

## Theophany in Brooklyn, New York



On Monday, January 19th, 2009, the parish of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco celebrated the feast of the Lord's Theophany with joy. His Grace Bishop Andrew of Pavlovskoye presided at the Divine Services, with the rector of the parish, Fr. Serguei Serjanov concelebrating. The church was full of worshippers, and over 40 people took Holy Communion.

After the Divine Liturgy ended, Vladyka Andrei performed the Greater Blessing of the Waters. After the Blessing of the Waters was completed, the clergy and parishioners went outside to form a procession. Over 70 people took part in the procession.

The parish rents a small church near the shore of the Atlantic Ocean in New York



City. For four years now, on the feast of Theophany, Fr. Serguei and the parishioners process to the ocean and bless the waters of the Atlantic.

This year, it snowed on the day of the feast, which is rather rare for New York. The weather conditions by the shore were still and quiet.

Vladyka Andrei blessed the waters of the ocean to the singing of the troparion of the feast, and by immersing the Cross three times in the ocean.

Then, several of the parishioners took a short swim in the newly blessed waters.

After the procession returned to the church, the Sisterhood of the parish invited all present to a generous trapeza. Vladyka spoke at length about the life of the Church, answered many questions, and described his trip to Italy, where he received the parish of St. Michael the Archangel into the Russian Orthodox Church.

