Service Instructions for Theophany (Epiphany) 2026
From His Eminence Metropolitan Saba

The Great (Royal) Hours and Typika are served on **Monday, January 05** in the morning, which is the Paramon (Eve). Therefore, we read the Apolytikion of the Paramon: "**River Jordan was turned back."** The Great Hours may each be offered in either of the following orders:

- Consecutively, starting around 9:00 a.m., as follows: start the First Great Hour with "Blessed is our God," and OMIT the dismissal at the end of each Great Hour (saving it for the end of Typika), and OMIT the section between "Blessed is our God" to right before "Come let us worship" in the Third, Sixth and Ninth Great Hours. **Simply put, omit the boxed portions of the service text.**

- At their usual times (6:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., noon and 3:00 p.m.), with the Ninth Great Hour and Typika being served at 3:00 p.m.

According to our Typicon, no censing is done at the First Great Hour. At the Third, Sixth and Ninth Great Hours, the priest does the great censing around the entire church using the katzion (hand censer), but if none, the regular censer. The apolytikion, theotokia and kontakion are plainly read. The idiomela are chanted sticharically (slowly).

After the Ninth Great Hour and Typika, in the early evening, the **Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great** is served.

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

Therefore, parishes will not be offering Holy Communion twice in one *calendar* day. If there is a pastoral need to deviate from this schedule, pastors must contact their local bishop or archiepiscopal vicar directly to discuss their particular situation and obtain his permission.

Our Holy Orthodox Tradition calls for TWO "**Services of the Great Blessing of the Waters**." The first one is celebrated in the Vesperal Divine Liturgy on Monday (paramon) after "Blessed be the Name of the Lord" inside the church, either at the baptismal font or in front of a table where a bowl of water is placed. The second one is celebrated on Tuesday in Orthros after the Great Doxology OR in the Festal Divine Liturgy after "Blessed be the Name of the Lord." More commonly, only one service is celebrated at the church, and can be done in Orthros or either Liturgy.

The Online Liturgical Guide will provide the complete text for the indoor blessing. However, that and the text for the outdoor blessing of water at a fountain, river, lake, or ocean later in the day on January 06 can be found in ***The Liturgikon***.

An Alternative

Although His Eminence's preference is that churches open on January 5 and 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 Monday night, January 5. With this alternative, they would not offer the Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great on Monday, but they would still offer the Great (Royal) Hours and Typika.

Please thoroughly review the Theophany texts for 2026 well in advance of their use in the parishes. They will be available for printing during the Nativity Fast at the **Online Liturgical Guide**.