

THE BLESSING OF OUR HOMES AT EPIPHANY

As is customary, following the days of the Epiphany feast, 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 drop it off at church – in the office or at the pangari (candle stand). Fr. Nick or Kathy from the church office will contact you for a day and time, which works for everyone. Alternatively, you may call the Church Office at 734-420-0131 to schedule a visit and send the information below to Kathy via email at secretary@nativitygochurch.org

We thank you and wish you a healthy and most prosperous New Year!

Getting Ready for Home Blessing: 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.

If you are uncomfortable with Father Nick entering your home during the pandemic, he will come, greet you at your door, and bless the exterior of your home.

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

- Make a list of the first names of those 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) or fresh cut evergreens.. Be sure your prayer list is there, too!
- Turn off all TVs, stereos, and computer(s).
- A visit will last approximately 30 minutes.

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 troparia. The family will then lead the priest throughout the house for the blessing.

House Blessing

Name: _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____