

Let Us Venerate Today the Baptism of Christ ... Wash Yourselves and Be Clean

I cannot restrain my joy; my heart is deeply moved and filled with delight. Forgetting my weakness, I long to undertake the mission of the great John the Baptist; though I am not the Forerunner, I have indeed come from the desert!

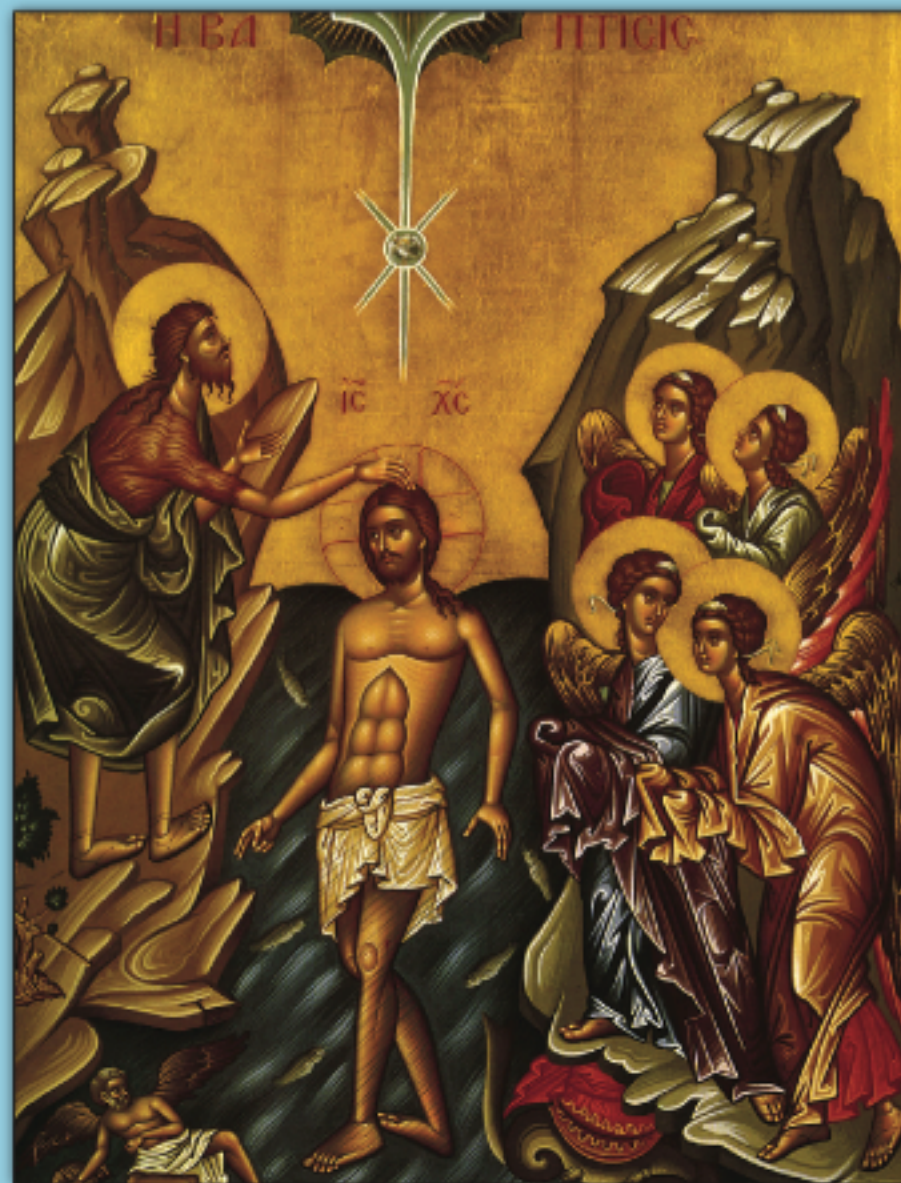
Christ receives the sacrament of enlightenment, or rather He enlightens us with His brilliance. He is baptized; let us go down into the water with Him so that we may also come up with Him. John is baptizing, and Jesus comes to him. Christ certainly sanctifies the man who now baptizes Him, but His purpose is chiefly to bury the old Adam in the waters and, above all, to sanctify the waters of the Jordan by His baptism in them so that just as He was spirit and flesh, those who would later be baptized might be sanctified by the power of the Spirit and by water.

John refuses; Jesus insists. "It is you that should be baptizing me!" says John. The torch addresses the Sun, the voice speaks to the Word. Jesus comes out of the water, drawing the world with Him, as it were, and raising it up when it had hitherto been sunk in the abyss. He sees the heavens not being rent, but opening of their own accord.

The first Adam had of old closed heaven to himself and us, just as he had seen the earthly paradise being closed to him, with a fiery sword barring access. The Holy Spirit bears witness. Here all is in perfect harmony, for the testimony comes from heaven, just as He to whom the Spirit bears witness has come from heaven.

St. Gregory the Theologian

**SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD,
GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**



Icon of Theophany — January 6th



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491

Office: (708) 645-0241 Fax: (708) 645-0243

Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com

Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA

Deacons: J. Timothy Tkach John Evancho

January 7, 2024 - Sunday After Theophany Schedule of Services

Sunday	7	Sunday After Theophany 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Thursday	11	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - Special Intention for Vocations
Saturday	13	8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Judith Feltner by Connie Purcell 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	14	Sunday of Zaccheus 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

We pray for the sick and homebound of our parish, especially:

Dot Wocho	Mary Ann Baran	Mary Ann Horne	Mary Ellen Haber	Bob Zavada
Francis Hughes	Gloria Paulson	John Oreluk	Abbie Sheedy-wc	Michele Lewis
William Davis	Marianne Horvath	Sally Hughes	Fr. Bernard Danber	Frank Miko
Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky	Jean Rusnak	Steve Bieniek	Gloria Selvy
Debby Lattuca	Teddy McManigal	John Super	Martha Loya	Daniel Hathcock

Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Parish

In all decisions regarding parish membership and Sacramental life, the pastor exercises the final decision and the confidentiality of the persons involved must be respected.

Parish Membership is determined by three things:

1. Being registered in the parish for a sufficient amount of time
2. Faithful and consistent participation in the liturgical life of the parish especially on Sundays and Holy days.
3. Regular financial support of the parish. Use of offertory envelopes by parish members is required for weekly donations

The Sacred Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Matrimony are available only to those persons who comply with the above requirements of parish membership.

A Biblically based stewardship is part of the vision of Annunciation parish. Parishioners are encouraged to practicing tithing and also to consider Annunciation parish in planned giving such as trust funds, etc.

Couples who are planning to be married at Annunciation parish must be free to be married in the Church and must contact the pastor at least six months prior to their proposed wedding date. Persons applying for annulments of a previous marriage should not set a Church wedding date unless their annulment has been granted.

Couples who are cohabitating or involved in same sex civil unions or so-called same sex "marriages," as well as couples who are contracepting are asked to seek the pastor's help in understanding the Church's teaching and in conforming their lives to the moral teaching of the Church. Such persons **cannot receive Holy Communion** until their lives are reconciled with the Church.

Parish members entering the hospital or who are home-bound should contact the pastor or parish business office.

Prior to undergoing surgery or going under anesthesia parish members should contact the pastor.

No eulogies or public addresses by laity are permitted during funeral services.

Cremation is permitted but not encouraged. Ashes are not permitted in the church. Funeral services with the body of the deceased in the church must take place prior to cremation. Ashes are to be buried according to the burial rite of the Church. Ashes cannot be scattered or kept in homes.

Appropriate behavior and dress are required for all liturgical services. No audible conversations, or waving across the church. Electronic devices must be turned off. No food, candy, or gum chewing. Dress code is formal and modest for all services.

Abstinence from meat is to be observed every Friday. If this is not possible an equivalent penitential practice is to be observed.

Help us shower Teddy and the McManigal family with some LOVE!

Here are the few ways you can help:

1. Participate in the small raffle we will be holding for the next couple of weeks in the narthex.
2. Sign up to be a part of the Meal Train that will provide meals for the family. A link for this on-line app will be provided via email and on our Facebook page.
3. Give to his personal GoFundMe page. A link for this will also be available on our Facebook page and parish website.
4. Pray for this beautiful family as they face some very tough days ahead and put their trust in the One who makes all things possible!



6th Annual Blessing of Lake Michigan Sunday, January 7, 2024

1:00pm

Christ has come to renew all of creation!
Witness this yourself as the waters of Lake Michigan become the waters of the Jordan River!



Hammond Port Authority

701 Casino Center Dr - Hammond, IN 46320

Refreshments will follow inside at the Port Authority

We will be taking the new Church bus on this it's maiden voyage. If you would like to attend this event, please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Bishop Robert Pipta's official statement in response to Pope Francis' recent declaration, *Fiducia Supplicans*, regarding the blessing of same-sex "couples," will be emailed to parishioners later this week. If you would like a printed copy of the Bishop's statement or *Fiducia Supplicans*, these can be obtained in the business office. You can also read *Fiducia Supplicans* by going to the Vatican's official website (www.vatican.va) and searching for *Fiducia Supplicans* (in English.)

Traditionally, at the feast of our Lord's Theophany on January 6th, we consecrate water which is used to sanctify the homes of all the faithful. In



bringing the blessed water to our homes, and sprinkling it in each room, we rid our homes of any evil influence, and rededicate it to God in a special way. As we were once renewed by the waters of our own baptism into Christ, so too our home, and our entire lives, are re-dedicated and renewed unto Christ our God each year at this time.

If you are interested in having Fr. Tom bless your house, please fill out the House Blessing Form in the Business Office.



ByzanTEENS

Sunday, January 14th
11:30am to 1:00pm

Family Catechesis

Sunday, January 21st
Noon - 1:30pm

Check out these GREAT NEW
On-line Byzantine Catechetical
Resources from God With Us Online

Formed for Life

www.godwithusonline.org

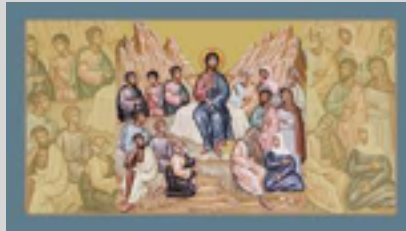
Free Family Formation

Downloadable Monthly Lessons for All Ages Based on the Themes for the Catechetical Year!

Discovery & Discipleship

www.godwithusonline.org

THE DWELLING PLACE BYZANTINES



The Eleventh Annual Women's Retreat SAVE THE DATE

The Beatitudes: The Way of Life

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center
Fremont, Ohio

February 16, 2024 - February 18, 2024

Retreat Master: Fr. Lukas Mitro

Contact Susan A. Gallagher for further information
womenretreat2024@yahoo.com
419-626-0375

Sponsored by:
St Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

**Full retreat schedule and registration forms
are now available in the business office.**

The Great Fast is just around the corner...
Next Sunday begins our lenten
preparation with the Sunday of Zaccheus.



Are
you
ready??

Sign-up Deadline to lock in pricing for the Guadalupe Retreat & Pilgrimage is January 17th. *St Mary's will be holding an information session via Zoom today, Sunday, Jan 7th at 6pm.*

Register at: <https://bit.ly/byzantineguadalupe>

A BYZANTINE CATHOLIC RETREAT & PILGRIMAGE TO GUADALUPE, MEXICO

APRIL 20-27, 2024

JOIN US

*in celebrating the 125th anniversary of
St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in
Whiting, Indiana, with an eight-day retreat
and pilgrimage to Mexico in honor of
Our Lady of Guadalupe.*

**\$3,250 per person
double occupancy**

INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare from Chicago
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- Entrance fees as per scheduled visits
- Private Divine Liturgies and services
- Four-star hotels in historic districts
- Professional English-speaking guide
- Land travel in air-conditioned motor coach
- Pilgrim prayer pack
- All tips and gratuities

Journey and pray with:



PILGRIMAGE LEADERS
Laura Russo & Fr. Andrew Suriname SDB



RETREAT LEADER
Fr. Thomas J. Lyle

Fr. Andrew and Laura have been serving at St. Mary Church in Whiting since 2018 and have led three other pilgrimages. Fr. Tom is a renowned speaker and host of Light of the East.

Regina
Stars
www.1800CATHOLIC.com

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