

THEOPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS

It is the custom of Orthodox Christians throughout the world to have their homes blessed during the Theophany season with water blessed at the special festal services. When the parish priest comes to bless a home, he uses an ancient prayer of the Church asking the Lord "to keep safe from all harm those who dwell here, bestowing on them Thy blessing, purification and bodily health, and granting all their petitions which are for their salvation and eternal life." This is a beautiful moment to affirm the Christian character of our homes and to renew our desire to place our lives under the mercy and protection of the Lord.

Our practice is to prepare an appropriate place in our homes for the short service to be sung. A table should be prepared with a clean white cloth, a bowl with holy water, a candle and an icon or a cross. The priest himself will have holy water, candles and an icon with him, in case they are needed. A list of the baptismal names of everyone in the family is useful because we sing Many Years at the end of the House Blessing. Televisions and radios ought to be turned off, of course. A member of the family will carry the bowl of holy water and lead the priest through the house as we bless and sing.

In the good old days the parish priest would come to every house in the parish as a matter of course, and the days following Theophany would see a veritable parade up and down streets in the neighborhood. It was a festive time and a time for visiting. Alas! Times and circumstances have changed, and houses are only blessed upon specific request. You can make such a request by filling out the form below and submitting to the parish office.

House Blessing 2007	
Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____
Phone: (Home)	_____
(Work)	_____
(E-Mail)	_____
Best Days or Dates To Come:	
(During the Day)	_____
(In the Evening)	_____