

## SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

January 2, 2022

8:40 AM Rosary

9:00 AM **H/B for All Parishioners**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **DIVINE SERVICES/EVENTS FOR THE WEEK**

*Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>*

NO SERVICES

*Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>*

9:30AM **+ Martha Durbak** – by Mary & Steve Covert

*Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>*

9:30AM **H/B for Marie Kosht** – by Annette Dressler

6:30PM BIBLE STUDY

*Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>* **THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

9:30AM **+ Michael Mosyjowski** – by Michael T. Mosyjowski

*Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>*

9:30AM **+ Dmytro, Maria and Myron Dulyn** – by Lydia Strileckyj

\*\*\*\*\*

*Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>*

5:00PM **+ Vasyl Sodik** – by Sandy & Theodore Trebonik

***Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>*** Sunday after Theophany

8:40 AM Rosary

9:00 AM **H/B for All Parishioners**

---

*The Church was a mother to you in life, providing for your spiritual needs; please remember the Eparchy of Saint Josaphat in Parma in your last will and testament. The wording to do this is as follows: “I give and bequeath to the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of St. Josaphat in Parma, located in Parma, Ohio, \_\_\_\_\_% of the residue of my estate [or: the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_].”Thank you!*

### **DONATIONS December 26th:**

Weekly offerings: \$3,400

In Memory of

Stefania Fenkanyan: \$300

Christmas: \$3,655

Orphanage: \$250

Pyrohy: \$114

Ukie Display: \$22

Renovation: \$57

**Total: \$8,732**

### **CONGRATULATIONS:**

This week **Tekla Dumanski (1/02)** celebrates her birthday. We wish you a wonderful celebration, and **many blessed years... mnohaya i blahaya lita!**

**SAVE THE DATE January – April 2022:**

Our parishioners are invited to participate in upcoming series for parents & adults Fridays 6:30-8:00pm in Memorare Center at St. Francis Parish.

A generation ago, parents didn’t have to worry about how to explain transgenderism to their 9 year-old. We want to protect innocence while forming a correct understanding of who we are as God’s children.

**Silence is not an option. If we are not teaching our children how to understand tough moral issues, then the world will!**

This is an 11-week course beginning Jan 14 running through April 1. Come to as many sessions as you are able. Each week covers a different topic. This books equips parents of young children, as well as older children into adulthood with separate age-appropriate dialogue.

To register, contact Mike & Michelle Powers at [mpower36@yahoo.com](mailto:mpower36@yahoo.com).

The only cost is for the book, which is \$5.

All are welcome.

**Babysitting will be provided!**

### **The Jordan Water –The Very Sacred Object:**

From very ancient times the Eastern Church has regarded the sanctified water as a great sacramental, possessing miraculous powers for healing both soul and body. It is a custom in our Church *to gladly receive the priest who blesses and sanctifies their home with Jordan Water.* The prayers of the Great Water Blessing call upon the Holy Spirit to come down upon the water to purify and sanctify it, and impart to it a healing power for the benefit of soul and body. *Please call or e-mail Fr. Vsevolod (Sal) to schedule a time for him to bless your home.*

### **Church Envelopes:**

Unfortunately, due to some printing delays we have not yet received our new 2022 church envelopes. We should get them soon. Thank you for patience!

### **MOLEBEN FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE:**

On January 21, 2022, at 6:30 PM, we will have a special Moleben for Peace in Ukraine, with clergy from our local parishes, at St. Josaphat Cathedral. All are invited to attend.

### **2022 Church Calendars**

are available for you in the vestibule.

*We also pray that the Holy Spirit may open the hearts and minds of all to wisdom and grace so that those in Ukraine and throughout the world will cease the acts of aggression and respect the territorial sovereignty of Ukraine, let us pray to the Lord.*

From the Homily for the New Year By Saint John Chrysostom

**A Christian should not merely celebrate appointed feasts, or new moons, or even merely the Lord’s Day [Sunday], but, rather, a Christian should continually hold a feast throughout the whole of life. How should it be? Let us listen to the Holy Apostle Paul, who says: “Let us, there-fore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (1 Corinthians 5:8).” Therefore, if you have a clean conscience, you are already holding a continual feast, because you are nourishing yourself with good hope and reveling in the delight of good things to come. Whenever you are restless in spir-it and guilty of many sins, even if there be a thousand feasts and holy days, you would be no better off than those who are grieving. What is the benefit to me of bright days, if my soul is darkened in conscience? For what is the benefit to me of bright days, if my soul is darkened by reproaches of conscience? If, then, you wish to gain some benefit from the New Year, do the fol-lowing: thank the Lord at the end of the year, because He has led you up to this point. Have compunction in your heart for every bad thing that you do. Reckon up the time of your life and say to yourself, “The days are fleeting, the years are passing, I have already lived through the greater part of my journey, and what good have I done? Will I be able to depart from this life without any virtue? Judgment is at the doors, and the remainder of life leads towards old age. “Let your light shine before others, so that, seeing your good works, they may give glory to your Father who is in Heaven (Matthew 5:16).” This light brings you much recompense. Do not crown the door of your house, but rather conduct your life in such a way, that you will receive a crown of righteousness upon your head from the Savior.**

5 Nēnōt æð. ænwææt ēmœē

*"Rejoice, O heavens, and be glad, O earth, and shout for joy, ye mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and hath had mercy on them that are oppressed"*  
(Isaiah 49:13).

This prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled at Christmas – on the day the Messiah, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, was born. More than 2,000 years have passed since God came to be among us, and although the chronological distance increases with each passing year, the significance, triumph, and experience of this most joyous moment in the history of salvation remains the same as it was on Christmas Eve. It is today that "the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). In the incarnation of the Son of God, people received the image of the invisible God the Father and His Word, who was always God before the creation of the world and became man (John 1: 1-2) to make us good, pure, and beloved children of Heavenly Father once again.

The coming of Christ into the world is such a great testimony and proof of God's love for us because no creature has received such an honor and care for its salvation as did the human race. God extended his mercy not because of our merits, but out of God's great mercy. Jesus did not come to give us a new or improved law of morality, because it had already been given to us through Moses and our conscience serves as a guardian to monitor how well we fulfill it. Jesus did not come to work miracles, heal the sick, or raise the dead, because the Old Testament prophets did. Jesus became man not to bring us any temporary prosperity and satisfaction of all our earthly desires and needs, because he himself did not have it - he was born in a poor nativity scene, lacked many of our daily comforts, experienced cold, hunger, abuse, and humiliation.

The reason for the coming of the Son of God is the complete renewal of the human race through the grace of God. He wanted to uncover the original beauty and value of man, which we had at the creation of the world, and, unfortunately, lost through sin. As He Himself said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick" (Luke 5:31). He is the wonderful Doctor of the human nature Who heals and helps us to leave behind our attachment to sin and dependency on everything that is material, and make us think about Gospel message, values and principles that truly matter. He came to establish here the Kingdom of Heaven, where peace, not strife, reigns; love is present, not hatred; truth prevails, not lies; mercy and compassion are common, not selfishness and indifference. The practical implementation of these values and virtues radically changes the state and quality of human existence for better – spiritually enriched. God's presence, His peace and grace are really felt. A person becomes the Human Being that the Lord has called and wants him or her to be.

God is with us and He is among us! Among the many difficult circumstances of today - the coronavirus epidemic, political and economic crises, instability, declining material quality of life, tension and the constant threat of large-scale war in our beloved Ukraine by Russia, force us to rethink the guiding principles and values of our lives. At this point we begin to understand infinite wisdom of God's law and love for us. His love is already manifested in Jesus' invitation, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

So, let's come to Christ - let's go with our hearts, thoughts, and prayers to the poor stable of Bethlehem. Let us imagine the Baby Jesus lying in the hay, laughing, and holding out his arms, ready to hug us, calm us down, comfort us, encourage us and give us joy. And we will find true happiness there. As St. Augustine said, "our hearts are restless until they rest in You, Lord". We will experience the fullness of feelings and the high point of human experience while in the presence of the Lord God Himself.

The beauty of Christ's Nativity stems from the simplicity of Christmas Eve, - deprived of all human splendor, but rich in special awareness and conviction that God is truly with us.

In these bright and joyful days of Christmas, we wish you all to feel the peace and tranquility of the night of Bethlehem and the joy of the coming of the Messiah, the Savior of the world, praised by many angelic choirs, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2: 14). Being filled with this joy and grace in our hearts, let us share it with our neighbors, especially with the sick, those who are neglected, in need of attention and support. Let us be kind and generous, wishing everyone to have enough of earthly good things and God's grace. Let us sing carols loudly and everywhere, thus, announcing the coming of Christ the Savior to us!

May the newborn Baby Jesus bless you, your families, and communities this Christmas and every day!

**Christ was born! Praise Him!**

**+Borys Gudziak**  
Archbishop of Philadelphia  
Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States

**+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM**  
Eparch of Stamford

**+Benedict Aleksiychuk**  
Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago

**+ Bohdan J. Danylo**  
Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma

**+Andriy Rabiy**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia (author)

December 2021

\*\*\*