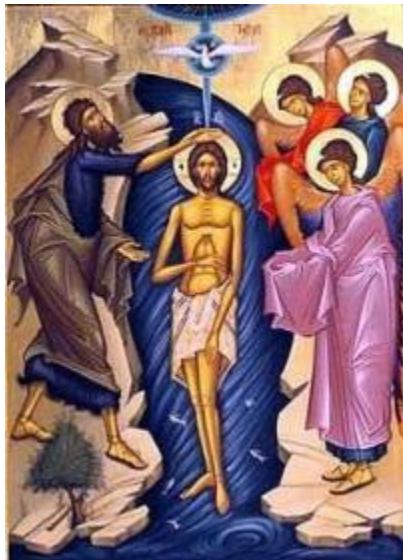




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS ^{OF} ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΛΑΝΤΑΣ



Theophany 2026:

To the Reverend Clergy & Monastics, the Parish Council Presidents & Officers, the Archons of the Order of St. Andrew & the Sisters of Philoptochos, and to all the Faithful of the Metropolis of Atlanta, Youth, Young Adults, and Adults

My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

When reflecting upon this spiritually bright day of our Lord's Theophany, I am of course reminded that the Light of the Holy Trinity continues to shine upon all of us now, just as it did over two-thousand years ago in the Jordan River. In the event known as Epiphany, the Triune Godhead manifests itself in ways that humanity can see and hear: the presence of God is known through the voice of the Father, through the Son demonstrating the importance of the sacrament of Baptism, and through the miraculous appearance of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove.

Every aspect of this Feast, from the Great Blessing of the Waters to the traditional Cross Dive, is not just a commemoration of something that has already happened, a history, but is a celebration of the continuing reality that creation will meet its Creator, will be cleansed, and will be enlightened. Indeed, I feel such great joy knowing that on this day, we will experience in our hearts the prophetic words of Isaiah: *"For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return... They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away"* (Isaiah 35:6, 10). In condescending to be baptized by the Holy Forerunner in the Jordan, our Lord has taken his next steps towards his public ministry of healing & preaching, which will lead us to His Passion & burial, and ultimately, His Resurrection on the third day.

Embracing you with joy and gladness, and praying for continued spiritual fruitfulness in this New Year of our Lord, 2026, I remain,

In the love and service of our Lord

+Metropolitan Sevastianos

+SEVASTIANOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta