

**Theophany, sometimes called Epiphany, is the official date (January 6) that the baptism of Christ is celebrated in the Byzantine Catholic Church. It is not to be confused with the Western holiday also called Epiphany which is a celebration of the magi presenting the baby Christ with their gifts.**

**The word Theophany means “Revelation of God;” Theophany therefore marks the revelation of the Trinitarian nature of God when Jesus was baptized. Those who witnessed heard the Father’s voice from Heaven, saw the Spirit descending upon Jesus, and could see Jesus in the flesh.**

**We see the beginning of a new creation in Theophany. Things are being set right. Christ has come not only to cleanse and restore mankind, but to adopt us as heirs into his Kingdom. And when we receive His glory, not only are we redeemed, but we draw up all of creation with us. That is why “creation groans” in eager expectation, awaiting the glorification of the children of God. (Rom 8)**

**During this time of the year, a beautiful ceremony is carried out and holy water is prepared in each parish. Congregants are free to take the holy water home with them. A portion is kept and used by the church throughout the year.**

**Also, house blessings are completed during the subsequent weeks using the holy water prepared during the Feast of Theophany.**