



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Message of Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey for the Feast of the Epiphany 2026

Beloved children in the Lord,

By the grace of God, we are granted once again to celebrate the radiant feast of the Holy Epiphany, the manifestation of the Holy Trinity at the Jordan River. Today, the heavens are opened, the Father bears witness to the Son, the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove, and Christ is revealed to the world as the Light that enlightens every person.

As Saint Gregory the Theologian proclaims, “Christ is illumined; let us shine forth with Him. Christ is baptized; let us go down with Him, that we may also rise with Him.” The Baptism of the Lord is not merely an event of the past, but a living invitation for each of us to renew our own baptismal calling—to walk in repentance, humility, and obedience to the will of God.

The Lord enters the waters of the Jordan not because He is in need of purification, but in order to sanctify creation itself. Saint John Chrysostom reminds us that “He descended into the waters, not to be cleansed, but to cleanse them, and through them, all who would be reborn by water and the Spirit.” In Christ’s descent, the fallen world begins its ascent; the waters become a source of healing, renewal, and life.

The Holy Epiphany calls us to remember who we are: children of God, sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. In a world often troubled by confusion, division, and fear, the voice of the Father still resounds: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Through Christ, this voice

becomes a word of hope addressed also to us, calling us to live as sons and daughters of light.

As we bless the waters today, we pray that the grace of the Holy Spirit may bless our homes, our families, our communities, and all creation. May this feast renew our faith, strengthen our love, and inspire us to bear witness to Christ through lives of mercy, truth, and peace.

With paternal love in Christ, I pray that the light of the Theophany may illumine your hearts and guide your steps throughout the new year.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

With paternal love and wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Apostolos" with a stylized flourish at the end.

+ Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey