



Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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July 17, 2016

Divine	Saturday, 5:30 PM · Sunday, 10:00 AM
Liturgy	Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 AM · Wednesday, 7:30 PM · Holy Days, 7:30 PM
Confessions	Saturday, 4:30-5:00 PM · Sunday, 9:00-9:30 AM

Father Lewis! Next Sunday, July 24, will be Father's last Sunday with us at Epiphany. He will be leaving after Sunday's liturgy for his permanent assignment at Saint Gregory of Nyssa in Beltsville, Maryland. During this last week, Father is still available to visit and anoint the sick, bless homes, hear confessions or for other pastoral needs. Please let Deacon James know and he will arrange a time with Father Lewis.



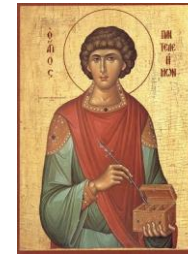
Blessing of Water. After Sunday's Divine Liturgy this weekend, Father Lewis will bless holy water for use in the parish and in our homes. It is proper to bless persons, places and objects with Holy Water as a means of repelling evil.

In the Book of Genesis, creation began when the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters. Thus, water is seen by the Church as the prime element of creation. In blessing water, it is asked of God that the original purpose of water, as a source of life, blessing and holiness

be revealed as one drinks it. In the blessing of water it is seen that the world and everything in it is "very good" (Gen. 1:31) and when it becomes corrupted, God saves it once more by effecting the new creation in Christ, his divine Son and our Lord by the grace of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 6:15). The Blessing of Water is an affirmation that through Christ's own baptism, he has lifted the curse of Adam's sin, and given the creative goodness of God's creation back to mankind once again. Thus when Christians are baptized, they are baptized into Christ, part of the creation that is sanctified in Christ.

It is our Eastern tradition to drink some of the blessed water after the service to bless our entire person. It is also customary to take some holy water home in small containers for

our private use in the family. The large container will remain in the front of the Iconostas until the end of this month; after that it will always be available in the rear of the nave.



Healing Service. Jesus graciously provides healing for his people. As Saint James tell us in his epistle: *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. (James 5:14-16)*

The Church has celebrated the Sacrament of Healing in many ways over the centuries. But at the core of the sacrament is the knowledge that *suffering, sickness, and death are not normal. Rather, they are direct consequences of the ancestral sin.* When the first Adam rebelled against God, it was a rebellion against Life, because God is Life. This rebellion against Life brought suffering, sickness, and death upon Adam, Eve, and all their progeny.

The Sacrament of Healing is not just for the physically ill or the dying, as it was often viewed in former times. Rather, the sacrament is offered both to people who are physically healthy as well as to people who are sick or suffering from any physical, spiritual or other malady, because all people are diseased in one way or another. Through this single rite of anointing, God is beseeched to heal the infirmities of both "body and soul". The Church on earth is represented in the person of the priest celebrating the sacrament; all the saints and angels are called upon for intercession, and the holy name of the Trinity is invoked. Through prayer and the anointing of oil, the sick person is embraced by Christ and His Church, sins are forgiven, sanctification is given, an ax is brought down upon the very root of all illness and infirmity, and the promise of final, total, ultimate healing is provided.

Father Lewis will celebrate the Sacrament of Healing for the entire parish on Monday, July 18 at 7:30 PM. In order to prepare for the sacrament, Father will also hear confessions from 6:00 – 7:15 PM. All are encouraged to attend and avail themselves of the Holy Spirit's loving and gracious gift of healing of both body and soul.

Feast of Saint Elijah. Wednesday, July 20 is the Feastday of the Holy and Glorious Prophet Elijah, considered the greatest Old Testament prophet. He suffered persecution because he alone was faithful to the true God of Israel, and like Job, he showed patient endurance in times of trial and distress. He also appeared in the New Testament with Moses next to Christ when He was transfigured on Mount Tabor before James, Peter and

John (Mt.17:1-3; Mk.9:2-8; Lk.9:27-36). Elijah's appearance at this moment is traditionally interpreted as his representing both the prophets of Israel and all the living because he was taken up alive into heaven on the fiery chariot (2Kings 2:1,6-14).



Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by Father Lewis on Wednesday, July 20 at 7:30 PM.

This day traditionally marks his ascension to heaven on a chariot of fire; in commemoration of this event, it is also a tradition in the Byzantine Churches to bless our vehicles with holy water. Father Lewis will do this blessing in the driveway in front of the rectory following both Saturday and Sunday liturgies July 23 and 24.

Parish Ministries. Remember to sign up in the narthex for our new parish ministries. We will also be forming both men's, women's and youth groups, Bible study groups, and a Mercy in Motion ministry to live out in our lives the Corporal Works of Mercy as found in the teaching of our Lord. We are the voice, hands and feet of Jesus Christ ... the Mystical Body of the Church ... our Lord asks each one of us to be His disciple ... together let us work to build up His Holy Church and do the Work of the People.

Glory to Jesus Christ ... Glory Forever!