

Sunday, January 6, 2019: The Epiphany

Epistle reading:

Titus 2: 11-14, 3:4-7:

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

Gospel reading: Matthew 3: 13-17:



"Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting

upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The Feast of the Epiphany or Theophany is the manifestation or the revelation of the Holy Trinity to the world: Christ, the incarnate Son of God is in the river Jordan, the Holy Spirit descends upon Him in the form of a dove and God the Father recommends the Son: *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

In the beginning, all three persons of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) participated in the creation of man from the dust of the earth, as we read in the book of Genesis: *"Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness"* (1:26). Now, when

the fullness of time had come (Gal. 4:4), man is being re-created or created anew and again, all three persons of the Holy Trinity take part in this act of man's restoration.

The presence of the Holy Spirit announces the approaching of the Era of Grace, which will start on the day of the Pentecost, fifty days after the Lord's Resurrection and ten days after His Ascension into heaven.

The event also marks the beginning of the Lord's public ministry and by His Baptism He establishes the first Sacrament, the Holy Illumination, the gateway into the Church.

All of these aspects constitute the manifestation of the Divine Providence of God for His creation and especially for man.

How wonderful to have such a loving God who never gives up on His creation!

To Him be the glory forever and ever!

Fr. George Bazgan

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Matthew Cotfasa
Alexander Stefanescu**

Sunday Fellowship

**The following families are scheduled to look after
this Sunday's fellowship:**

**Colesnic Iurie & Efimia
Negreanu Lucian & Camelia
Stefanescu Florin & Luminita
Zmau Sorin & Mariana**

Thank you all very much!

HOUSE BLESSING

On January the 6th we celebrate the Epiphany (Theophany), the Baptism of our Lord and Savior. Following the Divine Liturgy and the Greater Blessing of Water, Fr.

George will begin the blessing of homes.

Those who are interested, please sign in the sign up sheet, or call Fr. George at 780-473-0029.

The new Fellowship Roster

The new Fellowship Roster begins on February 3, 2019

Those who are not on the list and would like to participate, please contact Fr. George at 780-473-0029.

Thank you!