

Kontakion for Theophany (Tone 4):

TODAY, YOU HAVE APPEARED TO THE WORLD* AND YOUR LIGHT, O LORD, HAS BEEN SIGNED ON US,* WHO WITH KNOWLEDGE SING YOUR PRAISES.* YOU HAVE COME, YOU HAVE APPEARED, O UNAPPROACHABLE LIGHT!

THE VIBRANT PARISH: A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST

His Beatitude Sviatoslav together with the bishops of the UGCC invite us to pay special attention to the renewal of parish life as the foundation of renewal for our Church. Our Synod encourages all to reflect and work for the welfare of our parish community, and thereby play an active role in the mission of the Church by fostering these aspects of a vibrant parish:

Word of God and Catechesis
Liturgy and Prayer
Service to one's neighbour
Leadership – Stewardship
Communion – Unity
Missionary Spirit



THEOPHANY

OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

THE VIBRANT PARISH PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, You became incarnate to find the lost sheep of Your flock and preached the Gospel, so they might recognize Your voice. So also today graciously look down from heaven upon our parish community, and send down on it Your Holy Spirit, that it might be a place to receive the joy of Your Good News. Strengthen us with Your presence, and always gather us together in prayer. Grant us the spirit of serving others, so that in our parish all might encounter You, the merciful God. Bless our spiritual leaders with Your wisdom, and inspire us to generously give of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of Your Kingdom. Unite us in peace and harmony, as befits Your community of love. Instill in us a missionary spirit, and let our parish community shine with the light of the Gospel, with prayer and good works, inviting all to share in the divine life, so that Your Name, O Saviour, may be praised, together with Your eternal Father, and Your most-holy, good and life-giving Spirit. Amen.



JORDAN BLESSING OF THE FATHER AND HEAD OF THE UGCC HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

**My Dearly Beloved
Brothers and Sisters in Christ!**

I am grateful that once again you have allowed me to visit your gracious home together with your parish priest and to impart on you our traditional Jordan blessing.

Having been baptized in water and the Holy Spirit, our Lord received from the Father his mission of salvation here on earth. Having been cleansed in the mystical bath of Holy Baptism, we too are sent to the world to proclaim the Gospel of truth, to join ourselves with God in prayer, and to do works of mercy for our neighbours, granting them the opportunity to discover how good the Lord is.

May this Jordan water purify us and strengthen us for this blessed calling.

With my fatherly love to You,

+ Sviatoslav + SVIATOSLAV