

SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THEOPHANY (EPIPHANY) 2017 FROM HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN JOSEPH

The Royal Hours and Typika are served on the morning of **Thursday, January 5**, which is the Paramon (Eve). Therefore, we sing the Apolytikion of the Paramon: ***“The River Jordan receded”*** (*Nassar, P. 433*). The Royal Hours and Typika may each be offered in either of the following orders:

- Consecutively, starting at 9:00 AM in the following manner: start the First Royal Hour with “Blessed is our God”, and OMIT the Dismissal at the end of each Hour (except the last), and OMIT the section between “Blessed is our God” to right before “Come let us worship” in the Third, Sixth and Ninth Hours. **SIMPLY PUT, OMIT THE BOXED PORTIONS OF THE TEXT.**
- At their usual times (6:00 AM, 9:00 AM, Noon and 3:00 PM), with the Ninth Royal Hour and Typika being served at 3:00 PM.

The Priest performs the Great Censing of the entire church at the start of the First and Ninth Royal Hours, and the Small Censing from the Beautiful Gate (Holy Doors) – like he would before the Great Entrance in Divine Liturgy – at the start of the Third and Sixth Royal Hours.

Then, the **Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great** is served either immediately following the Ninth Royal Hour/Typika (around 3:30 PM) OR in the early evening hours (around 6:00 PM) on January 5.

On the morning of Epiphany Day, January 6, we serve Festal Orthros and **Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.**

Our Holy Orthodox Tradition calls for TWO **“Services of the Great Blessing of the Waters.”** The first one is performed in the Vesperal Divine Liturgy on Thursday after “Blessed be the Name of the Lord” inside the church, either at the baptismal font or at a table where a bowl of water is placed. The second one is performed on Friday in Orthros after the Great Doxology OR in the Festal Divine Liturgy after “Blessed be the Name of the Lord” outdoors at a large body of water, such as a fountain, river, lake or ocean. More commonly, only the first Great Blessing is performed at the church, and can be done in Orthros or either Liturgy. The Archdiocese has provided the complete Text for the indoor blessing; the text for the outdoor blessing can be found in *The Liturgikon*, pgs. 445-450.

AN ALTERNATIVE

Although His Eminence's strong preference is that churches open on January 5-6, pastors can use their discretion—after careful consideration and research as to when the most people can attend—and offer Festal Orthros AND Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom with the Great Blessing of the Waters on Thursday night, January 5. With this alternative, they would not offer the Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great on Thursday morning, but they would still offer Royal Hours.

Please thoroughly review the Theophany Texts for 2017 well in advance of their use in the parishes. They will be available for printing during the Nativity Fast at:

<http://www.antiochian.org/online-liturgical-guide>