Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church

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"Christ is Born!"
"Khristos Razhdayetsia!"

Jan. 6, 2013
THEOPHANY

THE GREAT AND ANCIENT FEAST of the Baptism of Christ will be celebrated this weekend in our parish. This holyday is properly called "Theophany", a Greek word which translates as the Appearance of God, and marks the manifestation of the Holy Trinity at the Jordan River during the Baptism of Christ by St. John. We will bless the Holy Water after the Liturgy both Saturday evening and Sunday morning, so that you can take the holy water home to bless your family, all your loved ones and your abode. As the head of the household sprinkles the holy water over the walls of the house and the family members, he/she intones:

THIS HOUSE/FAMILY MEMBER IS BLESSED WITH THE JORDAN WATER IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AMEN.

BRAND NEW 2013 CALENDARS and 2013 envelope boxes have been prepared for all the Faithful. You can find these items in the church basement today, so PLEASE TAKE THEM HOME for yourself and all your family members, so that we do not have to deliver them to you.

CHECK OUT OUR BEAUTIFUL WEBSITE when you get a chance and share the address with all your family and friends: www.sspeterpaulukrchurch.us/

WE SEND OUT a great big SS Peter and Paul thank-you to all our wonderful and generous parishioners who gifted our parish so well this holy season. God bless all of you with good health, great joy and much love in the new year. Fr. Pastor thanks all of you who remembered him with your many cards and gifts on Christmas.

OUR PARISH SUNDAY SCHOOL is on winter break now and will resume all classes on Sunday, Jan. 13 at 10 am. We trust that all our staff and students will be on hand to begin the spring semester.

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 6 pm For all the Faithful
Sunday, 9 am +Agnes and Michael (The Fonock Children)
Thursday, 7 am +Tryciecky-O'Brien Family (Vera and Lubomyr)
Friday, 7 am +Dmytro Macelak (The Saboe Family)
Saturday, 8 am +Catherine Maslayak (Bill and Mary Lee)
Saturday, 6 pm +Mark Hitchens (Horace and Maryellen and Sons)
Sunday, 9 am For all the Faithful, Living and Deceased

THEOPHANY TROPAR: O Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan River, the mystery of the Holy Trinity was revealed, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, calling You His beloved Son. And the Spirit of God in the form of a dove confirmed this word. O Christ God, glory to You for having enlightened the world by Your appearance.

Glory be to the Father and...

THEOPHANY KONTAK: You have appeared today to the universe and Your Light, O Lord, has come upon us. As we receive Your enlightenment, we sing out to You today: "You have come and appeared, O Inaccessible Light."

THEOPHANY PROKIMEN: Today, O Lord, Your Light has come into the world.

Blessed New Year!
Fr. Ronald