Icon of the Theophany of Our Lord -- January 6th

January 3, 2021

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

Saints Cyril and Methodius
Byzantine Catholic Church

2510 Piney Plains Road
Cary, NC 27518-6870
919-239-4877

Rev. Fr. Vasyl Sokolovych
Parochial Administrator
908-404-0777

Sunday
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
(If unable to attend in person, our Divine Liturgy is streamed via our Facebook page.)

E-Mail: sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com
Web Site: sscyrilmethodius.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SUNDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sunday Before Theophany</strong></th>
<th><strong>OBLIGATION</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tone 6</td>
<td>2 Tim 4:5-8&lt;br&gt;Mk 1:1-8</td>
<td>9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;(for the Intention of the Parishioners)</td>
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<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>Synaxis of the 70 Apostles&lt;br&gt;James 2:14-26&lt;br&gt;Mk 9:42 - 10:1</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>January 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vigil of Theophany</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Royal Hours</strong>&lt;br&gt;PM 1Cor 9:19-27&lt;br&gt;Lk 3:1-18</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>January 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Titus 2:11-14 &amp; 3:4-7&lt;br&gt;Mt 3:13-17</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>January 7</strong></td>
<td>Synaxis of John the Baptist&lt;br&gt;Acts 19:1-8&lt;br&gt;Jn 1:29-34</td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>January 8</strong></td>
<td>George, Dominica &amp; Emilian Venerables&lt;br&gt;1 Pet 1:1-2.10-12; 2:6-10&lt;br&gt;Mk 10:23-32</td>
<td>6:00 PM Divine Liturgy - streaming&lt;br&gt;Elizabeth Macario Family Only</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>January 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Saturday After Theophany</strong>&lt;br&gt;Polyeuct - Martyr&lt;br&gt;Eph 6:10-17&lt;br&gt;Mt 4:1-11</td>
<td>8:00 AM-12:00 PM: Coptic Orthodox Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;4:00 PM: St. Nicholas Mission Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td><strong>SUNDAY</strong> <strong>January 10</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tone 7</td>
<td><strong>Sunday After Theophany</strong>&lt;br&gt;Eph 4:7-13&lt;br&gt;Mt 4:12-17</td>
<td>8:30 AM Confession&lt;br&gt;9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;(for the Intention of the Parishioners)&lt;br&gt;11:00 AM: Divine Liturgy TBD</td>
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Call the parish office (919-239-4877) to make an appointment or to speak with Fr. Vasyl (908-404-0777).

**SSCM CHURCH/HALL SCHEDULE**

The St. Nicholas Mission celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church every Saturday at 4:00 PM.
The Eritrean Orthodox celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month.
The Coptic Orthodox celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will be meeting the second Tuesday of every month. If you have any questions or concerns you would like addressed at the next meeting, please contact one of the members: Mike Carpenter, Marie Taylor, Paul Tooley, Lance Morgan, Dan Pope, Lou Gigliotti and Mike Sapsara.
SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY
January 3, 2021

If you are new to our area or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not a home for you, we warmly invite you to become part of our parish family.

If you wish to register with our parish, please email Michelle Rubush at sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!
GLORY FOREVER!

SLAVONIC:
SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU!
SLAVA NA VIKI!

Please remember in your prayers:
David Hoover; Cameron Shuey; Dale Blair; Bernadette’s parents and aunts: Andrew, Etta, Martha and Yolonda; Jerry Kingery; Father Mark and family; Father Vasyl and family.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of our faithful departed:
+Elizabeth Macario; +Luke Morgan, +Natalie and John Morgan, +Rev. Fr. Richard Rohrer, +Gloria Shuey

In Blessed Repose, Grant O Lord, Eternal Rest to the Soul of Your Departed Servants and may their Memory be Eternal.

In spite of the pandemic, the maintenance of our church continues and bills still must be paid. Thanks to all who continue to serve our church with their time, talent, and treasure. May God bless you abundantly!

You honor God and our Church by continuing to tithe each week. A collection basket is under the Tetrapod for your weekly donation. You may also mail in your donation or donate online via Tithely or our website.

“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” (Luke 6:38)

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 20</td>
<td>$801.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 25</td>
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<td>December 27</td>
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The annual St. Nicholas Tree is in the church hall. Continuing our well established tradition, this tree is set up during Philipis’s Fast to collect money to benefit an orphanage in Ukraine and to provide a gift to the family of Father louri Koslovskii.

You may remember that Father louri and his wife Oksana are long-time friends of our parish. They and their children are now serving at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, where difficult times have been made worse by the pandemic. The orphanage is St. Nicholas’s Village of Mercy, a remarkable organization where dedicated nuns provide a loving home to children whose parents are either deceased or otherwise unable to provide what they need. In years past, our parish donation was critical to them making ends meet during the winter months. If you wish to follow the orphanage on Facebook, you can search for: Містечко Милосердя Святого миколая. You can visit this link: https://m.facebook.com/HogaritoSanNicolas/. The translation feature of Facebook is not great, but the smiles on the children will not require translation.

If you are visiting the hall, please take an envelope from the tree, and return it with your gift to the collection basket. If you would prefer to use Tithely, be sure to make your additional donation clearly earmarked for “Ukraine” or “orphanage.” You may also give your contribution to Dan Pope, who is organizing the St. Nicholas Tree. Donations will be collected through the end of the year with the goal of sending our gift by the Julian Calendar Christmas which is January 7.
John the Baptist's life was fueled by one burning passion -- to point others to Jesus Christ and to the coming of His kingdom. Who is John the Baptist and what is the significance of his message for our lives? Scripture tells us that John was filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15, 41) by Christ himself, whom Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth John leapt in her womb as they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:41).

The fire of the Spirit dwelt in John and made him the forerunner of the coming Messiah. John was led by the Spirit into the wilderness prior to his ministry where he was tested and grew in the word of God. John's clothing was reminiscent of the prophet Elijah (see Kings 1:8). John broke the prophetic silence of the previous centuries when he began to speak the word of God to the people of Israel. His message was similar to the message of the Old Testament prophets who chided the people of God for their unfaithfulness and who tried to awaken true repentance in them. Among a people unconcerned with the things of God, it was his work to awaken their interest, unsettle them from their complacency, and arouse in them enough good will to recognize and receive Christ when He came.

Are you eager to hear God's word and to be changed by it through the power of the Holy Spirit? John the Baptist was more than a prophet (Luke 7:26). John was the voice of the Consoler who is coming (John 1:23; Isaiah 40:1-3). He completed the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah (Matthew 11:13-14). What the prophets had carefully searched for and angels longed to see, now came to completion as John made the way ready for the coming of the Messiah, God's Anointed Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. With John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to the human race of the divine likeness prefiguring what would be achieved with and in the Lord Jesus.

John's baptism was for repentance -- turning away from sin and taking on a new way of life according to God's word. Our baptism in Jesus Christ by water and the Spirit results in a new birth and entry into God's kingdom as his beloved sons and daughters (John 3:5). Jesus is ready to give us the fire of his Spirit that we may radiate the joy and truth of the gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light and truth. His word has power to change and transform our lives that we may be lights pointing others to Christ. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ. Do you point others to Christ in the way you live, work, and speak?

Lord, let your light burn brightly in my heart that I may know the joy and freedom of your kingdom. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and empower me to witness the truth of your gospel and to point others to Jesus Christ.

**MESSAGE FROM FATHER VASYL**

**BAPTISM**

Why did Jesus, the Sinless One, submit himself to John's baptism? John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:3). In this humble submission we see a foreshadowing of the “baptism” of his bloody death upon the cross. Jesus' baptism is the acceptance and the beginning of his mission as God's suffering Servant. He allowed himself to be numbered among sinners. Jesus submitted himself entirely to his Father's will. Out of love he consented to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins. Do you know the joy of trust and submission to God?

The Father proclaimed his entire delight in his Son and spoke audibly for all to hear. The Holy Spirit, too, was present as he anointed Jesus for his ministry which began that day as he rose from the waters of the Jordan River. Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for all who come to believe in him. At his baptism the heavens were opened and the waters were sanctified by the descent of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, signifying the beginning of a new creation.
How can we enter into the mystery of Jesus’ humble self-abasement and baptism? Gregory Nazianzus, a seventh century Church father tells us: “Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with him; let us go down with him to be raised with him; and let us rise with him to be glorified with him.” Do you want to see your life transformed in the love and power of Jesus Christ? And do you want to become a more effective instrument of the gospel? Examine Jesus’ humility and ask the Holy Spirit to forge this same attitude in your heart. As you do, heaven will open for you as well. The Lord Jesus is ever ready to renew us in His Spirit and to anoint us for His mission. We are called to be “light” and “salt” to those around us. The Lord wants His love and truth to shine through us that others may see the goodness and truth of God’s message of salvation. Ask the Lord to fill you with His Holy Spirit that you may radiate the joy of the gospel to those around you.

"Lord Jesus, fill me with your Holy Spirit and inflame my heart with the joy of the gospel. May I find joy in seeking to please you just as you found joy in seeking to please your Father."

A FACE MASK COVERING MOUTH AND NOSE MUST BE WORN DURING DIVINE LITURGY, WHICH SHOULD BE REMOVED BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION.

Parishioners who are considered “high risk,” and more vulnerable to the virus should consider not attending Liturgy in the church and continue to participate via Facebook.

- Parishioners are dispensed from attending Divine Liturgy on Sunday and Holy Days.
- Please bring your own mask as the church has a limited number available.
- Social distancing (six feet) of people not living in the same household should be followed. A family living together can sit in the same area.
- Please refrain from physical contact.
- Please sanitize hands when entering and leaving church.
- There will be no Agape meal in the hall after Liturgy; please do not bring food.
- Please maintain social distancing after Liturgy.
- A collection basket is under the Tetrapod for your weekly donation. You may also mail in your donation or donate online via our website or Tithely.
- As you approach Fr. Vasyl for communion, please state your name.

GUIDELINES FOR THE HALL DURING LITURGY:

- Follow the same guidelines as if you were in Church. Please remember to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing.
- A caddy of hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies is on the metal countertop. Please sanitize hands when entering and leaving the hall.
- Please spray and wipe down all chairs and tables used during Liturgy.
- After cleaning and spraying chairs, please return them to the stacked positions.
- Please sweep floor if necessary.
- Heaters, lights and fans should be in the off position.
- Ensure door lock is engaged.
Our Eparchy will be hosting monthly Byzantine Gatherings. Mark your calendars for each date. Gatherings will begin at 6:00 PM. Email contact: FrDeaconTom@gmail.com

THE EPARCHY OF PARMA YOUTH COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO OUR ONLINE ZOOM YOUTH MEETINGS

GIVE US 45 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME AND SHARE WITH US HOW YOU LIVE THE FAITH IN YOUR YOUTH COMMUNITY

WHEN?
JANUARY 9, 2021
SATURDAY @ 1PM EST

DETAILS
MEETING ID: 861 4184 3557
PASSCODE: 246850
Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86141843557

OUR HOST:
Seminarian Candidates Studying at the International Theological Institute in Trumau, Austria