

## SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

January 9, 2022

8:40 AM Rosary  
9:00 AM **H/B for All Parishioners**

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### DIVINE SERVICES/EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

9:30AM **+ Joseph & Sophia Szabat** – by Bill Szabat

Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> NO SERVICES

Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

9:30AM **+ James Robb** – by the Family  
5:00PM Confessions in the Sacristy (or by appointment)  
6:30PM BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

9:30AM **H/B for Chance & Bryce** – by Katherine Taras

Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

9:30AM **+ James Robb** – by the Family

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Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

5:00PM **+ Anna, Joseph Sr. & Christopher Skubiak** – by Annette Dressler

**Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 34<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

8:40 AM Rosary  
9:00 AM **H/B for All Parishioners**

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT:

Please, be advised that any instance of sexual abuse by a cleric, lay employee or lay volunteer within the boundaries of our parish should be immediately reported to the local police department, child protection services of the county, the pastor of the parish and the Chancery of St. Josaphat Eparchy. A sexual abuser port form is available in the church's vestibule and/or the parish office in English and Ukrainian. The bishop can be reached at the Chancery at 440-888-1522 or by writing to: Most Rev. Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, P.O. Box 347180, Parma OH 44134. You may also file a report with Ms. Marika Zaliszczuk, Victim Assistance Coordinator of St. Josaphat Eparchy (412-215-5372). For more information on St. Josaphat Eparchy's safe environment policy and procedures and other pertinent info, please, log onto:  
<http://stjosaphateparchy.com/safe-environment/>

### DONATIONS December 26th:

Weekly offerings: \$691  
Initial Offering: \$10  
Yearly Dues: \$15  
**Total: \$719**

**Celebrating Christmas means to say a firm no to those who want to follow Herod nowadays.**

### CONGRATULATIONS:

This week **Diane Sperko (1/12)** 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.*

During the month of January, each year we reflect on the Supreme Court's decision of Roe v. Wade. We pray for the preservation and protection of all human life from the time of conception to natural death.

Every human person who has ever lived, every human person who will be born today, and every human person who will come into existence in the future, is KNOWN and LOVED by our heavenly Father from all eternity. This loving Father in the knowledge, care and compassion that He has for each one of his sons and daughters, has made us unique and unrepeatable. He tells us...

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." (Jer. 1:5)*

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*"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.

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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 Rabiw**

Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia (author)