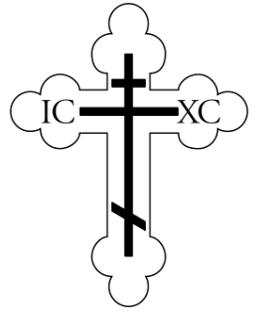


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confessions are heard before or
after Vespers or by appointment.

**Welcome visitors!
Please join us in
the parish hall after
Divine Liturgy for
coffee hour.**

January 6, 2019

The Holy Theophany of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

**Because the Feast falls on a Sunday this year, we celebrate the
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great**

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord. 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 services 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).

HYMNS OF THE DAY

The First Antiphon

When Israel went forth from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

Ref.: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Judah became his sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.

The sea looked and fled;
Jordan turned back.

What ails you, O sea, that you fled?
O Jordan, that you turned back?

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Second Antiphon

I love the Lord,
because He has heard my voice and my supplication!

Ref.: O Son of God, baptized in the Jordan, save us who sing
to You: Alleluia.

Because He inclined his ear to me,
therefore, I will call on Him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid
hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish, then I called on the name of
the Lord.

Gracious and righteous is the Lord;
our God is merciful.

Refrain: O Son of God, baptized in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

The Third Antiphon

v. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever! Let the house of Israel now confess that the Lord is good; for His mercy endures forever!

Tone 1 – Troparion of the Feast

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to You, calling You His Beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, You have revealed Yourself, // and have enlightened the world, glory to You.

v. Let the house of Aaron now confess that the Lord is good; for His mercy endures forever! Let those who fear the Lord now confess that the Lord is good; for His mercy endures forever!

Repeat the Troparion

(Then the Little Entrance, then:)

Repeat the Troparion

Glory... Now and ever...

Tone 4 – Kontakion of the Feast

Today You have shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us. Knowing You, we sing Your praises. You have come and revealed Yourself, // O unapproachable Light.

Instead of the Trisagion Hymn, we sing:

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Titus 2.11-14; 3.4-7

My son: The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that we should deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking forward to the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not because of any righteous works which we have done but out of His mercy, He saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Gospel: Matthew 3.13-17

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan River to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Repose:

N.Dep. Jeanine Andjelich

Mary Shocaroff

Karen Peterson

Joseph Huddleston

Kadee Huddleston

Brandi Vail
Swayzee Hite
Rhylie Hite
Marshall Hite
Daniel Hite
Ev.Mem. Andrew Demidenko
Agafia Sarko

Pelagea Kadash
Theodosia Herbach
Leonty Shimanko
Michael Grigorjew
Mary Pedrona
Dorothy Minenko
Mary Sawochka

Health & Salvation:	Michael	Natalia
Protopr. George	Julia	Elizabeth
Mat. Anna	Warren	Tom
Archpr. Peter	Loretta	Alexander
Archpr. William	Gilbert	Darlene
Mat. Jean	Carol	Mira
Pr. John	Peter	Kristin
Pr. Christopher	Janie	Mitchel
Mat. Jennifer	Tom	Brittany
Andrew	Elizabeth	Jennifer
Gideon	Tina	David
Kevin	Adam	Roger
Jon	Myah	Tina
Tanya	Margaret	Chris
Kimberly	Diane	Sheila
Gail	Madelin	Brandon
William	Villian	Benjamin
Jovan	Deborah	Juliana
Charles	Claudia	Lennox
Barbara	John	Laila
Theodore	Joey	Richard
	Carisa	N.III. Sophia

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing this Theophany hymn:

Magnify, O my soul,
the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable than the heavenly hosts.

No tongue knows how to praise you worthily, O Theotokos.

Even angels are overcome with awe praising you.
But since you are good accept our faith;
for you know our love, inspired by God.//
You are the defender of Christians, and we magnify you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone is cordially invited to the blessing of Fr Jacob and Mat Jenna's home after coffee hour today. Blessing begins promptly @ 2pm, followed by drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and fellowship: 10343 Nicklaus St. Crown Point, IN.

Please arrange with Fr Jacob to **have your home blessed** between Theophany and the start of Lent (Mar 11). For those who are available during the day, I have prepared a schedule showing which days I will be in each local region. Please write your name down for a day in your region that you are available.

The **Women's Book Group** will start up again tomorrow, Jan 7. The book, *Becoming a Healing Presence* by Dr. Albert Rossi, is available in the book store.

Mark your calendars:

Jan 8: **Lady's Sodality meeting @ 10am**
Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm

Jan 16: **Fellowship Night @ 6pm**

Jan 17: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$4,528

Mortgage: \$1651

Today's prosphora bread was offered by Elizabeth Pederson

Theophany House Blessings

Houses are traditionally blessed with "Theophany water" each year. A house can be blessed at any time, but the usual

season for yearly blessings is from Theophany until the beginning of Lent.

When a home is blessed, the pious supply a bowl, a candle and an icon (the Theophany icon is traditional, but any icon of Christ will do). The family should also provide the priest with a list of all family members, living and deceased, to be prayed for.

The bowl and icon should be placed on a clean table with a cloth on it. Lights throughout the house should be turned on, floors should be clear for walking throughout the house, and radios and televisions should be off.

The priest will bless all rooms of the house. In homes with children, it is always good for the little ones to carry the candle or a small cross and lead the priest throughout the house.

The priest begins the service with a blessing and the Trisagion prayers. It is preferable that a member of the family say the Trisagion prayers, like a Reader in church. After this the entire home is blessed, with the family walking with the priest holding candles while the Theophany Troparion is sung over and over. It is nice for the family to sing this troparion. Upon finishing blessing the house, the family gathers again at the table, and a short litany is said for the welfare of the family, both living and departed.

Sometimes the family wants to give the priest a little something to eat; depending on the time the priest has, he may stay and visit. When a priest visits, it is NEVER required that the family gives him money. The scripture tells us "Freely you have received, freely give". It is a pious custom among some to give the priest a donation at this time, but this should never be thought of as a requirement. The priest comes to the home because he wants God's blessing to be upon it, and to know those in his flock better and to be available to them.

Glory to God for all things!