

## Fifth Annual Great Blessing of the Waters

Annual Pan-Orthodox Outdoor Great Blessing of Water will be held on January 14, at 1 PM, at Moraine State Park South Shore Bear Run Boat Launch . His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel of the Western Eparchy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. will be the principal celebrant.

### Birthdays in January

January	3	Eva Jean Minto
	4	Orbert Rasch Snr.
	19	Evelyn Czizmadia
	27	Barbara Fields

### Anniversaries in January

Jan.	3	Rev. Dn. (Seraphim) Wayne & Mat. Elizabeth Truckley
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## Baptisms, Deaths and Marriages

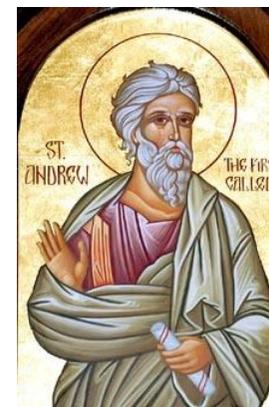
If you know of any one who was baptised, married or who died in the last 20 years would you please let Fr. Keith Lowe know about it to ensure that particular event was entered into the church's metrical record book.

## Saint Andrew Orthodox Church

201 Penn Avenue,  
Lyndora, PA 16045

Church (724) 285 6010 Presbytery (724) 285 1336

[www.standrewlyndora.com](http://www.standrewlyndora.com)



## January 7, 2018

31st Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday after Theophany - Tone 6

### Times of Services

#### 2018

Jan	7	Sun	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
	14	Sun	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
	20	Sat	5:30 PM	Vespers
	21	Sun	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
	28	Sun	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy

### Future Events/Meetings (2018)

Jan	11	Thu	6:30 PM	Parish Council meeting
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## **Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**

Commemorated on January 6

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and Saint Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox ser-

vices even today. Saint John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but “to bury human sin by water,” to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify “the nature of water” and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).

On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday.

### **House Blessing**

It is at this time of the year that homes are blessed and Fr. Keith Lowe would appreciate being informed of who would like their home blessed.

Holy water is available in the church and was blessed on the feast of Theophany.