

**Russian Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ**

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Sunday, January 16, 2022

**Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:00 AM
Confessions 8 - 8:50 AM**

Today is Sunday, January 16, 2022

**Богоявление - Крещение Господне
Theophany - The Baptism of Christ**

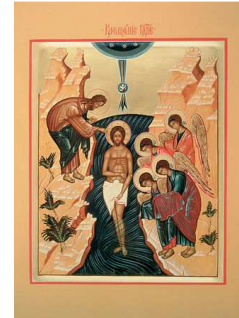
Wednesday, 19 January 2022

Среда - 19-го Января 2022

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия

with Blessing of Water / освящение воды

**Бдение / Vigil 6:30 PM Вторник вечера /
Tuesday evening**



**A sermon of St. Theophan (Govorov), the hermit
(+1894) on the Baptism of the Lord (excerpted):**

*The Lord commanded His Church to brightly
celebrate His Theophany, and He deigns to bring
each of us into the joy of the festivities only
through the judgment of conscience.*

Celebrating the Holy Theophany, let us
transfer our thoughts to the very place of the
event and let us reasonably listen to what was
happening there!

You see St. John on the shore, in clothes
made of camel hair, with a removable belt
(leather) about his loins. He is surrounded by
countless people from Jerusalem, Judea and all
the land of the Jordan. The baptism of the
Savior has just ended; and the eyes of all are
fixed on the Son of Man ascending from the
water. They don't see anything more than this.

But sharpen the eye of your mind with
faith, and following John, bypassing this which
is visible to all, fix an attentive look at what is
not visible to everyone: at the open sky, the
dove descending and the voice heard: "This is
my beloved Son, Hear ye Him!" (*Matthew 3:17*).
Set your gaze and do not tear your attention
away from this wondrous vision! O, Who will
give our word the power to worthily sing the
glory of God, who appeared in three forms on
the Jordan!

Together with the lost paradise, the
heavens were closed by the truth of God. But

just as a strong barrier does not hold back the
strong pressure of the waters, so at last the
fortress of truth melted away from the fire of
God's love, and now the heavens opened. Let us
open (ourselves), brethren, and we will see all
the powers of our nature, we will insatiably
receive God who has been revealed, and enjoy
Him. Let us saturate all our feelings with them,
all our thoughts and desires.

We are immersed in darkness, but here is
abundant light. We are struck by a desolate
separation - both from heaven and from
ourselves; but here is a life-giving
reconciliation. We are exhausted by impotence,
but here is an inexhaustible source of all
strength!

Hurry, brethren, to acquire the habit of
discerning all this in the light of the Theophany
-- Christ's baptism, and let us not be carried
away by what is called only light, and peace,
and power, and not what is, but rather to strive
for Him Who is the way, truth, and life, indeed,
both sanctification and deliverance.

This is what the Lord wants. He
commanded the Church to joyfully celebrate
His Theophany, and He deigns to bring each of
us into the joy of the feast through the
judgment of conscience. You who have tasted
the gifts for which the Church celebrates,
rejoice; but you who have not tasted, taste first,
and you will rejoice. Amen. (*January 6, 1864*)