

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



Icon of Saint Stephen -- December 27th

December 27, 2009

Sunday after the Nativity – Feast of St. Stephen, Protomartyr

Tone 5

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 28 – JANUARY 3

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

9:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY ☩TEOKTIST; REQ: MARIANNA IVASYK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 6:00 PM GREAT VESPERS WITH LYTIA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 – THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD / ST. BASIL THE GREAT

10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY SPECIAL INTENTION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 – SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

Remember in your prayers



Please remember in your prayers those members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, are in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join actively in their community. Remember especially the following: Katherine Andrus, Walter & Isabella Bachynsky, Susie Boyko, Sonya Cronin, Helen Davis, Stephen Hricko, Bohdanchik James, Lorene Lagrone, Maria Laszok, Lesya Loznycky, Alice Melnyk, Gregorio Ortiz Peña, and Sophia Skop. Please let Fr. James know if there is anyone else who should be remembered.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Христос Раждається! Славте Його!

During the celebration of our Lord's Nativity, it is the custom of Eastern Christians to greet one another with the joyous exclamation, "Христос Раждається!" (*Khry-stos Razh-da-yet-sia*) "Christ is born!", to which the one greeted responds, "Славте Його!" (*Sla-vee-ty Yo-ho*) "Glorify Him!"

Remember Those In The Armed Forces

Let us especially remember in our prayers those family members and friends who are actively serving their countries in the Armed Forces: Luke and Slavamira Haywas, Elizabeth Heltsley, Oksanna Hirniak, Andrew Hryniw, Zenon and Susan Keske, Michael Lopes, Vasyl and Volodymyr Lylak, Paul Richelmi and Brian Tuthill. Please give any names of those you would like remembered in the Liturgies to Fr. James.



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 Fr. James.

Liturgical Schedule for Theophany

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Eve of Theophany

10:00 AM – Royal Hours

8:00 PM – «*3 Hami Bor!*» Great
Complines with Lytia

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Theophany of our Lord

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy with Great
Blessing of Water

6:00 PM – Divine Liturgy with Blessing
of Water



Ask Father

Q. What are the Royal Hours? And why are they an important service of Christmas and Theophany?

A. The Royal Hours combine the 1st, 3rd, 6th, and 9th Hour services into one service which is characterized by special Psalms and hymns, as well as Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel Readings, relating to the up-coming Feast. It was customary during Byzantine times for the Emperor to be in attendance for the entire service, and for this reason it became known as the Royal Hours.

The Royal Hours are an important service of Christmas and Theophany because in the reading of the prophets (Old Testament), apostles (Epistles), and evangelists (Gospels) we see the Nativity of Christ and the Manifestation of God's Divinity (Theophany) in its full Biblical context of expectation, preparation, and fulfillment. There is no other service which more beautifully foretells or proclaims the Lord's salvific coming in the flesh.



Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this world, let him become a fool so that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

1 Corinthians 3:18-19

House Blessings



It is our custom to have their homes blessed with the holy water sanctified on Theophany (the feast which commemorates the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River). If you would like your home blessed, please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

If you have any questions about house blessings, what is involved, why we bless our homes, etc., please speak with Fr. James.

Confession Times

If you cannot make it to church either before or after a scheduled service, Fr. James can meet you at the church at just about any other time. If you would like more information about preparing for Confession, or if you have any other questions about it, please feel free to speak with Fr. James.



Українська Католицька Церква Святого Йоана Хрестителя

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Stephen, First Martyr

Christmas is a time of wonderful scents and pleasant images. But the sights and scents of the season are only the surface of the festivity, pointing as they do to a celebration of the soul. Mankind's spirit rejoices because God walks among His creatures. What an odd time of the year, then, to celebrate a death. Yet the church does exactly that today. The Christmas scene is exchanged for a brutal picture of a man's execution. At first, his appearance in Scripture seems only incidental. Stephen is listed as one of the seven deacons appointed by the apostles to help with the daily distribution of food. But one thing is certain. Stephen did not confine himself to the assigned task of food distribution for long. He preached the Gospel, working "great miracles and signs among the people." Apparently Stephen was a gifted orator – gifted enough to unsettle some people. Called before the elders in Jerusalem, he is questioned about his teaching. False witnesses testified that Stephen was preaching the destruction of the temple by Jesus, that he was making blasphemous statements against Moses and God. In a mad rush of indignation, Stephen is seized, taken out of the city and stoned to death.

December 27th was probably chosen for Stephen feast day because of a close association between Stephen and Jesus. Not only is Stephen the first to die for his faith, but his story resembles that of Jesus. Both Jesus and Stephen are accused of blasphemy, both condemned, and both forgive their persecutors as they die. Consequently, Stephen was given a place of honor in the calendar. Regardless of the speculation, the feast of St. Stephen serves as a reminder of the death and suffering that await the infant king of Bethlehem. But the joy of Christmas is not diminished by a sober reminder of death. The joy of Christmas knows that death will be overcome.