Beloved in the Lord,

I greet you with love and joy in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Today we are blessed to commemorate our Lord’s Baptism in the Jordan River by St. John the Forerunner. This feast, commonly known as Epiphany in English, is called in Greek, Θεοφάνεια: that is, a Theophany, or an appearance of God.

Before the coming of Christ into the world, there were several instances of God making Himself known among His Creation, as when He appeared to Moses in the form of the Burning Bush. However, the feast of Theophany represents a wondrous moment when all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made known to mankind.

We hear in the Great Blessing of the Waters, “The Jordan turned back and the mountains skipped, looking upon God in the flesh; and the clouds gave voice, marveling at Him who was come, the Light of Light, true God of true God.” When we perform the Great Blessing of the Waters, we understand that this great mystery is a day of joy which is forever renewed. Our sinless Creator not only condescended to take on our flesh, but to be baptized as example for all, and to purify this world as He undertook His ministry to save humanity.

The miracle of Theophany is a reality for all who open their hearts and receive the power of God into their lives. Therefore, I pray that the grace and light of this beautiful Feast will inspire us to serve our Triune God with joy and gladness today and always! I remain,

With paternal blessings and with much love in our Lord,

+ALEXIOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta