



CHRISTMAS-THEOPHANY 2015-2016

Thur Dec 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Day of fasting and abstinence from meat 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.

7 pm Great Compline & Lytia

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 each Christmas Divine Liturgy. Bring your Holy Supper to a spiritual conclusion by attending Great Compline& Lytia!

8 pm Festal Divine Liturgy (English)

This first Festal Liturgy will be celebrated by Bishop David, together with Cathedral Clergy. 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.

10 pm Singing of Christmas Carols

The singing of Ukrainian Christmas carols will be led by Saint Josaphat Choir. If you are planning to attend the 10:30 pm Liturgy, come early to prepare by singing Christmas carols!

10:30 pm Festal Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

This second Festal Liturgy will also be celebrated by Bishop David, Cathedral clergy and St. Josaphat Choir. The readings will be proclaimed in Ukrainian and English. The Children's Choir will present a special Christmas Pageant, re-enacting the Nativity of Jesus. Blessed bread will be distributed at the end of the service. The faithful will also be anointed with holy oil, confirming the grace of the Holy Spirit received.

Fri Dec 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

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.

Sat Dec 26 SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

*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."*

4 pm Great Vespers

5 pm Divine Liturgy (Bilingual) – For Sunday

**Sun Dec 27 SAINT STEPHEN THE PROTOMARTYR
SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
King David / St. Joseph / St. James**

9:30 am Divine Liturgy (English)

11 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

St. 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. On this first Sunday after Christmas, we also commemorate St. Joseph, the betrothed husband 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" (close relative).

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

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving (Bilingual)

4 pm Great Vespers & Lytia

The morning Divine Liturgy will be offered in thanksgiving for the 2015 year. Great Vespers & Lytia will be celebrated in preparation for the feast and the new civil year. At Great Vespers, new priestly vestments will be blessed in preparation for the ordination of Rev. Michael Bombak.

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

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

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.

4 pm Divine Liturgy (Bilingual) – Priestly ordination of Michael Bombak through the laying on of hands by Bishop David Motiuk

Sun Jan 3 SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

6 pm (Sat) Great Vespers

5 pm (Sat) Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

9:30 am (Sun) Divine Liturgy (English)

11 am (Sun) Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

Tues Jan 5 THEOPHANY EVE

Day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products.

8 am sRoyal Hours

4 pm Great Vespers

5:30 pm Holy Theophany Supper

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).

7 pm Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing (Bilingual)

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.

Wed Jan 6 THEOPHANY

10:30 am Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing (Bilingual)

Tues Feb 2 HOLY ENCOUNTER IN THE TEMPLE

4 pm (Mon) Great Vespers & Lytia

9:30am (Tues) Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

7 pm (Tues) Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

Blessing of Candles at the end of each Liturgy.