

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY



Icon of Saints Theona, Theopempt, and Syncletica — January 5th

Make Another Shot

How many New Year's resolutions have you made already? If you are like me, though you might feel a little scared about even making a resolution. The experience of making resolutions, and failing to keep them again and again and again, can be somewhat frustrating; we have failed so much in the past that the prospect of another failure is more daunting than the effort we want to resolve to do or change in our lives. I turned into an expression from basketball the other day. I read, "You are 100% certain not to make the shot, so 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 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 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



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"Christ is Born!"

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January 4-5, 2020

Baptism of Jesus

THIS WEEKEND WE WILL celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. On Saturday after the 6 pm Liturgy we will bless the Jordan water for you to take home and use to bless all your family and possessions. On Sunday morning we will again bless more water after the 9 am Divine Liturgy for you to take home to use. And on Monday morning, Jan. 6, we will celebrate the Holy liturgy at 8 am and distribute once again the blessed water. This feast is a major holyday and every Christian, every Catholic, every Ukrainian is bound to attend Church.

MANY CALENDARS AND ENVELOPE BOXES still remain to be claimed in the basement of the Church. Please take home these items today for all your family and friends. Otherwise your rapidly aging priest will have to deliver them by himself in this nasty winter weather! PLEASE!

OUR TERRIFIC SUNDAY SCHOOL will begin the winter/spring semester next Sunday, January 12 at 10 am in our School on Coates Street. Our School is the only Ukrainian Catholic school in Bridgeport for all Catholics, as well as the only Ukrainian Cath. school in Montgomery County. And it is free for all students, including books, supplies, treats and a loving and devoted faculty of 12 great teachers with classes from Preschool all the way to highschool. If you love the Lord and love your children, you will certainly want them to learn about Jesus Christ. Come and bring your young ones to School on Sunday!

A GREAT BIG THANKYOU goes out today to all our faithful for their generous gifts and donations to our vibrant parish this holyday season. We are especially grateful to all those good people who mailed in their donations to total several thousands of dollars. We pray to the Newborn Divine Infant of Bethlehem that He will bless all of you with robust health and much joy in the New Year!

FATHER RONALD SENDS OUT HIS PERSONAL THANKS TO ALL THE GOOD FOLKS WHO REMEMBERED him this holy season with all their many cards, prayers, kind words and gifts. Our faithful are truly the most considerate and generous people in the world. God bless all of you in 2020.

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 6 pm +Wasył Kohut (Peter, Marylyn and Petey)
Sunday, 9 am +Eugenia, Mykola, Irena (The Klufas Family)
Monday, Jan. 6, 8 am For the Health and happiness of the Faithful
Thursday, 7 am health of Mark Jr. (Mother Luba Somits)
Friday, 7 am +Bridget Kovach (Susan McIntyre)
Saturday, 8 am +Bernice Brown 9Bill maruszczak)
Saturday, 6 pm +Mark Hitchens (Mother Maryellen)
Sunday, 9 am +Agnes, Michael and Donna (Fonock - Maruszczak 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 confirmed this statement in the form of a dove. O Christ, You
enlightened the world by Your apparition.

GLORY TO THE FATHER AND THE...

TODAY'S KONTAK: You appeared today to the whole world, and Your Light,
O Lord, fell upon us. Great wisdom was given to us,
as You came and appeared to all the universe.

TODAY'S PROKIMEN: Praise the Lord, for He is good and His mercy
endures forever, amen.

O. Fonock