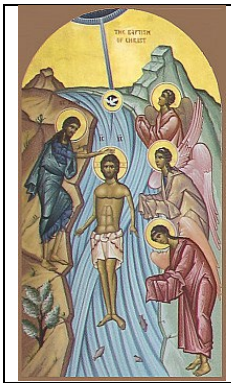


HOLY THEOPHANY ORTHODOX CHURCH

~A Mission of the Orthodox Church in America~

"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

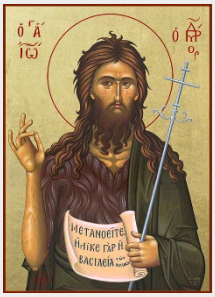
"The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins. Nothing is so joyous in our life as the thanksgiving that we experience in the Church. In the Church, the joyful sustain their joy. In the Church, those worried acquire merriment, 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

~Bulletin, January 2026~

Hospitality of Abraham

Theophany of Christ



John the Baptist

Schedule of Services for January 2026

[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.]

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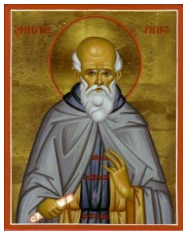
- **Saturday, January 3, 5 PM—Reader's Vespers**
- **Sunday, January 4, 10AM—Divine Liturgy**
- **Tuesday, January 6, 10AM—Divine Liturgy (Feast of the Theophany of the Lord)**
- **Saturday, January 10, 5 PM—Reader's Vespers**
- **Sunday, January 11, 10AM—Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of Holy Water and Parish Name Day festival in Parish Hall**
- **Saturday, January 17, 5 PM—Reader's Vespers**
- **Sunday, January 18, 10AM—Divine Liturgy**
- **Saturday, January 24, 5 PM—Reader's Vespers**
- **Sunday, January 25, 10AM—Divine Liturgy**
- **Thursday, January 29, 5:30 PM— Vesperal Liturgy for Feast of the Three Hierarchs**
- **Saturday, January 31, 5 PM—Reader's Vespers**

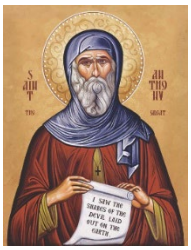
Our annual Name Day festivities are on Tuesday Jan 6 (10AM) for a Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Theophany and Sunday, Jan 11 for a Divine Liturgy, with the Blessing of Holy Water, and festivities.

Contributions to our Christmas Outreach Program 2025 were $1,835. Thanks to everyone who provided support for our donations to Fontana Elementary School to support families with children in need.

Our annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1 after the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is free to attend and participate in discussion. However, only communicant members (18 years+) of Holy Theophany Church are eligible to vote. The agenda for the meeting will be forthcoming after January 15.

A reminder: Our bookstore is now open every Sunday after the Divine Liturgy.


St Maximus the Confessor


St Anthony the Great

The Three Hierarchs

The Unmercenaries
SS. Cyrus and John

Pastoral Reflection for the Feast of Jan 6: the Theophany of Christ in which he is baptized in the River Jordan by St John the Baptist. This is the first major event in Christ's adult life that is recorded in the Gospels and is also one of the principal Trinitarian theophanies mentioned in the Gospel. Christ's Baptism is the first of two recorded instances where the Father and the Holy Spirit are present with the Son. His Transfiguration is the second event. In both cases, he was experienced in his divinity and humanity. The depth of his humility is shown in his acceptance of being baptized by John.

> Being of one throne with the Father and the Spirit, I have as my escort the legions of the Angels; yet I in My compassion, I accepted hospitality in a little cave when I was born in Bethlehem; so then John, lend your right hand to me that I may now in myself wash clean away the trespasses of the world.(*Forefeast of the Theophany, Matins*)

The Greek word for hospitality, *philoxenia*, literally means a love of strangers. A common responsibility throughout much of the ancient world was to show hospitality to strangers especially hose who were vulnerable and in need. Of course, created as icons of Christ, we are not strangers to him. But through our sinfulness, we are estranged from him. In his Baptism, he enters into the waters of the River Jordan and bears upon himself the totality of human sinfulness and brokenness. As the Suffering Servant, he proceeds to his Crucifixion, Resurrection, and at Pentecost, the gift of the Church – the Body of Christ- in which through sacraments and worship, we are drawn into community with him.

Our Baptism is the mystery, or sacrament, of the Church in which we are welcomed home to begin our own journey into the kingdom of heaven. During the service for Baptism, we pray for the "grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan" to sanctify the baptismal water through the indwelling or "descent of the Holy Spirit." At the Great Blessing of the Waters, which takes place on the Feast of the Theophany, the Priest prays in a similar manner:

> For you, O Master, for the sake of your compassion, could not endure to behold the race of humans tormented by the devil; but you came and saved us. . . . You sanctified the streams of the Jordan, sending down from heaven your Holy Spirit, crushing the heads of the dragons that lurked therein. . . . Do you yourself, O King, the Lover of Mankind, come now through the descent of your Holy Spirit, and sanctify this water.

When we are baptized, we are not saved in some final sense but we are graced with the Holy Spirit to begin the process of our salvation (our deification) in which we, through the Holy Spirit, become fully united with Christ and the Trinity. In Colossians 3:1-14, the Apostle Paul shows us that this means that we are to live like Christ

> If then you were raised with Christ . . . set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God (vv. 1–3) . . . since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of him who created him (vv. 9–10). . . . Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and beloved, put one tender compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another. If anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all of them put on love (*agapē*), which is the bond of perfection (vv. 12–14).

Thanks for service to Holy Theophany Church November and December, 2025! *Reading through 12/25:* Christian Wilson, Kristy Danna, Pres. Eileen, Sofia Klesmith, Anastasia Wilson, Amy Meyer, Lamont Prospect, Steve Meyer, Christopher Theis, Colin , Juliana Constantinescu, Damian Constantinescuc, Dan Wright, Olga Buranicz; *Music:* Adela, Elijah, Andrew Krout, Maria and Sofia K, Kristy Danna, and everyone for congregational singing; *Prosphora Bread:* Filitsa Amirsakis, *Artos*: Filitsa, Pres. Anastasia; *Washing of Communion Cloths:* Mary K, Pres. Anastasia; *Service in sanctuary:* David K., Christopher T, Giovanni Wilson; *Setting up for services:* Pres. Eileen, Christoper, and Lamont; *Bookstore;* Steve and Amy M, Pres Eileen; *Cleaning Church and Parish Hall*: Olga B, Christopher Thies, Lamont, Pasie Gregory, Heather, Damian and Juliana Constantinescu; *Flowers:* Renee and Damian Constantinescu; *Attendance Report:* Bessie Mantes, Christopher, LaMont, Pres. Anastasia; *Coffee Hour:* Thanks to everyone for providing food/ beverages; *Stewardship*: Thanks to everyone for financial support. Apologies for not having mentioned someone who helped.

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

Fr. Protodeacon George Potym
Telephone (414) 254-5783
Email: gpotym@yahoo.com

V. Rev. John D. Jones (Priest-in-Charge)
Telephone (414) 241-7702
Email: jdjones1947@gmail.com

Maria Klesmith
request information