



St. Nicholas

MAIN STREET
JACOBS CREEK, PA.

Orthodox Church

SIXTH STREET
MONONGAHELA, PA.

WWW. ORTHODOXMON.ORG

VERY REV. EDWARD PEHANICH

724-863-3741

FREDPEH@GMAIL.COM 412-651-2587 c

January 17, 2021

Sunday before the Epiphany of our Lord

Commemoration of the Seventy Apostles of our Lord

THIS WEEK:

MONDAY – 9:00 a.m. Vespers &
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

**7:00 p.m. Compline and Great
Blessing of Water**

TUESDAY – Great Feast of the
Epiphany of our Lord

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy



**WHY DO ORTHODOX BLESS
WATER ON THEOPHANY?**

Strict fast Monday is a day of strict fasting and prayer for Monongahela faithful.

Orthodox Use of Holy Water: Orthodox Christians most often bless themselves with holy water by drinking it. It is traditional to keep a quantity of it at

home, and many Orthodox Christians will drink a small amount daily with their morning prayers. It may also be used for informal blessings when no clergy are present. For example, parents might bless their children with holy water before they leave the house for school or play. A finger is dipped in the water and a cross is traced on the forehead. It is also often taken with prayer in times of distress or temptation. There are two rites for blessing holy water: the *Great Blessing of Water* which is held on the Feast of Theophany, and the *Lesser Blessing of Water* which is conducted according to need during the rest of the year. Both forms are based upon the Rite of Baptism.

The use of holy water is based on the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, and the Orthodox interpretation of this event. In our view, John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, and the people came to have their sins washed away by the water. Since Jesus had no sin, but was God incarnate, his baptism had the effect not of washing away Jesus' sins, but of blessing the water, making it holy—and with it all of creation, so that it may be used fully for its original created purpose to be an instrument of life.

After the Vigil service on the eve of Theophany a font of water is typically blessed in the church, to provide holy

water for the parish's use in the coming year. The next morning, after the Divine Liturgy, a procession goes from the church to a nearby river, lake or other body of water, [when practical] to bless that water as well. This represents that all of creation has been sanctified and blessed by the appearing of God in the flesh.

<p>Valentines Dinner will be held on Sunday, February 14. Please make a reservation by signing the list on the bulletin board.</p>

The 70 Apostles chosen by the Lord in addition to the original 12 Apostles. They were to go before Him into the towns He would visit and lay the groundwork for the early Church. They are only mentioned in the Gospel of St. Luke, and he reports that Jesus appointed them and sent them out in pairs to preach the Gospel. The 12 Apostles generally remained at the Lord's side, serving as witnesses to His life, but the 70 Apostles preceded Him in every place He visited. Among them are: Mark, Luke, Cleopas, Barnabas, Silas, Titus. They are remembered each year on January 4/17.

