

**TODAY'S READINGS: Epistle: Eph. 4, 7-13 Gospel: Mt. 4, 12-17;**

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE:**

**THE VENERABLE THEODOSIUS THE GREAT [THE CENOBIARCH]**

Theodosius was the first founder and organizer of the cenobitic way of monastic life. He was born in the province of Cappadocia in the village of Mogarisses, of devout parents. As a child, he visited St. Simeon the Stylite, who blessed him and prophesied great and spiritual glory for him. Carrying a censer in which he placed unlit charcoal and incense, Theodosius sought out a place where he could settle and establish his monastery, and he stopped when the charcoal began to burn on its own. There he settled and began to live the ascetic life. He soon gathered around him many monks of various nationalities. He built a church for each nationality, so that services and hymns were offered to God in Greek, Armenian, Georgian, and other tongues at the same time. But on the day of Holy Communion all the brotherhood gathered in the great church, in which the Greek language was used. There was a common table for all, common property, common penance, common labor, common endurance and, not rarely, common hunger. Theodosius was an exalted model of life to all the monks--an example in labor, prayer, fasting, watchfulness and all Christian virtues. God granted him the gift of working miracles, by which he was able to heal the sick, appear to people in distant places and help them, tame wild beasts, discern the future, and cause bread and wheat to multiply. Prayer was on his lips day and night. He reposed peacefully in the Lord in the year 529 A.D., the 105th year after his birth.

**HOMILY**

**on the gradual nature of spiritual development**

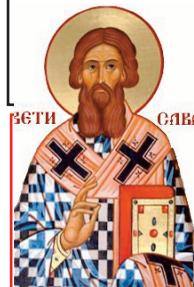
*"For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:13-14).*

Those who feed on the food of the milk of sensual reflection cannot easily distinguish between good and evil. They usually come to the conclusion that all faiths are equally the same in value; that sin is the indispensable shadow of virtue; and that evil, in general, is the unavoidable companion of good. A true Christian cannot come to such erroneous conclusions. A true Christian is a mature person who is not fed on milk, but who is distrustful of the senses, and who judges much more finely and makes a finer distinction between the value of all that is and all that has been. The Christian, indeed, is given clear directions for distinguishing good from evil by God's Revelation; nevertheless, long and laborious study is necessary in order that the Christian, striving for perfection, might in every given case know what is good and what is evil. This knowledge should pass over into feeling in order to be trustworthy and without error. Both good and evil wish to touch the heart of man. That is why man should be trained, by the feeling of the heart, to immediately recognize what approaches him--in the same manner as, with his tongue, he immediately senses the salty and the unsalty, the sweet and the bitter.

Brethren, let us endeavor every day and every moment to purify our hearts, so that our hearts might always be able to distinguish good and evil. For in everything that happens to us, the question is posed: "What is good and what is evil?" This is precisely why it does happen to us: so that we can realize what is good and follow after good. We face temptations a hundred times a day. He who has eyes to see, let him see.

O Lord, Lover of mankind, warm our hearts with good which is from Thee. Make us wise, O Lord, to be able to distinguish good from evil. O Master, strengthen us, that we might always embrace good and discard evil for the sake of Thy glory, O Lover of mankind, and for the sake of our salvation. To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

Prayer doesn't make the morning come faster, but it sure makes the night seem shorter!



Dear Parishioners,  
Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, is the feast of the St. Sava  
Divine Liturgy will start at 9:30am.

**ST. SAVA CELEBRATION - SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016**

Mother's Club will serve Coffee, juice and donuts IN THE CENTER following Divine Liturgy.

The ST. SAVA PROGRAM will begin thereafter

A buffet luncheon will be served UPSTAIRS following the program  
**MENU: Chicken, sarma, mashed potatoes, pasta, corn, salad and dessert.**

Children who participate in the Program are FREE

Adult donation \$15

The KCC Fund raising lunch will be held downstairs in the church hall after church on Sunday, February 7, 2016. Please plan to attend!

Lunch(from scratch) will be prepared by protinica Sava and donated by Prota and protinica Krstic.

**Menu: Chicken vegetable soup, salad, home made dinner roll and Roast Beef in mushroom Gravy with potatoes.**



**St. Elijah Choir's 14th Annual Bowling "Ball"**

**Saturday, February 20, 2016 Baden Bowl 346 Ohio River Blvd. Baden, PA 15005**

**\$25.00 per person\* Fee includes: bowling, dinner, dance and PRIZES!  
Bowling: 2:00 PM Dinner: Immediately following bowling Dance:5 PM-9 PM  
Entertainment by: Dan, Doki, and Pristi**



Not a bowler?? You can still join us at 5:00 p.m. for dinner and dancing at the:  
St. Elijah Serbian Center -\$15  
Registration forms are located next to the bulletin



Today, after Divine Liturgy, we will have PARASTOS for the soul of **PATRICIA SERGEANT**

On Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 AM. we will have PARASTOS for the soul of **BERTHA VIGNOVICH**

**VISITS**

**January 18<sup>th</sup> - Beaver Medical Center - Patricia Lackovich**

**January 19<sup>th</sup> - Friendship Ridge - Sarah Jerich, Helen Belich, Ann Belich, Robin Lapcevich, Cynthia Bratich**

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> - Home - Margireta Kosanovich (Conff. & Comm.)**

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> - Beaver Medical Center - Marie Anderson**



## BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

One of the Church's foremost liturgical practices at this time of the year is the blessing of water on the Feast of Theophany, which commemorates the baptism of our Lord in the waters of the Jordan River. Since the times of the Old Testament, water has been used in ceremonies for cleansing and purification. As we think of the baptism of our Lord on this feast day, it is only natural that we come to think of our OWN birth into the family of God.

As we reflect back, let us read how St. John Chrysostom describes what happens at baptism: *"When you come to the sacred initiation, the eyes of the flesh see water; the eyes of faith behold the Spirit. Those eyes see the body being baptized; these see the old man being buried. The eyes of the flesh see the flesh being washed; the eyes of the spirit see the soul being cleansed. The eyes of the body see the body emerging from the water; the eyes of faith see the new man come forth brightly shining from that new purification. Our bodily eyes see the priest as, from above, he lays his right hand on the head and touches him who is being baptized; our spiritual eyes see Jesus as He stretches forth His invisible hand to touch his head."*

As the Spirit of God came upon Jesus in the waters of the Jordan, so the Spirit of God came upon us as we were brought in infancy to the church. As the voice of the Father was heard above the Jordan: *"This is My beloved Son,"* so, too, that voice spoke forth as the Father welcomed us into His Family of the Redeemed. We are the beloved of the Lord. And with this great privilege, we are indeed members of Christ's Church and the Body of Christ.

## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

January 24, 2016.

SAINT PROPHET ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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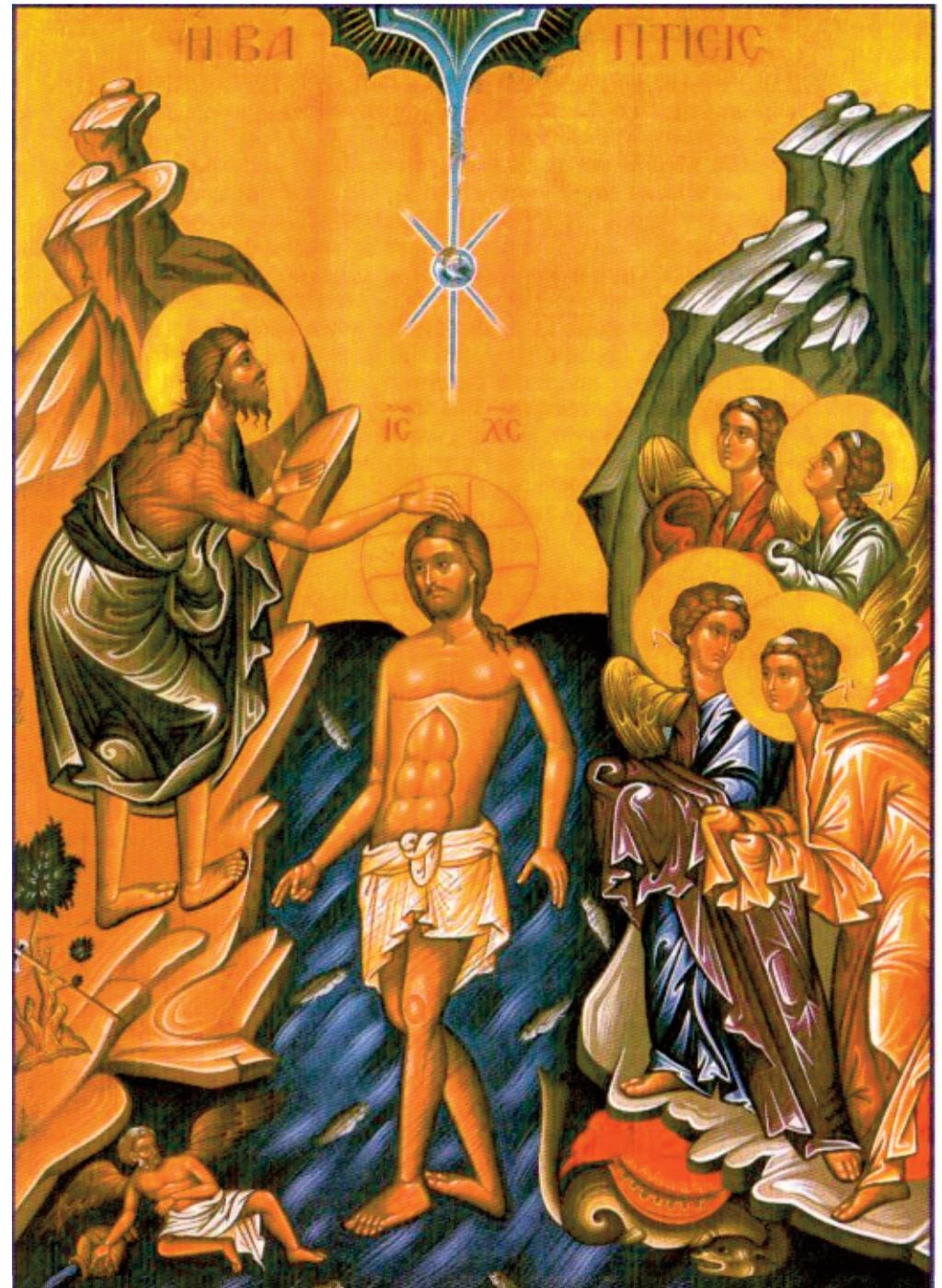
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34<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST