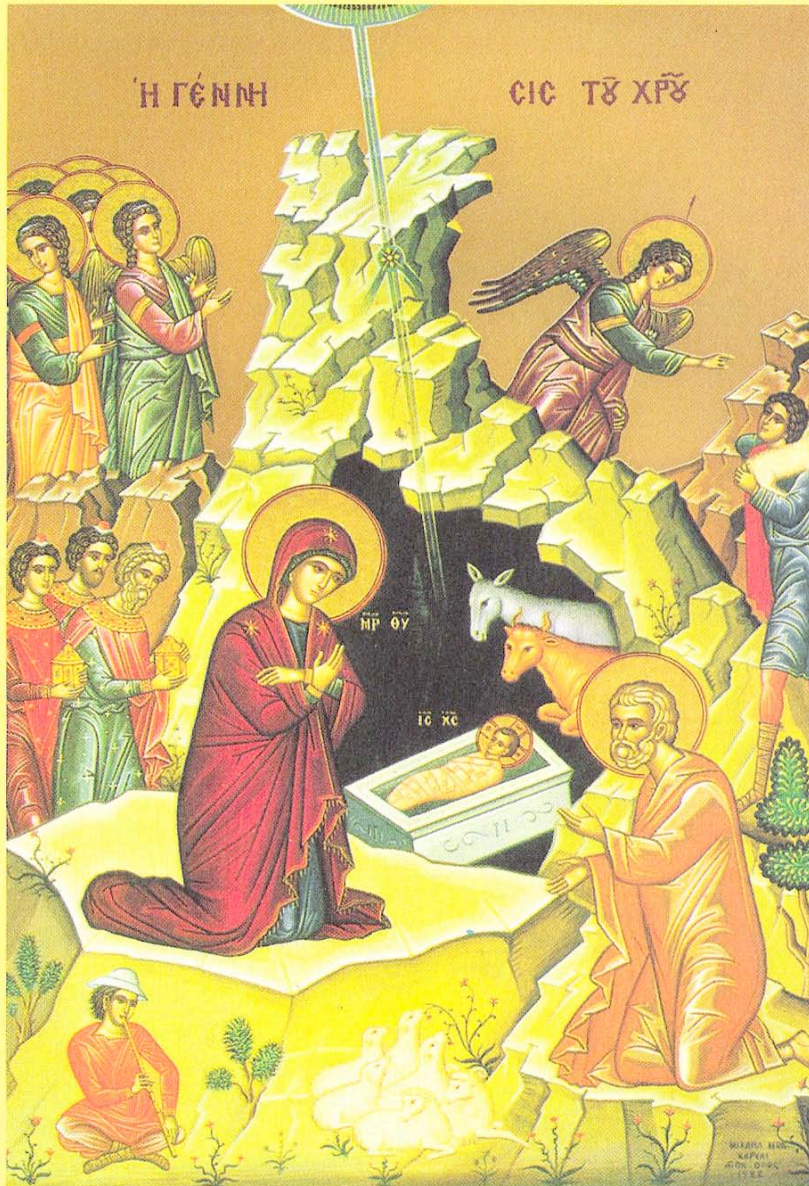


SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS -- SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS



*Icon of the Nativity of Our Lord*

***THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD – SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS  
DECEMBER 21, 2008***

*Tone 4*

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 28, 2008

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 10:00 AM ROYAL HOURS<br>10:00 PM “3 НАМИ БОГ” GREAT COMPLINES FOLLOWED BY DIVINE LITURGY |
| THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25  | 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY – NATIVITY OF OUR LORD   |
| FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26    | 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY – SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD                                   |
| SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27  | 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY – ST. STEPHEN THE PROTO-MARTYR<br>6:00 GREAT VESPERS             |
| SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28    | 8:00 AM LITURGY<br>10:00 AM LITURGY      FOR ALL PARISHIONERS                            |

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***Thank you to all the wonderful helpers who made Bishop Richard's pastoral visit such a beautiful celebration! All the hard work contributed you made the bishop feel at home in one of his most distant parishes.***

***“Open Wide Your Hearts!” – Share 2008***

“The gift you have received give as a gift.” (Matthew 10:8) Please support **Share 2008 Ukrainian Catholic Appeal**. If you haven't received the mailing from our Bishop, there are extra envelopes in the back of the church.

***Church Decorating***

Please come tomorrow, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM to help decorate the Church for the feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

***Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale***

Today is our annual pre-Christmas Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale. This will take place after each Liturgy

***Let's go Caroling!***

Between December 25 and February 2 we will be organizing visits to our parishioners, shut-ins, and nursing homes. If you are interested in participating or you would like to be visited or you know of someone who would like to be visited, please contact Xenia Moore or Fr. James.

***Christmas Cards***

Ukrainian Christmas Cards are for sale in the Church Hall. Please see Mary Kitt to purchase.



### **2008 Liturgical Schedule for Nativity**

#### ***Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord***

*Wednesday, December 24, 2008*

- **10:00 AM**  
Royal Hours
  
- **10:00 PM**  
«3 Hamu Boz!» Great Complines and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Feast

#### ***Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ***

*Thursday, December 25, 2008*

- **10:00 AM**  
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

### **Prayers For Those Serving In The Military**

Let us especially remember in our prayers those family members and friends who are actively serving our country in the Armed Forces. Please submit any names of those you would like remembered in the Liturgies to Fr. James.

#### ***Your Prayers Please!***

Please remember in your prayers those people of our parish who are in hospitals, care homes and those who are not able to join us actively in our community. Remember especially the following: Susie Boyko, Sonia Cronin, Bohdanchik James, Lesya Loznycky, Ken McDonald, Sophia Skop, and Ariadna Wall. Please let Fr. James know if there is anyone who should be added to this list.



#### ***Sunday Collection: December 7, 2008:***

|                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>10:00 AM</b>                  | <b>\$937.00</b>        |
| <b><u>Second Collection:</u></b> | <b><u>\$102.00</u></b> |
| <b>Total:</b>                    | <b>\$1,039.00</b>      |

## ***“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST”***

Christmas, like no other holiday during the year, brings forth such an emotional response in our hearts. The birth of the Son of God is a happy and loving occasion. The sound of the angelic choir singing *“Glory to God in the highest,”* the sight of humble shepherds who fall to their knees before the Newborn Child, the animals who warm the Lord with their breath, the Magi who followed the star to bestow their gifts on the Christ Child — all these things seem to us so sweet and so loving.

Then, our thoughts may stray to our native lands, and we remember our cities or villages covered in snow, the sound of the snow crunching beneath our feet and the lovely sound of *“God Eternal”* or other childhood memories. And, all this seems to us to be so sweet and so loving. A warm and happy feeling arises in our hearts when we think of this glorious event — the birth of the Son of God.

Each year we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus Christ and we think of it in terms of beautifully decorated Christmas trees, city streets decorated with bright and colorful lights, Christmas carols and carolers. The Evangelists, however, emphasize that the Son of God came to us during a time of cruel events. If we forget that suffering is also tied in with Christmas and that there is the foreshadowing of the crown of thorns, then, when we face our own time of suffering (which no one can avoid), we may lose hope that things will somehow get better.

Not all of us face suffering today, although we know that, sooner or later, it will come to us. But, there are those among us who are suffering a great deal. To be a member of the Christian community means to be aware that those who suffer just a little bit should help those who suffer a great deal.

Let us thank God for the joy of Christmas, for the carols, for the colored lights twinkling along our city streets, for the beautifully decorated Christmas tree. Let us also thank Him that, in the holiday of Christmas, we can find the crown of thorns, for this sustains those who are suffering now and those who will suffer in the future.

## **„СЛАВА НА ВИСОТАХ БОГОВІ”**

Ніяке свято в році не викликає в наших серцях стільки сентиментальних почуттів, як свято Христового Різдва. Ціла подія народження Божого Сина є для нас милою, любою. Спів ангельських хорів „Слава на висотах Богів”, прихід покірних вівчарів, що припадають на коліна перед новонародженим Дитятком, худібка, що своїм віддихом гріє Предвічного Бога, царія строноми, ведені зіркою, складають свої дари.

Все те видається нам милим і любим. А коли попри це думки наші полинуть в Україну, в наш рідний край, та згадаємо сповиті снігом наші села, скрип снігу під ногами й гучне „Бог Предвічний” під вікнами, тоді те все видається нам таке миле, таке любе. Подія народження Божого Сина благодатно впливає на нас, вона розніжує наше серце.

Щороку святкуємо празник Христового Різдва й пов'язуємо його з яскраво освіченою ялинкою, сятково прибраними вулицями наших міст, колядниками і колядками. Те все вважаємо за вислів наших радісних святкувань. Євангелисти, однак, підкреслюють, що Син Божий прийшов до нас серед жорстокої дійсності життя. Якщо ми забудемо, що з Різдрвом пов'язується страждання, якщо забудемо, що в події Різдва є тернові колючки, тоді в нашому стражданні, яке нікого з нас не минає, втратимо надію і сподівання на краще.

Зараз не всі ми діткнені терпінням, хоч знаємо, що скоріше чи пізніше воно до нас прийде, але між нами є такі, які терплять дуже й дуже багато. Бути членом християнської громади — значить бути свідомим цього, що ті, які терплять мало, мають допомагати тим, які терплять багато.

Отже, дякуймо Господеві за різдвяну радість, за коляду, за кольорові вогні, які мерехтять на вулицях наших міст, за прибрану ялинку. Але дякуймо теж і за те, що в різдвяній події ми можемо знайти тернові колючки, бо це підтримує тих, що терплять сьогодні й тих, що терпітимуть завтра.

## ***Українська Католицька Парафія Матері Божої Неустаючої Помочі***

Церква Святого Пророка й Предтечи Йоана Хрестителя  
Святиня Святого Миколая, Архієпископа Мір Лікійського, Чудотворця

### ***Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help***

Church of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptizer John  
Shrine of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycea

4400 Palm Avenue  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

**Website:** [stjohnthebaptizer.org](http://stjohnthebaptizer.org)

**Папox:** о. Яків Бенькстон

**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston

frjames@mac.com

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

### **The Grace of Christmas**

**F**or my sake He was born of the Virgin Mary, He who is born of the Father before all time. For my sake He was wrapped in swaddling clothes, He who covers heaven with the clouds and vests Himself with robes of light. For my sake He was placed in a lowly manger, He whose throne is the heavens and whose feet rest upon earth.

For my sake He was fed with His Mother's milk, He who feeds all creatures. For my sake He was held in his Mother's arms, He who is borne by the cherubim and holds all creatures in His embrace. For my sake He was circumcised according to the Law, He who is maker of the Law. For my sake, He who is unseen became visible and lived among us, He who is my God ... O Son of God who ceased not dwell in His Father's bosom! What did You behold in me of merit? Why did You come to seek me in this vale of tears? Shepherds search for their lost sheep, but for their own profit. Men seek lost property, but out of self-interest.

Travelers visit foreign countries, but for their own benefit. Kings offer ransoms for prisoners, but they pay it in gold and silver through their ambassadors, and largely for their own gain. But You, what was it that You found in me, my Lord? What use, what interest, what good did You behold in me that You came to seek me? And it was the King of Heaven and Earth Himself who came, not His ambassadors. God Himself came to find and to ransom His servant, not with gold and silver but with His Precious Blood.

*Saint Tychon (+ 1783)*