

HOLY THEOPHANY ORTHODOX CHURCH

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

"The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins. Nothing is so joyous in our life as the thanksgiving that we experience in the Church. In the Church, the joyful sustain their joy. In the Church, those worried acquire merriment, and those saddened, joy. In the Church, the troubled find relief, and the heavy-laden, rest." ~St John Chrysostom

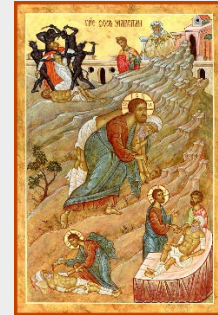
Location of Services: Holy Theophany Church, N2107 State Road 67, Walworth, WI 53184



Hospitality of Abraham



Theophany of Christ



Christ the Good Samaritan

Schedule of Services for January 2024

[All services (except Reader's Vespers) will be live-streamed unless otherwise noted.
All liturgies are those of St John Chrysostom. Hours for Sunday Liturgy start at 9:40 AM.]

Saturday , January 6, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Great Blessing of the Waters

Saturday, January 6, 5 PM – Great Vespers with visitation by Abp. Daniel

Sunday , January 7, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy with visitation by Abp. Daniel followed by reception

Saturday , January 13, 5 PM – Readers Vespers

Sunday , January 14, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy

Monday , January 15 – Date open for house blessings

Saturday , January 20, 5: 00 PM – Great Vespers and Litya followed by general confession. Date open for house blessings before Vespers

Sunday , January 21 – 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy for Feast of St Maximus the Confessor

Saturday , January 27, 5:00 PM - Readers Vespers

Sunday , January 28, 10 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by annual meeting

Monday , January 29,- 5:30 PM – Vesperal Liturgy for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs

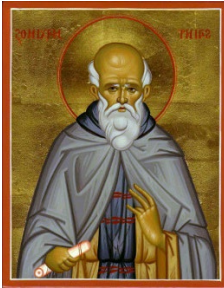
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Please remember to contact Fr John by Jan 10 if you would like a house blessing on Mon. Jan 15, Sat. Jan 20, or Sat. Feb. 10

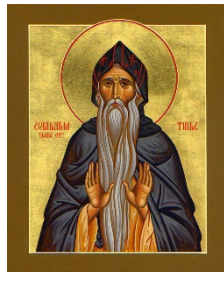
Holy Theophany Orthodox Church Nameday Celebration
Saturday, January 6 and Sunday, January 7, 2024
His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel, Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest
will visit and worship with us during this celebration

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Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Festal Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Blessing of the Water, Saturday, January 6, 10 AM

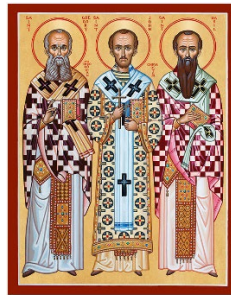
Archpastoral Visit by His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel
Great Vespers, Saturday, January 6, 5:00 PM
Divine Liturgy, Sunday, January 7, 10 AM
Followed by a reception for Archbishop Daniel



St Maximus the Confessor



St Marcarius the Great



The Three Hierarchs



The Unmercenary
SS. Cyrus and John

Pastoral Reflection: One of my favorite hymns for the Feast of Christ's Nativity is: "Ye mountains and ye hills, ye plains and valleys, ye peoples, tribes, and nations, and all things that have breath, shout with jubilation, be filled with divine gladness; for the Redemption of all is come, the timeless Word of God made subject to time because of His compassion." In the early Church, the Nativity and the Theophany/Baptism of Christ were celebrated together on January 6. So we can sing this same hymn for Theophany and Baptism of Christ. Made visible to a few persons at his nativity, His first general public manifestation as Christ is at his baptism. We are made very aware of His divinity and His humanity at His Baptism since this is the first recorded theophany of God as the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This theophany makes clear that the compassion of the incarnate Son of God for us expresses the compassion of the Father and the Holy Spirit, which is why we call our icon of the Trinity the Hospitality of Abraham after Rublev's famous icon.

We experience this hospitality at every eucharist in the Anaphora Prayer. Christ is our high priest — "the one who offers, and is offered, the one who receives and is received"; and the Anaphora prayer is offered to the Father who blesses us through the Holy Spirit to guides us to experience the mystery of the eucharist and to change the gifts of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

The eucharistic gifts are offered within the Church and our ability to receive them first requires our baptism. As we pray during the service of the Great Blessing of the Water "For you, O Master, for the sake of your compassion could not endure to behold the race of man tormented by the devil; but you came and saved us... You sanctified the streams of the Jordan..., crushing the heads of the dragons that lurked therein." Our Baptism is the mystery, or sacrament, of the Church in which we are welcomed into the Church to begin our own journey into the kingdom of heaven. Although Christ is sinless, in his humility, he made himself the bearer of all of our sins through His baptism so that we could all be saved.

I added an icon of Christ the Good Samaritan next to the icon of the Theophany and Baptism of Christ because it shows Christ bearing us in our sinfulness and brokenness. As Blessed Theophlyact described Christ as the Good Samaritan: "Our Lord and God . . . journeyed to us. . . He did not just catch a glimpse of us as He happened to pass by. He actually came to us and lived together with us and spoke to us. Therefore, He at once bound up our wounds." As we celebrate this Feast in the context of our personal and collective brokenness, sinfulness, and weakness, please be aware that in His solidarity with us, He together with His Father and Holy Spirit bear us and bear with us in our sinfulness to bring us into the fullness of life, which we call deification, as well as the redemption of all creation. May the wonder and joy we are invited to experience at His Nativity extend to the Feast of the Theophany and His Baptism and throughout our entire lives.

Thanks for service to Holy Theophany Church in December 2023! Cleaning the Church and Parish Hall: Filitsa Amirsakis, Olga Buranicz, Mary Kanelos; Christopher Thies, Alex Cook, Lamont Prospect, Pres. Anastasia; Prospora Bread: Filitsa, Mary K.; Music/chanting: Adela Fazio, Maria, David, & Sofia Klesmith, Kristy Danna, and everyone participating in community singing; Artos: Pres. Anastasia; Stewardship: Thanks to everyone who provides financial support for us; Reading: Pres. Eileen, Christopher, Damian Constantinescu, Alex, Kristy, Lamont, Maria & Sofia, Joseph, Pam and Olga; Service in the sanctuary: David, Christopher, and Giovanni Wilson; Setting up for services: Mary, Pres. Eileen, Pres. Anastasia, and Lamont; Attendance Report: Bessie Mantel; Coffee Hour: Maria & David K., Mary, Filitsa, Kristy, Bessie, and everyone who provides food or beverages; Sincere apologies if we overlooked anyone for the help they provided.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Website: <https://holytheophanychurch.org/>

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