

## The Blessing of our Homes at Epiphany

A beautiful custom in our Holy Greek Orthodox Church, following the days of the Epiphany feast, is the home blessing. The priest visits the homes of parishioners to perform the Agiasmo and to bless the family. If you wish to have your home blessed, please fill out the slip below and mail it to the church. Father Aaron will call you to schedule his visit. We thank you and wish you a healthy and most prosperous New Year.



When Christ entered the Jordan River, he sanctified the waters and all of creation. An important sign of God's sanctification of all things through the feast of Theophany is the act of blessing the homes of faithful Christians. The priest visits the members of the church to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with Holy Water. He asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing.

### Getting Ready for Home Blessing

To prepare for the priest's visit to bless your home:

- Make a list of names of family members you wish to pray for when the priest arrives
- On your dining room table or family altar, place a lighted candle, an incense burner (if available), a family icon, a wide bowl (to hold the holy water the priest will bring), and some vasiliko (fresh leaf basil).
- Be sure your prayer list is there, too!
- Turn off all TVs, stereos, and computers, secure any pets that might "get underfoot"

When the priest arrives, everyone in the house should gather around the table/family altar and join in the singing of the litany responses and troparion. The family will then lead the priest throughout the house for the blessing.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work Cell

Preferred Dates and Times (Please indicate 3, referring to his letter in this bulletin for Fr. Aaron's availability): \_\_\_\_\_

Please add special directions to find or park: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the baptismal names of the living you would like commemorated:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_