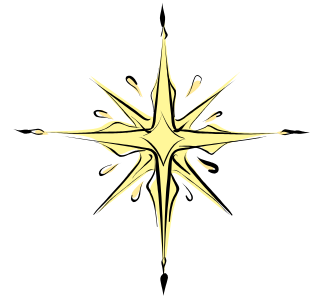


ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 25, 2016 – The Nativity in the flesh of our Lord, and God, and Savior Jesus Christ



CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

- TROPARION OF THE FEAST:

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shone to the world the light of wisdom; for by it those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to worship Thee the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE FEAST:

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He that existed before the ages as God.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Dec. 24: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy for Nativity Eve (Children's Choir)
5 PM, Festal Matins for Nativity
- Sunday, Dec. 25: 9:30 AM, Festal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
- Monday, Dec. 26: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Synaxis of the Theotokos
- Wednesday, Dec. 28: 6 PM, Vespers
- Saturday, Dec. 31: 5 PM, Great Vespers and Prayers for the New Year
- Sunday, Jan. 1: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy for Feast of the Circumcision of Christ and St. Basil
5 PM, Great Vespers and Akathist for the Feast of St. Seraphim
- Monday, Jan. 2: **9:30 AM, Greeting of Bishop Benjamin and Divine Liturgy for the Feast,** Festal luncheon to follow

- THE SECOND DAY OF THE FEAST:

On the Feast of the *The Synaxis for the Theotokos* [gathering together of the faithful]: Fr. Alexander Schmemmann writes the following: "Combining the hymns of the Nativity with those celebrating the Mother of God, the Church points to Mary as the one through whom the Incarnation was made possible. His humanity—concretely and historically—is the humanity He received from Mary. His Body is, first of all, her body; His life is her life. This feast, the assembly in honor of the Theotokos, is probably

the most ancient feast of Mary in the Christian tradition, the very beginning of her veneration by the Church.” The Feast of the Synaxis is celebrated at 9:30 AM, with Divine Liturgy, December 26.

- PARISH FEAST DAY: REPOSE OF SAINT SERAPHIM OF SAROV—JANUARY 2, 2012:

Once again we are preparing, as a parish, to celebrate one of the two St. Seraphim Days in the Church year. We are expecting His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, to join us for Liturgy on **Monday, January 2, 2017, 9:30 AM**. The evening before, Sunday, January 1, we will have Vespers and the Akathist for St. Seraphim at 5 PM. Dear Parish Members: most of you have the day off on Monday, Jan. 2, so I encourage you to make that last “holiday push,” as a gift to yourself, to celebrate the feast day of our patron saint. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- FEAST OF THEOPHANY, JANUARY 6:

We can see how important this feast is in the life of the Church by the number of liturgical services that we have been given. *Royal Hours* on Wednesday, January 4, at 6 PM. The *Vesperal Liturgy* on Thursday, January 5 at 11 AM (we fast strictly before this service to prepare for receiving Holy Communion). Holy Water will be blessed at the conclusion of the Vesperal Liturgy. *Matins for Theophany* will be celebrated on Thursday as well, at 6:15 PM. The *Divine Liturgy of the Feast*, and another blessing of water, will be celebrated on Friday, January 6, beginning at 9 AM. Quite a few of our parishioners were baptized on this feast day, and we rejoice with them, asking that the Lord grant many years of fruitful service to the Church.

- HOUSE BLESSINGS:

A sign up list will be posted on January 1 for House Blessings. The late Archpriest John Udics reminds us that “on the Feast of the Parish or the Feast of Theophany [January 6] we rededicate our home for its original purpose, just as we must periodically rededicate our life to Christ. We do it especially on this Feast of Theophany because this is the day on which we remember in the Church Year the coming of Christ who began His Ministry when He descended into Jordan to be baptized by Saint John the Forerunner and Baptist. He enters again into our lives reminding us that we must ‘repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.’ An Orthodox Christian must dedicate not only himself and his house to the Lord, but his daily work and all his efforts as well. All things are to be done to the glory of God. That is why in the Christian Orthodox Church, not only religious objects, such as icons, crosses, churches and vestments, are blessed, but also homes, fields, animals, clothing and all objects which are used in our daily lives for the good of man. In this the Church expresses its faith that the Holy Spirit’s sanctifying action extends over the whole Creation.”

- UPCOMING — PARISH ANNUAL MEETING:

The Annual Meeting for 2017 will convene on **Sunday, February 5**, following the Liturgy. According to our Parish By-Laws, the Annual Meeting is to take place on the first Sunday of February. All parish members are asked to attend the meeting. What constitutes Parish Membership? Very simply, four things: A formal member of the parish is one who 1) is a baptized Orthodox Christian, 2) is at least 18 years of age, 3) regularly confesses and communes in this parish, 4) financially supports the parish.