SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY



Icon of Saints Hermylaus, Maximus and Stratonicus -- January 13th

Make Another Shot

So how many New Year's resolutions have you broken already? If you are like me, though you might be a little scared about even making a resolution. The experience of making resolutions, and failing to keep them again and again, can be somewhat off-putting: we have failed so much in the past that the prospect of another failure is more daunting than what we want to resolve to do or change in our lives. I ran into an expression from basketball the other day. It read, "You are 100% certain not to make the shots you don't attempt." How true that is! If you don't make the shot, you can't hit the basket! Similarly, if you don't make the effort, you never realize the success. This is such an ingrained part of human experience that it is no wonder that one of the central mysteries of our faith is repentance.

The New Testament word for "repentance" is, in Greek, metanoia, which literally means "change of mind" or "change of heart." St. John the Baptist's great message was "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" – a cry that was taken up by Our

Lord Himself as the first words of His public ministry.

The sacramental mystery of Holy Baptism means, first of all, the forgiveness of sins, becoming a new person, being born again. Likewise, the mystery of Confession recognizes that, even as committed, born-again, believing Christians, we continue to experience failure in our lives as we try to live out our baptismal commitments. Repentance, meaning that we recognize our failure and make a resolution to do better next time, is not something that happens once and for all, but something that becomes as natural and repetitive in our daily lives as breathing.

If you have not broken any of your New Year's resolutions, good for you! Give thanks to Almighty God for having preserved your good intention by His grace. If you have broken some, however, give thanks to Almighty God for giving you another chance, and make your shot one more time.

Bishop John Michael Botean



Saints Peter & Paul Prainian Catholic Church

Hurst Street at Union Avenue Post Office Box 126

"Christ is Born!" www.sspeterpaulukrchurch.us
"Khristos Razhdayetsia!"

January 13, 2019 Sunday post Theophany

WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE the great feast of Theophany (The Appearance of God), when Father, Son and Holy Spirit all appeared at the Jordan River during the Baptism of Christ, the Son of God. The holy and blessed water is still available for you to take home, in order to bless your family, home and possessions.

BEAUTIFUL 2019 CALENDARS, as well as your 2019 donation envelopes are all awaiting you today in the church basement. Please, Good People, take these items home today for your use in the New Year.

 $\frac{\text{WE PLAN TO REMOVE}}{\text{Jan. 19, Monday, so be sure to take home whatever you like this coming week before they will be discarded by our workers.}$

WE ARE SO VERY GRATEFUL to all our good people who were so generous to our Parish over the recent holydays. Our Parish is alive and and well thanks to all our wonderful faithful, who love the Lord and His holy Christian community here in Bridgeport.

OUR GREAT SUNDAY SCHOOL will begin classes for the spring semester today, Sunday, the 13th, at 10 am. We will soon begin preparing the students for all the spring events, such as Solemn Holy Communion, all the Easter celebrations, May Day Feast and others. We trust that all our good Parents will bring their young ones to School on Sunday to learn of Jesus. our Lord and Savior.

A GREAT BIG THANKYOU goes out to Joanne, Michele and all our great men and women, who prepared and served the wedding reception last Saturday in our Parish Hall. About 165 guests attended this gathering and all were thoroughly appreciative of the great work we do here for all our neighbors, friends and parishioners.

A FEW PARISHIONERS have asked Father for a copy of his book "Bishop for a Day", in order to send a copy to their children living away from home. See Father after Liturgy if you would like a copy!

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 6 pm +Mark Hitchens (Maryellen and Family)
Sunday, 9 am For the health of Parishioners
Thursday, 7 am +Deceased in Family (Oksana Fedoryshyn)
Friday, 7 am +Olga and George Tuttle (Bill maruszvzak)
Saturday, 8 am +Michael, Mary, Joseph Suzanne (Helen Helinski)
Saturday, 6 pm +Joseph Dudas (Margaret and Daughters)
Sunday, 9 am +George and Roman (Lidia and Family)

TODAY'S TROPAR:

O Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan River, the Mystery of the Trinity was revealed. The voice of the Father bore witness to You, calling You His beloved Son. The Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed this. O Christ God,

Glory be to You.

GLORY TO THE FATHER AND THE SON...

TODAY'S KONTAK:
Today You appeared to the Universe, and Your Light,
O Lord, descended upon us. We understand and sing
our praises to You, for You came to save our souls.

TODAY'S PROKIMEN: O Lord, save Your People and bless Your inheritance. Your Light has shown us the way to salvation.

COVE, Fiz. Konola