

30th Sunday after Pentecost

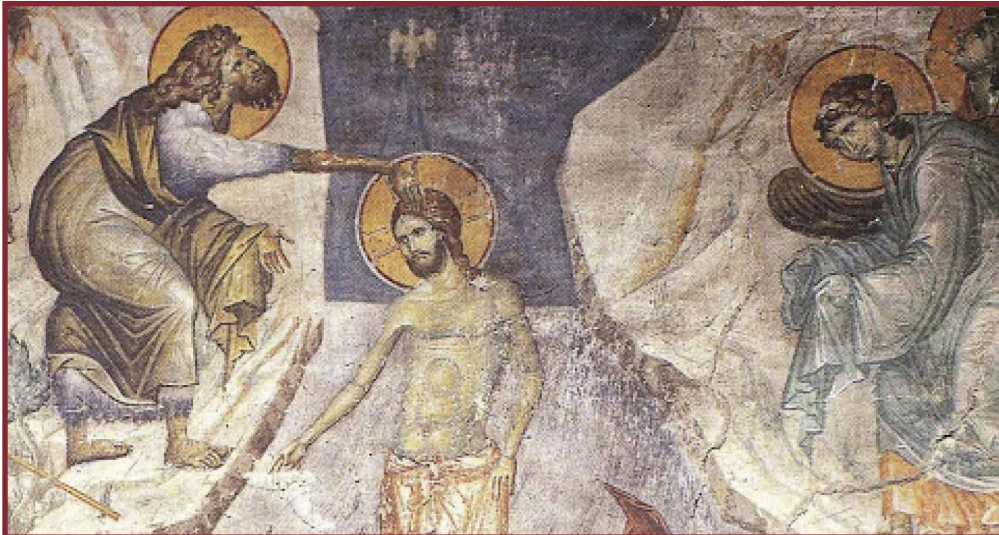
Forefeast of Theophany - January 04, 2026

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.

From 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 Church teaches the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for our illumination and purification. 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).



Theophany; Baptism
of the Lord

Venerated Saints and Events

Forefeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles

Venerable Theoctistus, Abbot at Cucomo, in Sicily (8th century)

Repose of Saint Eustathius I, Archbishop of Serbia (13th century)

Saint Aquila, Deacon, of the Kiev Caves (14th century)

Confessors Zosimus the Hermit and Athanasius the Commentariusius
(Superintendent of Prisoners), Anchorites, of Cilicia (3rd century)

Saint Nikephoros the Leper (20th century)

Holy Fathers of the Shio-Mgvime Monastery (6th century)

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Scripture Readings

2 Timothy 4:5-8

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 6For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You. 3The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.'" 4John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. 6Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. 8I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



Theophany: Baptism of the Lord

Troparia

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Prepare, O Zebulon, and adorn thyself, O Naphtali! River Jordan, cease flowing, and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized! Adam, rejoice with our first Mother, and do not hide yourselves as you did of old in Paradise; for having seen you naked, He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment. Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

Holy Apostles of the Seventy entreat the merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!"

O faithful, let us praise with hymns the choir of the seventy disciples of Christ. They have taught us all to worship the undivided Trinity, for they are divine lamps of the faith.

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: "Do not be afraid to baptize Me. For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

Regular Schedule

Saturdays: Vespers at 5pm, Confession afterward.

Sundays: Divine Liturgy at 9:30am with Hours at 9:10am.

Coffee Hour follows Liturgy each Sunday.

Wednesdays: Catechism or Bible Study (switched seasonally) at 8:00pm. Church is open 9am-5pm.

First Saturdays: Teen and children's classes at 3:30pm

Second Thursdays: Women's Group 7:30pm

Third Thursdays: Men's Group 7:30pm

Thank You

Thanks to Team D for providing Coffee Hour. Team A next week.

Prayer List

Gerontissa Johanna

Edward Barry

Alexandra and Jaime, sisters of Jeff and Tatiana Hoff

Maggie

Aidan W.'s grandmother, Arlene

Newly departed Sammy

Ero

Jake's grandmother, Phyllis

Aidan H.'s newly departed grandmother, Barbara

Mary Mullally

Leo, Noah, Heily, Jake, Nory, Gabriel, Daryle, Matt, Tamar, Julie, Kelly, Caroline, Allen, and Nathan (catechumens)

Victims of war in Ukraine

Victims in the Middle East

Saints
Peter & Paul
Orthodox Cathedral

Special Announcements

CrossRoad: Early Application is open for the Summer CrossRoad trips for **11th and 12 graders**. Info in Hall.

Calendars: Liturgical Calendars for 2026 have been ordered.

Baby Shower for Tamar and Julie Wright: January 10th at 11am in the hall. RSVP with Matushka Anna (mrslongo22@gmail.com)

January 18th: Parish Assembly at Coffee Hour

Parish Women's Group will be January 8th at 7:30pm.
Parish Men's Group will be January 15th at 7:30pm.

Theophany Services will be on the 5th at 7pm and the 6th at 9:00am. **House Blessing Season** will begin thereafter.

February 1st: The 'R' Club/FOCA will host the 2026 **Gifts of Love fundraiser** for February 1 (snow date 2/8) in conjunction with Coffee Hour. The 2026 campaign is for the **Matushka Olga Church Fund in Alaska**. They will also be accepting donations to be used for prizes.

Want to connect?

Fill out this page, tear it off, and place it in the offering plate or hand to Fr. Solomon.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Notes: _____

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For as in the Ark of Noah the love of God toward man is signified by the dove, so also now the Spirit, descending in the form of a dove, bearing as it were the fruit of the olive, rested on Him to whom the witness was borne. For what reason? That the faithfulness of the Father's voice might be made known, and that the prophetic utterance of a long time past might be ratified. And what utterance is this? 'The voice of the Lord (is) on the waters, the God of glory thundered; the Lord [is] upon many waters.' And what voice? 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' This is He who is named the son of Joseph, and [who is] according to the divine essence my Only-begotten. This is my beloved Son — He who is hungry, and yet maintains myriads; who is weary, and yet gives rest to the weary; who has not where to lay His head, and yet bears up all things in His hand; who suffers, and yet heals sufferings; who is smitten, and yet confers liberty on the world

-St. Hippolytus of Rome