



Драга браћо и сестре,

О празнику Богојављења поздрављам Вас свесрдно празничним поздравом:

Бог се јави! Ваистину се јави!

Богојављење је празник којим света Црква прославља крштење Господа нашега Исуса Христа у Јордану од Јована, али и откривење вечне истине да је Бог Отац, Син и Дух Свети. Када су грешни људи улазили у Јордан да их Јован крсти, вода је спирала све људске грехе и духовну прљавштину. Када је, пак, безгрешни Господ Христос ушао у Јордан, био је погружен, но уздижући се Он је на себе преузео све људске грехе, а Његовим изласком из Јордана отпочиње свој пут ка Голготи.

О овом празнику традиционално се освећује вода, као симбол очистилачког средства, а благослов којим свештеник освећује воду је исти онај којим је благословен Јордан уласком Господа Исуса Христа у воду. Сви ми православни хришћани са вером, побожношћу и особитом радошћу сваке године прихватимо и дочекујемо благослов којим се освећује и очишћује сва природа и сва твар. Стога сваке године и освећујемо домове уласком и присуством свештеника и кропљењем освећеном водом.

Нека бисмо пијењем и кропљењем овом освећеном водом и овог Лета Господњег, задобили исти благослов којим је Јордан благословен, како бисмо били просвећени и надахнути, али и духовно окрељени и прочишћени, е да бисмо достојно и одлучно пратили Господа који, поневши и наше грехе сапране освећеном водом, креће на пут ка Голготи, страдању, крсној смрти, али коначно светом и славном Васкрсењу нашега спасења и васкрсења ради.

Нека су срећни и Богом благословени ови свети и величанствени дани.

Ваш у љубави Господа Христа,

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### Why Do We Have Our Homes Blessed?

Since we are reminded in Scripture to begin whatever we do with prayer, it has been the practice of Orthodox Christians for centuries to have new dwellings blessed either before or just after settling in. This has been extended to one's business or office, and even college dorm rooms. "The service performed by the priest to bless the new dwelling is somewhat similar to the consecration of a church [in the Russian practice] in that holy water, holy oil, and incense are used and a lesson from the holy Gospel is read. All the rooms of the house are sprinkled with holy water and each of the four outer walls are anointed with the sign of the Cross with holy oil, a candle placed before them, and after the censuring of the house, the lesson from the Holy Gospel is read. At the conclusion of the blessing, the inhabitants are blessed with holy water.

### Back to "The Fall"

From Scripture we know that whatever God created was good, but with "the Fall", evil entered the world, corrupting the creation. God the Father sent His Son Jesus to save it by effecting a "new creation". This is celebrated at Theophany, specifically with the Great Blessing of Water. "The consecration of the waters on this feast places the entire world - through its 'prime element' of water - in the perspective of the cosmic creation, sanctification, and glorification of the Kingdom of God in Christ and the Spirit." (*The Orthodox Faith, Vol. II, Worship*, by Fr. Thomas Hopko, p.127.) All the readings, hymns, prayers, and actions of the day speak of God's presence in our entire world and universe, His creation. Through water all of the creation is once again sanctified by God, becoming good again, the way God had intended.

### The Feast Of Theophany

The Feast of Theophany (or Epiphany) commemorates the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. We know from the troparion of the day that "the Trinity was made manifest" to us. But there's more to it than this. "When Jesus descends into the depths of the river, there occurs a profound upheaval. It is not the one baptized who is purified, for he is spotless; but it is the water that is transfigured and illumined. This water, which was believed to be transparent and purifying, is in fact polluted. By purifying the elements, by sanctifying matter, Jesus frees the cosmos from the powers of evil." (*The Incarnate God, Vol. I*, Catherine Aslanoff, French edition editor, translated by Paul Meyendorff, p.163.)

### The Great Blessing of Water and the Home

The Great Blessing of Water takes place at the end of that day's Liturgy. Since our homes cannot be brought to the Church, the Church - through the priest - goes to the homes. There the service of blessing, which began in the church, is finished with the sprinkling of water in the home. Traditionally, in most Orthodox parishes, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their



surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany (January 19/6). By sanctifying our living quarters, our private place, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings.



We also bring the blessed water to our homes to use throughout the year to bless our homes and to drink whether we are ill or as part of our daily prayer life. "There are many occasions in family life when a sip of holy water can help to remind us of the blessing that was given 'to bestow sanctification', 'unto healing of soul and body', 'to be a fountain welling forth unto life eternal', as the priest prayed in the litany of Epiphany day." (*Little Falcons: Water*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 1998, p.33.)

### Weaving Christ into Our Lives

The blessing of homes by these holy waters maintains the spiritual association between the 'family church' and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God's spiritual gifts. ... This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings." (*Marriage and the Christian Home*, p.25.)

If the priest comes to bless the home when the children are present, they have the opportunity to see the parish priest in a different and personal situation. If the priest permits, they can lead the way through the house, or hold a candle. They receive a blessing with water. For children, the house blessing shows the connection of the Church to the home.

### In Summary

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year!

### Мисао дана/Thought of the day

Пчела је више почастиована од осталих животиња, не зато што ради, већ зато што ради за друге. Свети Јован Златоусти

The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others. Saint John Chrysostom

### Дечје ћоше/Children's corner



#### The Helper

**A** priest is walking down the street one day when he notices a very small boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach.

After watching the boy's efforts for some time, the priest moves closer to the boy's position. He steps smartly across the street, walks up behind the little fellow and, placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder leans over and gives the doorbell a solid ring.

Crouching down to the child's level, the priest smiles benevolently and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Now we run!"

### Обавештења/Announcements:

- 1) У петак 27. јануара, на дан када наша света Црква прославља Светог Саву света Литургија ће почети у 9ч. У недељу 29. јануара, дечја празнична приредба. Молимо доведите децу да се заједно радујемо празнику!  
On Friday, January 27, when our Holy Church commemorates Saint Sava, the Holy Liturgy will begin at 9AM. On Sunday January 29, a traditional children's show on the occasion of the Feast
- 2) Потребне су свеће за Часну Трпезу. Уколико неко жели да приложи свеће за Часну Трпезу, молимо нека се обрати о. Владимиру.  
We are in need of candles for the Altar table. If anyone wishes to provide candles for the Altar table, please, contact Fr. Vladimir