Have you ever gotten credit for something great...but that you didn’t really do? “Good job!” somebody might say. But it doesn’t make you feel so great, unless you earn that praise yourself!

In today’s Gospel reading, we hear about Saint John. He is called the Forerunner, because he came *before* our Lord, Jesus Christ. Lots of people started to follow St. John, and he baptized lots and lots of people. They probably thought he was pretty great. But Saint John stopped that praise with these words, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.”

Saint John didn’t want the credit. He pointed to Christ instead. He knew that our Lord, Jesus Christ was *much, much* greater than he was.

If you look at the icons in the front of your church, you will see the icon of Christ. Lots of times, you will see Saint John in the icon beside Him. He points to Christ. Give Him the credit! Give Him the praise!

Can YOU do that too? Can you give God the credit for things you have done?
What's in an Icon?

Here is an icon of the baptism of our Lord.
Can you find the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove?
Can you find Saint John?
How about the angels?

When Christ was baptized, He came up out of the water. Everyone heard a voice that said these words. Can you figure out what it said?

Answer: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

How do we celebrate Theophany?

Orthodox Christians celebrate Theophany on January 6th. On this day, we hold a special service called the “Blessing of the Waters.” If you go to church, you can drink a little of the holy water. The priest will give you a little bottle of holy water to take home with you, too. Along with this wonderful tradition in the church, here are some other ways that Orthodox Christians celebrate this great feast!

But the best way to celebrate is by going to church, thanking God for giving us the Holy Spirit and His Son, Jesus Christ!

We celebrate Holy Theophany on Tuesday, January 6th.

In Greece, Bulgaria, and Cyprus, the priest throws a cross into the water. Lots of people jump into the cold water. Whoever brings it back first is said to get a special blessing for the year.

In Romania, people compete in a big horse race! The priest blesses the horse riders with holy water, and then they are off!

In Russia, it is very cold in the winter. But that doesn't stop people from jumping in icy water.

In some places, people cut a hole in the ice in the shape of a cross. Then people jump in.

On Theophany, thousands and thousands of Orthodox Christians visit the place where Jesus was baptized. They go to the Jordan River, near the city of Jericho.

Some people who want to be baptized do so on this holy day!