



*Welcome to St. Athanasius the Great  
Byzantine Catholic Church*

***“Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!”  
Christos Chreschajetjsja! V Jordani!***

**FATHER MYKHAYLO SINCERELY THANKS TO EVERYONE  
FOR THE CHRISTMAS GREETINGS CARDS.  
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU!**

At your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, worship of the Trinity was revealed; for the Father's voice bore witness to you, calling you his beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, you appeared and enlightened the world. Glory to you!

**(Troparion of the Theophany)**

## **1 THE MYSTERY OF THE HOLY BAPTISM**

Parish family mark your calendar.  
Heidi Warnke will have the Holy Mystery of Baptism **on JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup>  
at 10AM.**

**GOD GRANT HER MANY BLESSED AND HAPPY YEARS!**

## **2 BLESSING HOUSES ON THEOPHANY**

**FOR BLESSING HOUSES ON THEOPHANY TIME YOU CAN SIGN UP ON THE  
TABLE WHERE YOU PICK UP BULLETINS OR YOU CAN CALL/TEXT ON  
FATHER CELL PHONE (216) 532-6364 AND SCHEDULE ANYTIME WORKS  
BEST FOR YOU.**

## **3 ALTAR SERVERS MEETING**

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting for altar servers will be on January 18<sup>th</sup> after Divine  
Liturgy in the Church.  
Please mark your calendar and plan to bring your child to this meeting.

## **4 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**There will be Knights of Columbus meeting on Sunday January 25th after  
luncheon.**

Everyone who would like to become a member of Knights of Columbus  
asked to speak to Glan Grabov or Henry Parecie

## **5 WINTER CARMEL MARKET**

**THE WINTER CARMEL MARKET starts on **October 18, at 7:15am** we  
load the church van, then drive to 611 Third Av SW, Carmel, IN.  
46032 **Ends at noon****

Services for the Week of January 4 – January 11, 2026				
Day		Time	Service	Readings
<u>Sunday</u>	January 4 Sunday before Theophany	8:15 AM 10:00 AM  11:30 AM 1:00 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy  Luncheon Ukrainian Liturgy	Jn. 20:11-18 2 Thim. 4:5-8 Mk. 1:1-8
Monday	January 5 Vigil of the Theophany	12:00 PM 5:30 PM	Royal Hours Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil <u>Great Blessing of water</u>	Cor. 9:19-27 Lk. 3:1-18
Tuesday	January 6 The Theophany of Our Lord	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy	Tit. 2:11-14;3:4-7 Mt. 3:13-17
Wednesday	January 7 Synaxis of the forerunner John	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy	Act. 19:1-8 Jn. 1:29-34
Thursday	January 8 Venerable Mother Dominica		No service	Jam. 1:19-27 Mk. 10:17-27
Friday	January 9 Holy Martyr Polyeuct		No service	Jam. 2:1-13 Mk. 10:23-32
Saturday	January 10 Holy Father Gregory of Nyssa	7:15-12:00 5:00 AM	<u>Winter Market</u> Vespers & Confession	Eph. 6:10-17 Mt. 4:1-11
Sunday	January 11 Sunday after Theophany	8:15 AM 10:00 AM  11:30 AM	Matins Divine Liturgy <u>BAPTISM</u> Luncheon	Jn. 20:19-31 Eph. 4:7-13 Mt. 4:12-17
Financial update: 12/28/2025				
Bakery	Building & Holy Day	Candles	Ukrainian Liturgy	Sunday Tithes
\$1,565.09	\$75; \$393.10	\$355	\$105	\$657.37
Totals \$3,150.56				

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OUR PARISH

# SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

## 2 Timothy 4:5-8

My son, Timothy: As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

## Mark 1: 1-8

Here begins the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In Isaiah the prophet it is written: "I send my messenger before you to prepare your way: a herald's voice in the desert, crying, Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path." Thus it was that John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins. All the Judean countryside and the people of Jerusalem went out to him in great numbers. They were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, and wore a leather belt around his waist. His food was grasshoppers and wild honey. The theme of his preaching

was: "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. Have baptized you in water; he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

### Glory to Jesus Christ!

#### “The Beginning” (Mk 1:1a)

Prepare the way in your heart. Origen: Is it not within us, is it not in our heart, that we prepare a straight and level path for the Lord? .. The human heart is great, wide, capacious, if only it has become pure. Do you want to know its greatness and breadth? Look at how many divine feelings it contains... But do not only look at its greatness, but also at the firmness of the knowledge of the truth... Prepare the way for the Lord with a good life, keep the path with glorious deeds, so that through some iniquity the Word of God does not pass by you (Origen, “Homilies on the Gospel of Luke”).

#### “Behold, I send My Angel” (Mk 1:2)

Why John is called an angel? Tertullian: It is known that the Son of God himself spoke to Moses and said to the people: “Behold, I send my angel before your face,” that is, before the people; “he will guard you on the way and bring you into the land that I have prepared for you; follow him and listen to him, and do not be rebellious, for he will not forgive your sin, for my name is in him” (cf. Ex. 23:20-21). For it is up to Joshua, not Moses, to lead the people into the promised land (cf. Num. 14:30). He calls him an angel because of the miracles he was commissioned to perform (the miracles that Joshua the son of Nun performed, which you have read about yourself), because of his prophetic duties, which consist in proclaiming the Will of God. In the same way, the apostle called John the Forerunner a future angel (i.e., a “messenger”), when the Holy Spirit spoke from the face of the Father: “Behold, I send my angel before your face,” that is, the face of Christ, “who will prepare the way before you” (cf. Mark 1:2).

It is not a new thing for the Holy Spirit to call angels those whom God chooses as ministers of His glory (Tertullian, Against the Jews).

### “Baptism of repentance for the remission of sins” (Mark 1:4)

Repentance and purification. Tertullian: John gathered the people and generously warmed them with his kindness. He, who often felt ingratitude, always called for repentance; in preaching repentance, he absorbed the voices of all the prophets. Calling those who were chosen to inherit the promises made to the seed of Abraham, he promised them the mercy that would shine in the end of time for the whole world. But before that he commanded them to take upon themselves the obligation of repentance ... He pointed out the need to repent and purify thoughts, so that no past offense would stain people and no ignorance would defile their hearts. In the bodies of such people, repentance - such as sweeps, scrapes and throws away - prepares a clean dwelling for the Holy Spirit who descends upon them, through whom heavenly blessings willingly enter us (Tertullian "On Repentance").

Types of baptism. Gregory of Nazianzus: Let us reflect a little on the difference between baptisms ... Moses baptized, but with water, and before that - with a cloud and a sea. This was an indication of the future, as Paul also believes: the sea was a type of water, the cloud - of the Spirit, just as the manna was a type of the bread of life, and the water from the rock - of divine drink (1 Cor. 10:1-4). John also baptized, but not in the Jewish way, because he baptized not only with water, but also for repentance, although not yet completely spiritually (since the text does not add: "... and with the Spirit"). Jesus also baptizes, but with the Spirit - this is perfection! How is it not God - I will say a little more boldly - from Whom you yourself become a god? I also know the fourth baptism: with martyrdom and blood, with which Christ Himself was baptized - and it is much more honorable than the others, since it cannot be desecrated again. I also know the fifth baptism: of tears, - but it requires great labor, because in it we water our bed every night with tears (Cf. Ps. 6:7) (Gregory of Nazianzus, "On the Holy Lamps (Word 39)").

**CHRIST IS AMONG US! HE IS AND SHALL BE**





### Weekend Divine Services

**Saturday: 5 PM Vespers**

**Sunday:** 8:15 AM Matins  
10 AM Divine Liturgy

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