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**N<sup>o</sup>  
02**

**SAINT NICHOLAS  
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**



**ЎКРАЇНЬСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА  
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

**UNDER THE PROTECTION  
OF MOTHER OF GOD**



**ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ  
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ**

**CHURCH BULLETIN – N<sup>o</sup>02**

**January 8 – 2012 – 8 Січня**  
**ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК – Ч. 02**

**Proud to Support  
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church**



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\* The icon Nativity above the altar in the Grotto of Nativity Ікона Різдва у храмі Різдва Христового у Вифлемі \*



## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**Jan. 8: Sunday after Theophany** **T5**

**11:00 AM** +Mieczyslaw Hanitzky  
(Emily Swiatkiwsky)

**Mon., January 9 – Понеділок, 9 Січня**

**10:00 AM** (See Julian)

**Tue., January 10 – Вівторок, 10 Січня**

**8:15 AM** В нам. Орисі Перейма (родина)

**Wed., January 11 – Середа, 11 Січня**

**10:00 AM** +Петро Турчин (Оля і родина)

**Thu., January 12 – Чет., 12 Січня**

**9:15 AM** Health of Joseph Andrew  
(22<sup>nd</sup> birthday)

**Fri., Jan. 13 – П'ятниця., 13 Січня**

**9:15 AM** +Домка і Михайло Завадівські  
(родина)

**Sat., January 14 – Субота, 14 Січня**

**10:00 AM** (see Julian)

**4:30 PM** +Wasył Serediuk (wife Rose)

**Jan. 15: Sunday after Theophany** **T6**

**12:00 AM** За Парохіян – For Parishioners

**Are you listening "Good Samaritan"**  
**Ukrainian Radio Program**  
**on WJLL 1440 AM**

**Every Sunday at 2:00 PM?**

**Thanks for donations!**

\*\*\*

**Чи слухаєте нашу радіо передачу**  
**«Милосердний Самар'янин»**  
**Неділя, 2 год. на WJLL 1440 AM?**

**Дякуємо за пожертви!**

**Eternal Light burns for int. of**  
**Joseph Andrew**  
**Requ. By Family**

## ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

**8 Січня: Неділя по Різдві (Юл.)** **T5**

**11:00 р.** +Михайло Орос (дружина)

**Понеділок, 9 Січня – Св. Степан**

**10:00 р.** +Володимир Горбач (родина)

**Субота, 14 Січня – Обрізання Г.Н.І.Х.**

**10:00 р.** +Антон Вішка (родина)

**15 Січня: Н. Пер. Богоявленням** **T6**

**11:00 р.** +Ярослав Заньків (Анна)

**Вічне Світло в честь ПДМ горить**  
**за +Володимира Горбач**  
**Пожертва: Лев Кузмінський**

Коли плянуєте дату вашого вінчання  
чи хрещення то просимо поговорити з  
парохом, щоб потім не було непорозу-  
міння. Може статися, що в цей день  
буде неможливо відбутися заплановане.

\*\*\*

If you are planning a Baptism or Wed-  
ding, please contact Pastor about the  
date before making other arrangements.

*V. Rev. Marijan Proyk*

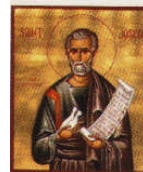
**Наша Парохіяльна Просфора**  
**відбувається нині, 8 Січня.**

**Просимо взяти участь!**

**Христос Раждається!**

\*\*\*

**Please come**  
**for Parish Christmas Dinner -**  
**Today, January 8.**  
**Christ is Born!**



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**Маємо місце для Вашого оголошення**

**DNIPRO**  **ДНІПРО**  
**Ukrainian Cultural Center**  
562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476  
[www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com](http://www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com)  
Hall and bar rentals are available.  
See your old friends on Friday night.  
Help rebuild our Ukrainian Home.  
**Please Contribute to the**  
**\$100,000 Building Fund.**  
Donations are tax deductible.



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2321 Millersport Hwy (Getzville Plaza)  
Amherst, NY 14068

**Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам!**  
**Просимо їх підтримати!**

## Ukrainian Home Dnipro Federal Credit Union

562 Genesee St., Buffalo, NY 14204  
(716) 847-6655 (716) 847-6988

[www.uhdfcu.com](http://www.uhdfcu.com)

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The Colonial Memorial Chapels, Inc.  
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3003 South Park Avenue  
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(716) 824-3007

**Melvin J. SLIWINSKI**

**FUNERAL HOME**

85 George Urban Boulevard  
Cheektowaga, N. Y. 14225

5090 Transit Rd, Depew, NY 14043

(716) 894-1772

## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Просимо звернути  
увагу на дати:

Sunday Coffee Hours: If any one would like to volunteer to host a Sunday, please contact Elaine, Dora, Emily, Mary (B.) or Anna.

- KITCHEN – is open Fridays 11 AM - 3 PM. Thank you for your help and patronage.
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. Please join us!

**PROSPHORA --- JANUARY 8**

### TOP'S GIFT CARDS:

Please help us raise money for our Church by purchasing



Top's Gift Cards from us. If you buy in Tops anyway, why not help. You do not lose or gain anything by doing this, but our Church will benefit greatly. We receive back 5% of your spending. To take advantage of this program, see Mary Bodnar or call 655-3810, or call the rectory. Thank you and God Bless!

Please note: You can purchase gasoline with this card at Tops Gasoline Station.

\*\*\*

У нас успішно продаються Карточки з крамниці "Топс". Купуючи їх ви помагате церкві. Для Вас не робить різниці чи ви платили грішми чи карточкою, але церква дістане від „Топс” 5%. На \$1,000 церква одержить \$50. Що б закупити слід звертатися до п. Марії Боднар, або до канцелярії. Дякуємо! Також можна цією карточкою купувати бензину.



CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly. Deadline for information is Friday Evening.

ЦЕРК. ВІСНИК видається тижнево  
Інформації подавати до четверга вечора.

## SAINT NICHOLAS

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА  
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ  
(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ  
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ)

Parish E-Mail: [stnbuffalo@yahoo.com](mailto:stnbuffalo@yahoo.com)

Web Page: <http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

Dioc. Web: <http://www.stamforddio.org>

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

**Rectory:** (716) 852-7566

**Fax:** 855-1319 ~ **Kitchen:** 852-1908

**Confession:** Before Liturgies

**Сповідь:** Перед Св. Літургіями

**Baptism:** By appointment

**Хрещення:** За домовленням

**Marriage:** Contact 6 months in advance

**Вінчання:** Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

**Religion classes – Релігійна Програма**

Saturday 11:45 AM – Субота 11:45 р.

**Ministry to the sick - Опіка над хворими**

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

**IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME**

**В разі потреби завжди можна закликати**

**Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest**

**V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor & dean**

**Please call if you are hospitalized,  
homebound and need a priest.**

**Просимо закликати якщо ви у  
лічниці або приковані до ліжка!**

## DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS

### “Special Appeal”

**IMO Harry Swiatkiwsky**

Olga & Elmer Bertsch - \$50.00

**IMO Wasyl Artymowycz**

Rose Serediuk - \$10.00

Gloria Grega Long - \$15.00

Elaine Nowadly - \$20.00

Iryna Staszkiw - \$20.00

Mary Beth Sukmann - \$20.00

Andrew & Gretrud Diakun - \$20.00

Michael, Michelle Michalow - \$25.00

**Donations Towards Coffee Hour**

*(Coffee Hour Benefits - Yearly  
Communication Assessment Fee)*

Luba Joven

**Thank You – Сердечна подяка!**

### IMPORTANT:

## FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

PLEASE RETURN your 2012 Registration Card found in the beginning of your envelope box, even if your information has not changed. We need to have a yearly updated list of parish parishioners Please also include e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers. We will only use cell phone numbers when we need to get in touch with you and cannot reach you at your home number. Thank you.

We have a parish e-mail list so that we can send parishioners information and updates that need to be sent quickly. If you have an e-mail address and are not already on our parish list, please include your e-mail address on your 2012 registration card, place it in the collection basket or give it to Father Procyk or Elaine. If you have changed your e-mail address recently, please notify the rectory of the change of address. Thank you to those who have already notified us of changes.

## Sacraments of Confirmation, Baptism, and Holy Eucharist

Was bestowed upon:

**Roman Jude Menclewicz**

(Nov 5, 2011) son of Conrad and Natalia Papisz. May our good & loving Lord grant His blessings upon Roman J!

&

**Breanna Alyssa Irene Repeta**

(Dec 17, 2011) dau. of Robert and Jessica Popadyn. May our good & loving Lord grant His blessings upon Breanna A.I!

**Congratulations! Mnohaya Lita!**

\*\*\*

**Роман Юда Менцлевич**

Син Конрада і Наталки Папіж прийняв тайни хрещення, миропомазання і Пресв. Євхаристії 5 Листопада. Хай Господь благословить щастям і здоров'ям! Гратулюємо батькам!

та

**Бріанна Аліса Ірена Репета**

Донька Роберта Джесики Попадин прийняла тайни хрещення, миропомазання і Пресв. Євхаристії 17 Грудня. Хай Господь благословить щастям і здоров'ям! Гратулюємо батькам!

На Многая і Благая Літа!

## The Blessings of Homes

Father will attempt to bless as many homes as possible this year. If for some reason he does not make it to your home and you want your house blessed, or if you would like a certain time of day, please let Father know.

\*\*\*

Постараюся відвідати з благословенням домів. Якщо не буду у вас а хотіли би, або є проблема часу – просимо дати знати.



The Ukrainian American  
Youth Association  
of Buffalo, New York  
Lesia Ukrainka Branch

is pleased  
to announce  
their annual

## TRADITIONAL UKRAINIAN NEW YEAR'S DANCE — MALANKA

Which will take place on  
Saturday, January 28th, 2012

at the Ukrainian Cultural Center  
“DNIPRO” hall located at:  
562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, New York

All are invited to come and  
join the celebration!



Music will be  
provided by:  
“Vechirka”

Music from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am  
Champagne Toast

Tickets are \$30.00 and  
\$25 for students to 18 years

For Tickets Please Contact:

Helen Turyk	697-0807
William Serediuk	821-0711
Osyp Grega	604-4798



ОСЕРЕДОК  
СУМ  
ім. ЛЕСІ  
УКРАЇНКИ  
в Бофало Н. Й.  
Влаштовує

## ТРАДИЦІЙНУ МАЛАНКУ

яка відбудеться  
в суботу 28-го січня 2012 р.  
в залах Українського Дому  
“Дніпро” при 562 Дженесі вул.  
Бофало Н. Й.

Щиро запрошуємо все Українське  
громадянство міста Бофало і  
околиць до участі.

До танців приграватиме:  
оркестра

“ВЕЧІРКА”

Забава о год. 9:00 до 1:00  
“Champagne Toast”

Білеті: \$30

\$25 для студенти до 18р.

До замовлення білетів:

Галя Турик	697-0807
Василь Середюк	821-0711
Осип Грегa	604-4798



## ЗАБАВА - Pre Lenten and St. Valentine's Day DINNER-DANCE



Saturday  
February 11, 2012



7:00pm

St. John the Baptist Ukr. Cath. Church  
3275 Elmwood Ave, Kenmore NY 14217

**Tel: (716) 873-5011**

[stjohnmyparish@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnmyparish@gmail.com)

Parishioners and guests are invited to en-  
joy a relaxing evening of music and friendly  
atmosphere to the tunes of the band “Kar-  
paty” from Niagara Falls, Ont., Canada.

**Tickets: ADULTS \$35.00**

Children up to 14 years old FREE  
(with parents)

Homemade Food,  
Coffee,  
Desert  
and  
cash bar  
will be available.



For table and tickets reservations:  
call by February 05, 2012

(716) 873-5011  
(347) 342-2208

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



„У цьому слові – Христос Раждається  
– є намогутніша потіха, бо в ньому є  
щось, що не з цього світу, щось із неба,  
щось із тієї радості, яка людину  
підносить до життя надприродного:  
віри, надії, любові. В цьому слові є  
суть цілої Євангелії, тієї доброї вісті  
про спасіння.”

(З пастирського Послання Митрополита  
Андрея Шептицького на Святий Вечір, 1944 р.)

**Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**  
**Христос Раждається! Славимо Його!**

Christmas Greetings to all Parishioners  
was also sent by:

**Most Rev. Stephen Chmilar**

З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

*"Ісусе Милый, ми не багаті,  
Золота дарів не можем дати,  
Но дар цінніший нисім від мира,  
це віра серця, і любов щира."*

З Божою допомогою дожили ми до Різдва Христового. Кожного року пригадуємо Божу любов до нас, згадуємо моменти різдвяної містерії: зорю, ангельські хори на небесах, поклін пастухів, прихід мудреців, які з далекого сходу принесли Христові дорогоцінні дари. Подарували йому золото, принесли миро, заофірували кадило. Очевидно було їм не зрозуміло, як то месія, що все мав би посідати, нічого не має, той, що володіє усіма стає підвладним. Заофірували дари, поклонилися і відійшли. І забрали зі собою дари що їм Христос передав. Ці дари надалеко більші від золота і мира і кадила: Це спокій, це радість, це надія, це свідомість, що ось вони бачили довгоочікуваного.

А які дари ми приносимо Господеві у цей Різдвяний час. Золота не маємо, ані мира, ані запашного кадила, але маємо свою готовість віддатися Йому на службу. Позволити Господеві, щоб Він послужився нами. Нехай наші руки стануть його руками, якими він буде робити добрі діла. Даймо добрий приклад, щоб інші бачачи нас могли також шукати за Христом і принести йому свої дари. А Христос нам усім передасть ті самі дари, що дав мудрецам: СПОКІЙ І РАДІСТЬ І НАДІЮ, А НАДІВСЕ ЛЮБОВ.

Бажаємо усім вам, щасливих Різдвяних Свят. Нехай Христос народиться у наших серцях та й у відношенню до наших ближніх, бо у противному для нас не буде мати значення Його відвічне народження, ані дівствене, ані кожнорічне літургічне.

Христос Раждається! Славимо Його!

Christmas is the birth of our forgiveness, the first moment of our redemption, and the Eternal offering of God's Love.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only beloved Son!" Love cannot look with indifference on the hungry and the sick. Love cannot turn a blind eye to the lost and lonely. Love must give, as God has given us salvation through the offering of His Son. This Divine gift was freely given, lovingly given, graciously given to all of us, as everlasting life is brought to us through this birth of our Savior!

Christ shared our human nature that we may receive His Divine nature. All things become new for us. We have new goals, new ideas, new direction, and renewed hope. Christmas is indeed a time of rejoicing. Rejoicing in the Grace of God, rejoicing in the release of forgiveness, rejoicing in a new life with a new mission!

During this most blessed season... let us embrace our Lord's Love with one another, and open our hearts to His Word! For the greatest gift we can offer Jesus on the day of His birth... is to love one another, as our Heavenly Father so loves us!

God is not awaiting us in some distant place. He is ready and waiting to pass into the very center of our heart's desire for Him... to minister the blessing of His own life, His own character, and His own being..!

Emmanuel... God is with us! Let us allow the birth of Christ our Savior, to captivate our heart and embrace our Spirit with Joy!

May God's peace and love be with you always! Merry Christmas!

## From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

CHRIST IS BORN!

January 8, 2012

GLORIFY HIM!

CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! IN THE JORDAN!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
(Your name here, for your very own personal letter)

"BRRR" and "WOW!" A little while ago I was outside walking in the winter night, and those are the two thoughts that jumped right into my brain. Tonight, Tuesday January 3, we are receiving the coldest temperatures so far this winter season. A few inches of snow has fallen, nothing like the forecasters predicted, but they were 'right on the money' with the call for freezing temps, as it's about 3 degrees out there. The Arctic Clipper is zipping by and it is also very windy. So it was a "BRRR" kind of walk.

However, it is so crystal clear I thought there for a moment I must be on a mountain in Pennsylvania. The winter sky is dancing with zillions and zillions of stars, all highlighted by the bright moon, which will soon grow to "full." So it is a "WOW" kind of night! If the earth is so incredibly beautiful, how are we ever going to stand it in heaven??!!

As you may have noticed with my greeting above, we are in full celebration of both the Julian and Gregorian calendars. This Friday (Christmas Eve) and Saturday (Christmas Day) throughout all the world our people will, once again, be hearing that "glorious song of old – Boh predvichny narodivsia..God-eternal is born!" Merry Christmas, to family, friends and to all who celebrate the "old calendar."

It is really easy to join in the celebration because we, who had Christmas on December 25,th are still very much in the Christ-

mas spirit. Our decorations are still lit, we are enjoying the wonderful foods, and the carols continue to ring out. This weekend, though, we will be celebrating that other important, beautiful and grace-filled time of the Theophany. This great holy day actually fits right in with the celebration of the Nativity for we now see "the Little Babe of Bethlehem being revealed as our "Z Nami Boh-God with us!" Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord, God the Lord has revealed Himself to us! What a gift we have in the treasure of our holy days!

Let's hope for nice weather for this month of January. Your priests now have one of the busiest, if not the busiest, months of the entire year before them. Not only are the Fathers celebrating the services of these beautiful feasts, having the "Parish Proshoras," (parish Christmas dinner) and doing the regular day to day ministry, but they will also be making the annual visits to (all ?) homes with the newly blessed Jordan Holy Water. I hope everyone will invite Father to their home for this beautiful custom of bringing the blessing and presence of our dear Lord to each and every house, and to all dwelling there.

Sad to say, this tradition of house blessing is another of our customs that is falling by the wayside. In the old days it was expected that the priest would try to visit every house during this time of Theophany. It was real easy in the village when Father walked out of the Church after the service and would visit most everyone on the same day. It is, admittedly, a bit more difficult these days, but it is still no problem for him. These days, a number of our parishes have forms for the parishioners to fill out asking whether or not you even want this



blessing. Everyone should know that Father is never too busy. Many things I do make me feel like a priest, and for sure this occurs when I am called to bless! I hope everyone will see the beauty and good in this special blessing.

Speaking of the Parish Prosporphas/ Christmas Dinners, most of our parishes will be having this annual get together over the next few weeks. If your parish has one, I hope you will be there to share in the joy, fellowship and good food of this beautiful time when all the world celebrates the coming of our God among us! Locally, we hope to be at St. Nicholas this coming Sunday, January 8 to take part in theirs. It is so good when the parish is able to have this traditional dinner because that too, is one of the customs that is slipping away from our yearly celebrations. In our modern life-style we have many reasons why we can't have the traditional meal in our homes so it is so very important, and such a good endeavor, to have our parishes present this special and meaningful meal. Even if you had your own meal with all the traditional foods, I hope you will make the effort to attend your parish prosphora.

Did you ever notice the icon of our Lord's Nativity? Right in the very center is the figure of the New-born Christ Child wrapped in swaddling clothes with a black cave behind Him. This is to remind us of how He would one day look when He was wrapped in the burial clothes and laid in the dark tomb. His birth and death are never separated.

Even as we celebrate Christmas, we begin to prepare for Pascha. On January 22 we will have Zaccheus Sunday, followed by the preparatory Sundays for the Great Fast, which begins this year on Feb. 19 (n.s.) with Pascha occurring on April 8. Old calendar is one week apart this year so the Fast begins on Feb. 26, making Pascha the 15 of April.

Here I go again...winter hasn't really hit us and I'm thinking about spring already. Know what little Bart Simpson says, "Wasn't me! Wasn't me!" Nope, it was the Michigan Bulb Co. I already received their catalogue! And everything in it is half price! There I am, snuggled up on the couch under a blanket, with a cup of tea, piece of fruitcake ☺, and my new catalogue. And that little book does create

visions of spring and summer dancing in my head. Doesn't get much better than that.

I hope you have your little piece of heaven on this earth... I also hope and pray that you had a beautiful, happy and special Christmas, and that your life and your family is overflowing with all the good things this time brings. May our good God bless you and yours with His Peace! May our Holy

Mother the Theotokos protect you beneath her veil.

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!

With much Christmas love,  
Father Ray



From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

Two days ago, we celebrated a day that is called by many names: the Baptism of our Lord, Theophany, and it is also called the Illumining - the visible manifestation of God and of the Holy Trinity. Theophany is the appearance of God, where indeed the Holy Trinity manifested itself, after Our Lord's baptism in the river Jordan. Why would we call it Illumining? It is because through baptism we are indeed illuminated, and our Church at one point in history was lit up with a great number of candles, symbolizing the light of the knowledge of the true God. *"The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light"* (Matthew 4:16). God had a plan for mankind. It was for us to grow in knowledge and in wisdom, according to how we could bear it, in purity, without any knowledge of evil at all. But mankind did not choose that plan. So God, in His wisdom knowing this, sent His only-begotten Son. *"And Jesus, when He was baptized went up straightway out of the waters and lo! The Heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon Him. And a voice from Heaven saying, 'This is my beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased.'*" John the Baptist was in the water trembling, as a man before God. And God comes out of the water, and the Holy Spirit descends upon His shoulder, Jesus' shoulder, so as not to confuse the two. And the Heavens are made open to us through baptism.

It is through the mystery of the Theophany of our Lord, the self-revelation of God at the Baptism of Jesus Christ in the river Jordan that Jesus revealed Himself as the Messiah and Savior. Jesus came to the waters of the river Jordan; He stood before John the Baptist, and the Son of God bowed His pure head to the Forerunner, and being baptized, saved mankind, since He is the Lover of Mankind. *"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world"* (John 1:29). This feast of the Baptism of our Lord places before our eyes one of the greatest and profound truths of our holy faith – the mystery of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of our Lord, the most Holy Trinity was clearly revealed and bore witness to the divinity of Christ. On the Holy Day of Theophany, we have an amazing thing before us.

He who created the waters submits to being baptized in them. He who created the Heavens and the earth and saw that it was good, He Himself submits to cleansing in waters. He who regenerates our flesh, who is the Regenerator, He descends in the flesh into regenerating waters. And Christ does this to show us how necessary it is to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and cleaned by the waters of grace.

Our Christian life in the flesh is to try to acquire the virtues, to acquire the knowledge and grace, to acquire the Holy Spirit, as many have done before us by fasting, by diligence, by care, by prayers, by repentance, by devotion to God, by the whole Christian life. The light that comes with the appearance of Jesus, the Messiah, is also the light of the Gospel, the word of the Lord, the message of the coming of God's Kingdom to God's people. St. Augustine wrote in his sermon: "We celebrate the mystery of the epiphany on earth. God, by means of a star in the Heavens, heralded His nativity; and by baptism in the Jordan, He sanctified water for the renewal of mankind." The Church blesses water. This is called the great blessing, and in it we read amazing passages from the Old Testament about water and its sanctifying qualities. And then we take this water and use it to sanctify our homes, our souls, and one another. We talk about how our Lord cleanses the water, casting out demons from it, and making it pure and wholesome. It is good - to anoint ourselves and one another with, good to bless and sanctify everything. And we indeed bless and sanctify water because our Lord blessed and sanctified water.

The Feast of the Theophany of our Lord is among the most ancient and greatest feasts of the Ecclesiastical Year. There is responsibility placed upon all of us, because of the grace we have been given - because of our baptism, because of the All-Holy mysteries. St. John the Baptist further reminded those that while he baptizes with water, the One has come, the Messiah, who will baptize us with the Holy Spirit. Everything that we do is sacred, and it makes us responsible for living according to how we have promised to live. The good news is that we are able to do this, through the example and grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.