



## CHRISTMAS-THEOPHANY 2016-2017

**Fri Dec 23 PRE-FEAST**

**8 am Royal Hours**

**Sat 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.

**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 and homily will be proclaimed in Ukrainian and English. 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.*

**Sun Dec 25 CHRISTMAS DAY  
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**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.*

**Mon 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."*

## **Tues Dec 27 SAINT STEPHEN THE PROTOMARTYR**

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

**Stephen** or **Stephan** (Greek: Στέφανος, Stephanos; Latin: Stephanus), traditionally venerated as the **Protomartyr** or first martyr of Christianity, was according to the Acts of the Apostles a deacon in the early church at Jerusalem who aroused the enmity of members of various synagogues by his teachings. Accused of blasphemy, at his trial he denounced the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgment on him and was then stoned to death. His martyrdom was witnessed by Saul of Tarsus, a Pharisee who would later himself become a follower of Jesus, taking the name "Paul."

## **Sat 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 2016 year. Great Vespers & Lytia will be celebrated in preparation for the feast and the new civil year.*

**5 pm Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)**

## **Sun Jan 1 CIRCUMCISION & NAMING OF OUR LORD ST. BASIL THE GREAT / NEW YEAR'S DAY SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY**

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

**11:00 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)**

*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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.*

## Thurs Jan 5 THEOPHANY EVE

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

8 am Royal 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.*

## Fri Jan 6 THEOPHANY

7:30 am Great Matins

9:30 am Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing (Bilingual)

## Thurs Feb 2 HOLY ENCOUNTER IN THE TEMPLE

5 pm (Wed) Great Vespers & Lytia

7:30 am (Thur) Great Matins

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

7 pm (Thur) Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

*Blessing of Candles at the end of each Liturgy.*