



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA  
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**PROGRAMME OF HOLY SERVICES  
JANUARY 2012**

<b>SUNDAY</b> 1 January	<b>CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST - ST. BASIL THE GREAT</b> Matins, Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Great, Doxology for the New Year and cutting of the Vasilopitta	8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
<b>THURSDAY</b> 5 January	<b>FOREFEAST OF EPIPHANY</b> (Strict Fast) Matins, Great Hours, Vespers, Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great and Blessing of the Water	7:00 - 11:00 a.m.
<b>FRIDAY</b> 6 January	<b>HOLY EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST</b> Matins, Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Water	7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
<b>SATURDAY</b> 7 January	<b>SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER</b> Matins and Divine Liturgy	7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
<b>SUNDAY</b> 8 January	<b>SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> Matins and Divine Liturgy Ceremony of the Blessing of the Waters at <b>YARRA BAY</b>	7:00 - 10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
<b>SUNDAY</b> 15 January	<b>12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b> Matins and Divine Liturgy	8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
<b>TUESDAY</b> 17 January	<b>SAINT ANTHONY THE GREAT</b> Matins and Divine Liturgy	7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 18 January	<b>STS. ATHANASIOS AND CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA</b> Matins and Divine Liturgy	7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
<b>SUNDAY</b> 22 January	<b>15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b> Matins and Divine Liturgy	8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 25 January	<b>ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN</b> Matins and Divine Liturgy	7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
<b>SUNDAY</b> 29 January	<b>17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW (THE CANAANITE WOMAN)</b> Matins and Divine Liturgy	8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
<b>MONDAY</b> 30 January	<b>THREE HIERARCHS</b> Matins and Divine Liturgy	7:00 - 9:30 a.m.

**GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATER**

On the Feast of Holy Epiphany, the Great Blessing of the Water is conducted on the Eve and on the Feast Day, in commemoration of our Lord's baptism by St. John the Baptist in the River Jordan. In the days following, the priests bless the homes of those who have requested it, as is tradition.

The Great Blessing of the Waters which is conducted on the Forefeast of Epiphany and on the Feast Day itself is exactly the same and has the same sanctifying effect. The prologue which is read on the actual Feast Day of Epiphany expounds on the nature and meaning of the Feast.

The perception that we should not partake in the Holy Eucharist on the Feast Day of Epiphany in order that we may receive Great Holy Water is incorrect. Great Holy Water can never replace Holy Communion, which is the Body and Blood of Christ. First we receive Holy Communion, then Great Holy Water, followed by Antidoron.

Great Holy Water is kept throughout the year, in order that the faithful may partake of it "for the bestowing of sanctification, for the remission of sins, for the healing of soul and body, and for every true need".