

Volume 8
Issue 1

The Ecclesia

January
2022



A publication of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Youngstown, Ohio

Or Current Resident

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January Pastoral Message 2022

By Rev. Fr. Joseph Z. DiStefano

Wishing You a Blessed Epiphany

The feast of Epiphany is primarily observed by Orthodox, Catholic, and Anglican Christians and is one of the earliest feasts of the Christian church. In general, Christians celebrate the baptism of Jesus on Epiphany in recognition of His manifestation as the Son of God to the world.



In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."
(Mark 1:9–1)

Epiphany originated in the East and its celebration has been recorded as early as the second century in Egypt. Early Christians were celebrating Epiphany before they began to observe Christmas. Some scholars believe that January 6 was selected by the earliest celebrants in order to upstage a Winter Solstice festival held in honor of an Egyptian sun god on that date. Indeed, according to one ancient Egyptian calendar, winter solstice fell on January 6.

By the third century most Eastern Christians were celebrating Epiphany. By the late fourth century most Western Christians had also adopted the feast. Eastern and Western celebrations evolved around different themes, however. When the Western Church designated December 25th as the Feast of the Nativity in the mid-fourth century, Western Epiphany celebrations centered around the revelation of Jesus' divinity to the Magi. When the Eastern Church embraced Christmas on Dec. 25th, between 380 and 430 A.D., Christmas absorbed the celebration of both the Nativity and the adoration of the Magi. Thus, Eastern Epiphany observances remained dedicated to the commemoration of Jesus' baptism. Before the celebration of Christ's birth and baptism were separated to different dates in the East, they were celebrated together on one feast day.

The term *epiphany* comes from a Greek word meaning the "appearance," "manifestation," or "revelation" of something. It is certainly an appropriate name for Christ's manifestation as the Son of God, although the word "Theophany" is theologically more accurate because it means "the manifestation of God." Both terms are used in the Orthodox Church, with the word "Epiphany" being the more popular because of its usage in the West.

January 6 falls on the twelfth day after Christmas, and for some denominations signals the conclusion of the Christmas season. The 12 days between Christmas and Epiphany are known as the "Twelve Days of Christmas." Orthodox Churches celebrate Christ's baptism by a blessing of the water service (Αγιασμος), which relives Jesus' blessing of the waters in the Jordan River when He was baptized in it.

This year the area Orthodox Churches will hold a blessing of the water service at Lake Glacier in Mill Creek Park on Sunday, January 23rd at 3:00 p.m. This date allows the Churches who follow the Old Calendar date of Epiphany on January 19th the opportunity to celebrate at a more appropriate time for them.

May your celebration of our Lord and Savior's Epiphany be blessed!

Fr. Joe DiStefano

It's time to pop the corn!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



Saturday, January 15th • 5:00 - 8:00 pm

at St. Nicholas Social Hall

Potluck Dinner Before the Movie

Popcorn, Snacks & Beverages Provided

Bring your own Sleeping Bag or Lawn Chair

For Questions or Info, Contact Fr. Joe at

724-304-1230 or frjdistefano@yahoo.com

January Announcements 2022

Vasilopita Luncheon

Sunday, January 9th

Sponsored by the Philoptochos

In the Social Hall, after Church services

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 11th, 6:30pm

In the Church Social Hall

Philoptochos Meeting

Sunday, January 16th

In the Social Hall, after Church services

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, January 15th, 10am

Yankee Kitchen, Boardman, OH

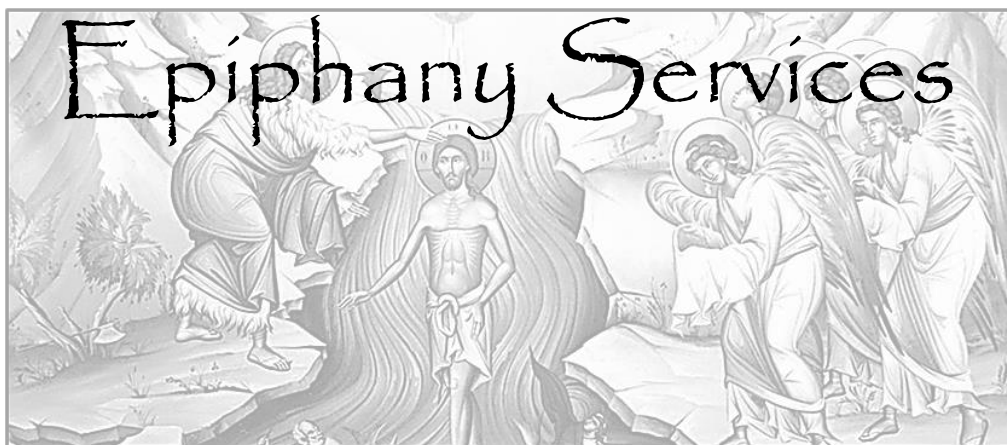
Table Talks

Sundays, After Church in the Hall

An opportunity to have an edifying discussion with Fr. Joseph on a variety of topics related to our faith. For 5-10 minutes in the Church Hall after everyone gets their coffee and snacks. Topics for each Table Talk will be posted in that Sunday's bulletin.

Youth Sundays / Teaching Liturgy

Youth Sundays will be held on the last Sunday of every Month. **Sunday, January 30.** Our parish youth will serve as greeters, work the candle stand in the narthex, pass the trays, read the Epistle, Creed and Lord's Prayer, sing in the Choir, and pass the collection trays. **There will also be a Teaching Liturgy on each Youth Sunday**, where Fr. Joe will teach on a certain aspect of the Divine Liturgy during the service.



Wednesday, January 5th ~ Eve of Epiphany

Royal Hours · 10:00 a.m.

Vesperal Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters · 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 6th ~ Epiphany

Orthros · 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy · 10:00 a.m. Blessing of the Waters · 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, January 23rd

Blessing of the Waters · 3:00 p.m.

At Lake Glacier in Mill Creek Park

ARISE, GOD

The Gospel of Christ's Defeat of Demons, Sin, and Death.

PRE-LENTEN RETREAT

featuring

FATHER ANDREW STEPHEN DAMICK

*February 11th - 13th
2022*

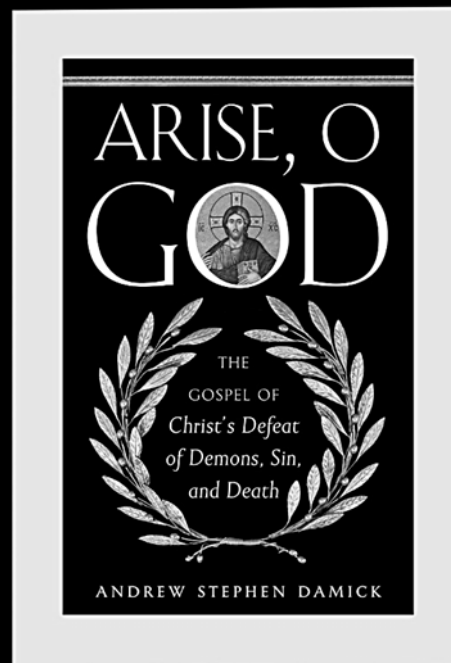
*St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church
3560 Logan Way
Youngstown, Ohio 44505*

TICKETS - \$15

Visit saintmarkorthodoxchurch.org

Questions - frcolinb@gmail.com

*TICKET PURCHASE DEADLINE **FEBRUARY 1st 2022***



About Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick

The Very Rev. Archpriest Andrew Stephen Damick is Chief Content Officer of Ancient Faith Ministries and has been contributing podcasts, documentaries, books, blogs, video and live talks to AFM since 2009, joining the staff full time in 2020. He served in parish ministry for 13 years, the final 11 as pastor of St. Paul Orthodox Church in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. He has a keen interest in scripture, liturgy, history, literature, language, story and culture. Fr. Andrew lives in Emmaus with his wife and children.

ARISE, GOD

The Gospel of Christ's Defeat of Demons, Sin, and Death.

Schedule:

Feb 11th

4:30pm - Check In
5:00pm - Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Following the Paraklesis - Lenten Potluck Dinner
6:30pm - **SESSION ONE**

Feb 12th

9:30am - Divine Liturgy
11:00am - **SESSION TWO**
12:30pm - Catered Lunch
1:30pm - **SESSION THREE**
3:00pm - Q&A and Break
4:00pm - Vespers
5:00pm - **SESSION FOUR**

Feb 13th

9:00am - Matins
10:00am - Divine Liturgy
Following Liturgy - Coffee Hour and Q&A.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

January 2022

December '21							February '22							March '22						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4			1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		27	28						27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2 Sunday Before Theophany Orth 9am / Liturgy 10am	3	4	5 Eve of Theophany Royal Hours 10am Vespers Liturgy 6:30pm Blessing of Waters 7:30pm Strict Fast	6 Theophany Orth 9am / Liturgy 10am Blessing of Waters 11:15 Great Vespers St. John at Boardman 6:30pm	7 St. John the Baptist Orth 8:30 / Liturgy 9:30 at St. John Boardman Fish Allowed	8
9 Sunday After Theophany Orth 9am / Liturgy 10am Vasilopita Luncheon	10	11 Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm	12	13	14	15 Men's Prayer Breakfast 10am Yankee Kitchen Family Movie Night 5:30-8:00pm
16 12th Sunday of Luke Orth 9am / Liturgy 10am Philoptochos Meeting	17	18	19 Strict Fast	20	21 Wine Allowed	22 Metropolis Priests, Presidents, Treasurers Meeting
23 14th Sunday of Luke Orth 9am / Liturgy 10am Blessing of the Waters at Lake Glacier 1pm	24	25	26 Strict Fast	27	28 Strict Fast	29
30 Three Hiearchs Orth 9am / Liturgy 10am	31	Notes	Strict Fast			