

Sunday, January 7th



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- What feast are we celebrating today?
- . Who baptized Jesus?
- 3. Where was Jesus baptized?

Praying Together:

Lord Jesus,
Just like all of us, you were
baptized through water and the
Holy Spirit. Guide us as we try to
live our lives like you, always
trusting in God and loving
others.

Amen.

Parents' Cheat Sheet - Car Qs Jan. 7/18, Feast of Theophany

- 1. Which feast are we celebrating today?
 - 1. Theophany (Epiphany in the Roman rite), or Jesus' baptism.
 - 2. "Theo-" comes from the Greek word *theos*, which means "God." "-Phany" comes from the Greek word *phainein*, which means "to show."
 - 3. When Jesus was baptized, this was the first time God the Father revealed him to be God the Son: "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from he water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 1
- 2. Who baptized Jesus?
 - 1. St. John the Baptist
 - 2. St. John the Baptist was the final prophet before Jesus. St. Matthew quotes Isaiah when he writes about St. John the Baptist: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight."²
 - 3. He is also Jesus' cousin, the son of Elizabeth (a relative of Mary's) and Zechariah.³
- 3. Where was Jesus baptized?
 - 1. The Jordan River
 - 2. The Jordan River is recognized as a sacred body of water that possesses great healing powers. As St. John Chrysostom says regarding Theophany and the Jordan River, "This is the day on which Christ was baptized and blessed the substance of waters."⁴
 - 3. For more info on the Jordan River and Feast of Theophany, check out *A Byzantine Rite Liturgical Year*, p. 335-348.

¹ Matthew 3:16-17 (see also Mark 1:9-13, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:29-34)

² Matthew 1:1-8, quoting Isaiah 40:3

³ See the beginning of the Gospel of Luke, 1:5-80

⁴ Taken from *A Byzantine Rite Liturgical Year*, p. 336