

Hey  
kids!

JAN  
2019

# BYZI KIDS

Having fun the BYZIKIDS way.

## Theophany:

### THE GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS

When you attend the vigil liturgy for the feast of Theophany, be sure to sit in front, as close to the vat of water as possible, and pay very close attention. Something wonderful is about to happen!

First Father will give it three blessings with a lighted three-branched candle saying:

"Great are you, O Lord, and wonderful are your works; no word suffices to give praise to your wonders."

...and God will hear him calling to Him.

Then he will bend over the water three times and make the sign of the cross with his breath and say:

"O Loving King, come now and through the descent of the Holy Spirit sanctify this water."

...and then the Holy Spirit will come!

Then Father will continue to ask God to do many wonderful things for us through this water.

"Grant it the grace of redemption and the blessing of the Jordan."

...as if it was water from the Jordan River itself! When we are baptized with water, it sanctifies us... makes us holy. When Christ stepped into it to receive baptism, he sanctified the water instead of water sanctifying HIM! Father asks God for this grace for us when we use this holy water.

•Make it a fount of incorruptibility, a gift of sanctification, a redemption of sins,

...if we use it, it will help cleanse us of our sins! Let's use this holy water as reverently and as often as we can!

•A healing potion for illness, and a destroyer of demons.

...it will heal illnesses and scare away demons! ...I like that!

•Make it immune to hostile powers, and fill it with angelic power so that all who drink and receive of it may be purified in soul and body, cured of ills, sanctified in their homes, and given every befitting grace.

...Cures ills, cleanses of evils, scares away demons and calls down the holy angels, AND brings us EVERY BEFITTING GRACE! Wow!

•For you are our God, who through water and the

Spirit rejuvenated our nature grown old by sin.

...Everything in nature reveals something about the One who created it. God has given us water to refresh and cleanse us, so that we can, in turn, understand how His grace can do so too! Water is a very versatile and useful tool in the hand of God.

•You are our God, who drowned sin in the waters at the time of Noah.

...see how He used the rain water to cleanse the earth?

•You are our God, who, on the sea and at the hands of Moses, delivered the Hebrews from the bondage of Pharaoh.

...see how He used the water of the Red Sea to protect the Israelites as they ran away from their Egyptian captors?

•You are our God, who split the rock in the wilderness, so that the waters gushed out, and the valleys overflowed, and the people were satisfied.

...see how He grants water, refreshment, and life, to those who need it?

•You are our God, who, with fire and water, and at the hands of Elijah, delivered Israel from the errors of Baal.

...remember how He used the presence of water to show His ultimate power and authority when He lit Elijah's sacrifice ablaze and the priests of Baal could not do so?, even when their sacrifice was dry!

Then Father will make the sign of the cross in the water with his hand, three times, saying each time:

"Wherefore, O Master, sanctify this water by your Holy Spirit."

And then he will ask God:

"Grant sanctification, blessing, cleansing, and health to all who touch it, are blessed with it, or who partake of it. O Lord, save your servants, our civil authorities. Keep them in peace within your protective shadow, granting them all salutary requests and eternal life.

May your all-holy name be glorified by the elements, by men, by angels, by all that is visible or invisible, together with the + Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever."

Then we will all say, "Amen."

When the service is over, you may go forward and receive a blessing with this powerful water, drink of it, and even take some home with you to use as you need it, and receive all of the protection, cleansing and healing that was promised in Father's prayer!

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# Sea Monsters &

## OTHER INTERESTING THINGS IN THE ICON



Today's coloring page is a picture of the Theophany Icon.  
We see Our Lord being baptized in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist,  
sometimes called St. John the Forerunner.

### THE HOLY TRINITY

Theophany means "Divine Appearance". In icons of the Theophany we see the appearance of the Holy Trinity. It is easy to find God the Son. He is Jesus who is being baptized. We do not see God the Father, but we see a half circle showing heaven opening up. This represents the voice of God the Father talking about His Son and saying, "This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:13-17) We also see the Holy Spirit Who appeared as a Dove.

### OUR LORD

Check out Our Lord's right hand blessing the water. Our Lord is being baptized but he is not being made holy by the water. Instead, He is blessing the water and making the water holy.

### THE TREE AND THE AXE

These remind us of the words of St. John, "Every tree which does not bring forth good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire." Matt 3:10. We do this by our prayers and good works. An example of this was the Charity Project each parish did during the Nativity Fast.

### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

In Theophany icons, we see St. John bowing to Jesus. He is also shown with messy hair and a scruffy beard since he lived in the desert. He is looking up to heaven where he hears the voice of God the Father and sees the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. In some icons we see St. John pointing to Jesus. St. John told his followers that they must now follow Jesus, not him.

### THE ANGELS

Angles are waiting to help Jesus when he comes out of the river. They are holding towels and clothes. Notice how they have their heads bowed. Also notice that their hands are covered with the cloth they are holding. These are signs of love and respect.

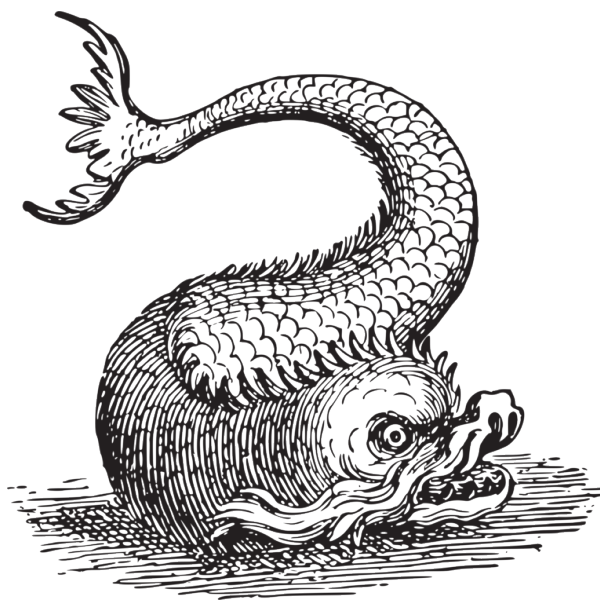
### SEA MONSTERS AND WEIRD CREATURES

Often, we see weird little creatures in Theophany icons. Sometimes they are sea monsters, funny little people riding fish, a man with wings and a jug, or a woman with a crown. Some represent the Jordan River and some represents the sea. They are there to remind us of the Old Testament Psalms. These were written hundreds of years before the birth of Our Lord. They talk about how Christ will overcome evil and about how the seas and rivers are astonished by what is happening and turn back in fear.

*Try to find these quotes in the Bible.*

There is something very special about reading from the actual Bible!

- "You did establish the sea by Thy might, You did crush the heads of the dragons in the water." (Psalm 73:14)
- "The waters saw Thee and were afraid; the abysses were troubled. (Psalm 76:15)
- "The sea beheld and fled, the Jordan turned back." (Psalm 113:3)



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THE BAPTISM

OF OUR LORD

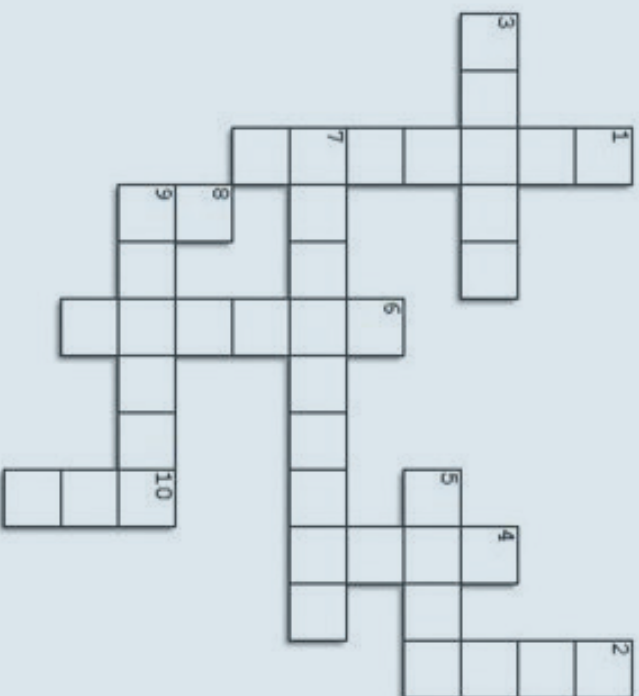


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# Theophany Crossword Puzzle



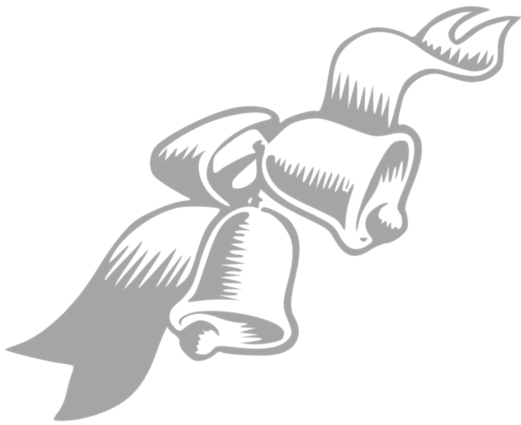
## Across

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God the Father could be heard.
5. The Holy Spirit descended upon Christ in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A word from the Greek meaning Divine Appearance.
9. Funny little sea creatures remind us of Old Testament quotes from the book of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

1. During Our Lord's baptism, the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ was made known.
2. We are reminded that we must never be lazy and that our lives must bear fruit by the symbols of an axe and a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. He points to Jesus and calls him "The Lamb of God."
6. Name of River in which Our Lord was Baptized.
8. In Icons of the Theophany, St. John is usually looking in which direction.
10. God the Father called Jesus His beloved \_\_\_\_\_.





### House Blessing~

O God our **Savior**, the True Light,

Who was **baptized** in the Jordan by the Prophet John,

and Who did deign to enter under the roof-tree of **Zacchaeus**,

bringing *salvation* unto him and unto his house:

do You, the same Lord, **keep safe** also from harm those who dwell herein;

grant to them Your **blessing**, *purification* and bodily **health**,

and all their **petitions** that are unto salvation and **Life** everlasting;

for blessed are **You**, as also Your **Father** Who is from everlasting, and Your All;

Holy, Good and Life; creating *Spirit*, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

**Amen.**

*May He Who condescended to be baptized in the river Jordan by the Forerunner and Prophet John, for our salvation, through the intercessions of His immaculate Mother, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is our good and loving Lord. Amen.*

**Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!**

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# House Blessing

The Theophany is a special feast day during which we remember when St. John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, and the Holy Trinity was made known. A special custom that has arisen from this feast day is the annual House Blessing. Our parish priest visits the homes of his parishioners and blesses our homes with "Jordan water," the water that was blessed on the feast of Theophany. Since God sanctified all things through Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we ask our priest to bless our homes, which are considered the "domestic church," since this is where we live out our Faith day to day.

There are some different local customs, but in general, when the priest comes, all who are present gather around the family icon corner with a candle. They join in the Trisagion Prayers and sing the Troparion of the Feast of Theophany. Then a family member leads the priest through the house with the candle, while the Troparion is sung. Father will bless each room with a sprinkle of holy water, and then after all the rooms have been blessed, he will bless each person present. It is also customary in many families to write down the names of the deceased to be remembered, as well.

*The House Blessing is a beautiful way to sanctify our homes  
and all the activities that will take place in it!*

- Written By Carrie Chuff

## ANSWER KEY

**Theophany Crossword Puzzle**

**Across**

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God the Father could be heard.  
5. The Holy Spirit descended upon Christ in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_.  
7. A word from the Greek meaning Divine Appearance.  
9. Funny little sea creatures remind us of Old Testament quotes from \_\_\_\_\_ the book of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Down**

1. During Our Lord's baptism, the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ was made known.  
2. We are reminded that we must never be lazy and that our lives must bear fruit by the symbols of an axe and a \_\_\_\_\_.  
4. He points to Jesus and calls him "The Lamb of God."  
6. Our Lord was Baptized.  
8. In icons of the Theophany, St. John is usually looking in which direction.  
10. God the Father called Jesus His beloved \_\_\_\_\_.

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# БОГ СЯ РОЖДАЄ GOD BORN A MORTAL

(IF YOU NEED TO HEAR THE MUSIC,  
YOU CAN FIND IT ON YOUTUBE. JUST TYPE  
IN THE TITLE IN THE SEARCH BAR.)

THE STORES HAVE ALL TAKEN DOWN THEIR  
CHRISTMAS TREES BUT WE ARE STILL SINGING  
ABOUT THE BIRTH OF CHRIST!

GOD BORN A MORTAL  
WHO CAN CLAIM TO KNOW HIM?  
JESUS WE CALL HIM,  
WORSHIP LET US SHOW HIM.  
HERE THE ANGELS STAND IN AWE,  
OF THE INFANT IN THE STRAW.  
OX IS HERE AND TREMBLING STANDS,  
WITH THE ASS NEAR GOD MADE MAN.  
SEE THE SHEPHERDS KNEELING,  
GOD MADE FLESH REVEALING.  
HERE, YES. HERE NOW.  
REALLY TRULY HERE.



From the Nativity icon at The Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA. Photo by Max Luckey

Бог ся рождає,  
хто ж Го може знати?  
Ісус Му ім'я,  
Марія Му Мати!  
Тут Ангели чудяться,  
Рожденного бояться.  
А віл стоїть, трясеться,  
Осел смутно пасеться.  
Пастиріє клячуть,  
В плоті Бога бачуть,  
Тут же, тут же,  
тут же, тут же, тут!

BOH SYA ROZHDAYE,  
KHTO ZH HO MOZHE ZNATY!?  
ISUS MU IM'YA,  
MARIYA MU MATY.  
TUT ANHELY CHUDYAT'SYA,  
ROZHDENNOHO BOYAT'SYA.  
A VIL STOYIT', TRYASET'SYA,  
OSEL SMUTNO PASET'SYA.  
PASTYRIYE KLYACHUT',  
V PLOTI BOHA BACHUT',  
TUT ZHE, TUT ZHE,  
TUT ZHE, TUT ZHE, TUT!

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# The Catechism of The Ukrainian Catholic Church

In our last issue, we learned about the three main sections of The Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church: Christ—Our Pascha. Do you remember them?

They are:

1. *The Faith of the Church*
2. *The Prayer of the Church*
3. *The Life of the Church.*

Today, let's take a closer look at how this book is organized and see if we can learn something about the feast we just celebrated, The Feast of Theophany.

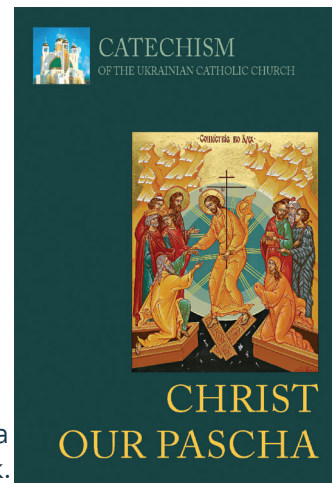
Like most reference books, this catechism has a table of contents and a subject index. Look at the table of contents in the very beginning of the book. You will notice that in the Faith of the Church section, there is a section on Theophany on page 72. Next, look at the subject index. Make sure you are looking at the subject index, the very last index in the book and not one of the other indices. If you look up Theophany, you will see many places in the catechism where the Theophany is mentioned. These will be paragraph numbers not page numbers.

- The Table of Contents—gives us page numbers*
- The Subject Index—gives us paragraph numbers*
- Let's read sections 197—202 beginning on page 72.*

Here are just some of the wonderful things you will learn.

- We learn that the word Theophany comes from the Greek words for "divine appearance." What appeared? The Holy Trinity appeared and was made known to us, The voice of God the Father proclaimed Jesus His beloved Son and the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove.
- We learn that at first, St. John did not want to baptize Jesus. He knew he was unworthy to baptize Him. St. John said, "I need to be baptized by you." Our Lord told St. John that it was important in order to "fulfill all righteousness." As a man, Jesus came to be baptized, but as God, the Jordan feared him and turned back.
- We learn that when Ukrainians think of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, it makes them think of the baptism of Rus-Ukraine hundreds of years ago by the Grand Prince Volodymyr in the river Dnipro. The Dnipro is sometimes called the Ukrainian Jordan.

- Written By Julie Luckey



## RELATED IMAGES



*The Baptism of Kievans, by Klavdiy Lebedev from Wikipedia*



*Monument of St. Volodymyr overlooking the modern Dnipro River in Kyiv from Wikipedia.*

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# Baptismal Ornament Craft

**Theophany** is a perfect time to focus on reviewing the sacrament of baptism as a family and what it means to you! Take the time to reminisce a bit with your children about the day they were baptized. Show them the photographs and videos and let them know that it was important to you to have brought them to the fullness of membership in the Church and to have them freed from ancestral sin brought to us by our first parents, Adam and Eve. The waters of baptism perform both those actions for us and by it we are introduced to our life as a true Christian. You may choose to have the children renew their baptismal vows today! So that they can feel and know that they have freely made this declaration of faith for themselves and should take ownership of that decision and nurture their souls accordingly, as they have promised.

You may also want to mark the occasion of the renewal of the children's baptismal vows by having them make this little commemorative ornament! It can be packed away with the Christmas things and be brought out each year, and perhaps hung on the Christmas tree, to remember the occasion.



We use a scallop shell because it has been a longstanding symbol of the sacrament of baptism because the shell was often used as an instrument to pour water over the head of the catechumen. Because shells are often symbols of a journey or travelling to a new place, perhaps the scallop shell symbolizes the journey the soul will take along its new path of Christianity as well.

## Scallop Shell Baptismal Ornament Craft

### Supplies needed:

- Scallop shell, one per person, with a hole drilled into the top of the shell (*parents help required*)  
(can be bought at most craft stores, or in the aquarium section of most pet shops)
- Old nail polish, or craft paint
- Sharpie Marker
- Ribbon for hanging

### Optional:

- Craft store pearl beads, one per person
- Gold marker for decorating the edge of the shell

Each person should take their shell and thinly paint the outer surface with the nail polish or craft paint and allow to completely dry. While the paint is drying, discuss the day each of the children was baptized. Tell each of them the date of their baptism and let them know that it should be a special day for them, like their birthday and their name day! Have the children practice writing their full name and the date on which they were baptized on a sheet of paper, so they can write it nicely later on.

Once the paint is completely dry (this is very important!), take the sharpie marker and have them write their full name and the date of their baptism on the inside of their shell. Once this is completely dry, paint over the entire shell, inside and out, with clear nail polish, or spray it with varnish to seal and protect their work. Once the shells are completely dry, you can hot glue a craft pearl to the top of the inside of the shell for decoration, perhaps apply some markings to the edge of the shell with a metallic gold marker, thread the ribbon through the hole that was drilled into the shell, and hang it up to enjoy!

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## Theophany Troparion:

This is a very special song that we sing on the feast of Theophany. We will sing it when Father comes to bless our homes as well, so it would be a good idea to begin to learn it! Here is how it goes:

AT YOUR BAPTISM IN THE JORDAN, O LORD,  
 WORSHIP OF THE TRINITY WAS REVEALED;  
 FOR THE FATHER'S VOICE BORE WITNESS TO YOU, CALLING YOU HIS BELOVED SON,  
 AND THE SPIRIT IN THE FORM OF A DOVE CONFIRMED THE TRUTH OF THESE WORDS.  
 O CHRIST GOD, YOU APPEARED AND ENLIGHTENED THE WORLD.  
 GLORY TO YOU!



Let's make a very special jar to take with you to Liturgy on the feast of the Theophany in order to carry home some holy water.

### Craft: Decorated Holy Water Bottle

#### Supplies needed:

- a recycled glass jar, one with a cap or tight fitting stopper.
- Printed reproduction of the festal Theophany icon, or icon of you patron saint. (You can even re-print the icon provided below, cut it out and paste it to your jar.)
- Length of ribbon, craft-store jewels and gems for decorating the jar
- Super glue or hot glue (Photo to follow)

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# Greeting for Theophany:

Let us learn this Theophany greeting too!

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS: "CHRIST IS BAPTIZED!"  
YOU SAY: "IN THE JORDAN!"

IN UKRAINIAN:

Христос хрестився! В річці Йордані!  
Khrystos khretyvsya! U ritci Yordani!

IN OLD SLAVONIC:

Christos Khreshchayetsya! Vo Yordani!

IN RUSSIAN:

Христос крещен! В Йорданни!  
Khristos Kreshchen! V'Yordaniiji!

IN GREEK:

Χριστός βαπτίστηκε! Στην Ιορδανία!  
CHRISTÓS VAFTÍSTIKE! STIN IORDANÍA!

IN ARABIC:

ندرأل ايف ادمع حيسملا  
ALMASIH EMD! FI AL'URDN!

IN ROMANIAN:

HRISTOS ESTE BOTEZAT! IN IORDAN!

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# HYMN FOR THEOPHANY

Here is a hymn we sing in Church for the feast of the Theophany.  
Practice this at home so you can sing along with the cantor!

Divine Liturgy, January 6

## THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

### Hymn



1. To Jor - dan's wa - ter, to Jor - dan's wa - ter  
2. Three Per - sons in God, Three Per - sons in God,  
3. Saint John the Bap - tist, Saint John the Bap - tist



Christ comes to be bap - tized. John the Fore - run - ner,  
Are now re - vealed to us. Fa - ther and Son,  
Fore - tells re - lease to - day: The Lamb of God,



John the Fore - run - ner, Now hum - bly steps a - side.  
Fa - ther and Son, Ho - ly Spir - it, One God.  
The Lamb of God Will wash our sins a - way.



Christ our Lord is bap - tized. Sal - va - tion is now real - ized.



Skies of heav - en o - pen, God the Fa - ther spok - en,



O'er the Jor - dan a Dove, Ho - ly Spir - it of Love:



Rev - e - la - tion from a - bove.

Brought to you by our friends at the Metropolitan Cantor Institute!

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