

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. John the Baptist

Nativity Newsletter, December/January 2019



Fr. Bohdan will be in Ukraine from December 26th through January 3rd. If during this time you require immediate pastoral care please call Fr. Volodymyr Feskiw at 1.647.680.0448 or Fr. Petro Anhel at 1.905.715.0105.

Sunday, December 30th — Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. Tone 6. Holy Prophet Daniel. *Col. 3: 4-11; Lk. 14: 16-24.* The Liturgy will be served at 10:00 AM.

Saturday, January 5th—Great Vespers will be served at 5 PM.

Sunday, the 6th - Sunday before the Nativity. Tone 7. Ven. Martyr Eugenia. *Heb. 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40; Mt. 1:1-25.* The Liturgy will be served at 10:00 AM.

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 6th - Eve of the Nativity. Great Compline with Litia will be served at 9:00 PM. Following the service we invite everyone to remain in Church and sing Christmas Carols.

Monday, 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.

Tuesday, the 8th - Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos. *Heb. 2: 11-18; Mt. 2:13-23.* The Liturgy will be served at 9:30 AM.

Saturday, the 12th—Great Vespers will be served at 5 PM.

Sunday, the 13th - Sunday after the Nativity. Holy Ancestors-of-God Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, Brother-of-the-Lord; Ven. Melania of Rome. *Gal. 1:11-19; Mt. 2:13-23.* We extend prayerful best wishes to all parishioners named Joseph, James, David, and Melanie on the occasion of their name day. May the Lord bless you abundantly: Many years! Mnohaya Lita!

Sunday, the 13th - All parishioners are invited to celebrate the New Year according to the Julian Calendar. We will serve Great Vespers with Lita at 5 PM, followed immediately by a pot-luck dinner, caroling, folk traditions, and a performance by the Cantabile Choir in the fellowship room. Parishioners who are able to bring a dish for our pot-luck are encouraged to sign up on the sheet in the parish office. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Monday, the 14th – Circumcision of our Lord, Feast of St. Basil the Great. *Col. 2:8-12, Heb. 7:26 – 8:2; Lk. 2:20-21,40-52, Lk. 6:17-23.* The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great will be served at 9:30 AM. We extend prayerful best wishes to all parishioners named Vasyly/William on the occasion of their name day. Many Years!

Friday, the 18th—Eve of the Theophany. *1 Cor. 9:19-27; Lk. 3:1-18.* Ven. Mothers Syncletika 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 participate in our traditional Theophany Holy Meal, which will be held at the Portuguese Club, 520 Simcoe St. South. Tickets for the Dinner are \$20, children and youth up to the age of 15 enter for free, but they still must obtain a ticket in advance.

Saturday, 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.

Sunday, the 20th—Sunday after the Theophany, Synaxis of St. John the Baptist. *Eph. 4: 7-12, Acts 19: 1-8; Mt. 4: 12-17, Jn. 1: 29-34.* The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:00 AM. We extend prayerful best wishes to all parishioners named John/Ivan on the occasion of their name day. Many Years! Mnohaya Lita!

Saturday, the 26th - Great Vespers is *cancelled* this evening.

Sunday, the 27th - 35th Sunday after Pentecost, Leavetaking of the Theophany. St. Nina, Enlightener of Georgia. *Eph. 5: 1-8; Lk. 14: 1-11.* The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10 AM.

Confession and Communion for the elderly and infirm. Fr. Bohdan will gladly visit or bring Holy Communion to any of our elderly or infirm parishioners in their home, nursing home, or in the hospital. Should you or someone you know ever wish Father to visit please contact him to arrange for a convenient time.

Transportation to Church. We are looking for volunteers who would like to help other parish members stay connected to the Church and share our joy in Christ. If you need a ride to Church, or are able to provide regular (or occasional) rides to people who live in your area, please contact Vlad Savchenko in person or via vladimir.savchenko@outlook.com for further arrangements. Thank you!

Wall Calendars. Our parish 2019 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.

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 bhladio@sympatico.ca. Thank you!

Our Parish Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 10th, after Liturgy. All parishioners are encouraged to participate. Anyone wishing to serve on the parish council is asked to contact either Dr. Slavchenko or Fr. Bohdan in advance.