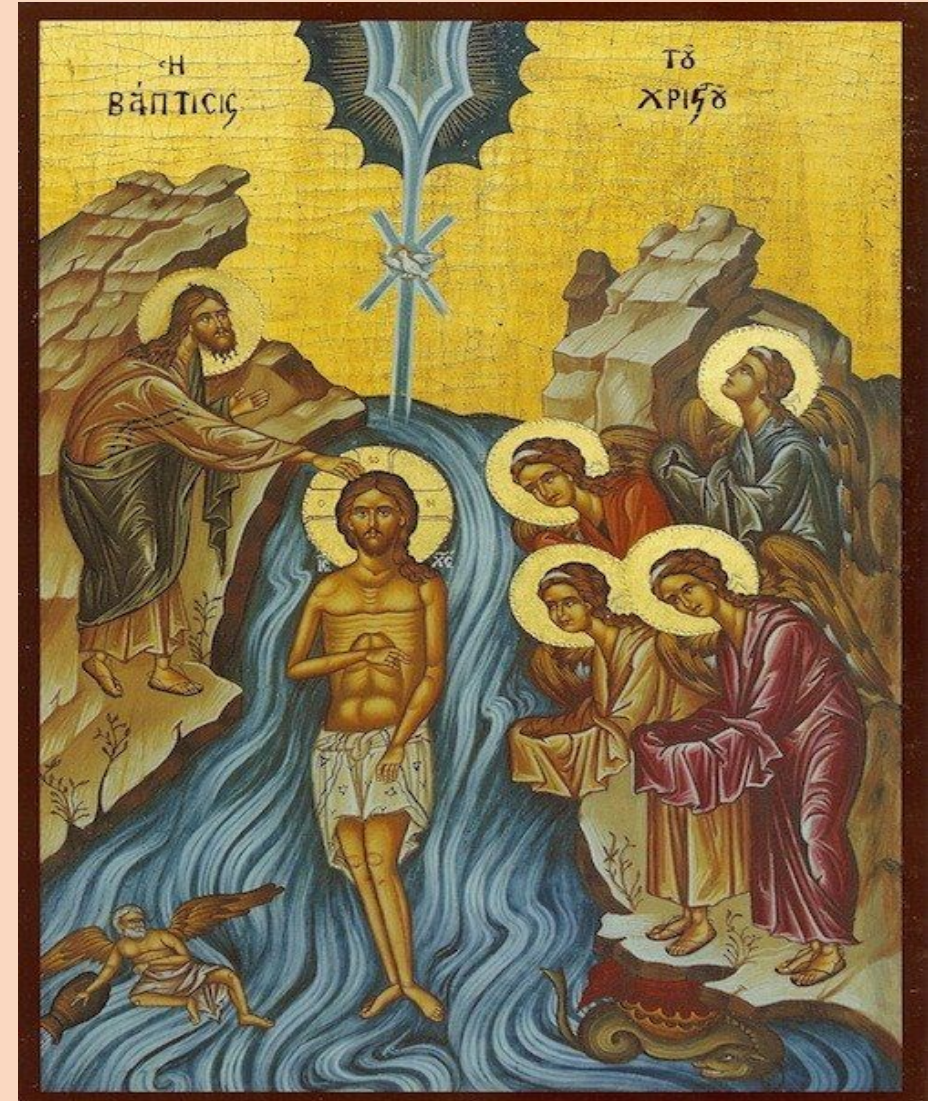


Hymns for the Feast of Theophany

In the streams of the Jordan, the Savior has appeared to us, full of grace and truth. He enlightens those who sleep in darkness and the shadow of death; for the Light that no man can approach has come and is made manifest. (Exapostilarion)

He who covers the heavens with clouds is Himself covered by the streams of the Jordan. He who takes away the sins of the world is cleansed, that I may be made clean. The Only-begotten Son of the Most High Father receives from above the testimony of the consubstantial Spirit. Let us cry aloud to Him: "O Christ our God, who have been made manifest, glory to You!" (Praises)

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Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM**



BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Sunday After Theophany January 12, 2020

Antiphon (Feast)

1: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for his love endures forever.

O Son of God, Who were baptized by John in the Jordan River, save us who sing to you Alleluia!

2- Let the house of Israel say: He is good, for his love endures forever.

O Son of God, Who were baptized by John in the Jordan River, save us who sing to you Alleluia!

3- Let those who fear the Lord say: He is good, for his love endures forever.

O Son of God, Who were baptized by John in the Jordan River, save us who sing to you Alleluia!

Entrance Hymn

Priest: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. The Lord is God and He has appeared to us.

People: **O Son of God, Who were baptized by John in the Jordan River, save us who sing to you Alleluia!**

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 6, Pg. 41)

The angelic powers were around Your tomb, and the guards became as dead, and Mary stood at the tomb, seeking Your spotless body; Then You despoiled Hades without being tried by it, and You met the Virgin O Bestower of life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to You!

Troparion of the Theophany (Tone 1)

At your Baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was revealed: for the Father's voice bore witness to you by calling You his Beloved Son, and the spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God who have appeared to us, and enlightened the world, glory to You.

Patronal Troparion (Tone 1, Pg. 15)

In giving birth, you have preserved your virginity, and in falling asleep, you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life, being the Mother of Life. Through your intercession, save our souls from death.

Kondakion of the Theophany (Tone 3)

Today You have appeared, O Lord, to the universe and Your light, O Christ our God, has been impressed upon us who sing to You with full knowledge: You came and appeared, O Inaccessible Light.

The Jordan turned back, seeing the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove and hovering about You.

The Jordan turned back seeing the invisible become visible, the Creator made flesh, the Master in the form of servant.

The Jordan turned back and the mountains leapt, seeing God in the flesh, and the clouds gave voice, marveling at the One present, light of light, true God of true God, who submerged in the Jordan the death of disobedience and the sting of error and the bond of Hades, giving to the world a baptism of salvation.”

St Proclus of Constantinople on the Theophany

A friend and disciple of St John Chrysostom, Proclus would succeed him as Archbishop of Constantinople in 434. His Discourse 7, On the Theophany, is read in both Eastern and Western Churches on this feast.

“Christ appeared in the world, and, bringing beauty out of disarray, gave it luster and joy. He bore the world's sins and crushed the world's enemy. He sanctified the fountains of waters and enlightened the minds of men. Into the fabric of miracles he interwove ever greater miracles. For on this day land and sea share between them the grace of the Savior, and the whole world is filled with joy.

Today's feast of the Theophany manifests even more wonders than the feast of Christmas. On the feast of the Savior's birth, the earth rejoiced because it bore the Lord in a manger; but on today's feast of the Theophany it is the sea that is glad and leaps for joy; the sea is glad because it receives the blessing of holiness in the river Jordan.

At Christmas we saw a weak baby, giving proof of our weakness.

In today's feast, we see a perfect man, hinting at the perfect Son who proceeds from the all-perfect Father.

At Christmas the King puts on the royal robe of his body; at the Theophany the very source unfolds and, as it were, clothes the river.

Come, then, and see new and astounding miracles: the Sun of righteousness washing in the Jordan, fire immersed in water, God sanctified by the ministry of man.

Today every creature shouts in resounding song:

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed is he who comes in every age, for this is not his first coming.

And who is he? Tell us more clearly, I beg you, blessed David:

‘The Lord is God and has shone upon us.’

David is not alone in prophesying this; the apostle Paul adds his own witness, saying: ‘The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all men, and instructing us.’ Not for some men, but for all. To Jews and Greeks alike God bestows salvation through baptism, offering baptism as a common grace for all.

Come, consider this new and wonderful deluge, greater and more important than the flood of Noah's day. Then the water of the flood destroyed the human race, but now the water of Baptism has recalled the dead to life by the power of the one who baptized.

In the days of the flood the dove with an olive branch in its beak foreshadowed the fragrance of the good odor of Christ the Lord; now the Holy Spirit, coming in the likeness of a dove reveals the Lord of mercy.”

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today

Health & Salvation of the Yanni. Requested by Mae Yanni
+**Joseph Sysesky, Mary Sysesky & Josephine Sysesky.** Requested by Tom Sysesky
+**Shirley Syiek.** Requested by Tom Sysesky
+**Thomas Lynch, Jr.** Requested by Ron and Aileen Abraham

January 26

+**Steven Esper (40 day).** Requested by George & Jeri Esper

February 2

+**Earl & Antoinette Partridge**
+**William & Bertha Rahall, +Habib & Mariam Rahall.** Requested by Nick Rahall & Family. Coffin Hour sponsored by Nick Rahall & Family.

- ◆ Last Week's Attendance/Donations: **46/\$788**
- ◆ Your Christmas donations will allow us to purchase new a Gospel Book and cover. Thank you for your generosity! We will also be purchasing two new sets altar cloths: One through a generous donation from the Delnore family and the other through the generosity of one of our parishioners.



HOUSE BLESSINGS

In our Byzantine tradition, it is customary to have one's house blessed after the feast of Theophany. I would like to come and bless your homes and spend time getting to know you a little better. Please call the Rectory or email me (Brymc56@comcast.net) to schedule a time for me to bless your home .

- Fr. Bryan

Welcome to those who are visiting today. We are happy to have you worship with us. If this is your first time here, please come downstairs to the Hall, introduce yourself, have some refreshments, and get to know the Community. If you have any questions about the Melkite Church and its traditions, please don't hesitate to ask Fr. Bryan.

Weddings — One year notice. Contact Fr. Bryan for Sacramental Preparation.

Baptisms — One month notice. Contact Fr. Bryan for Sacramental Preparation.

Please let Fr. Bryan know about anyone who is sick, in the hospital, or homebound so that he can visit and bring them the Eucharist on a regular basis.

BISHOP'S APPEAL



You should have received your letter from the Bishop regarding the Bishop's Appeal. This annual eparchial fundraising effort is critical to providing much needed financial support for numerous endeavors throughout the Eparchy. Among other things, the Appeal provides support for our eparchial magazine, *Sophia*, which is provided free to each household. The Appeal helps support our mission communities while they work toward becoming full-fledged parishes. The Deacon Formation Program and our seminarians also benefit from the Appeal. The Bishop plans to use some of the funds from this year's Appeal to initiate a records digitization project so that the written history of the Eparchy is not lost.

I ask you to prayerfully consider your contribution to the Bishop's Appeal. Please be as generous as possible. If each person sent \$100, the Appeal would generate over 1.2 million to be used to enhance and expand the Eparchy. Those who can contribute \$1,000 or more to the Appeal will received an autographed copy of the book, *Melkites* from Bishop Nicholas. Those who are able to contribute that amount annually will be inducted into the Order of St. Nicholas and receive the Cross of St. Nicholas in recognition of their generosity.

If you would like to send Fr. Paul a note or card, his new address is:

Rt. Rev. Paul G. Frechette
St. George Melkite Church
1617 W. State St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233

“Fire Immersed in Water”

WE FREQUENTLY HEAR ABOUT the Fathers of the Church, those hierarchs and teachers who have made a lasting impression on the Church’s understanding of the Gospel. These texts offer us ample material on which to reflect despite, or perhaps because of, their antiquity.

On our greatest feasts we often proclaim the Fathers’ most lyrical discourses and poetic verses in the context of the Liturgy. The most noteworthy examples are the Catechetical Homily by St John Chrysostom, which is read on Pascha, and the poetic canons by St John of Damascus and St Cosmas of Maiouma, sung on Pascha and the Feast of the Nativity.

An important patristic text read on the feast of the Theophany is the prayer at the Great Blessing of Water by St Sophronios, who served briefly as Patriarch of Jerusalem (634-638) but whose theological vision has inspired Eastern Christians ever since. The following is an excerpt from that prayer.

St Sopronios of Jerusalem on the Theophany

“Today the grace of the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, came upon the waters.

Today the unwaning sun has dawned, and the world is lit up with the light of the Lord.

[...] Today the clouds refresh humanity with a rain of righteousness from above.

Today the uncreated One is by His own will touched by the creature.

Today the prophet and forerunner approaches the Master, but pauses in awe, seeing God’s condescension towards us.

Today the waters of the Jordan are turned into healing by the presence of the Lord.

Today all creation is watered by mystical waters. Today men’s sins are washed away in the waters of the Jordan.

Today Paradise is thrown open to mankind, and the sun of righteousness shines upon us.

Today the water that the people under Moses found bitter, is turned into sweetness at the presence of the Lord.

Today we are free of the ancient grief, and like a new Israel have been redeemed.

Today we are delivered from the darkness and are bathed in the light of the knowledge of God.

Today the world’s gloom is dispersed in the epiphany of our God.

Today the entire universe is lit as by a heavenly torch.

Today error is abolished and the coming of the Lord opens the way to salvation.

Today the heavenly joins the earthly in celebration, and that which is below holds discourse with that which is above.

Today the holy and vibrant assembly of the Orthodox rejoices.

Today the Master hastens towards baptism in order to raise mankind to the heights.

Today He who bends to none, bows before His own servant, so as to free us from bondage.

Today heaven has been deeded to us, for of the Lord’s kingdom there shall be no end.

Today the earth and the sky have divided the world’s joy, and the world is filled with gladness.

The waters saw You, O God, the waters saw You and were afraid. The Jordan reversed its flow when it saw the fire of divinity descending bodily and entering it.

Prokimenon

Reader: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Reader: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Reader: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

People: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Reader: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us,

People: For we have hoped in you.

Epistle: Eph 4:7-13 - **Sunday After Theophany**

Alleluia Verses

Your favor, O Lord, I will sing forever; from generation to generation, my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

Verse: For you have said, “My kindness is established forever.” In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

Gospel: **Matthew 4:12-17, Sunday After Theophany**

Hirmos of Theophany (Tone 6)

O my soul, magnify the Higher in honor and glory than the heavenly Powers. All tongues are at a loss to praise you properly, and every intelligence even super natural is wrapped in wonder when it comes to honor you, O mother of God. But in your graciousness accept our faith, knowing our holy longing. Intercessor of Christians, we extol you.

Kinonikon: **Praise the Lord...**

After Communion: **Troparion of Theophany**

