



CHRISTMAS – THEOPHANY 2018-2019

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve (Vigil)

Day of fasting and abstinence from meat, dairy and eggs, and foods that contain these ingredients. 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.

Great Compline and Lytia 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, 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 each Christmas Divine Liturgy.

9:00 am	Royal Hours (Bilingual)
8:00 pm	Great Compline and Lytia (Bilingual)
9:00 pm	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (English)
10:30 pm	Christmas Carols
11:00 pm	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) <i>Readings and homily in English & Ukrainian</i>

Tuesday, December 25

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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.

10:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

Wednesday, December 26

Synaxis of the Mother of God

*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.”*

10:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

Thursday, December 27

Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

Saint Stephen was the first baptized Christian of the early Church to be martyred for the sake of Christ, in the year 34 or 35 AD.

10:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

Friday, December 28

Holy Martyrs of Nicomedia

The Twenty Thousand Martyrs Who Were Burned in Nicomedia (303); Passing into eternal life (1945) of Blessed Hryhoriy (Gregory) Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanyslaviv (Ivano-Frankivs'k) and martyr.

7:30 am Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

Saturday, December 29

Saturday After the Nativity of Christ

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
4:00 pm Great Vespers
5:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

Sunday, December 30

Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

King David, Saint Joseph, Saint James

On this first Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we also commemorate Holy and Righteous. Joseph, the betrothed spouse of Mary and foster father of Jesus. We also commemorate King David, the ancestor of Christ, as well as St. James, “the Brother of the Lord.”

7:30 am Great Matins
9:30 am Divine Liturgy (English)
11:00 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

Monday, December 31

Leave-Taking of Christmas

Venerable Melania of Rome

The morning Divine Liturgy will be offered in thanksgiving for the 2018 year. Great Vespers & Lytia will be celebrated in preparation for the feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord, St. Basil the Great, and the new civil year.

9:30 am Divine Liturgy – Thanksgiving (Bilingual)
4:00 pm Great Vespers & Lytia

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Circumcision of Our Lord

Saint Basil the Great / New Year’s Day

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.

**10:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
(Bilingual)**

Friday, January 4

Pre-feast of Theophany

When the Feast of Theophany falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the Royal Hours are celebrated in bright vestments on Friday.

7:30 am Royal Hours

Saturday, January 5

Vigil of Theophany

The feast of Theophany begins with the parish family gathered together for the Holy Supper (St. Josaphat hall). As on Christmas Eve, the Lenten character of this Holy Supper is also observed (abstinence from meat and dairy products).

- 4:00 pm Great Vespers
- 5:00 pm **Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing (Bilingual)**
- 6:30 pm Theophany Eve Supper

Sunday, January 6

Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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.

- 7:30 am Great Matins
- 9:30 am **Festal Divine Liturgy (English)**
- 11:00 am **Festal Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)
& Water Blessing**

Sunday, January 13

Sunday After Theophany

- 7:30 am Great Matins
- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (English)
- 11:00 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

Friday, February 1

Fore-feast of the Encounter

- 5:30 pm Great Vespers & Lytia

Saturday, February 2

Encounter of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Blessing of Candles at the end of each Liturgy.

- 9:30 am **Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)**
- 4:00 pm Great Vespers (for Sunday)
- 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy (for Sunday)