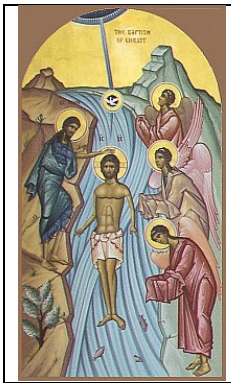


HOLY THEOPHANY ORTHODOX CHURCH

"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

~December, 2025 Bulletin~

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels with shepherds glorify Him.

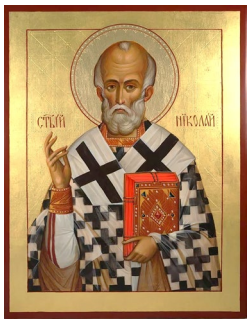
The wise men journey with a star, since for our sake the God before the ages was born as a young Child. (Nativity Kontakion)

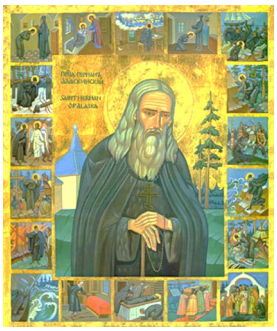
Schedule of Services for December 2025- All Services Streamed except Readers' Vespers

- *Friday, December 5,* **5:30 PM— Vesperal Liturgy for St Nicholas**
- *Saturday, December 6,* **5PM—Readers Vespers**
- *Sunday, December 7,* **10AM—Divine Liturgy preceded General Confession at 9:40**
- *Friday, December 12,* **5:30 PM—Vesperal Liturgy for St Herman of Alaska**
- *Saturday, December 13,* **5PM—Readers Vespers**
- *Sunday, December 14,* **10AM—Divine Liturgy/Sunday of the Forefathers**
- *Wednesday, December 17,* **5:30 PM— Akathist for the Nativity of Christ**
- *Sunday, December 21,* **10AM—Divine Liturgy precede by churching prayers for Zoe Alexander and baby Georgia (9:40) Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ, Sunday of the Holy Fathers**
- *Wednesday, December 24,* **5 PM!!— Service for Eve of the Nativity of Christ**
- *Thursday, December 25,* **10 AM—Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ**
- *Saturday, December 27,* **Reader's Vespers, 5:00 PM**
- *Sunday, December 28,* **10AM—Divine Liturgy**
- *Monday, December 29,* **5:30 PM— Akathist for Repose of Those who Have Fallen Asleep**

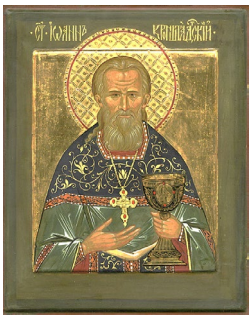
Christmas Outreach, 2025. For this year, working with Fontana Elementary School, we are just contributing donations for poor families with children in our area. Donation deadline is Sunday, December 21. Donations can be made by cash or check at HTC on the donations page on our website for the Christmas Outreach 2025 Campaign. $1,000 has been donated so far. Please join us in the spirit of the Feast of the Nativity of Christ.

Opening of the Holy Theophany Church Bookstore!! Thanks to the vigorous team efforts of Steve Meyer (bookstore manager), Amy Meyer and Pres. Eileen, our new bookstore will open in the Parish Hall on Sunday Dec. 14 and on every Sunday after the Divine Liturgy. We will have a supply of books and other items (e.g., crosses, prayer ropes, etc.) for purchase. Remember the purpose of this store is to provide books and other items to assist you in developing your own spiritual life.


St Nicholas of Myra


St Herman of Alaska

Sunday of the Forefathers


St John of Kronstadt

Pastoral Reflection for December 2025: At his Nativity, the incarnate Son of God was made visible to the world in the flesh. Although the Incarnation itself took place at the Annunciation of the Theotokos, the manifestation of Christ's Incarnation to the world takes place at his Nativity when he is "born in the flesh." In his Incarnation and Nativity, the Son of God, who fashions the entire cosmos, humbles himself to take on human flesh and to experience and live in our human condition. In becoming one with us, he becomes a brother to all of us and lives and suffers with us to heal us. The revelation of God's compassion towards Moses on Mount Sinai confirmed to Moses that God himself, and not merely an angel, would accompany the Israelites, and that he would not forsake them. This confirmation, this promise, is realized for the whole of humanity and creation in the Incarnation and Nativity of Christ that manifests Christ as Emmanuel—"God with us."

Christ's nativity is a fundamental expression of compassion towards others: that in being moved by compassion towards others we are with them, suffering with them (that is, at least undergoing their struggles with them), in a solidarity or fellowship with them. The following hymn for the Nativity of Christ reveal this fundamental aspect of His compassion: .

> Before your birth, O Lord, the angelic hosts looked with trembling on this mystery and were struck with wonder: for you who have adorned the vault of heaven with stars have been well pleased to be born as a babe; and you who hold all the ends of the earth in the hollow of your hand are laid in a manger of dumb beasts. For by such a dispensation has your compassion been made known, O Christ, and your great mercy: Glory to You!
> (Nativity of Christ, Matins, Second Canon, Ode 3, Troparion)

Looking forward to 2026: **The Feast of the Theophany/Baptism of Christ is our Nameday feast**; We will hold a Divine Liturgy at 10 AM on Tuesday, Jan. 6. Our Nameday festivities will be celebrated after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Jan 11. We will bless the creation of new Holy Water after the Liturgy and have a festival in the Parish Hall. We will do the blessing of Geneva Lake in the fall as we have the past few years.

On Sunday February 1 (the first Sunday of the Lenten Triodion) we will have our annual meeting after the liturgy in the Parish Hall. More information about that event will be forthcoming

Thanks to everyone for the help and support to HTC in November. The detailed thanks list for Nov and Dec will be in the January bulletin.

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