

# **ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN**

## **Sunday January 08, 2023**

**The Sunday after Theophany**

**Apostolic Reading:** [Ephesians 4:7-13](#)

**Gospel:** [Matthew 4:12 - 17](#)

**“Jesus Begins His Ministry”**

**Tone 5 • Resurrection Gospel 8**



# What is Great Agheasma and how it is used.

On the day of the Baptism of the Lord, January 6, the service of the consecration of the great water was celebrated in the Orthodox churches, water which after consecration becomes *Great Holy Water*.

The term "agheasma" comes from the Greek word "agiasmós" (αγιασμός) which means "sanctification".

The gap is small or large. The smaller one is also popularly called festanie, which means lighting or the service of lights.

*The Great Aghiasma* is officiated at *Epiphany*, in memory of the Baptism of the Lord by John in Jordan. It is officiated both on the eve of the Epiphany, when the water with which the priests baptize the houses is sanctified, and on the day of the Epiphany itself, when the water is sanctified that the faithful take to their homes, for the whole year.

"This service is called *Great Agheasmă* because the water from the Epiphany has a special power, being sanctified through a double epiclesis, and the sanctification takes place on the very day when our Lord Jesus Christ sanctified the waters, through His Baptism in the water of the Jordan", says Rev. Prof. Dr. Ene Braniște in the *Special Liturgy*.

The effects of Great Aghiasma are shown by the order of the service itself, in the text of the litany and the consecration prayer, where the priest prays: "And give her the grace of deliverance and the blessing of the Jordan. Make her a source of incorruptibility, but of holiness, release of sins, healing of diseases, destruction of the devils, removal of the powers of the adversaries, full of angelic power. That all those who will sprinkle themselves and taste from it may have it for the cleansing of their souls and bodies, for the healing of passions, for the sanctification of houses and for all the necessary benefits...".

That's why Aghiasma Mare is kept intact for a long time, "remaining as fresh, clean and good tasting as when it was taken out of the spring, a fact noted by the Holy Fathers and church writers since ancient times". according to the great Romanian liturgist.

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*From on high comes His Nature and from the depths His Garment bound forever to the garment of him who now takes off his garment [Col. 3:9]. And you will now acquire from the waters from Him a garment that does not grow old or perish, a garment that clothes those who wear it for eternity.*

– St. Ephrem the Syrian

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The great Holy Water is taken in the morning, on an empty stomach, before the Holy Bread, and when the believer takes communion, after it. It can be consumed from Epiphany Eve, until the Odovania of the holiday. High Holy Communion can also be taken in special situations, upon the recommendation of the priest.

According to tradition, believers also use the Great Agheasma for sprinkling houses, households, household animals, sanctifying the world around and calling for God's help in the new year.

It is kept in a place of honor in every home, usually in glass containers.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***DON'T FORGET*** to send in your 2022 Stewardship contribution. If you haven't done so already, please send it in as soon as possible.

***HOUSE BLESSINGS*** - The blessing of homes at Theophany will begin the week of January 6, 2020, and continue until all homes are blessed. As in the past, we will be setting times when we will be coming to bless your home. If there is a specific time that is more convenient for you, please call Fr. Vasile to arrange it 508.320.0645 or [fr.vasileaileni@gmail.com](mailto:fr.vasileaileni@gmail.com)

***2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY*** - Will be held on February 5th after Divine Liturgy. Being an electoral year, a new Parish Council will be elected. We invite you all to participate!

***A NEW PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY***. Following Archdiocesan procedures, the Parish Council has formed a Nominating Committee to propose a slate of candidates. If you would like to serve, or if you would like to nominate someone for the Parish Council, please email him.

***THE 2023 CHURCH CALENDARS*** are here, in both English and Romanian. Pick them up at the candles. Please consider a small donation to cover the costs.

### **Dates to remember:**

Jan 6 - (†) Holy Theophany - Great Blessing of Water at end of Liturgy

Jan 7 - (†) Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Day	Date	Time	Service Type
January			
Friday	6-Jan	7:30 AM	Akatist
		8:00 AM	(†) Holy Theophany - Great Blessing of Water at end of Liturgy
Saturday	7-Jan	7:30 AM	Akatist
		8:00 AM	(†) Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner
Sunday	8-Jan	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	Sunday after Holy Theophany
Sunday	15-Jan	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	Sunday 29 after Pentecost (Jesus Heals the 10 Leper)

**To see the monthly Calendar of Religious Services & Events, [Click Here.](#)**

### A Prayer of Fr. Laurence

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD, Glory to you, eternal Father, for sending us your Son! Glory to you, coeternal Son, for being baptized by John! Glory to you, O life-giving Spirit, for pointing out the Son to all the world! As we celebrate these days of theophany, enable us to praise you with all your creatures, so that our lives may manifest your majesty and glory at all times, O you whose wisdom fashioned and created all things. For you are indeed our God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

# HOLY TRINITY NEWS

## January 8, 2023

***BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR A BLESSED NEW YEAR.*** If you have relatives or friends at Holy Trinity, this is a great time of year to visit them. Renovations of the front lobby and most of the hallways are completed. And the redesigned dining/activity room has plenty of space for a comfortable visit that will brighten the day of a loved one.

### ***THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY:***

- Tuesday, January 10th: St. Mary's will be sponsoring a coffee social at 2:00 pm
- Thursday, January 12th: there will be Musical Entertainment with Bill Shontz at 2:00 pm

If you and your friends would like to attend, you are definitely welcome! Contact [Julie Craven](#) — e-mail: [jcraven@holytrinityrehab.org](mailto:jcraven@holytrinityrehab.org) — or call: 508-852-1000, with questions.

***HOLY TRINITY IS LOOKING FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT*** to join the team. It is a great position for someone looking to learn more about the healthcare industry from every aspect and gain experience that would be impossible to garner working in a large corporation or hospital group. Persons interested should contact the CEO, [Rodolfo Parra](#).

***DID YOU KNOW THAT*** while some of the variations in older people's health reflect their genetic inheritance, most are due to their physical and social environments, and the influence of these environments on their opportunities and health behavior. (*from the World Health Organization*)

***DIVINE LITURGY*** is celebrated every Wednesday morning at 9:30am. Please, keep Holy Trinity, its staff, directors, residents, and families in your prayers. You are always welcomed to attend Liturgy and visit with the residents! They'd really appreciate it.

***STAY CONNECTED.*** Be sure to like our [Facebook page](#) for frequent updates and photos.

## ORTHODOX LINKS

[Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas](#)

[Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America](#) (Assembly of Bishops)

[International Orthodox Christian Charities](#) (IOCC)

[Orthodox Christian Mission Center](#) (OCMC)

[Orthodox Christian Radio Network](#) (OCN)

[Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches of Central Mass.](#) (CEOC)

**ALL THINGS ORTHODOX** - weekly show hosted by Fr. Chris Stamas of St. Spyridon  
airs on the **Worcester Cable** channel 194 on **Mon @ 7 pm, Sat - 8 pm & Sun - 9 pm**  
or at the cable website: [wccatv.com](http://wccatv.com), or the **Worcester TV** Roku app.

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*Sunday Services: Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am*