



CHRISTMAS-THEOPHANY

2014-2015

Wed Dec 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products.

NOTE: According to Liturgical time, each day begins and ends at sundown. As the first stars appear in the evening sky on Christmas Eve, the feast of the Nativity of Christ begins – with the family gathered together for the Holy Supper. The Lenten character of this meal (abstinence from meat and dairy products is still observed) reminds us that Jesus was born not into wealth, in a royal palace, but into poverty, in a humble cave, amidst the poor of the world.

7:30 pm **Great Compline & Lytia**

Great Compline is the first prayer service to take place in church after the Holy Supper. With Compline, the Nativity Fast (40 days of preparation) comes to a formal end. During the Lytia Service, bread, wheat, oil and wine are blessed. The faithful will receive this blessed bread and will be anointed with this holy oil at the end of each Christmas Divine Liturgy. Bring your Holy Supper to a spiritual conclusion by attending Great Compline& Lytia!

8:30 pm Festal Divine Liturgy (English)

This first Festal Liturgy will be celebrated by Bishop David, together with Cathedral Clergy. Blessed bread will be distributed at the end of the Liturgy (“Bethlehem” means “House of Bread.”) The faithful will also be anointed with holy oil, confirming the grace of the Holy Spirit received.

10:30 pm Singing of Christmas Carols

The singing of Ukrainian Christmas carols will be led by Saint Josaphat Choir. If you are planning to attend the 11 pm Liturgy, come early to prepare by singing Christmas carols!

11 pm Festal Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

This second Festal Liturgy will also be celebrated by Bishop David, Cathedral clergy and St. Josaphat Choir. The Readings will be proclaimed in Ukrainian and English. The Children’s Choir will present a special Christmas Pageant, re-enacting the Nativity of Jesus. Blessed bread will be distributed at the end of the service. The faithful will also be anointed with holy oil, confirming the grace of the Holy Spirit received.

Thu Dec 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 am Divine Liturgy (English)

Congregational singing. Blessed bread will be distributed at the end of the Liturgy. The faithful will also be anointed with holy oil, confirming the grace of the Holy Spirit received.

11 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

Congregational singing. The gospel and homily will be proclaimed in Ukrainian and English. Blessed bread will be distributed at the end. The faithful will also be anointed with holy oil, confirming the grace of the Holy Spirit received.

Fri Dec 26 SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

This is one of the most ancient Marian feasts. The Greek word “synaxis” means “assembly.” The faithful assemble the day after Christmas to celebrate Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Only with her “yes” did the incarnation of the Son of God take place; and with this “yes,” she has become “more honourable than the cherubim, and by far more glorious than the seraphim.”

**Sat Dec 27 SAINT STEPHEN THE PROTOMARTYR
& HOLY INNOCENTS**

11 am Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

St. Stephen was the first baptized Christian of the early Church to be martyred for the sake of Christ, in the year 34 or 35 AD.

On this first Saturday after Christmas, we also remember the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem, who were martyred for the sake of Christ, slaughtered by order of King Herod. We also remember the Holy Innocents of today – the innocent victims of abortion. This Liturgy will be celebrated by Bishop David, together with all the clergy and religious of the Edmonton Eparchy.

**Sun Dec 28 SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
KING DAVID / ST. JOSEPH / ST. JAMES**

5pm (Sat) Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

6 pm (Sat) Great Vespers (Bilingual)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy (English)

11 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

On this first Sunday after Christmas, we commemorate St. Joseph, the betrothed husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus. We also commemorate King David, the ancestor of Christ, as well as St. James, “the brother of the Lord” (close relative).

Wed. Dec 31 VIGIL OF THE FEAST / NEW YEAR’S EVE

8 am Divine Liturgy

4 pm Great Vespers & Lytia

The morning Divine Liturgy will be offered in thanksgiving for the 2014 year. Great Vespers & Lytia will be celebrated in preparation for the feast and the new civil year.

**Thu Jan 1 CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST
ST. BASIL THE GREAT / NEW YEAR’S DAY**

11 am Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

According to Jewish custom, every male child received its name on the eighth day, at the circumcision. Just as any other Jew, Jesus was also circumcised on the eighth day. In Hebrew the name Jesus is “Yehoshua,” which means “The Lord saves.”

On this day, we also commemorate St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea, who fell asleep in the Lord on January 1st, 379. In addition to his work as a theologian, Basil was known for his care of the poor and underprivileged. Basil established guidelines for monastic life which focus on community life, liturgical prayer, and manual labour.

Sun Jan 4 SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

5pm (Sat) Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

6 pm (Sat) Great Vespers (Bilingual)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy (English)

11 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

Mon. Jan 5 THEOPHANY EVE

Day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products.

5 pm Holy Supper

The feast of Theophany begins with the parish family gathered together for the Holy Supper (St. Josaphat hall). As on Christmas Eve, the Lenten character of this Holy Supper is also observed (abstinence from meat and dairy products).

7 pm Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water (Bilingual)

Theophany means “the appearance of God.” After Easter and Pentecost, Theophany is considered the third greatest feast of the Eastern Church, more so than Christmas. It commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by Saint John the Baptist.

Tue. Jan 6 THEOPHANY

9:30 am Divine Liturgy (English)

11 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

Mon. Feb 2 HOLY ENCOUNTER IN THE TEMPLE

6 pm (Sun) Great Vespers & Lytia

9:30am (Mon) Divine Liturgy (English)

11 am (Mon) Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

Blessing of Candles at the end of each Liturgy.