



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Ukrainian Catholic Parish

Українська Католицька Парафія Воздвиження Чесного Хреста



Sundays:

- 9:30 am Rosary
- 10 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesdays:

- 9 am Divine Liturgy

Most Major Feasts*:

- 9 am or 7 pm Divine Liturgy

(* It's always best to check the calendar in this bulletin for upcoming special events & feasts.)

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More info on the next page.

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ: Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, Brother of the Lord; Octoechos Tone 4;

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Sunday before Theophany; Octoechos Tone 5; Synaxis of the Seventy Holy Apostles;

Christ is Born! - Let us Glorify Him! Христос народився! - Славимо Його!

Welcome Fr Greg who is substituting for Fr. Bo these two Sundays.

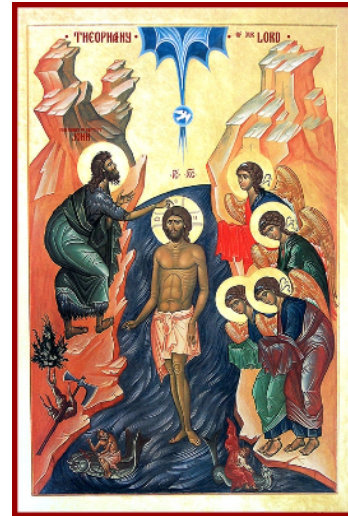
the Feast of Theophany

The Feast of Theophany (also called Jordan or Epiphany) is a major celebration of the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River. It is observed on January 6.

The word Theophany means "manifestation of God". The feast commemorates the first public revelation of the Holy Trinity at Christ's baptism by John:

- The Son (Jesus) was standing in the water being baptized.
- The Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove.
- The Father's voice was heard from heaven proclaiming Jesus as His "beloved Son".

Theologically, the feast emphasizes that Christ did not need purification; rather, His entry into the water sanctified the water itself and, by extension, all of creation.



- The Great Blessing of Water: The central rite is the solemn blessing of "Jordan Water". This ceremony often takes place outdoors at a river or lake where a cross-shaped hole is cut into the ice. The priest immerses a cross and three-branched candles into the water to symbolize the Trinity.
- Spiritual Renewal: Many faithful participate in ice swimming, dipping into the blessed freezing water three times for spiritual renewal and health. This or more simply being blessed by the newly created Holy Water reminds us of our baptism. (I don't recommend jumping into ice water for most people)
- Bringing Holy Water Home: Parishioners take containers of blessed water to their homes. It is used throughout the year to bless the family, sick individuals, their homes and/or food, and is in a way a prayer for God's protection and grace. The Holy Water is not magical, it is God who does the protecting and blessing.
- Blessing of Homes: In the weeks following the feast, priests visit parishioners' homes to pray and sprinkle the rooms with the newly blessed water, reorienting the household toward Christ.
- Schedry Vechir (Generous Eve): On the eve of the feast, families share a final festive meatless meal (the second "Holy Supper") featuring dishes like kutia (wheat and honey). Traditional carols called shchedrivky are sung to wish neighbours a prosperous and blessed new year.

Fr. Bo will be back on Monday, January 5, at 6 pm to celebrate Complines, Liturgy and the Great blessing of Water. This is a MAJOR feast, so please attend if you can.

The Next Couple Weeks at Holy Cross

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Sunday after the Nativity of Christ: Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, Brother of the Lord; Tone 4; The Two Thousand Martyrs who were burned in Nicomedia; Blessed Hieromartyr Hryhoriy (Gregory) Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanyslaviv. Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ. Resurrection Gospel 7. Galatians 1:11-19; Matthew 2:13-23. 9:30 am Rosary 10 am Divine Liturgy (Bilingual) with Fr. Greg (Not a "Children's Liturgy") Yes Sunday School, Yes Coffee.	29 The Holy Children who were killed for Christ in Bethlehem; Our Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Monastery of the Sleepless Ones. Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ. Hebrews 8:7-13; Mark 8:11-21. 10:30 am St. Nicholas' Annual Clergy Liturgy and Lunch.	30 The Holy Martyr Anysia.; The Venerable Zoticus, Presbyter abd Protector of Orphans. Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ. Hebrews 9:8-10,15-23; Mark 8:22-26. 10:30 am St. Nicholas' Annual Clergy Liturgy and Lunch.	31  Our Venerable Mother Melania the Roman. Leave-taking of the Nativity of Christ. Hebrews 10:1-18; Mark 8:30-34. No 9 am Divine Liturgy	January 1 ✙ The Circumcision of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Our Father Among the Saints Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia.; Feast of our Lord. Luke 2:20-21, 40-52; Luke 6:17-23; Colossians 2:8-12; Hebrews 7:26-8:2. No Divine Liturgy No 5:30 pm Appointment	2  Our Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome.; Pre-feast of Theophany. Mark 9:33-41; Hebrews 11:8,11-16. 5:30 pm Appointment?	3 Saturday before Theophany; The Holy Prophet Malachi; The Holy Martyr Gordius.; Matthew 3:1-11; 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5.
4 Sunday before Theophany; Tone 5; Synaxis of the Seventy Holy Apostles; Our Venerable Father Theoctistus, Hegumen of the Cucomo Monastery in Sicily.; Resurrectional Gospel 8. Mark 1:1-8; 2 Timothy 4:5-8. 9:30 am Rosary 10 am Divine Liturgy (English) with Fr. Greg Yes Sunday School, Yes Coffee. Fr. Bo Concludes his holidays	5  Eve of Theophany; The Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas; The Venerable Syncletica.; Aliturgical – The Divine Liturgy is not served today. Abstinence from meat and eggs (and, traditionally, dairy) and foods that contain these ingredients. Theosis Studios 6 pm Complines, Festal Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Water	6 ✙ The Holy Theophany of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ.; Feast of our Lord. Holy Day of obligation. Matthew 3:13-17; Titus 2:11-15; 3:4-7. No Service at Holy Cross 10:30 am Venta Care Centre Divine Liturgy 6 pm Fr. Bo teaches Iconography at NTC	7 ✙ Synaxis of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John.; Post-feast of Theophany. Great Doxology. John 1:29-34; Acts 19:1-8. 9 am Divine Liturgy 7 pm Appointment	8 Our Venerable Father George the Chosebite; Holy Emilian the Confessor. Our Venerable Mother Dominica.; Post-feast of Theophany. Mark 10:17-27; James 1:19-27. Malanka Prep 5:30 pm Appointment	9 The Holy Martyr Polyeuctus.; Post-feast of Theophany. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Mark 10:23-32; James 2:1-13. Malanka Prep 5:30 pm Appointment	10 Saturday after Theophany; Our Holy Father Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa; The Venerable Dometian, Bishop of Miletene; The Venerable Marcan, Presbyter and Econome of the Great Church.; Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:10-17. 
11 Sunday after Theophany; Octoechos Tone 6; ✙ Our Venerable Father Theodosius, Founder of the Cenobitic Monastic Life.; Polyteles Feast. Resurrectional Gospel 9. Ephesians 4:7-13; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Matthew 4:12-17; Matthew 11:27-30. 9:30 am Rosary 10 am Divine Liturgy (Bilingual) Yes Sunday School, Yes Coffee.	12 The Holy Martyr Tatiana.; Post-feast of Theophany. Mark 10:46-52; James 2:14-26. 7:30 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting	13 The Holy Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus.; Post-feast of Theophany. Mark 11:11-23; James 3:1-10. 9 am Blessing of water at BCR 6 pm Alpha 6 pm Fr. Bo teaches Iconography at NTC	14 Our Venerable Fathers Massacred in Sinai and Rhaithu; Repose of the Holy Equal-to-the Apostles Nina, Enlightener of Georgia.; Leave-taking of Theophany. Mark 11:23-26; James 3:11-4:6. 9 am Divine Liturgy 6:30 Parish Pastoral Council's special Bylaws Meeting	15 ✙ Our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John the Hut-Dweller.; Saint with Six Stichera. Mark 11:27-33; James 4:7-5:9. 5:30 pm Appointment	16 ✙ The Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-praiseworthy Apostle Peter.; Saint with Six Stichera. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Mark 12:1-12; 1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12; 2:6-10. 7 pm Karaoke Night	17 ✙ Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great.; Polyteles Feast. Luke 6: 17-23; Hebrews 13: 17-21.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parish and every parishioners for their well wishes and generosity, and I wish you all the best this season and into the new year. See you on the 5th, 10th and 11th.

If you are looking for a “fuller” bulletin with all the announcements and greetings, see the bulletin from Christmas. And extra thanks to those helping in my absence.