



# St. Michael Youth Program

## January 2016

# God Makes All Things New

### Home Discussion

During the month of January we celebrate **The Great Feast of Holy Theophany** ("Epiphany") - January 6th

1. We are reminded of our Baptism in Christ. Read: Romans 6:3-11 and discuss what it means to be united in Holy Baptism into Christ.
2. The waters of the Jordan River become the waters for blessing and renewing of all creation by Christ's divine presence at His baptism by John the Baptist; just as we are also renewed in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. How do we help to renew all of creation by having received this blessing of Holy Baptism?
3. The Feast of Holy Theophany reveals the Holy Trinity to us. It is the meaning of the word "Theophany" (the revelation of God as Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.). Read Mark 1:9-11.

### January

**January 3 - The Sunday before Holy Theophany** - John the Baptist, called the "Forerunner," speaks of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ who baptizes us with the Holy Spirit in Holy Chrismation. [read: Mark 1:1-8]

**January 6 - The Feast of Holy Theophany (Epiphany)** - [Matthew 3:13-17; the Holy Trinity is revealed] Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist, God the Father speaks, and the Holy Spirit appears as a dove.

**January 10 - The Sunday after Theophany** - Jesus begins preaching, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is in your midst." Christ the Lord is King of the Kingdom. [Matthew 4:12-17]

**January 17 - (The Feast of St. Anthony the Great)** - [Luke 17:12-19] Jesus heals ten lepers and one returns to thank him.

**January 24** - [Luke 18:35-43] Jesus, called the "Son of David," heals the blind man who cries out for mercy.

**January 31 - "The Sunday of Zacchaeus"** - Jesus goes to the home of Zacchaeus, a tax collector, who repents, changing his ways, helps the poor and pays those who he once cheated.

### Memory Verse

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new." (II Corinthians 5:17)

### Hymn of Holy Baptism

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!

### The Hymn of Holy Theophany

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance and to Thy faithful people grant victory over the enemy, and by the power of Thy Cross, protect all those who follow Thee!

### Activities

- Plan to view the photos and/or video of your Baptism and review the meaning of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Communion.
- Plan a phone call conversation or visit with your Godparent
- Think of ways to renew or restore something in God's creation, i.e., a dying plant, a broken item or gift, or participate in recycling items that are being thrown away.
- Participate in the singing of the Hymn of Holy Theophany during the visit of Father Timothy at the time of your house blessing and ask him any questions you may have.

### Special Events

**The Great Feast of Holy Theophany** - Wednesday, January 6th (Note: The Divine Liturgy of the Feast is being celebrated as a Vespers Liturgy on Tuesday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m. with the Great Blessing of the Water.)

**During the Season of Holy Theophany Holy Water is used from the Feast for the blessing of our homes and everything God has trusted to our care.**