



## ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES

Saturday, Jan. 4

**The Holy Martyr Theopemptus and Theonas**

Readings: 2 Tim. 4:5-8; Mk. 1:1-8

**6:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)**

Sunday, Jan. 5

**Sunday before Theophany**

Readings: 2 Tim. 4:5-8; Mk. 1:1-8

**9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy**

Supplications will be offered for+ **Margaret Marshal, by Bill Marshal & family**

Monday, Jan. 6

**The Holy Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

Readings: Titus 2:11-14 & 3:4-7; Mt. 3:13-17

**(St. George's parish)**

**6:30 P.M. Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water**

Supplications will be offered for+ **Bob Novak, given by family**

Saturday, Jan. 11

**Saturday after Theophany**

Readings: Eph. 4:7-13; Mt. 4:1-11

**6:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)**

Sunday, Jan. 12

**Sunday after Theophany**

Readings: Eph. 4:7-13; Mt. 4:1-11

**9:10 A.M. Third Hour;**

**9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy**

Supplications will be offered for Wasil & Pavlina Hawrycej, **given by Pyptyks**

Supplications will be offered for Patriacia Della Ragione, **given by Luigi & family**



## The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole  
cosmos

in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen



## ***Sunday before the Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ***



*Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: “Do not be afraid to baptize Me. For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”*

We prepare ourselves on this Sunday to celebrate the Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The day of the Theophany (from Greek theophania, meaning “appearance of God”) is the day when the whole world is being renewed and becomes a partaker of the holiness of God. But at the same time, it is the day when Christ enters on the way to Golgotha-Calvary.

He came to John the Baptist on Jordan, not in order to be cleansed, because He was pure of sin, both as God and in the humanity made pure throughout the history of Israel by those ancestors who had given their lives to God and whose saintliness culminated in the all-purity of the Mother of God. Christ did not need cleansing. But these waters, into which all the sinners who had come to John the Baptist confessing the evil of their lives had washed themselves, were as it were heavy with the sinfulness and therefore the mortality of mankind. They had become waters of death, and it is in these waters that the Lord Jesus Christ merges Himself on that day, taking upon Himself the mortality resulting from the sin of man.

He comes, immortal in His humanity and His divinity, and at the same time He vests Himself with the mortality of the sinful world. This is the beginning of the way to Calvary. This is a day when we marvel at the infinite love of God.

Let us therefore today wonder and marvel, and worship this love of God, and learn from Him; because Christ said in the Gospel, “I have given you an example. Follow it.” We are called, within the limits of our sinfulness and humanity, to carry one another’s burdens, unto life and unto death. Let us learn from this. We find it so difficult to carry the burdens even of those whom we love; and practically impossible to shoulder the burdens of those whom we do not love with a natural, direct tenderness. Let us learn, because otherwise we will not have learned the first lesson which Christ gives us when He enters upon His ministry. Amen.



**January 5, 2025**

*Sunday before Theophany*

**The Holy Martyr Theopemtus and  
Theonas ; The Venerable Synecletia**

Octoechos Tone 8

**Changeable Parts**

*See the special insert available in the  
church vestibule.*

**Announcements:**

### **Feast of Theophany**

On Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. On this Feast Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water will be celebrated at 6:30 a.m. at parish of St. George (North Side) and also on Saturday January 11, Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. at parish of St. John (McKees Rocks) Please come to celebrate one of the oldest Feast Days, which has been celebrated in the Eastern Church since the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

### **Statement of Contribution**

If you would like to receive a statement of your contributions, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule.

**Envelopes 2025-Calendar 2025**

The Church offering envelopes for the year 2025 and the Church Calendar 2025 are ready for distribution. They are available now in the church vestibule. Sincere thanks to Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home for sponsoring the calendars for 2025. Should you not see your envelopes, please let Father Igor or Ms. Olga Perkun know, following the Divine Liturgy. Thank you all for your support and generosity throughout the year 2024. May Our Lord reward you with good health and many happy and blessed years: *Многая Літа!*

**Prayers for the Living & Deceased**

As we slowly come to the beginning of the year 2026, I ask that if you have any special dates throughout the year on which you would like to have prayers offered for the living or for the blessed repose of your loved ones, you please contact the parish office now to reserve that day. Remember that during the Great Fast and Holy Week (March 9– April 20, 2025) the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on weekdays due to the fact that these are aliturgical (without Divine Liturgy) days.

**Prayer List:**

Make a point of praying for everyone on the prayer list. If you don't have one, contact the office and we'll send you one. In a special way, at this time, remember the following members of our parish family: **Barbara Fedora, Thomas Kunsak, Orysia Barshowski, Kathee Shabla and Rose Shedno, Dorothy Waslo, Msgr. George Appleyard** (The Willows, 1215 Hulton Rd, Oakmont, PA 15139).

**Collection- May God bless you...**

Total for Sunday, December 29, 2024 was **\$1,217.00** (Collection - \$715.00, Loose & candles - \$47.00, Ukrainian Aid: \$455.00)

Total for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was **\$2,037.00** (Collection - \$2,030.00, Loose & candles - \$7.00,)

*Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!*



***Holy Water***



In the Eastern Church, Holy Water is used frequently in rites of blessing and exorcism, and the water for baptism is always sanctified with a special blessing. Holy Water is often sprinkled on items or people when they are blessed outside of the Church building, as part of the prayers of blessing. For instance, in Alaska, the fishing boats are sprinkled with Holy Water at the start of the fishing season as the priest prays for the crews' safety and success. Also, cars (on the feast of the prophet Elijah) and homes are blessed with Holy Water as a way of invoking God's blessing and protection.

The use of Holy Water is based on the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. Reading Holy Scripture we see that John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, and the people came to have their sins washed away by the water. Since Jesus had no sin, but was God incarnate, his baptism had the effect not of washing away Jesus' sins, but of blessing the water, making it holy - and with it all of creation, so that it may be used fully for its original created purpose to be an instrument of life.

Every family should have Holy Water at home, and make use of it at every need: sanctification of our homes, in cases of illness, leaving on a journey, etc. The Holy Water strengthens the powers of our soul - if it is done with prayer and reverence, and one does not merely expect a mechanical result from it.

As we read in the prayers for the Great Blessing of Water the true nature of water has its destiny in the salvation of man and the world. The blessing of waters doesn't "make bad water good". It restores the water to its original state. The prayer at the blessing of water causes the revelation of the true 'nature' and 'destiny' of water, and thus of the world. By being restored through the blessing to its proper function water becomes again a means of communion with God. Christ in His baptism purified the nature of the waters. He came to redeem not only human beings but, through them, the entire material created world.

***O King, Who loves mankind, be present now as Thou was at the Jordan through the coming of Thy Holy Spirit and sanctify this water.***