

ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
31	Zouheir Karra	2
31	Susanne Tannous	13
1	Wakim Wakileh	43
2	Hind Kakish	10
2	Wadia Deratnay	48
2	Khalil Farah Kakish	22
3	Christine Hawa	5
3	Nicholas Ferris	52
3	Hannah Hauraney	48
6	Tammam Alfar	29
6	Sofia Fahel	3
6	Maha Zabaneh	23

ETERNAL LIGHT

- Jan 6 for the good health of John, Carla Bisharat and their daughter
For the good health of Ioan-Constantine
- Mar 10 for the good health of Michael Ghneim and family from his parents
- **Ushering for January 6:** Costa Nassar, Said Bisharat, Raed Dallal, Jalal Qaqish
- **Ushering for January 13:** Alia Besharat, Wail Haddad, Maher Shahatet, Ramzi Shnoudeh
- Sunday January 13, meeting with the new comers from Syria and elsewhere after Liturgy.
- Engaged meeting, January 27 at 7:30 pm in the church basement.
- Sunday January 27 after liturgy, meeting with all the camp parents.
- January 29 Great Vespers with the blessing of the five loaves for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs.
- Friday February 1st Liturgy at 7 PM for the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.
- Please, pray for the health of the following parishioners: Attiah, Ellen, Lucy, Robert, Alex, Sam, Elias and Ezabel. If you have any names of people who need prayers, email them to father.

FIRE ROUTE & HANDICAPPED PARKING, AND PARKING LINES

- Please make sure not to park on the side of the church or in front of the Fire hydrant, for this is a fire route, also ensure not to park in the spots designated for handicapped parking. Anyone who parks and does not show a handicap permit on the window will be tagged.
- Blessing of homes starts after January 6, please call Fr. George or fill out the form to have your home blessed.

Request for Blessing My Home

I am here requesting father to come and bless my home

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone Number: _____

Best Time to bless your Home: Morning _____, Evening _____

The Theophany of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (January 6)



The Feast of the Theophany (or Epiphany) of Our Lord Jesus Christ, is celebrated on January 6. After Pascha and Pentecost, this is the greatest Feast of the Orthodox Church, predating even the Nativity of Christ in importance. Here Our Lord Jesus Christ is baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, this being the first public manifestation of God the Word Incarnate to the world.

As Holy Scripture tells us: In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.... [And John said,] I baptize you with water for repentance, but He Who is coming after me is mightier than I, Whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matt. 3:1-6, 11).

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, 'After me comes a man Who ranks before me, for He was before me' (John 1:28-30). Then Jesus came...to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me? But Jesus answered him, Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He was the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased (Matt. 3:13-17).

And John bore witness, I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God (John 1:32-34).

In commemoration of this event, the Church, on January 5, the Eve of Theophany, performs the Blessing of Waters in the church itself, and on January 6, the day of the Feast itself, the Blessing of Waters is performed at a site prepared outside the church (preferably a river or lake).

The Feast of the Epiphany reminds us of our own Baptism in the hymn sung just before the reading of the Epistle at the Divine Liturgy: As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia! For in the waters of Baptism, we put off the Old Man and put on the New, that is Jesus Christ, and strive to acquire the humility shown by the Lord Himself when He, the Creator, bowed His head under the hand of John, the creature, in the waters of the Jordan River.

Troparion of the Feast (Tone 1)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son! And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

Kontakion of the Feast (Tone 4)

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, and Thy light, O Lord, has shone on us, who with understanding praise Thee: Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O Light Unapproachable!