



Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. John the Baptist Nativity Newsletter, December/January 2018

Confession and Communion for the elderly and infirm. During the Nativity fast Orthodox Christians traditionally approach for Confession and Communion. Fr. Bohdan will gladly bring communion to any of our elderly or infirm parishioners in their house, nursing home, or in the hospital. Please contact him to arrange for a convenient time.

Sunday, December 31st—Sunday before the Nativity. Tone 5. Martyr Sebastian. *Heb. 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40; Mt. 1:1-25.* The Liturgy will be served at 10:00 AM.

Saturday, the 6th—Eve of the Nativity. *Heb. 1: 1-12; Lk. 2: 1-20.* Ven. Martyr Eugenia.

Great Compline with Litia will be served at 9:00 PM. Following the service we will sing Christmas Carols in Church.

Please remember that the eve of the Nativity (January 6th) and the eve of the Theophany (January 18th) are days of strict fasting. We refrain from consuming meat or milk products, from games, loud music, dancing, and unnecessary conversation, and we do our best to attend the holy services in Church on these days.

Sunday, the 7th—The Nativity of our Lord, God, and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Gal. 4:4-7; Mt. 2: 1-12.* The Liturgy will be served at 10 AM. Everyone is encouraged to sing Christmas Carols along with the choir during the Christmas season.

From the Nativity of Christ till the leavetaking of the feast (January 13th) we greet each other with the words “Christ is Born” (*Khrystos Rozhdayet'sia*), to which we reply “Glorify Him” (*Slavite Yoho*)!

The period between the Nativity (January 7th) **and the eve of the Theophany** (January 18th), i.e., “the 12 days of Christmas”, is a fast-free period. There is no fasting, and all foods may be eaten, even on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Monday, the 8th—Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos. Holy Ancestors-of-God Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, Brother-of-the-Lord. *Heb. 2: 11-18, Gal. 1:11-19; Mt. 2:13-23.* The Liturgy will be served at 9:30 AM. We extend prayerful best wishes to all parishioners named Joseph or David on the occasion of their name day. May the Lord bless you abundantly - Many years! Mnohaya Lita!

Tuesday, the 9th - Feast of St. Stephen, the Protomartyr and Archdeacon. *Acts 6: 8-15, 5: 1-5, 47 - 60; Mt. 21: 33-42.* The Liturgy will be served at 9:30 AM. We extend prayerful best wishes to all parishioners named Stephen or Stephanie on the occasion of their name day. May the Lord bless you abundantly - Many years! Mnohaya Lita!

Saturday, the 13th—Eve of the Circumcision/Ukrainian New-year's Eve. All parishioners are invited to celebrate the New Year according to the Julian Calendar. We will serve Great Vespers with Litia at 5 PM, followed immediately by a pot-luck dinner, caroling, and folk traditions in the fellowship room under the Church. Parishioners who are able to bring a dish for our pot-luck are encouraged to sign up on the sheet in the parish office. We hope to see you!

Sunday, the 14th – Sunday before the Theophany. Circumcision of our Lord, Feast of St. Basil the Great. *Col.2:8-12, Heb. 7:26 – 8:2, 2 Tim. 4: 5-8; Lk. 2:20-21,40-52, Lk. 6:17-23, Mk. 1: 1-8.* The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great will be served at 10:00 AM. We extend prayerful best wishes to all parishioners named Vasyly/William on the occasion of their name day. Many Years! Mnohaya Lita!

Our parish youth will be Christmas carolling for our elderly and infirm parishioners today immediately after Liturgy. If you would like the carollers to visit you, or the home of one of our elderly or infirm parishioners who cannot come to Church, please sign up on the sheet in the church office or inform Fr. Bohdan in advance.

Bishop Andriy's New-year's levee will be held at 4 PM at St. Demetrius Sobor on Lake Shore Blvd. in Toronto. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

Thursday, the 18th—Eve of the Theophany. *1 Cor. 9:19-27; Lk. 3:1-18.* Ven. Mothers Syncretika and Appolonaria. The Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Waters will be celebrated from 5–7 PM. Following the service everyone is invited to proceed to the Fellowship Room under the Church for our traditional Theophany Holy Meal.

Friday, the 19th—Theophany of our Lord (Feast of Jordan). *Titus 2:11-14, 3: 4-7; Mt. 3:13-17.* The Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Waters will be celebrated at 10:00 AM.

Saturday, the 20th—Synaxis of St. John the Baptist. *Acts 19: 1-8; Jn. 1: 29-34.* The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:30 AM.

Vespers will be served at 5 PM.

Parish Bulletin. In order to better communicate with our parishioners and friends we circulate our parish bulletin by e-mail. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive our e-bulletin, please forward your or their e-mail address to Fr. Bohdan at bhradio@sympatico.ca. Thank you!

Wall Calendars. Our parish 2018 wall calendars are available in the parish office. All parish members and adherents may obtain a calendar in the church office at no cost before or after services.

We extend warm thanks to the Sidorkiewicz Family for donating the planter arrangement before the front doors of the church, and our parish youth for decorating our Church so beautifully. May the Lord bless all of you abundantly!

Our Parish Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4th, after Liturgy. Anyone wishing to serve on the parish council is asked to contact either Dr. Slavchenko or Fr. Bohdan in advance. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.