



*Rev. Protopresbyter Peter Stratos
Presiding Priest*

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For pastoral emergencies only please call 626-855-3640

JANUARY 5, 2025
SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

*Eve of Theophany
Theopemptos & Theonas*

ORTHROS ~ 8:45 A.M.

[\(ORTHROS SERVICE TEXT CLICK HERE\)](#)

DIVINE LITURGY ~ 10:00 A.M.

[\(LITURGY SERVICE TEXT CLICK HERE\)](#)



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HYMNS OF THE DAY

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION. MODE 3. (Before the entrance)

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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APOLYTIKION FOR THE FOREFEAST. MODE 4.

Jordan River once turned back when Elisha struck its stream * with his mantle in the wake of Elias's ascent; * and the water was parted to the one side and to the other. * And thus the fluid stream became a dry way for him, * a symbol and truly a type of Baptism, * by which we now pass over the streaming passage of the present life. * And Christ appeared at the Jordan River * to sanctify the waters.

Ἀπεστρέφετό ποτε, ὁ Ἰορδάνης ποταμός, τῇ μηλωτῇ Ἐλισαιέ, ἀναληφθέντος Ἥλιου, καὶ διηρεῖτο τὰ ὕδατα ἔνθεν καὶ ἔνθεν, καὶ γέγονεν αὐτῷ, ξηρὰ ὁδὸς ἢ ὑγρά, εἰς τύπον ἀληθῶς τοῦ Βαπτίσματος, δι' οὗ ἡμεῖς τὴν ρέουσαν, τοῦ βίου διαπερῶμεν διάβασιν, Χριστὸς ἐφάνη, ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ, ἀγιάσαι τὰ ὕδατα.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT. MODE 4

Emulating the ways of Elias the Zealot, and following the straight paths of the Baptist, O Father Anthony, you made the wilderness a city, and by your prayers Supported the entire world. Therefore, intercede with Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Τὸν ζηλωτὴν Ἠλίαν τοῖς τρόποις μιμούμενος, τῷ Βαπτιστῇ εὐθείαις ταῖς τρίβοις ἐπόμενος, Πάτερ Ἀντώνιε, τῆς ἐρήμου γέγονας οἰκιστής, καί τὴν οἰκουμένην ἐστήριξας εὐχαῖς σου· διὸ πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

KONTAKION. MODE 4.

To the flowing streams today * of River Jordan * comes the Lord and cries aloud * to John the Baptist, and He says, * “Be not afraid to baptize me now; * for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

Ἐν τοῖς ρεῖθροις σήμερον τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, γεγωνῶς ὁ Κύριος, τῷ Ἰωάννῃ ἐκβοᾷ· Μὴ δειλιάσης βαπτίσει με· σῶσαι γὰρ ἤκω, Ἀδὰμ τὸν πρωτόπλαστον.

SCRIPTURE READINGS OF THE DAY

EPISTLE READING

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2

Psalm 27.9,1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8

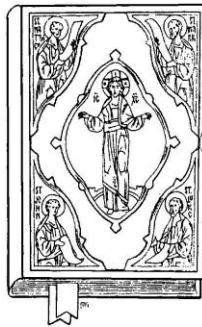
TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

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. Henceforth 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.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel According to Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



METROPOLIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Young Adult Winter Retreat

Registration is open for the 18th Annual Metropolis Young Adult Winter Retreat in Lake Tahoe, from Friday, January 17 – Monday, January 20, 2025. The theme for this gathering is “Be Still and Know: Listening for God’s still small voice” and will be led by Rev. Father James Kumarelas, Proistamenos from Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose, CA. Join us for this beautiful retreat, located on a private retreat center on the shore of Lake Tahoe with spectacular views, incredible food, and awesome accommodations! Details and registration online at: www.gosfyouth.org/youngadults

Greek Village Staff Applications

Our Greek Village is returning in June 2025. We are seeking those who have a passion for Hellenic culture and Orthodox faith, a commitment to youth ministry, and a desire to make a lasting impact. Available positions include: Program Director, Greek Language Instructors, Counselors, Program Staff and Lifeguards. Information and applications online at: www.ourgreekvillage.com/careers

Summer Camp Staff Applications

Do you want to make a positive difference in the lives of youth while gaining valuable leadership and teamwork experience? Apply to be part of the Summer Camp Staff team at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. We’re hiring for a variety of roles including: Cabin Counselors, Program Staff, Photographers, Lifeguards and Medical Staff. Visit www.gosfyouth.org for application and details.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION PROCEDURE

*For the benefit of our Sunday School students, their teachers and the TIMELY start of their Sunday School Classes, the children will be receiving Holy Communion first.

***The ushers will release the children by pew from Front to Back.**

*Only parents of the smallest, youngest Sunday School children, who need assistance, should receive Holy Communion with their children.

*If you are not seated when Holy Communion begins, please take a seat in the back rows, quietly. Your children will be released in turn.

*Please do not attempt to send your children down the side aisles to the front alone or down the center aisle.

*After all children have received, the ushers will release the adults, again from the front pews.

***Please cooperate with our ushers. Please do not ask to be allowed through ahead of others.**

***Please remember this new procedure is for the benefit of our children and their Sunday School experience.**

USHERS:

Tom Grafos, Tony Christopoulos, Vincent Zarian



Today's coffee hour fellowship will be hosted by Philoptochos.

Divine Services for the Months of January 2025

(saint-anthonys.org/calendar):

JANUARY 2025

Sunday, Jan. 5	THE FOREFEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (THEOPHANY) OF CHRIST AGHIASMOS (GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS) Orthros.....8:45a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom..... 10:00 a.m.
Monday, Jan. 6	THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (THEOPHANY) OF CHRIST AGHIASMOS (GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS) Orthros..... 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7	SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Orthros.....9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, Jan. 12	Orthros.....8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom..... 10:00 a.m. VASILOPITA after Services hosted by Philoptochos.
Thursday, Jan. 16	EVE OF THE FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY Great Vesper Service w/ Artoklasia 6:00 p.m. Dinner will follow, hosted by Philoptochos.
Friday, Jan. 17	FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY Orthros..... 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School Fellowship Ministry

All children ages 4 (by 12/31) through high school seniors are welcome in our program. Children under the age of four can join the Little Lambs parent participation class. Sunday School begins after Holy Communion and ends by 12:00 pm.

No class on 1/5.

Greek Dance Updates:

Preview Night - We invite you all for a fun night of dinner, dancing and music. Saturday, January 25 at 5:30pm in our Trinity Ballroom (Performances start at 6:30pm) General Admission \$75 Children 10 and under \$35

Please call/text for reservations (626)375-9008

Payment can be made through Zelle (STANTHONYSDANCE@GMAIL.COM) or saint-anthonys-greek-dance.square.site.



WELCOME!



We hope you enjoy your time with us today and that your worship experience is inspirational and uplifting.

Please note that *only baptized and/or Chrismated Orthodox Christians may partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.* At the end of the Divine Liturgy, you are welcome to come and receive the *Antidoron* (blessed bread) from the priest.

Contact our office at 626-449-6943 or office@saint-anthonys.org to receive more information about our parish or the Orthodox Christian faith.

The deadline for submitting information for the Sunday Bulletin is every Wednesday. please send it to office@saint-anthonys.org

Reminder:

**NO PARKING IN
EMERGENCY WHITE
ZONE IN FRONT OF
CHURCH**

**A Handicap Placard or
Handicap License Plate
is required to park in the
blue handicap parking
spaces.**

**THE CEREMONY
OF THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATER
OF EPIPHANY**

The Great Blessing of Water is performed on the eve of Epiphany at the end of the Divine Liturgy, after the Ambo Prayer and: Blessed be the name of the Lord...

We process to the place where the vessel of water is prepared, the Deacon in front of the Priest, the latter holding a cross and aspergillum in his right hand and the Gospel book in his left. They stand before the vessel of water facing east, as the choirs sing the following hymns:

CHOIR

Mode pl. 4.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters, crying out and saying, "Come all, and receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God, yes, of Christ, who has come in His epiphany." (3) [GOASD]

Today the substance of water is made holy, for the Master is washed in the Jordan. When the River sees Him, it stops its flow and bursts forth. (2) [GOASD]

You have come to the River as a man, O Christ our King; and You urgently request to receive a Baptism befitting a servant, at the hands of the Forerunner, all because of our sins, O good and benevolent Lord. (2) [GOASD]

Glory. Both now. **Mode pl. 4.**

When You had taken the form of a servant, O Lord, You approached John, the voice of the one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" and You requested Baptism, although You were without sin. The waters saw You and were afraid. The Forerunner trembled in reaction, and he cried out and said, "How can I, who am the lamp, illumine You, who are the Light? How can I, the servant, lay my hand on You, my Master? I pray

You sanctify me and the waters, O Savior, who takes away the sin of the world!" [GOASD]

The Readings

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

Is 35:1 – 10

Thus says the Lord: Be glad, you thirsty desert, and rejoice exceedingly, and let the desert blossom as a lily. The desert places of the Jordan shall blossom abundantly and rejoice exceedingly. The glory of Lebanon and the honor of Carmel shall be given to it, and My people shall see the glory of the Lord and the majesty of our God. Be strong, you relaxed hands and feeble knees. Be comforted, you fainthearted. Be strong, do not fear. Behold, our God renders judgment and will render it. He will come and save us. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall hear. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will speak clearly. For water shall burst forth in the desert, and a valley in the thirsty land. The waterless desert shall become meadows, and the thirsty land springs of water. There will be the gladness of birds, a habitation of reeds and marshes. A pure way shall be there, and it shall be called a holy way. No unclean man shall pass through there, neither shall there be an unclean way there. But those dispersed shall walk in it, and they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous animals go up on it, nor

at all be found there. But the redeemed shall walk in it, and those gathered by the Lord shall return and come to Zion with gladness, and with everlasting gladness over their head. For praise and exceeding joy will be on their head, and gladness shall possess them. Pain, sorrow, and sighing fled away. ^[SAAS]

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

Is 55:1 – 13

Thus says the Lord: “You who are thirsty, go to the water, and all who have no money, go and buy wine and fat, and eat and drink without money and price. Why do you value at the price of money, and give your toil for what does not satisfy? Listen to Me and eat good things, and your soul will delight in good things. Incline your ears and follow my ways. Listen to Me, and your soul shall live in good things; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the holy and faithful things of David. Behold, I made him a witness among the Gentiles, a ruler and commander to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, which did not know you, shall call upon you, and the peoples who did not understand you shall take refuge in you, because of your God, the Holy One of Israel; for He glorified you.” Seek God, and when you find Him, call upon Him when He draws near to you. Let the ungodly man abandon his ways, and the lawless man his counsels; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have

mercy on him; for He shall forgive your sins abundantly. “For My counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “But as heaven is distant from earth, so is My way distant from your ways, and your thoughts from My mind. For as rain comes down, or snow from heaven, and does not return until it saturates the earth, and it brings forth and produces, and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, so shall My word be, whatever proceeds from My mouth. It shall not return until it accomplishes whatever I willed, and I shall prosper your ways and My commandments. For you shall go forth with gladness and shall be taught with joy, for the mountains and hills shall exult to receive you with joy; and all the trees of the field shall applaud with their branches. Instead of the broom-tree shall come up the cypress, and instead of the nettle shall come up the myrtle; and the Lord shall be for a name and for an everlasting sign, and He shall not fail.” ^[SAAS]

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

Is 12:3 – 6

Thus says the Lord: You will draw water with gladness from the wells of salvation. In that day, you will say, “Praise the Lord; call upon His name. Declare His glorious things among the Gentiles and make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the name of the Lord, for He has done great things. Declare this in all

the earth. Exult and be glad, O inhabitants of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is exalted in her midst.” ^[SAAS]

The Epistle

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

READER

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 26.

The Lord is my light and my savior.

Verse: *The Lord is the defender of my life.*

^[SAAS]

DEACON

Wisdom.

READER

The reading is from Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians.

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

READER

1 Cor. 10:1 – 4

Brethren, I want you to know that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ^[RSV]

PRIEST

Peace be with you the reader.

CHOIR

Alleluia. Grave Mode. Psalm 28.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Verse 1: *The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.* ^[SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Verse 2: *The God of glory thundered upon the waters.*

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

DEACON

Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be with all.

CHOIR: And with your spirit.

DEACON

The reading is from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

PRIEST

Let us be attentive.

CHOIR

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

DEACON

Mk. 1:9 – 11

At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” ^[RSV]

PRIEST

Peace be with you who read the Gospel.

CHOIR

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

DEACON

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR (after each petition)

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Archbishop (name), for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our country, the president, all those in public service, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

For the Holy and Great Church of Christ, for our Sacred Archdiocese, [for this Sacred Metropolis,] for this city and parish, for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That this water become holy by the might, and operation, and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

That the cleansing operation of the super-substantial Trinity descend upon these waters, let us pray to the Lord.

That the grace of redemption and the blessing of the Jordan be sent upon them, let us pray to the Lord.

That we be illumined with the light of knowledge and right belief through the descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

That this water become the gift of sanctification, redemption from sins, for the healing of soul and body, and for every beneficial purpose, let us pray to the Lord.

That it become water welling up to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

That it effect the averting of every plot of visible and invisible enemies, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who are sprinkled with it and take it for the blessing of homes, let us pray to the Lord.

That it effect purification of soul and body for all who take and drink it with faith, let us pray to the Lord.

That it be granted us to be filled with sanctification through drinking this water, by the invisible manifestation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

That the Lord God listen to the voice of the prayer of us sinners and have mercy on us, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Remembering our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

CHOIR: To You, O Lord.

Then, in a louder voice:

PRIEST

You are great, O Lord! Marvelous are Your works! There are no words sufficient to extol Your wonders! (3) [GOASD]

CHOIR

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

PRIEST

You intentionally brought the universe from nothing into being. You hold creation together by Your power. You govern the cosmos by Your providence. When You constituted the created world out of the Four Elements, You crowned the cycle of the year with four seasons. All the spiritual hosts tremble before You. The sun extols You. The moon glorifies You. The stars converse with You. Light obeys You. The depths shudder at You. Springs and fountains serve You. You stretched out the heavens like a curtain. You made firm the earth on the waters. You surrounded the sea with a wall of sand. You poured out the air for all to breathe.

Angelic powers minister to You. Hosts of Archangels worship You. The many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim, standing around You and flying about, cover

themselves in awe of Your unapproachable glory.

You who are God, uncircumscribed, without beginning, and ineffable, came to earth, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men, because in Your tender mercy, O Master, You did not bear to see the human race being tortured by the devil; so You came and saved us. We acknowledge Your gift, we proclaim Your mercy, we do not hide Your goodness. You freed the offspring of our nature. By being born You sanctified a virgin womb. All creation extolled You at Your epiphany. You, our God, were seen upon the earth and lived among men. When You sent down Your all-holy Spirit from heaven and crushed the heads of the dragons who were lurking in the water, You sanctified the River Jordan.

And so we pray, benevolent King, come now through the descent of Your Holy Spirit and bless this water. (3) [GOASD]

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST

Infuse it with the grace of redemption, the blessing of the Jordan. Make it a source of immortality, a bestowal of sanctification, expiation of sins, defense against disease, deadly to demons, unapproachable by hostile forces, and filled with angelic might. So that all who take this water and drink it may use it for cleansing of soul and body, healing of illness, house blessings, and any other beneficial purpose.

You are our God, who by water and the Spirit renewed nature that was worn out by sin. You are our God, who by the flood waters in the days of Noah washed away sin. You are our God, who through the sea by Moses freed the Hebrew people from slavery to Pharaoh. You are our God, who split the rock in the desert, and waters flowed, and brooks flooded, and You gave the people water to drink and satisfied them. You are our God, who with water and fire by Elijah disabused Israel of the deceit of Baal.

And so we pray, O Master, bless this water by Your Holy Spirit. (3) [GOASD]

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST

Give sanctification, blessing, cleansing, and health to all who either touch it, are sprinkled with it, or drink it. Also, Lord, save your servants who govern us, and keep them under Your protection in peace, subdue every enemy and foe under their feet, and grant them their requests for salvation and eternal life. Lord, remember our Archbishop (name), the priests, the deacons in Christ, and all the clergy, and the people here present, and our brethren who are absent with good cause. Have mercy on them and us, according to Your great mercy.

And so Your all-holy name and the Father and the Holy Spirit will be glorified through the elements, Angels, human beings, and everything visible and invisible, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST Peace be with all.

CHOIR: And with your spirit.

PRIEST

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

CHOIR: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST

The Priest bows his head and prays:

Incline Your ear and hear us, O Lord, who consented to be baptized in the Jordan River and sanctified the waters. Bless all of us, who are bowing our heads to show that we are Your servants. Grant us to be filled with Your sanctification, through either drinking this water or being sprinkled with it; and may it be to us for health of soul and body.

For You, Lord, are the sanctification of our souls and bodies, and we offer up glory, thanksgiving, and worship to You and Your Father who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

Then the Priest holds the cross and the holy water sprinkler upright and dips them in and out of the water crosswise, as he sings the Apolytikion of the feast one time.

PRIEST

Apolytikion. Mode 1.

When You were baptized in the River Jordan, O Lord, it was revealed that God is worshiped in Trinity. For the voice of the Father, who had begotten You, also bore witness to You, calling You “beloved Son,” and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed that what was said is true. In

Your epiphany, O Christ God, You appeared and illumined the world. Glory to You! [GOASD]

The Choirs sing this hymn two more times, and each time the Priest repeats his actions as described above.

CHOIR

Apolytikion. Mode 1.

When You were baptized in the River Jordan, O Lord, it was revealed that God is worshiped in Trinity. For the voice of the Father, who had begotten You, also bore witness to You, calling You “beloved Son,” and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed that what was said is true. In Your epiphany, O Christ God, You appeared and illumined the world. Glory to You! (2)

Then the Priest holds the holy water sprinkler in his right hand and the cross in his left, and he sprinkles crosswise the church and the congregation, as he sings the Kontakion.

On January 5:

Kontakion. For the Forefeast.

Mode 4. You revealed yourself today.

To the flowing streams today * of River Jordan * comes the Lord and cries aloud * to John the Baptist, and He says, * “Be not afraid to baptize me now; * for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.” [SD]

As each individual in attendance kisses the cross and is sprinkled with holy water, the Choir sings the following hymn:

CHOIR

Mode pl. 2.

Let us the faithful extol the greatness of God’s benevolent deeds concerning us. For He became man in our transgression; and now in the Jordan, He who alone is clean and undefiled is cleansed in the cleansing that is meant for us; and He sanctifies me and the waters, and on the water He crushes the

heads of the dragons. Therefore, brethren, let us draw water with gladness. For to those who draw with faith, the grace of the Spirit is invisibly given by Christ, our God and the Savior of our souls.

[GOASD]

PRIEST

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

May He who condescended to be baptized by John in the Jordan River for our salvation, and rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, (local patron saint); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as He is good, benevolent, and merciful God.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.