

Celebrating Theophany Every Day

The Feast of Christ's Theophany (or Epiphany) is celebrated with great solemnity in the Byzantine Church. The word "theophany" means a divine "manifestation" or "revealing." Jesus of Nazareth - a carpenter - was revealed on the banks of the Jordan River to be the Son of God and the long-awaited Messiah - the "Christ." A voice came from the heavens that said, "This is My beloved Son, My favor rests on Him." (Matthew 3: 17)

Let us imagine ourselves standing on the banks of the River Jordan. We are witnessing the baptism of Jesus at the hands of Saint John the Baptist and the revelation of Jesus as God in the flesh. What a privilege that would have been!

Yet, God is revealed to us each and every

day. God manifests Himself to us not just on the banks of the River Jordan but at the bus stop, the grocery store, and in the work place. His image is within each of us. He is in our co-workers, our spouses, our children - even in our enemies.

The real challenge of Christian discipleship is to endeavor to see the image of Christ in all people and to allow them to see that same Godly image within us. The celebration of the Great Feast of Theophany is not a one-day occasion commemorating an event that took place some two thousand years ago. Rather, it is living, day-to-day, the conviction that God is within each human being, and that each human being ought to be treated as though he or she is the living image of Christ.

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



Icon of the Theophany of Our Lord -- January 6th



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491
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Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Bruce Riebe
Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

January 5, 2025 Sunday Before Theophany Schedule of Services

Sunday	5	<u>Sunday Before Theophany</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners <u>Vigil of Theophany of Our Lord - The Great Blessing of Water</u> 6:00 PM Vespers with Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water +Mary K. Kenes by Lois & Jim Greybar
Monday	6	<u>Theophany - Baptism of Our Lord</u> 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Michaeleen Forkal by Jim Forkal & Family
Tuesday	7	11:00 AM Rite of Christian Burial for +Jean Rusnak
Thursday	9	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Thomas J. Withers by Bill & Nancy Withers
Saturday	11	5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	12	<u>Sunday After Theophany</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

We pray for the sick and homebound of our parish, especially:

Dot Wochok	Mary Ann Baran	Mary Ann Horne	Mary Ellen Haber
Francis Hughes	Gary Dorencz	Michele Lewis	Kim Hughes
Frank Miko	Ken Hrusosky	Fr. Bernard Danber	Mike Sheedy
Bob Horne			

Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Parish

In all decisions regarding parish membership and Sacramental life, the pastor exercises the final decision and the confidentiality of the persons involved must be respected.

Parish Membership is determined by three things:

1. Being registered in the parish for a sufficient amount of time
2. Faithful and consistent participation in the liturgical life of the parish especially on Sundays and Holy days.
3. Regular financial support of the parish. Use of offertory envelopes by parish members is required for weekly donations

The Sacred Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Matrimony are available only to those persons who comply with the above requirements of parish membership.

A Biblically based stewardship is part of the vision of Annunciation parish. Parishioners are encouraged to practicing tithing and also to consider Annunciation parish in planned giving such as trust funds, etc.

Couples who are planning to be married at Annunciation parish must be free to be married in the Church and must contact the pastor at least six months prior to their proposed wedding date. Persons applying for annulments of a previous marriage should not set a Church wedding date unless their annulment has been granted.

Couples who are cohabitating or involved in same sex civil unions or so-called same sex "marriages," as well as couples who are contracepting are asked to seek the pastor's help in understanding the Church's teaching and in conforming their lives to the moral teaching of the Church. Such persons **cannot receive Holy Communion** until their lives are reconciled with the Church.

Parish members entering the hospital or who are home-bound should contact the pastor or parish business office.

Prior to undergoing surgery or going under anesthesia parish members should contact the pastor.

No eulogies or public addresses by laity are permitted during funeral services.

Cremation is permitted but not encouraged. Ashes are not permitted in the church. Funeral services with the body of the deceased in the church must take place prior to cremation. Ashes are to be buried according to the burial rite of the Church. Ashes cannot be scattered or kept in homes.

Appropriate behavior and dress are required for all liturgical services. No audible conversations, or waving across the church. Electronic devices must be turned off. No food, candy, or gum chewing. Dress code is formal and modest for all services.

Abstinence from meat is to be observed every Friday. If this is not possible an equivalent penitential practice is to be observed.

Photos from 25 Years of Annunciation

We plan to create a video to celebrate our 25th Anniversary and want to showcase photos of parish life and liturgy over the past 25 years.

Please share your photos from baptisms, weddings, holy days, and events like Prairie Fest and Christmas on the Prairie.

Ways to Share:

Physical Photos

We will scan your photos and get them back to you as soon as possible.

Place multiple photos together in a ziploc bag. Attach a post-it and note:

- Your name
- Phone number or email
- Information about the photos: who is in the photo, about what year it was taken, and any other helpful information (for example, what parish event the photo was taken at)

Online Form

Upload photos to an online form at bit.ly/4g2xsjW or scan QR code:



Email

Email photos to Lea at la.rod Barry@yahoo.com. Include the info listed above.

Other

Call or text Lea (630-589-2069) and we'll arrange something!

Sunday, January 5th

6:00PM

Vespers/Divine Liturgy/Great Blessing of Water



Next to Easter, Theophany is the second most important feast day on the Byzantine calendar.

This is the day when we celebrate the manifestation of God in three persons as Christ was baptized in the Jordan waters. This year, we will celebrate this Glorious Feast on the Eve of Theophany, Sunday Jan 5th, with Vespers/Divine Liturgy and the Great Blessing of Water.

This is a glorious feast, so start this Jubilee Year off right by coming back after our regular Sunday services to attend these meaningful services.

7th Annual Blessing of Lake Michigan at Whiting Lakefront Park

Saturday, January 11th
10:00AM

Lunch to follow
at St Mary's Hall

See sign-up sheet in Narthex.
Transportation will be provided.

Christ has come to renew
all of creation!
Witness this yourself as the
waters of Lake Michigan
become the waters of the
Jordan River!

Traditionally, at the feast of our Lord's Theophany on January 6th, we consecrate water which is used to sanctify the homes of all the faithful. In bringing the blessed water to our homes, and sprinkling it in each room, we rid our homes of any evil influence, and rededicate it to God in a special way. As we were once renewed by the waters of our own baptism into Christ, so too our home, and our entire lives, are re-dedicated and renewed unto Christ our God each year at this time.



If you are interested in having Fr. Tom bless your house, please fill out the House Blessing Form in the Business Office.

Blessing Bags

Now that we have had our Christmas celebrations, it is time to focus on those who are in need of our help. On Sunday, Jan 26th the GCU will be hosting a service project in conjunction with our parish. We plan to make about 50 Blessing Bags that will be handed out to the homeless and less fortunate in the Chicago area. Between now and then, we will be taking donations for items we can add to these blessing bags. The GCU has already purchased socks for the bags and will be providing lunch for the volunteers who will be packing the bags.

We will have a box in the Narthex for the month of January to collect other items we can add to these bags. Below is a list of some items that would be helpful. Please make sure to buy travel size or individually packaged items.

- tissue
- band-aids
- deodorant
- mouth wash
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- shampoo
- body wash
- fruit snacks
- granola bars
- tuna salad/crackers
- trail mix
- small bottle of water
- peanut butter & crackers
- chips
- jerky sticks
- wet ones
- chapstick
- tampons
- wash cloth
- hand/toe warmers
- alcohol swabs
- razors
- hand sanitizer

BINGO Sunday, January 19th

Marian Village
15624 Marian Dr - Homer Glen, IL

Doors open at 2:30PM
Bingo begins at 3:00PM

RSVP by Friday, Jan 15th
to Ailish Doherty at 708-226-3786 or
adoherty@franciscancommunities.org



Light lunch provided by American Legion Post 2011

Family Catechesis
Sunday, January 19th
Noon - 1:30pm