

CHRISTMAS-THEOPHANY 2018-2019



Mon Dec 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

Day of fasting and abstinence from meat, eggs and dairy products.
NOTE: According to liturgical time, each day begins and ends at sundown. As the first star appear in the evening sky on Christmas Eve, the feast of the Nativity of Christ begins – with the family gathered together for the Holy Supper. The Lenten character of this meal (abstinence from meat and dairy products) reminds us that Jesus was born not into wealth, in a royal palace, but into poverty, in a humble cave, amidst the poor of the world.

3 pm Vigil Divine Liturgy (Vermilion)

7 pm Great Compline & Lytia (Lloydminster)

Great Compline is the first prayer service to take place in church after the Holy Supper. With Compline, the Nativity Fast (40 days of preparation) comes to a formal end. During the Lytia Service, bread, wheat, oil and wine are blessed. The faithful will receive this blessed bread and will be anointed with this holy oil at the end of the Christmas Divine Liturgy. Bring your Holy Supper to a spiritual conclusion by attending Great Compline & Lytia!

8 pm Festal Divine Liturgy (Lloydminster)

Blessed bread will be distributed at the end of the Liturgy. "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread." The faithful will also be anointed with holy oil, confirming the grace of the Holy Spirit received.

Tues Dec 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

10:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy (Lloydminster)

Congregational singing. Blessed bread will be distributed at the end of the Liturgy. The faithful will also be anointed with holy oil, confirming the grace of the Holy Spirit received.

Wed Dec 26 SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Lloydminster)

*This is one of the most ancient Marian feasts. The Greek word **synaxis** means "assembly." The faithful assemble the day after Christmas to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Only with her "yes" did the incarnation of the Son of God take place; and with this "yes," she has become "more honourable than the cherubim, and by far more glorious than the seraphim."*

Mon Dec 31 VIGIL OF THE FEAST / NEW YEAR'S EVE

4:30 pm Great Vespers & Lytia (Lloydminster)

Great Vespers & Lytia will be celebrated in preparation for the feast and the new civil year.

Tues Jan 1 CIRCUMCISION & NAMING OF OUR LORD ST. BASIL THE GREAT / NEW YEAR'S DAY

7:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Lloydminster)

According to Jewish custom, every male child received its name on the eighth day, at the circumcision. Just as any other Jew, Jesus was also circumcised on the eighth day. In Hebrew the name Jesus is "Yehoshua," which means "The Lord saves."

On this day, we also commemorate St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea, who fell asleep in the Lord on January 1st, 379. In addition to his work as a theologian, Basil was known for his care for the poor, the sick and the needy. Basil established guidelines for monastic life which focused on community life, liturgical prayer, and manual labour.

Sat Jan 5 THEOPHANY EVE

Day of fasting and abstinence from meat, eggs and dairy products.

4 pm Vespers Divine Liturgy (Lloydminster)

Sun Jan 6 THEOPHANY

8:30 am Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing (Vermilion)

Theophany means "the appearance of God." After Easter and Pentecost, Theophany is considered the third greatest feast of the Eastern Church, more so than Christmas. It commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Forerunner.

11:30 am Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing (Lloydminster)

During the Theophany season, it is customary to bless your house for the year! Please contact Fr. Mike directly or fill out the enclosed card and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to set up an appointment from now until Feb 2nd.

Sat Feb 2 HOLY ENCOUNTER IN THE TEMPLE

6 pm (Fri) Great Vespers & Lytia (Lloydminster)

9:30 am (Sat) Divine Liturgy (Lloydminster)

Blessing of Candles at the end of the end of Liturgy. The blessing of candles on the Feast of the Encounter is closely related to the Gospel narrative, introducing Jesus as the "Light of the people" (Lk. 2, 32) The burning candle symbolizes the abiding presence of Jesus Christ in the midst of the Christian community as He, Himself, had promised.

4:30 pm (Sat) Great Vespers (Lloydminster)