

January 3, 2021: The Sunday before Epiphany

Epistle: II Timothy 4: 5-8:

But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8:



The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.” “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’”

John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their

sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Feast of the Epiphany or Theophany is the manifestation or the revelation of the Holy Trinity to the world: Christ, the incarnate Son of God is in the river Jordan, the Holy Spirit descends upon Him in the form of a dove and God the Father recommends the Son: *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

In the beginning, all three persons of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) participated in the creation of man from the dust of the earth, as we read in the book of Genesis:

"Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness" (1:26). Now, when the fullness of time had come (Gal. 4:4), man is being re-created or created anew and again, all three persons of the Holy Trinity take part in this act of man's restoration.

The presence of the Holy Spirit announces the approaching of the Era of Grace, which will start on the day of the Pentecost, fifty days after the Lord's Resurrection and ten days after His Ascension into heaven.

The event also marks the beginning of the Lord's public ministry and by His Baptism He establishes the first Sacrament, the Holy Illumination, the gateway into the Church.

All of these aspects constitute the manifestation of the Divine Providence of God for His creation and especially for man.

How wonderful to have such a loving God who never gives up on His creation!

To Him be the glory forever and ever!

Fr. George Bazgan

We are live streaming the Liturgy

**As we continue to operate under these restrictions, we are
live streaming the Divine Liturgy on You Tube.
To access the Sunday Services, [click here](#).**

Sunday Service Attendance

Due to the continuing State of Emergency, and the recent measures imposed by the provincial authorities, the maximum number of people attending Church services is 20.

We apologize for this inconvenience and hope that the restrictions will continue to be relaxed in the near future.

Those who attend, are kindly asked to observe the recommendations of the experts, such as: wearing a mask, washing hands, social distancing, etc.

Thank you all and may God keep us safe!

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MESSAGE

***The Board of Directors and the Ladies' Auxiliary of our parish
extend to all members and supporters of our Church
their best wishes for a MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a healthy, peaceful and
HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

Prayer at the time of pandemic

O Lord, our God, who are rich in mercy and, with Your wise care, guard our lives, listen to our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, stop this pandemic, as You have ceased the punishment of the people in the days of King David. You who are the Physician of our souls and our bodies, give healing to those contaminated with this disease, hastily raising them from their bed of suffering, to glorify You, the Most Merciful Savior, and protect those who are healthy from any disease.

Bless, strengthen and shield, O Lord, with Your grace, all those who, with love of people and sacrifice, care for the sick at their homes or in hospitals. Remove all disease and suffering from the people and teach us to value life and health as gifts coming from You.

Grant us, O God, Your peace, and fill our hearts with unwavering faith in Your protection, with hope in Your help, and with love towards You and our neighbor.

For Yours is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glorify: Father and Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!