

**Christ is Baptized
in the Jordan!
Glorify Him!**

**St. Mary ~ Holy Protection
Byzantine Catholic Church
4480 Route 981 Latrobe, PA 15650**

**Христос Крестаєся
в Йордане!
Славіте!**

**Administrator: Fr. Paul-Alexander Shutt, OSB
Confession Schedule: Saturday 16:00 – 16:30,
Parish email: st.marytrauger@gmail.com**

**Parish Office: 724-423-3673 Hall: 724-423-8838
Sunday 9:00 – 9:30, or by appointment
Website: www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org**

04 JANUARY 2026 / 7534

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

*Synaxis of the Holy Seventy Apostles. Our Venerable Father Theoctist,
Hegumen at Cuomo, in Sicily.*



LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Sat. Jan. 03 17:00 Vigil: SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY
Suffrages: **+George & Michael Rusinko – Aimée & Michael Kakos**

Sun. Jan. 04 10:30 SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY
Suffrages *pro populo*

**Mon. Jan. 05 18:30 DAY OF STRICT FAST ~ VIGIL OF THE
THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST GREAT BLESSING OF THE
JORDAN WATER, w/ Mirovanije.**

Tues. Jan. 06 10:00 THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD
AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST w/ Mirovanije.

Sat. Jan. 10 17:00 Vigil: **SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**

Suffrages: +Cody Fullman – The Fullman Family

Sun. Jan. 11 10:30 **SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**

Suffrages *pro populo*



12 / 28 / 2024

COLLECTION

TOTAL: \$4015

Adults: \$2817
Holy Days: \$100

Christmas: \$590
Flowers: \$50

Candles: \$88
Spec. Don.: \$50

Fuel: \$320



Today Christ enters the Jordan to wash away the sin of the world. John himself testifies that this is why He has come: *Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.* **T**oday a servant lays his hand on the Lord, a man lays his hand on God, John lays his hand on Christ, not to forgive but to receive forgiveness. **T**oday, as the psalmist prophesied: *The voice of the Lord is heard above the waters. What does the voice say? This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* **T**oday the Holy Spirit hovers over the waters in the likeness of a dove. A dove announced to Noah that the flood had disappeared from the earth; so now a dove is to reveal that the world's shipwreck is at an end forever. The sign is no longer an olive-shoot of the old stock: instead, the Spirit pours out on Christ's head the full richness of a new anointing by the Father, to fulfill what the psalmist had prophesied: *Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.*

Excerpt from a sermon by Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop of Ravenna, Italy

Today Christ is baptized; He emerges from the waters and uplifts the world with Him. He beholds the opening of the heavens that Adam had closed for himself and his descendants. The Spirit testifies to His divine nature, for He is in accord with His own. A voice is heard from the heavens, giving witness to the One Who has descended; for He is the Savior of our souls.

Desiring to fulfill all that was ordained for You from eternity, O Lord, You received ministers from all creation at this mystery of Yours: Gabriel from among the angels, the Virgin from among the human race, the star from among the heavens, and the Jordan from among the waters; and in it You have cleansed the sins of the world. O our Savior, glory be to You!

When John, the bright lamp that was born of a barren mother, perceived that Christ, the Sun Who had risen from a virgin, was now asking for baptism, he cried out with joy: O Lord, sanctify me by Your Theophany.

As the prophet foretold, a great Light, Christ, has shone upon Galilee of the Gentiles, upon the land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephtali. A people living in darkness have seen a great light shining from Bethlehem. The Sun of Righteousness, the Lord born of Mary, casts His rays upon all those who dwell on earth. Come then, O naked children of Adam, and let us clothe ourselves

in Him that we may warm ourselves. For the Light that no one can approach, the One Who is protection and a mantle for the naked, the Light to those in darkness, has appeared and revealed Himself today.

When the Forerunner saw the One Who is our enlightenment, the One Who has brought light to all, coming to be baptized, his heart rejoiced and his hand trembled. He pointed Him out to the people and said: This is the Savior of Israel Who delivered us from corruption. O Christ our God, O Sinless One, glory be to You!

Illuminary in the flesh and Forerunner of the Savior, O offspring of the barren one, O friend, by leaping in the womb, you adored the One Who is born of the Virgin; and you baptized Him in the waters of the Jordan. O prophet, we pray to you: Implore Him that we may escape the future torments.



~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

- **THANK YOU** to all who so kindly and generously remembered me with cards, well wishes, home-baked delicacies of all sorts, and gifts during these holy and blessed days of Christmas. May this even greater «Feast of Lights» - our Lord's Baptism in the Jordan - warm your hearts during this sacred season and throughout the New Year.

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Father Paul-Alexander

- There is **NO BINGO IN JANUARY 2026**. The first bingo of the new year will be on **FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2026**.
- **VISITATION OF THE SICK!** It is very important that a family member contact Father whenever a family member is sick, or who is now confined to their home or a nursing care facility. Also, if any parishioner is to undergo a surgical or medical procedure, the Mystery of Holy Anointing should be celebrated, ideally in Church the Sunday before having the procedure.
- **WESTMORELAND COMMUNITY ACTION Early Head Start Programs** are currently taking application for enrollment. Their homebased program offers services to expectant mothers and for children ages birth through age 5. Participants are provided with free diapers and wipes. See the flier in the Narthex for more details.

