

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



Icon of Saint Melania -- December 31st

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
DAVID, JOSEPH AND JAMES
DECEMBER 28, 2008
Tone 8

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 29 – JANUARY 4, 2008

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31	6:00 PM GREAT VESPERS WITH LYTIA	
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1	10:00 AM LITURGY – CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD / ST. BASIL	
SATURDAY, JANUARY 3	6:00 GREAT VESPERS	
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4	8:00 AM LITURGY	SPECIAL INTENTION
	10:00 AM LITURGY	FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

“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.

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.

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: Luke and Slavamira Haywas, Elizabeth Heltsley, Olena Hrivniak, Michael Lopes, Stefan Oborski, Raul Richelmi and Brian Tuthill. 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, nursing homes and those who are not able to join us actively in our community. Remember especially the following: Katherine Andrus, 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.



*Collection information for December 21 and for the Feast of Nativity
will be published in next week’s bulletin*

Two Feasts of the Church occur on the 1st of January

The Circumcision of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

On the eighth day after His birth, the divine Child was taken to the Temple and duly circumcised according to the Jewish Law that had been observed from the time of Abraham. At this time He was given the name Jesus, the name announced to the most holy Virgin by the Archangel Gabriel (Luke 1:31).

The Baptism of the New Covenant was prefigured in the Circumcision of the Old Covenant. The Lord's Circumcision shows that He took true human flesh upon Himself, not its semblance as heretics later taught of Him. The Lord was truly circumcised, desiring thus to fulfill all the Law, which He Himself had given through our forefathers and the prophets. Fulfilling all the ordinances of the Law, He superseded them by Baptism in His Church, for, as the Apostle declares: "In Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature" (Gal. 6:15). (In the Church Calendar, this Feast of the Lord has neither Forefeast nor Postfeast.)

St Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea.



St Basil was born in the reign of the Emperor Constantine, in about 330. While still unbaptised, he spent fifteen years in Athens studying philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and other contemporary secular disciplines. Among his fellow-students were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. When already of mature years, he was in the Jordan together with his former tutor Evulios. He was Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia for nearly ten years, and died at the age of fifty.

A great champion of Orthodoxy, a great torch of moral purity and zeal for the Faith, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God, Basil fully deserved his title "the Great". In the Office for his Feast, he is referred to as a bee of the Church of Christ, bringing honey to the faithful but stinging those in heresy. Many of the writings of this Father of the Church have survived - theological, apologetic, on asceticism and on the Canons. There is also the Liturgy that bears his name. This Liturgy is celebrated ten times in the year: on January 1st, on the Eves of Christmas and the Theophany, on every Sunday in the Great Fast with the exception of Palm Sunday, and on the Thursday and Saturday in Great Week.

St Basil departed this life peacefully on January 1st, 379, and entered into the Kingdom of Christ.

Greeting of His Beatitude Lubomyr on the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ 2009

To the Most Reverend and Reverend Hierarchs,
Most Reverend and Reverend Fathers,
Honored Monks and Nuns,
Dearly beloved in Christ Lay Sisters and Brothers:
Peace and God's blessing!

Dearly beloved in Christ, in a few days we will celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, an extraordinarily important event for each of us, for our families, communities, the nation, the Church and all humanity. This event is so important that we even divide the history of humanity into the years before the birth of Jesus Christ and after His birth. And we do this not occasionally or by chance, but on the basis of a deep awareness that the world before His coming on the earth was strongly different from the world which came after His arrival. It is similar with the life of each of us. When we become part of the body of Jesus Christ through the holy sacrament of baptism, we recognize Him and meet with Him; our life acquires another, new and better appearance. To recognize, to understand, to feel that closeness of God to us and the possibility of our closeness to the Lord, this is a thing which changes fully our image of human life, our feeling of ourselves, our own life, and the life of humanity in general.

I greet you on the holy feast which is on its way and cordially wish for each of you, as well as for myself, that on these holy days we may come closer to the Lord God, open our hearts to His love, receive Him, understand that He first loved us, and that the essence of our life is to respond to His love with our love, love for Him and all our neighbors.

We can very well recognize this love of God and love of neighbors in a situation which has happened in recent years. For the fourth time now many citizens of Ukraine are leaving their native land and traveling abroad to search for a better life. I call this to mind, dearly beloved in Christ, because this Sunday of the Holy Fathers is the last one before Christmas and in our Church is the Day of the Migrant. According to the plan of the Holy Synod of Bishops of our Church, on this day we should turn our attention to those who have left their native land but have not yet decided whether to return home or to settle in the country of their current stay.

The question of migration is relevant not only for the migrants themselves but also for all our nation and, foremost, for our Church. It touches every one of us, because even today one-third of the faithful of our Church are migrants, or the children and grandchildren of migrants, old wanderers from Ukraine. But in addition, on the occasion of the feast of Christmas it is worth remembering that Jesus Christ Himself was in such a situation, that when he was still a small child he had to leave the country of his birth and migrate together with Mary and Joseph.

Considering this, I want to emphasize the following. All of us – those who are in Ukraine, those who left recently, and those who have now lived in the diaspora for a long time, developing our ecclesiastical and social structures – are one people and one Church. And I ask today all of you, dear in Christ, to pray for one another, or rather, that each one pray for all. And let us try to love each other, that is, wish good for each other, try to understand others, entrust our needs to God, and help each other in the measure of our own possibilities.

Dearly beloved in Christ, with the holy feast of the Nativity of Christ I cordially greet all of you and sincerely wish God's many graces.

Christ is born!

+ LUBOMYR

Привітання Блаженнішого Любомира на Різдво ГНІХ 2009 року

Високопреосвященним і Преосвященним Владикам,
Всесвітлішим і Високопреподобним отцям,
Преподобним ченцям і черницям,
Дорогим у Христі сестрам і братам мирянам
Мир і Боже благословення!

Дорогі у Христі, через кілька днів ми будемо святкувати Різдво Господа нашого Ісуса Христа, надзвичайно важливу подію для кожного і кожної з нас, для наших родин, для громад, для народу, для Церкви і для всього людства. Ця подія настільки важлива, що ми навіть ділимо історію людства на роки до народження Ісуса Христа та після Його народження. І робимо це не принагідно чи випадково, а на підставі глибокого усвідомлення, що світ до Його приходу на землю сильно відрізнявся від світу, який настав після Його приходу. Так само і з життям кожного і кожної з нас. Коли ми втілюємося в Ісуса Христа через святе таїнство Хрещення, пізнаємо Його і зустрінемося з Ним, наше життя набуває іншого, нового, кращого вигляду. Пізнати, зрозуміти, відчутти ту близькість Бога до нас та можливість нашої близькості до Господа – це річ, яка цілковито змінює наше уявлення про людське життя, наше відчуття самих себе, власного життя і життя людства загалом.

Вітаючи вас із святим празником, який от-от настане, сердечно бажаю кожному із вас, як і собі самому, щоб у ці святі дні ми могли наблизитися до Господа Бога, відкрити своє серце до Його любові, прийняти Його, зрозуміти, що Він перший полюбив нас і що зміст нашого життя – відповіді на Його любов своєю любов'ю, любов'ю до Нього та до всіх своїх ближніх.

Цю любов Бога і любов ближніх ми можемо дуже гарно здійснювати в ситуації, яка склалася останніми роками. Уже вчетверте багато громадян України покидають рідну землю і їдуть закордон шукати кращого життя. Згадую про це, дорогі у Христі, бо ця Неділя святих отців, остання перед Різдвом, у нашій Церкві є Днем емігранта. За задумом священного Синоду Єпископів нашої Церкви, цього дня ми маємо звернути свою увагу на тих, хто поїхав з рідної землі, але ще не вирішив, чи повертатися додому, чи осісти у країні свого теперішнього перебування.

Питання еміграції є актуальним не тільки для самих емігрантів, а й для всього нашого народу і передусім для нашої Церкви. Воно стосується кожного з нас, бо навіть сьогодні третина вірних нашої Церкви – це або емігранти, або діти чи внуки емігрантів, давніх вихідців з України. Та крім того, з нагоди празника Різдва, слід згадати, що й сам Ісус Христос був у такій ситуації, що ще малою дитиною мусів прокидати країну свого народження і емігрувати разом з Марією і Йосипом.

У зв'язку з цим хочу наголосити ось на чому. Всі ми – ті, що в Україні, ті, що недавно виїхали, і ті, що вже довго живуть на поселеннях, розвинувши наші церковні і суспільні структури, – є одним народом і однією Церквою. І я прошу сьогодні усіх вас, дорогі у Христі, щоб ви молилися одне за одного, або радше, щоб кожен молився за всіх. І стараймося любити одне одного, тобто бажати одне одному добра, намагатися розуміти інших, поручати Господеві наші потреби, і в міру своїх можливостей одне одному допомагати.

Дорогі у Христі, зі святим празником Різдва Христового сердечно вітаю усіх вас і щиро бажаю многих Божих благодатей.

Христос рождається! +

ЛЮБОМИР

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

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Melania the Younger, Nun of Rome

Saint Melania (also known as Melany) was the daughter of a Roman senator. She was married against her will to Valerius Pinianus by her father when she was fourteen. After two children died soon after birth, Pinianus agreed to respect her desire to devote her life to God.

When her father died, leaving his enormous wealth to her, she, Pinianus, and her mother Albina, left Rome and turned their country villa into a religious center. Melania sold some of her proerty for charitable purposes, encountered much family opposition, and finally appealed to Emperor Honorius who granted her his protection.

Melania became one of the great religious philanthropists of all time, endowing monasteries in Egypt, Syria and Palestine. She helped churches and monasteries in Europe, aiding the poor, the sick, and captives, helping pilgrims, and freeing some 8000 slaves in two years. In 417, with Pinianus and Albina, she made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and visited the Egyptian desert monks.

Upon their return, they settled in Jerusalem and Melania found a group of monastics presided over by Saint Jerome, whose friend she had become. Melania attracted many disciples, built a convent for them and was superior for the rest of her life. She died in Jerusalem on December 31, 439.

2009 Liturgical Schedule for
Theophany

Vigil of Theophany

(Day of Strict Fast)

Monday, January 5, 2009

- **10:00 AM**
Royal Hours
- **8:00 PM**
«3 *Hami Boz!*» Great
Complines with Lytia

Theophany of our Lord

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

- **10:00 AM**
Divine Liturgy of St. John
Chrysostom followed by
Great Water Blessing
- **6:00 PM**
Divine Liturgy of St. John
Chrysostom followed by
Water Blessing