

# Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. John the Baptist Nativity Newsletter, December 2019/January 2020



**Sunday, December 29th — Sunday of the Holy Forefathers.** Tone 3. Blessed Theophania. *Col. 3: 4-11; Lk. 14: 16-24.* The Liturgy will be served at 10 AM.

**Saturday, January 4th—**Great Vespers will be served at 5 PM.

**Sunday, the 5th - Sunday before the Nativity.** Tone 4. Ten Martyrs of Crete. *Heb. 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40; Mt. 1:1-25.* The Liturgy will be served at 10:00 AM.

**Monday, the 6th - Eve of the Nativity.** Royal Hours will be served at 9:30 A.M.

**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.

*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.*

**Tuesday, 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 7<sup>th</sup>) *and the eve of the Theophany* (January 18<sup>th</sup>), i.e., “the 12 days of Christmas”, is a fast-free period. There is no fasting, and all foods may be eaten.

**Wednesday, 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.

**Thursday, the 9th - Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen.** *Acts 6: 8-15, 7:1-5, 47-60; Mt. 21: 33-42.* The Liturgy will be served at 9:30 AM. We extend prayerful best wishes to all parishioners named Stephen or Stephanie on the occasion of their name day. May the Lord bless you abundantly: Many years!

**Saturday, the 11th—**Great Vespers will be served at 5 PM.

**Sunday, the 12th - Sunday after the Nativity.** Holy Ancestors-of-God Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, Brother-of-the-Lord. *Gal. 1:11-19; Mt. 2:13-23.* We extend prayerful best wishes to all parishioners named Joseph, James, or David on the occasion of their name day. May the Lord bless you abundantly: Many years! Mnohaya Lita!

**Monday, the 13th** - Great Vespers with Litia will be served at 6 PM.

***Our regular parish council meeting*** will be held at 7 PM in the Fellowship Room under the Church.

**Tuesday, 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!

**Saturday, the 18th—Eve of the Theophany.** *1 Cor. 9:19-27; Lk. 3:1-18.* Ven. Mothers Syncretika and Appolonaria. Vespers with the Great Blessing of Waters will be celebrated at 5 PM.

***Following the service*** (approximately 6:30 PM) everyone is invited to participate in our traditional Theophany Holy Meal, which will be held in the Fellowship Room under the Church.

**Sunday, the 19th—Theophany of our Lord (Feast of Jordan).** *Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Mt. 3:13-17.* The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great with the Great Blessing of Waters will be celebrated at 10:00 AM.

**Monday, the 20th—Synaxis of St. John the Baptist.** *Acts 19: 1-8; Jn. 1: 29-34.* The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:30 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 25th** - Our Orthodox Family Fellowship group will meet from 3 till 5 PM in the Fellowship Room. All families with young children are encouraged to attend.

***Great Vespers*** will be served at 5 PM this evening.

**Sunday, the 26th - Sunday after the Theophany.** Tone 7. *Eph. 4: 7-12, Mt. 4: 12-17.* St. Hilary of Poitiers. 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 every wish Father to visit please contact him to arrange for a convenient time.

**Wall Calendars.** Our parish 2020 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, [priest@stjohnoshawa.org](mailto:priest@stjohnoshawa.org). Thank you!

**Our Parish Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23rd,** after Liturgy. All parishioners are encouraged to attend and participate, as this year we have two extraordinary items for resolution: a) since our new hall will be completed soon, we must fill the hall manager position on our parish executive, and b) since there will be a Church Sobor (General Council) in July, the parish members must elect delegates to the Sobor. Any parishioners wishing to serve on the parish council or as delegates to the Sobor are asked to contact either Dr. Slavchenko or Fr. Bohdan by January 31st at the latest. Thank you!

**Malanka.** Our Odessa Dancers are sponsoring a “Malanka” Ukrainian New Year’s Dance on Friday, January 17th. Tickets are available in our parish office. Please plan to attend, and bring a friend!