

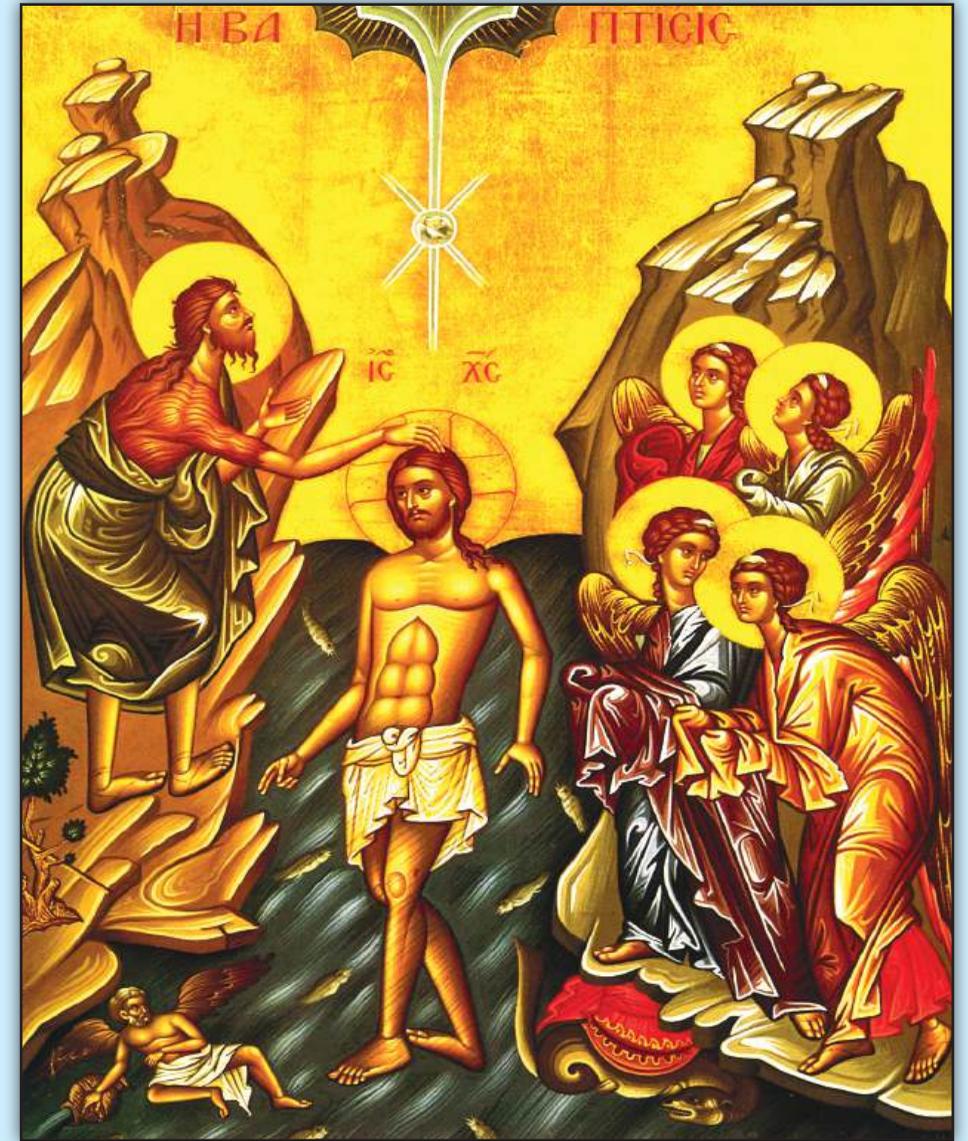
The Christ

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of "Christification", Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation

as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind. The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the "Christification" of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection. "And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and with men" (Lk2:52). In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ.

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY



Icon of Theophany -- January 6th



Українська Греко-Католицька Церква Парафія Святих Йоакима та Анни
SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Mission Parish of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. All are welcome!
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 Connect with us on Facebook and watch our live streams: fb.me/ssjochimandanna

Fr Robert Hitchens, Administrator Fr Mykola Dziurakh, Parochial Vicar
 Subdeacon Kyle Hayes Subdeacon David Wallace

Christ is born! Glorify Him! Христос Рождається! Славимо Його!

Reader Great Vespers: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 5:00pm
Divine Liturgy in English, Sundays 10:30am
Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession): Sundays, 9:45am

**JANUARY 4, 2026 – SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY (TONE 5);
 SYNAXIS OF THE SEVENTY HOLY APOSTLES; OUR VENERABLE FATHER THEOCTISTUS**

GIVING REPORT - The in-pew collection for Sunday, Dec 28 was \$835. E-giving through tithe.ly for Dec 2025 was \$4,003.30. E-giving for the year totaled \$45,615.

2026 giving **envelopes** and liturgical **calendars** are still available in the narthex

Mothers with young nursing children are invited to use the **new mother-baby room** - with comfortable chairs and a changing table - in the back classroom.

Tuesday January 6 - *Great Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ*, Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Waters, 6:00pm

Sunday, January 11 - *Sunday after the Theophany*, Divine Liturgy & Parish Christmas Dinner. Check your email for the sign up or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2zjpaxjh>

The THEOPHANY at the Jordan is liturgically connected with the feast of the Nativity. In her celebration of both these events, Church tradition emphasizes that both the Incarnation and the Baptism of the Lord are when God appears (in Greek, *theophania*). In accordance with the text of the Great Blessing of Water at Theophany, “in the preceding feast we have seen you

as a babe, and in this present feast as perfect human, appearing as our perfect God.” At the Nativity, God the Word “was born,” but now he “appears in the flesh to the human race.” At the Nativity, the “Sun of Righteousness” rose, and now it “shines forth.” In the liturgical tradition of the Church, the feast of Theophany is also called the feast of Illumination. The sticheras of the feast of Theophany elucidate the bond between the feasts of the Nativity and Theophany: What was announced by the angel is now announced to the people by the Baptist; the spilling of infant blood caused Bethlehem to become childless, but through the sanctified waters of baptism, the Jordan now has many children. What was announced by the star to the magi in Bethlehem is now revealed to the world by the Father himself.

Christ brings regeneration to humankind, and he chooses the waters of the Jordan to signify this. In Holy Scripture, water is a symbol of elemental forces and death, and simultaneously a symbol of cleansing, rebirth, life, and the grace of the Holy Spirit. By means of water, God “drowned sin...in the days of Noah...[and] at the hand of Moses he set free the Hebrew nation from the bondage of Pharaoh...[and] by fire and water through Elijah brought back Israel from the error of Baal.” By immersion into water (baptism), Christ washes away the record of Adam’s sins. The waters of the Jordan regenerate all creation. In the Jordan, Christ “has renewed through water and the Spirit our nature grown old through sin.”

“Transformed into waters of healing,” the waters of the Jordan become “a source of incorruption.” For by means of water, God offers to the world “a salvation of baptism.” Upon receiving it, a human being and all creation are filled with “mysterious streams.” With the sanctification of the human being begins the sanctification and eschatological (from the Greek, meaning *final*) transfiguring of creation. (*Christ Our Pascha Catechism*, 198, 200-201)



PLEASE PRAY FOR: Nancy & Jon Anderson, Julie, Lisa Behnke, Alison Bernhoft, Yevhenia Borys, Robert Matthew, Carrie Chuff, Elizabeth Deegan, Clara Anne Duda, Fr Michael Duesterhaus, Robert Dulaine, Pat Fagan, Danylo (Neyko) Fedoryka, Fr Mark Fesniak, Emma Flournoy, Katie Flynn, Lilian Garland, Jerry Gawron, CR Gaush, Samuel Gaush, Josie Hacker, Brigid and Marlena Hess, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyj, Sarah Kelt, Dixie Lane, Catherine Luckey, Destiny Makins, Michael Marshner & Family, Bridget McDonald, Laura McMahan, Vince McLaughlin, Thomas Pavick, Phillip Rexrode, Robert Rice, Chris Saboe, Betsy Sayre, Truman L Sayre, Jr, CJ & Theresa Sidrow, Amy Smith, Karena Tapsak, and Fr George Worschak. *Teresa Fedoryka is our prayer coordinator; please email bulletin prayer requests to ssjochimandannauc@gmail.com.*

Sunday before Theophany

Use the Typica Psalms and Beatitudes

Troparion Tone 5 (p. 345). Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word,* co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,* and born of the Virgin for our salvation.* For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death* and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Troparion Tone 4. Make ready, O Zabulon,* and prepare yourself, O Nephtali;* O river Jordan, stop and receive with joy* the Master coming to be baptized.* O Adam, rejoice with the first mother, Eve,* and do not hide yourselves as before in paradise.* For having seen you unclothed* Christ has appeared to clothe you with the first robe:* He has appeared to renew all creation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion, Tone 5 (p. 346). You, my Saviour, descended to Hades,* and as the Almighty, You shattered its gates.* With Yourself You, as the Creator, raised the dead and shattered the sting of death,* and delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Mankind.* And so we cry out: “Save us, O Lord.”

Now and for ever and ever: Amen.

Kontakion Tone 4. Today the Lord stood in Jordan’s current telling John:* Do not be afraid to baptize Me,* for I have come to save Adam, the first man.

Prokeimenon Tone 6 (p. 780). Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance. *verse:* To You, O Lord, I call; my God, be not deaf to me.

Epistle: (2 Tim 4:5–8). Timothy, my son, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on, the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

Alleluia (use Christmas melody, p. 125).

Verse 1: O God, be gracious to us and bless us.

Verse 2: May Your face shed its light upon us and have mercy on us.

Gospel: (Mk 1:1–8). The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’” John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit.”

Communion Verse. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



*The Great Feasts of
Christmas and Theophany*

**PARISH FAMILY
BRUNCH**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH
AFTER DIVINE LITURGY**

Kindly RSVP and Sign up
for Dishes to Share



SS JOACHIM AND ANNA
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH