



# Christ Is Born! Let Us Glorify Him!

We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners and guests, and pray that your participation in the Divine Liturgy will be enriching and meaningful.

**January 8, 2017 ~ Sunday after Theophany**

**Epistle:** Ephesians 4: 7-13

**Gospel:** Matthew 4: 12-17

See insert for tropars and special texts

**A**fter Christ was baptized, the first words that He said were: 'Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand'. Why? Because after we have been baptized, we are always tempted and the only way to end temptation is to repent. Repentance is not just an idea, a thought, it is, above all, an action. Repentance is a change of mind which leads to a practical and visible change in our way of life.

The Kingdom of Heaven was Christ Himself Who spoke these words to the people of that time, before whom He stood. The Kingdom of Heaven is also here and now, but it depends on our willingness to accept Christ and His Holiness, Mercy and Grace. At this very moment each one of us is, in fact, able to meet God and enter into His eternal joy, but only if we wish to do so through deep repentance. The joy of the Kingdom of Heaven, simply the state of contentment with God, our well-being, is open to all who wish to accept Christ, the Word of God. The presence of the Kingdom of Heaven depends ultimately not on our external circumstances but on ourselves, on our interior disposition, on our ability to repent. Indeed, it is only if we repent that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. May God grant us the desire for that repentance. *"God and sinners reconciled..."*

## This Week's Liturgical Services

**MONDAY, JANUARY 9**

6:00 p.m. ~ †**Sophie Myslicki** (one year anniversary)

*Offered by the Myslicki family*

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 10**

6:00 p.m. ~ †**David Graba** (one year anniversary)

*Offered by Shirley and family*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 14**

5:00 p.m. ~ **30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Epistle Reader: Grant Andrusky

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15**

10:00 a.m. ~ **30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Epistle Reader: Walter Warywoda



## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Your 2017 Parish Envelopes are now ready for pick-up in the narthex. Sorry for the delay and *thank you* for your patience.



Each January, many homes of Eastern Rite Christians are blessed with "Jordan Water." While a house can be blessed at any time, it usually occurs following the "Great Blessing of Water" at the Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord. By sanctifying our homes, we invite Christ to be a part of every area of our lives. If you would like your home blessed by Father Stepan this year, please sign the sheet on the narthex bulletin board or call him at the rectory at 577-7721.

## Wise Words to Live By

*"Repentance doesn't mean anything if you keep doing the things that you were sorry for."*

## Your Return Gift to God

**DECEMBER 31/JANUARY 1**

Envelopes: \$1,252.<sup>00</sup>

Mission Collection: \$94.<sup>55</sup>

*Thank you for your generosity!*

*Щиро Вам дякуємо!*

The **Mission Collection** for January has been designated for **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thunder Bay**. Since 1970, it has grown to include a variety of different programs that serve both boys and girls. Big Brothers Big Sisters facilitates life-changing relationships that inspire and empower children and youth to reach their potential, both as individuals and citizens. You may also donate online using their website.

We extend our thanks to St. George's Society for its donation of **\$3,000.<sup>00</sup>** to our parish from funds raised from pyrohy makings in October and November. A future donation from the proceeds from the Christmas Sale and cabbage roll sales will be forthcoming. Many thanks to everyone for making these events successful. May God bless and keep you all!

On **Sunday, January 22**, following the Divine Liturgy, we invite everyone to come down to the parish hall for this year's first mini-luncheon/coffee hour. You are welcome to bring an item for the buffet or dessert table or both. Those who attend on Saturday are also encouraged to join us. There will be plenty to eat and drink...and discuss!



We are **still** looking for more ads for the back cover of this bulletin to help offset the yearly cost of publishing (paper, toner ink, maintenance, etc.). If you have or run a business (or know someone who does) and are able to help support this publication, please speak with Father Stepan, Michael Watral or our bookkeeper Michele Verdenik (leave a message on the machine) as soon as possible. Thank you!

**Wishing everyone a good week ~ Бажаємо Вам доброго тижня!**

## Holy Cross Golden Agers

Regular Thursday activities are cancelled during January and will resume on **Thursday, February 2** at the usual time. Stay warm and healthy until we meet again. New members (55+) will be welcome at that time. It's just \$10 per year and well worth it. Check us out next month!

The first bus trip to Grand Portage is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 18** from the church at 3:45 p.m. Please contact either Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805) to book your seat. Non-members are invited also. This is a **free** service for everyone. Come out and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship!

Don't forget to check out the back cover of this parish bulletin for the



## Children's Corner

and take some time to sit down and read it with your children and grandchildren.



## St. George's Society

Attention members: our first gathering in the new year will be the annual **'Super Bowl'** Meeting on **Sunday, February 5** at 4:30 p.m., followed by a delicious dinner and social. We extend an open invitation to **all men** of the parish to join us and to consider becoming a part of this important parish brotherhood as well.



The next Superior Shores Bingo Training Session will take place this **Monday, January 9** at 7:00 p.m. in our parish hall. Interested members (and parishioners) are requested to contact Gerry Bullock of their intention to attend so he can inform Kathy Bukovy, Superior Shores Charity Coordinator, how many to expect from our parish. Our next sponsored bingo takes place on **Monday, January 16** in the evening. Members who have volunteered to work are reminded to be at Superior Shores Gaming Centre no later than 5:30 p.m.

Fishermen: if you are going to venture out onto the lakes this winter, remember to conduct a visual inspection before heading out. And don't be an ice tester — those are people who are found in the spring. Tight lines and have a safe outing!

*Love and Service to God since 1960*

# What's Happening In Our Community...

**Winter Fundays** - Every Sunday until March 19, 2017 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (unless otherwise noted), embrace winter by taking part in a different fun outdoor activity for FREE at Prince Arthur's Landing. Check out the full weekly schedule at [www.thunderbay.ca/Living/recreation\\_and\\_parks/Events/Winter\\_Fundays](http://www.thunderbay.ca/Living/recreation_and_parks/Events/Winter_Fundays).

**Come and celebrate Malanka!** - Saturday, January 14, 2017 at the Royal Canadian Slovak Legion, presented by Zorya Ukrainian Dance Association. Symposium: 6 p.m.; Dinner: 7 p.m. Music by Danny Johnson and 21 Gun Fun. Advanced tickets only: \$60/individual or \$450 for a table of 8. Available at the Slovak Legion (623-3354) or from Alice Chony (577-2100). See the poster in the narthex for more info.



**Annual Variety Showcase** - The Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran Group present this event in support of their Bursary Fund on **Friday, January 20** at 7:00 p.m. at Hilldale Lutheran Church, starring Daylin James and "Elvis." Tickets are \$20/person and are available at the door, at Finnport (290 Bay Street) or you can call Liisa at 343-0190 or Sharon at 355-1549 to reserve yours.



## Bless Your Door on the Feast of Theophany

The Gospel tells us that the Magi found Christ "on entering the house." The door to your home is a holy threshold. You can bless those who come in and go out by inscribing above the door in chalk the first two numbers of the year (20) + C + M + B + (17) — the last two numbers of the year. Tradition tells us that the letters stand for the names of the Magi or Three Wise Men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Adolph Adam, composer of "O Holy Night", points out that it may also mean "Christus mansionem benedicat" or "May Christ bless this dwelling." It is appropriate to bless your door in January as the word "*janua*" means "*door*" and the first month is the door to the New Year. After inscribing the doorway, say the following prayer: *God of Bethlehem and Cana, God of Jordan's leaping waters, in baptism You bring us into Your family. You wed us and embrace us as Your beloved. May we fill this place with kindness to one another, with hospitality to guests, and with abundant care for every stranger. By the gentle light of a star, guide home all who seek You on paths of faith, hope and love. Then we will join the angels in proclaiming Your praise: Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. Amen.* Then sing a short Christmas or Theophany carol.

Still haven't made any **New Year's Resolutions**? Consider the following five:

- 1) Come to church every Saturday/Sunday and pray more, especially the Rosary.
- 2) Save something for the poor and/or donate more to worthy causes.
- 3) Learn to listen to your family and friends, and to God.
- 4) Stop comparing yourself to others — God loves you just the way you are.
- 5) Be more like Jesus ~ honest, open, and loving ~ following His examples daily. Focus on building His Church with unconditional compassion and mercy for all.





# Jesus Wants to Us to Head in the Right Direction

**T**oday's Gospel story tells us about Jesus after hearing that His cousin John the Baptist had been put in prison went away to Galilee to fulfill what the prophet Isaiah had said: "Galilee, land of the Gentiles! The people who live in darkness will see a great light. On those who live in the dark land of death the light will shine." Jesus is the Light of the World, and He began to preach the message: "Repent from your sins because the Kingdom of heaven is near!"

Now, what does repentance mean? It means 'a change of direction.' It means turning away from what we know to be wrong and turning to God.

Let's look at it another way. Imagine you are looking at an empty glass turned upside down. Let's pretend it is like our lives. Now, imagine a big pitcher of delicious lemonade nearby. Let's pretend it represents the good things God has for us. The glass might think "I'd really like some of that refreshing lemonade." So, you pour out some of the lemonade onto it but notice that something's not right. All the lemonade that represents the good things of God just spilled out and none went into the glass. If we want to be filled with the good things of God we need to be turned to God.

The glass that represents our life needs to be turned to God in order to catch all that He has for us. Remember: if we are turned away from God doing things we know are wrong, we won't be able to receive all He has for us. Repentance means turning around and turning towards God – to welcome Him and His wonderful life.

In the Bible, God shows His kindness by warning His people of the consequences of sin. Today you and I have God's Word so we can know how to live a life that pleases Him. We have the New Testament because God's promised Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ has come into the world. He was born for our salvation. He walked on this earth teaching people to turn from sin and to live a life that pleases God. He performed miracles that showed God's power. He loved us so much that He didn't want us to have to face the consequences for our sin which is to be separated from God's presence forever and ever.

Have you repented and turned to Jesus so you can be saved? If you are a Christian or a follower of Christ, it's never too late to be rescued from the consequences of your sin.

**Christ is born ~ Let us glorify Him!**

