

John the Baptist and Forerunner

For the Church, John was a prophetic and tragic figure. He is called the 'Baptist' because he baptized those who came to him; he is called the 'Forerunner' because he went before Christ and prepared His way, making His paths straight, in accordance with the words of the prophet: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness ... make his paths straight (Mark 1:3). In the Old Testament, he is prophesied as "the voice of him that cries in the wilderness," in the passage from Isaiah quoted above. In other texts, he is referred to as 'the voice of the Word', 'the lamp of the Light', 'the friend of the Bridegroom', 'the morning star before the Sun'.

John began his work at the age of 30, in the fifteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius (27 or 29 AD). To begin, he journeyed

around the southern part of Judah, near the river Jordan, preaching and prophesying. The central theme of his preaching was repentance: he called upon men to repent and to change their ways of thinking, so that they would be ready to receive the teaching of Christ, their Savior – "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2).

At the same time, he was severe in his rebuking of evil and sin. Another element of his teaching was that of the practical form – how each of us should love our fellow brothers and sisters.

As we anticipate the coming Great Fast in a few weeks, are we prepared to repent and change our ways, and rebuke evil and sin as Saint John taught?

SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY/EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



Icon of Saint John the Baptist

ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON

1123 44TH St NE, Canton, OH 44714

Website: stgeorgeoh.org

Tel: 330-492-8413 FAX: 330-493-9963

Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop - 330-493-9355

Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Rector - 330-492-8413

Very Rev. Iuliu Muntean - 330-493-9355

Fr. Deacon Remus Orian – 330-809-2500

Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Vespers: 6:30 p.m.

Day of Feast: 10:00am and 6:30 p.m.

Confessions: See calendar or at any time by request.

Ann Fosnaught, Secretary 330-492-8413 or annf@rcdcanton.org

January 10, 2021

Sunday after Theophany

This Sunday: Epistle Eph. 4: 7-13

Gospel Matt 4:12-17

Next Sunday: Epistle 1 Tim 4:9-16

Gospel Luke 19:1-10

Weekly Liturgy Schedule

Monday 1/11	No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday 1/12	8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Virgil Stroia
Wednesday 1/13	8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Magdalene Florian by Family
Thursday 1/14	8:30am Divine Liturgy: For the living and deceased members of the Ladies Auxilary
Friday 1/15	8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Fr. Iuliu Muntean by Constance McAdams
Saturday 1/16	No Divine Liturgy
Sunday 1/17	10:00am Divine Liturgy Parastas – In memory of Apan/Odesteanu Family by Ioana and Ovidiu Apan

Church Bulletin donated in January 2021 by ...

All scheduled services will be held and can be viewed and prayed with at <https://stgeorge.click2stream.com/>. Make sure to click on the volume to unmute at the bottom right hand corner. Also, we are every Sunday on St. George Cathedral Facebook.

Coffee hour will take place in the Large Hall and is donated by St. George Cathedral Thank you!

Sunday Collection: January 3, 2021

Loose	\$5.00
Sunday envelopes	\$5,227.00
Christmas	\$655.00
Candles	<u>\$74.00</u>
Total	\$5,961.00

Someone lit a candle and prayed for you last Sunday:

In memory of all Zagan Family Members	The Zagan Family
+Husband Dan Cseak	Natalie Cseak
+All family members and angel +Trisha	Del and Sandy
H/S All family members	Del and Sandy
Special Intention for Family	Doru Jacobs
Health and Salvation	Mihai and Elena Florea
Special Intention for Family	Mihai and Elena Florea
+Parents and Family	Danny and Cyndi Ardelean
H/S Our Parishioners	Danny and Cyndi Ardelean
+Marius Gavrilă, Gheorghe Tanase and Ioana Mahalean	Danny and Cyndi Ardelean
H/S Cathy Beck, sister	Bob and Nancy Maciag
Special Intention for Connie McAdams	Bob and Nancy Maciag
H/S Rita Cristea and Family	Mircea Cristea
H/S Stella, Johnny and Adrian Lazar and Family	Mircea Cristea
H/S Suzie Dragos and Family	Mircea Cristea
H/S George and Maria Marcu	Mircea Cristea

H/S Virginia Rogers
H/S Us
Special Intention: My Koulish Family

Mircea Cristea
Earl and Amparo Adkins
Earl and Amparo Adkins

+++

Special Announcement:

Please pray for: Bryan Pryce, John Contini, Donna Pandullo, Missy Lawver, Carol Hoge, Veronica Maier, Sr. Agnes Scalero, Earl Adkins, End to Corona Virus attack, Clore Family, Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian, Grace Mary Fein, Barbara Greavu, Connie McAdams, Suzie Dragos, Doris Rotar, Virginia Rogers, Stella Lazar and all who need our prayers.

Sick and homebound: Amelia Botean (Home), Magdalene Florian (Florida), Alex and Theresa Gonyias (Home), Ann Stimer (Home), Maria Poplacean (Canton Regency Rm.#256), Aurelia Lupsor (Canton Christian Home) Natalie Cseak (St. Joseph, Louisville), Eugene Popa (St. Joseph, Louisville) and Irene Pontones (Chapel Hill Retirement Community)

For holy Baptism contact the parish office at least one month prior to the date requested.

For First Reconciliation contact the parish office when your child turns 7.

For Weddings contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date requested.

To guarantee announcements for the bulletin, they need to be given to the office by Wednesday prior to the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

To facilitate **accurate counting**, please use separate checks/cash for the special collection, candle and Sunday collection envelopes. Thank you for your attention to this detail!

Please let the office know if you have an upcoming surgery, illness, etc., so we can put you on our prayer list. Thank you!

Altar Candelabrum for January 2021 is donated by **John Puia in memory of deceased family.**

Left Iconostasis Candelabrum for January 2021 is donated by **Tony and Terry Orlando** in memory of **+Emil Neago**.

Right Iconostasis Candelabrum for January 2021 is donated by **Chuck Roska Family**.

Blessed Virgin Mary Candelabrum for January 2021 is donated by **the Oprean Family**.

If you would like to sponsor candelabra for any month of the year in honor of a living member or in memory of any loved ones that have passed away, please get in touch with the Church office and Ann will be able to schedule it for you. Thank you for your continuous support of the Church!!!

Prescura for January 2021: Amparo Adkins, Suzie Dragos, Elena Florea, Ann Fosnaught, Mariana Greavu, Maria Marcu, Debbie Murari, Jacqui Oprean, Virginia Rogers, Patricia Wendt, Dodi Zbuka and Psa. Gabriela Marginean.

Announcements

Prescura money is due for 2021. \$30 for the year can be paid to P-sa. Gabi. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Sunday envelopes for 2021 are now available. Thank you for your commitment to our parish! St. George Cathedral **calendars** are ready for pick up as well!

Use Amazon Smile and choose St. George Cathedral. Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to the charity of your choice when you go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. As you are shopping online, you can go to choose the St. George Cathedral. Thank you!

Purchases at **GFS (Gordan Food Service)**. St. George will get points when you purchase at GFS. Share the business name "St. George Cathedral" when they ask or remind them that you are purchasing for a business.

Ladies Auxiliary:

Dues are \$10 for the coming year. You may send your dues to the church or give to Carol Popa. Check made out to Sf. Maria Ladies Auxiliary.

Parish events:

Because of the pandemic, Fr. Ovi will pray the **home blessings** for those who sign up. Call the office or sign up in the narthex if you would like him to come to your home between January 7 and 30, 2021.

Three Saints Curbside Dinner will be hosted on January 31 from noon to 2pm. Place your orders at www.stgeorgeoh.org or call the office by January 26. Each dinner is \$18. Parishioners, please pay with cash or check to Ann, so online fees can be avoided. Please be generous.

To Tickle Your Funny Bone 😊

Here's an old standby that's worth sharing with a music director.

Dentist's hymn: *Crown Him With Many Crowns*

Mender's hymn: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Politician's hymn: *Standing on the Promises*

Shopper's hymn: *In the Sweet By and By*

Paramedic's hymn: *Revive Us Again*

Shoe repairer's hymn: *It Is Well With My Soul*

Librarian's hymn: *Whispering Hope*

Umpire's hymn: *I Need No Other Argument*

Golfer's hymn: *There Is a Green Hill Far Away*

IRS agent's hymn: *I Surrender All*

Gossip's hymn: *Pass It On*

Psychiatrist's hymn: *Just a Little Talk With Jesus*

Haberdasher's hymn: *Blest Be the Tie*

Dot-com sales hymn: *A Charge to Keep I Have*

Word of Life

“When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others’ lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them.”

Live the Gospel of *Life*

"to imitate Christ and
follow in his footsteps"

The Gospel of Life

Excerpt from *Evangelium vitae*, no. 51 © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

For all Christians:
May we live out our
baptismal call
to proclaim the Gospel
of God's love
and the dignity of every
human life;

Let us pray to
the Lord, Lord have
mercy.

Happy Birthday! *La mulți ani!*

Aurora Xelores – January 10th
Matthew Valentine – January 10th
Lauren Tsaftarides – January 11th
Cassia Parker – January 13th
Aidan Crown – January 14th
Sharon Purvis – January 14th
Michael Russ – January 16th

	Mon 1/11	Tue 1/12	Wed 1/13	Thu 1/14	Fri 1/15	Sat 1/16	Sun 1/17
	Lauren (Roska) Ven. Father	Tatiana, martyr.	Cassia Louisa Mae Ermylus & Abstinence	Sharon Purvis' Aidan Crown Leavetaking of	Ven. Fathers Paul of Abstinence	Michael Russ' Veneration of the	Melanie Gallagher's Anca Antoanela Ven. Father Anthony 15th Sunday after
6am							
7am							
8am							
9am		Liturgy: +Virgil Stroia 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: H/S Magdalene Florian by Family 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: For the living and deceased members of the Ladies Auxiliary	Liturgy: H/S Fr. Iuliu Muntean by Constance McAdams 8:30am - 9:30am		
10am							Divine Liturgy 10am - 11:30am
11am							
12pm							Parastas for Apan
1pm							Coffee: Apan/Odesteanu Family 12pm - 1pm
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							

WHAT DO WE CELEBRATE on January 6? Well, it's obvious, isn't it? Just look at the icon: it's Jesus' baptism!

Actually, neither the icon nor the feast celebrates *the fact that* the Lord Jesus was baptized. Rather, we remember *what happened at His baptism* and what it represents for us as we live our life in Christ. We do not call this the Feast of Christ's Baptism, focusing on the historical setting. Rather we call it the Feast of the Holy Theophany, or "manifestation of God,"

Manifestation of the Trinity

The troparion of the feast sets the tone for our reflection: "At Your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was revealed; for the Father's voice bore witness to You, calling You His beloved Son and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ God, who have appeared to us and enlightened the world, glory to You!"

The story of this theophany is recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. In John's Gospel, as we shall see, the Baptist alludes to it as he describes the character and mission of Jesus.

The Father's Voice: Matthew, Mark and Luke all tell of a voice from heaven heard at Jesus' baptism calling Him "*My beloved Son*" (Mt 3:17; Mk 1:11; Lk 3:22). None of the Evangelists say outright that this was the voice of God, but since their picture of Jesus as the Son of God is clear in the Gospels, we can draw no other conclusion.

In icons of the Theophany this voice is depicted symbolically by the ray of light which originates in a geometric shape – often a semicircle – and rests over the head of Jesus.

The Dove: All the Evangelists, including John, describe the presence of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. In John's Gospel the Baptist offers his own testimony: "*He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit; and I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God'*" (Jn 1:33, 34).

In icons the dove is enclosed in an aureole, symbol of divine glory, in the midst of the ray representing the Father's voice.

St John of Damascus compared the dove which appeared at the end of the flood to the dove at Jesus' baptism. "As, at that time the world was cleansed of sin through the waters of the flood, then the dove brought an olive branch to Noah's Ark announcing the end of the flood, and peace came to the Earth, so, in like manner the Holy Spirit descends as a dove to announce forgiveness of sins and God's mercy on the world. Then [it was] an olive branch, now it is our Lord's mercy."

The graphic presence of the Father (by His voice), the Son (in the flesh) and the Holy Spirit (in the form of a dove) is the first such manifestation of the Holy Trinity in the New Testament. The second such revelation is at the Holy Transfiguration of Christ as His ministry is drawing to a close.

The Lord Jesus: God and Man

Christ is clearly Lord in icons of this feast. Several signs of His divinity and preeminence are found in the way He is shown. In Western depictions of His baptism Jesus is often shown with His head bowed and hands folded in prayer. That is never the case in our icons. He is shown standing erect, often with His hand raised in blessing.

In some older icons Christ is depicted naked. We are back in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve, created in communion with God, are naked and unashamed. The original creation is restored and renewed with the coming of Christ.

"Once You clothed the shameful nakedness of our forefather Adam; now You are stripped naked of Your own will! You covered the roof of heaven with waters; now You wrap Yourself in the streams of Jordan, only merciful Christ."

In later icons Christ is depicted with a drape around His waist, which represents the winding sheet in which He was wrapped for burial. The river is often depicted in the shape of a cave, suggesting the tomb in which He was laid.

In some icons the water envelops His sacred body which is visible in it. We are thus reminded of the death and resurrection of Christ into which our baptism immerses us.

In other icons Jesus is not submerged into the water at all. He is depicted astride the river as He blesses it. The River Jordan did

not cleanse Christ; it is Christ's presence in its midst which sanctifies the waters.

Other Signs of God's Presence

The icon of the Theophany, as well as many of its hymns, includes other elements which point to the divine activity present in Christ at His baptism. Among them are:

John the Forerunner: The presence of John the Baptist is an essential part of the story of Jesus' baptism. In icons, however, the depiction of John is more about Christ than it is about him. In some icons John is shown bowing to the Lord, bent in awe before the One he had come to announce. In other icons John is depicted as gazing up toward heaven, as if beholding the manifestation of the Father and the Spirit. In either case, although he was the focus of all other baptisms which he performed, John was not the center of this one.

The Axe: In some icons we see a tree stump with an axe embedded in it near where John is standing. This recalls John's prophetic words to the Pharisees, "even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (Mt 3:10). The axe ready to cut signifies that the Messiah is at hand.

The Seascape: In some icons Christ is shown standing on one or two rocks, sometimes arranged in the form of a cross. Here we are reminded of the resurrection icon in which the Lord is depicted astride the gates of Death. In that icon the personification of Death often lies bound

beneath His feet. In the Theophany icon it is often snakes or a sea creature under His feet. In both cases what is depicted is Christ's victory over the powers of darkness. "You crushed the heads of the dragons in the water" (Ps 73:14).

"When You bowed Your head to the Forerunner, You crushed the heads of the dragons; and when You stood in the midst of the stream, You let Your light shine upon all creatures, that they might glorify You, Our Savior, who enlighten our souls!"

The Sea: At the bottom of the icon we often find two small figures with astonished looks on their faces, often astride dolphins. They personify these psalm verses, alluding to the Exodus but often heard during the feast of the Theophany: "The sea saw and fled; Jordan turned back... What ails you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back? O mountains, that you skipped like rams? O little hills, like lambs? Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob" (Ps 114:3, 5-7).

Today the prophecy of the Psalms swiftly approaches its fulfillment: "The sea looked and fled: Jordan was driven back" before the face of the Lord, before the face of the God of Jacob! He came to receive baptism from His servant, so that our souls washed clean from the defilement of idolatry, might be enlightened through Him!

Sunday after the Theophany



God Revealed at the Jordan



2020 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA OFFERINGS

EARL & AMPARO ADKINS – H/S NIECE LUZ ANGELA

DANNY & CYNDI ARDELEAN – MEMORY PARENTS & FAMILY

AUREL BOSCA – SPECIAL INTENTION

AUREL & STEVE BOSCA – MEMORY DECEASED FAMILY

AMELIA BOTEAN – MEMORY PARENTS TOADER & ANICA POPA

MARK BOTEAN – MERRY CHRISTMAS ST. GEORGE CLERGY & STAFF

BISHOP JOHN MICHEAL BOTEAN – MEMORY FATHER JOHN BOTEAN, MEMORY GRANDPARENTS VASILE & ANNA BOTEAN, & TOADER & ANICA POPA

LISA & BOB CAMEL – HONOR OF PARENTS FRANK & MARY GETZ

ANNIE COLLINS – MEMORY JOSEPH COLLINS

MIRCEA CRISTEA – MEMORY OF PARENTS METODIA & MARY CRISTEA, H/S SUZIE DRAGOS & STELLA LAZAR (SISTER)

ESTHER DERSHAW – MEMORY DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS

SUZIE DRAGOS – MEMORY HUSBAND JOHN, MEMORY DECEASED DRAGOS & EBERHART FAMILIES

ANN FOSNAUGHT & DORU JACOBS – H/S ALL PARISHIONERS, H/S ANN STIMER, H/S MAGDALENE FLORIAN, MEMORY OF LOVED ONES.

ANA HEIM & BILL GALIDA – H/S VIRGINIA ROGERS, H/S NATALIE CSEAK, H/S BARBARA GREAVU, H/S ALL SICK PARISHIONERS

WILLIAM GALIDA – MEMORY PATRICIA GALIDA

BARBARA & ROBERT GREAVU – MEMORY PARENTS PETER & MARIA GREAVU, JEROME & ELIZABETH SLANINA, H/S ALL COVID HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS





N-O-E-L

GRETE HEATHERLY – H/S FAMILY

NANCY MACIAG – H/S CONNIE MCADAMS, H/S HELEN BIKIS

MARIA MARCU – MEMORY PARENTS

FATHER OVI & PSA. GABRIELA MARGINEAN – H/S GEORGETA & LIVIU BARCUTIAN, H/S MARY CORNEA, H/S MARIA POPLECEAN, H/S FAMILY

DAVE & DEBBIE MURARI – H/S LIL LUPSOR, H/S THERESA & ALEX GONYIAS, H/S DORIS ROTAR, H/S ALL ST. GEORGE PARISHIONERS

JACQUELINE OPREAN – H/S SISTER AGNES

DENNY & CAROL POPA FAMILY – H/S FATHER EUGENE POPA, MEMORY OF PARENTS GEORGE & ARLINE ALECUSAN & ANN POPA

JOHN PUIA – H/S COUSIN IRENE PONTONES, MEMORY OF MOM ANNA & GRANDMOTHERS

TIM REICHEL – HONOR JOANN & JOHN SWOPE, HONOR SHIRLEY & RICHARD REICHEL

CHUCK & COLEEN ROSKA - LOVING MEMORY OF ALL DECEASED FAMILY, H/S TO ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

CARL & CONNIE ROTH – MEMORY PARENTS VIRGINIA & CORNELL GRUITZA, MEMORY GRANDPARENTS ANA & JOHN GRUITZA

EMILY STOFFER - HONOR OF TUSI PENNY BOTEAN, HONOR BISHOP J.M. BOTEAN

DENNIS STROIA - MEMORY PARENTS DAN & MILLIE STROIA, H/S IRENE PONTONES

HARRY & KATHY WALSH – MEMORY GERALD & DORIS SAVAGE, MEMORY GERALD & JEAN WALSH

DODI & PETE ZBUKA – H/S LIL LUPSOR

