



SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Welcome to St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church. We invite you to join us for coffee hour, which is held in the fellowship hall, immediately after the Divine Liturgy. We ask that you introduce yourself to our Pastor, who would be happy to answer your questions.

Please visit our Mission in Wasilla. Blessed Theodore Romzha (Bishop and Martyr—murdered by Communists in 1947, whose feast day is October 31st). We meet on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. Blessed Romzha mission is an outreach to the Mat-Su Valley and we are delighted to welcome all who choose to attend our Divine Liturgy at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church. Please see the address on back of this bulletin.

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Jan 7.— Jan14, 2018

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Sat 1/6 5:00 pm THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD and the Great Water Blessing (Jordan Water.) - YongChu Waltz (The Heller Family)

Sun 1/7 10:00 am Liturgy: John Michalski

4:00 pm THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD and the Great Water Blessing (Jordan Water.)

Mon 1/8

No Service

Tues 1/9

No Service

Wed 1/10

Liturgy: Fr. Michael (Heller / Walth family)

Thur 1/11

No Service

Fri 1/12

Liturgy: Mary Pat & Mary Heller (The Heller Family)

32 SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sat 1/13 5:00 pm Vesper/Liturgy + Arthur Hippler (Theresa Landry)

Sun 1/14 10:00 am Liturgy: Theodore James Heller III (The Heller Family)

4:00 pm Living and Deceased Members of Parish Mission in Wasilla

TONE 6

Readings: Mt. 4:12-17, Eph: 4:7-13,

Metropolitan Cantor Institute <http://www.metropolitancantorinstitute.org>

7 DAY CANDLE INTENTIONS

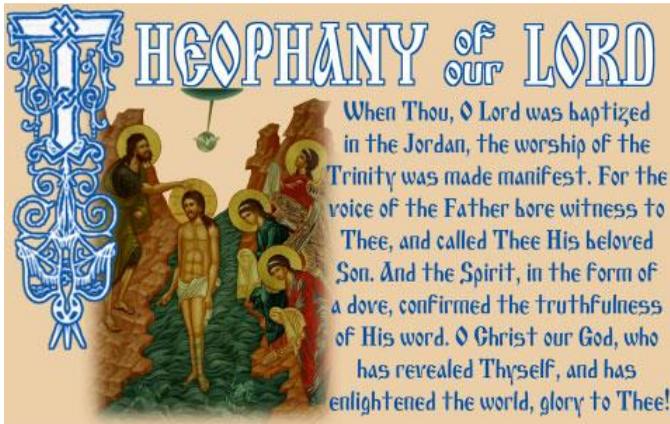
EUCCHARIST: The Heller Family

THEOTOKOS: The Heller Family

CZESTOCHOWA: The Heller Family

*7 DAY Candle intentions may be requested by filling out an envelope at the entrance. Donation is \$10.00

RETIREMENT FUND HELPS SENIOR RELIGIOUS. "As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the Retirement Fund," notes a woman religious. Your donation for the retirement fund supports the day-to-day care of thousands of elder sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Please share and Care and give what you can to help our religious. We take up a special for the Retirement Fund for Senior Religious.



SIGN-UP NOW FOR THE-OPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS! Please see the sign-up sheet in the parish hall , to get your slot for a house blessing in the New Year. Fr Michael started blessing houses and businesses from Theophany - January 6th to Sunday of Cheesefare - February 11 .

Look for the Sign up Sheet to have your house blessed after Theophany!

2017 CHURCH CALENDARS are available for everyone.

Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!
Cristo es Bautizado! En el Jordán!

Easter formation classes for children.
Jan. Sunday: 14, 21, 28.
11:45pm

Also, please make every effort to arrive at Church 10-15 minutes prior to the start of Liturgy. You can join us for Divine praises and you can focus on your own prayers and intentions. Our doors are open at least one hour prior to the start of Liturgy.

May God grant us all many blessed years!

Please feel free to talk with Fr. Michael about parish needs

St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

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Email: pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com **Webpage:** www.ak-byz-cath.org

Pastor: *Rev. Father Michael Sidun*

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Weekday Divine Liturgy: 6:00pm

Saturday Divine Liturgy: 5:00 pm Sunday Divine Praises: 9:40 am

Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

Holy Mystery of Confession: 20 minutes before every Divine Liturgy and upon request

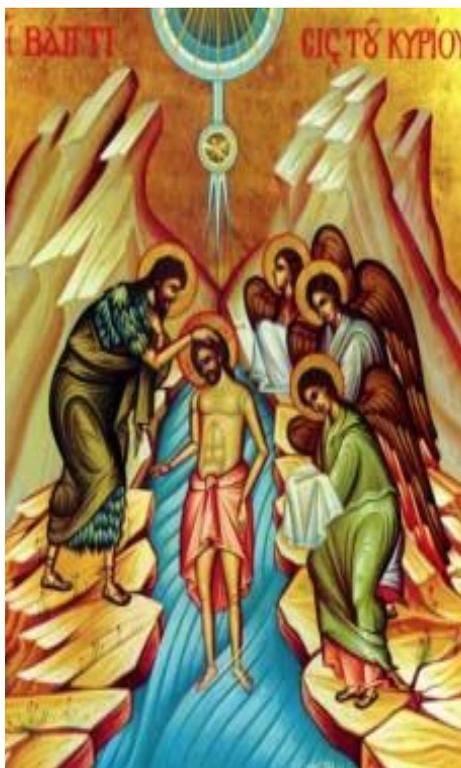
Blessed Theodore Romzha Byzantine Catholic Mission

Sacred Heart Church, 1201 Bogard Road in Wasilla

Holy Mystery of Confession: Sundays—After Liturgies

Divine Liturgy: 4:00 pm

Our Parish and Mission are in Communion with the Pope of Rome and the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix



January 6

The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Reading: About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvellous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated;

henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Home Blessings with Holy Water on Theophany:

Preparing the Home for the Blessing

Traditionally, the pastor visits the homes of all his parishioners on Theophany and the days shortly following.

How should we make ready for this visit? It is a long-standing Byzantine tradition that the homes of all the faithful be blessed yearly, after the blessed feast of Theophany. The power of water to sanctify and transform is amply demonstrated in baptism, and we believe that God chooses to bless us through holy objects and actions, such as the relics of those who have pleased God, holy icons, oil and water.

Most of the critical moments of family life happen in the home. In the home we pray together, the parents **MUST** teach the children about the Byzantine Catholic Faith, and the foundational principles for living according to the Gospel and Commandments are modeled by the parents for their children.

Since so many important Christian works take place in the home, there are also many great temptations, where misunderstandings and arguments are possible. It is imperative for the Christian family to continually ask God's blessing upon their home, and to have their home blessed with Holy Water at least yearly. If something extremely defiling occurs in the home, or the family is enduring some great temptation, the home can be blessed at any time, and even numerous times. When the priest arrives, he usually prays a short service of supplication and then blesses all living areas of the house with Holy Water, while singing the Troparion for Theophany. In this way, the home of a Christian is "marked" and sanctified.

Preparing the Home for the Blessing

The family must **ALL** be present before the priest arrives. The priest will pray for and with the family, but **NOT IN PLACE OF** the family!

All rooms will be blessed. They should be neat and clean. When the priest visits your home, he is representing God, similar to the priest's role in the sacrament of Confession. Thus when the priest visits your home, it's as if you are inviting God into your home - it would not do to invite Him into a mess! Make sure a light is on in all rooms, and the door is open.

All radios, TVs, video games, etc. should be turned off.

In a prominent area of the home (which should be the families icon corner), a small table should be set up, as follows:

- A list of the first names of the family members should be provided, so the priest can commemorate them in the supplication service. The Living and the Deceased should be on separate lists, or in separate columns.
- A Candle should be burning on the table.
- If the family has a home censer, it can be lit, with incense ready to be added.

If the family has a favorite Theophany Icon, it should be placed on the table, preferably standing up. This may be easily accomplished if the table is against a wall, or by placing the icon in an inexpensive "plate holder". Alternatively, the icon may be hung on the wall.

When the priest arrives the whole family should gather together with him, and sing the proper responses and sing with him the Theophany Troparion. When the time comes for the house to be blessed with the water, someone in the family should lead the priest with a lit candle from room to room (throughout the house,) and the rest of the family follows, singing the Troparion.