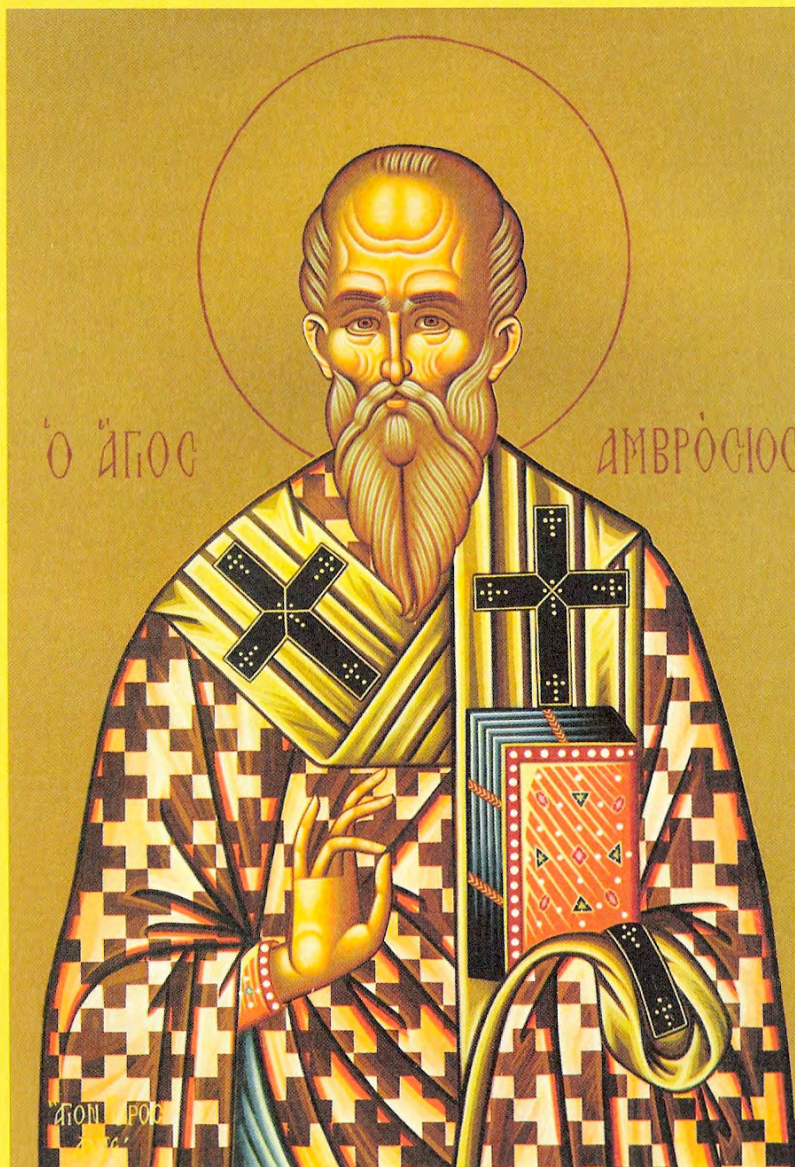


THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Ambrose -- December 7th

30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
DECEMBER 7, 2008
Tone 5

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8 – DECEMBER 14, 2008

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8	6:30 PM GREAT VESPERS FOR THE CONCEPTION BY ST. ANNE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9	8:30 AM LITURGY – THE CONCEPTION BY ST. ANNE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD SPECIAL INTENTION
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10	6:30 PM SMALL VESPERS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13	8:30 LITURGY ✠ EUGENIA ANDREENA LOZNYCKY; REQ: BILL AND DARLENE LOZNYCKY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14	10:00 AM LITURGY FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

Pastoral Visit by Bishop Richard

Bishop Richard, will make a pastoral visit to our parish next Sunday, December 14th. We will have one Liturgy (bilingual) that Sunday so that the whole parish community can celebrate with our Bishop. Following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy there will be a Mexican Themed parish luncheon. Cost will be \$10/person or \$25/family. **Please purchase your tickets today, December 7th, so that we can get an accurate count of those attending.** We are looking for Mexican table cloths and Mexican decorations... please contact Xenia Moore.

In preparation for the bishop's visit, we would like to have a choir practice: Please talk to Luke Miller so we can set up a time. There will also be a practice with any young men who would like to serve as acolytes for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Please contact Fr. James if you are interested in serving.

Προσφορά – Prosfhora Baking

On Saturday, December 20th, everyone – especially the youth – is invited to help bake prosphora to be distributed to all our families at the December 21st Divine Liturgy. We will begin at 4:00PM and end with Vespers around 6:00 PM.

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.

Church Decorating

Please come on Monday, December 22nd at 10:00 AM to help decorate the Church for the feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

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.

Catechism for Youth and Young Adults

Catechism classes for the youth and young adults (5-18) will begin in January. Registration forms are available in the church hall. Please return them to Fr. James by December 7th so that the appropriate number of needed texts can be ordered. The schedule and cost for the classes will be determined once the number of students has been finalized.

Christmas Cards

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

“Open Wide Your Hearts!” – Share 2008

In the past few weeks, most of you should have received a letter from our bishop, The Most Reverend Richard S. Seminak, announcing **Share 2008 Ukrainian Catholic Appeal**. The purpose of this appeal is to invite you to share some of the blessings God has given you with your Eparchy, which serves our parish in many essential ways. This appeal will be conducted in all 47 of our parishes and missions through January 18. Each parish and mission has been given a goal to reach to help Bishop Richard meet current eparchial expenses and plan for the future growth of our Eparchy. Our parish goal is \$8400.00. If we exceed our goal, our parish will be reimbursed 50% of the excess amount over our goal.

Please support **Share 2008** as best as you can. For those of us who can stretch a little, we are asked to give a gift of 1% of our annual salary or at least \$300 a family unit (this breaks down to about \$6 a week). Whatever you give, however, will be most appreciated.

Please mail your contribution or place it in the collection basket during the coming weeks of the appeal. If you did not receive your letter from Bishop Richard, there are extras available in the back of the church.

Jesus asks us to commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent and our treasure as an outward sign of the love and gratitude we have for Him. Giving of our time, talent and treasure is not about giving until it hurts. Rather, it is about sharing the gifts that God has bestowed upon you, especially at this time of the year. Please give substantially of yourself and your resources – please *open wide your hearts* and support **Share 2008 Ukrainian Catholic Appeal**.

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.

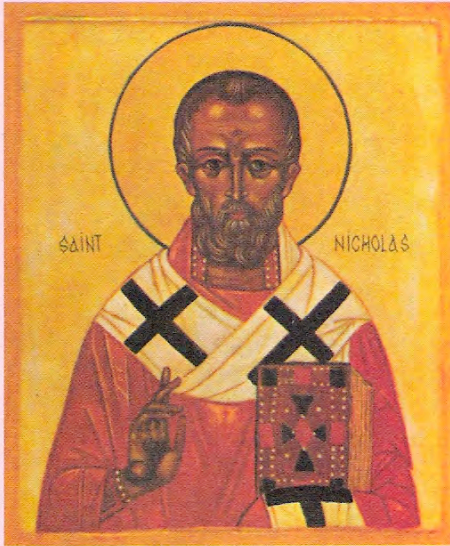


Sunday Collection: November 30, 2008:

8:00 AM	\$102.00
10:00 AM	\$598.00
Total:	\$700.00

CHRISTMAS AND THEOPHANY

THE INCARNATION AND MANIFESTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker

December 6th

When you appeared in a dream to Constantine the King, you gave him this warning: Release at once from prison those you have unjustly confined, for they are innocent; no murder did they commit as you claim. O King, listen to me, or else I shall call upon the Lord.

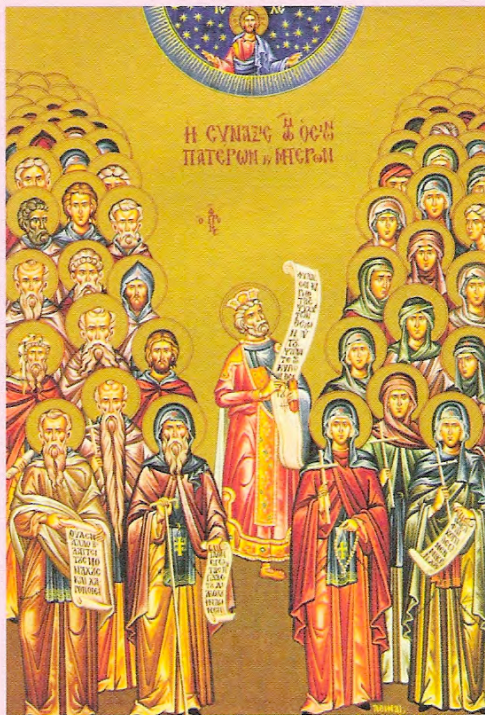
O holy Nicholas, holy preacher of Christ, always ready to help all on land or at sea. Whether they be near or far, you have compassion for all. You are a precious helper; therefore, we who gather here ask you to pray to the Lord that we be delivered from all distress and sorrow.

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, the Patriarchs

Today we commemorate the ancestors of Christ. Sing with fervor a hymn of praise to Christ the Savior who exalted them among all nations. He is the Lord who does wondrous deeds because He is powerful and mighty. From them He brought forth a royal scepter, the immaculate maiden of God and virgin Mary. From her, Christ our God came forth to give life and eternal salvation for all.

The three holy youths were refreshed by the Holy Spirit when they walked in the fire as in a cool place. In them the Trinity and the Incarnation of Christ were prefigured in a mystical manner. By their wisdom and faith they overcame the power of fire. As for the just Daniel, he stopped the mouths of lions. Through their intercession, we beseech You: O Savior and Lover of Mankind, protect us from eternal fire and make us worthy of your heavenly kingdom.





Sunday of the Holy Fathers

The commemoration of the Holy Fathers is manifested to the ends of the world. It is truly of splendor, and it glistens with the rays of grace; for Christ the splendrous Sun has shone forth on high from afar. He forms the assembly of stars which glisten with Him, and the star reveals that the nativity of the God-man will be in Bethlehem. Therefore, we piously and faithfully clap our hands and leap for joy at this nativity, and we give praise before the feast.

The Holy Fathers are adorned by the glory of the divine sharing of our nature. Adam rejoices today, since he is the foundation and the strength of the wise Forefathers; Abel leaps for joy as well. Enoch is glad; Seth and Noah dance together. The praiseworthy Abraham sings with the Patriarchs. Melchisedek now sees from on high the birth without a father.

Nativity of Our Lord

December 25th

O Christ our God, your kingdom is eternal, and your reign is from generation to generation. You became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and became man from the ever-virgin Mary. Your coming, O Christ, has shed a great light upon us. You are the Light of Light and the radiance of the Father. You have illumined the whole creation. Therefore, everything that breathes sings a hymn of praise to You. You are the image of the Father's glory. You are the eternal God, existing before all ages, who shone forth from the Virgin. O Lord our God, have mercy on us.





Synaxis of the Holy Mother of God

December 26th

O Christ, what shall we offer You for your coming on earth in our humanity for our sake? Every creature that has its being from You gives thanks to You: the angels offer hymns of praise, the heavens give a star; the Magi present their gifts and the shepherds, their wonder; the earth provides a cave and the desert, a manger. As for us, we offer a Virgin Mother. O God who are from all eternity, have mercy on us.

Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth. Today Bethlehem receives the One who at all times sits with the Father. Today the angels sing the praises of the newborn infant. Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will to all.

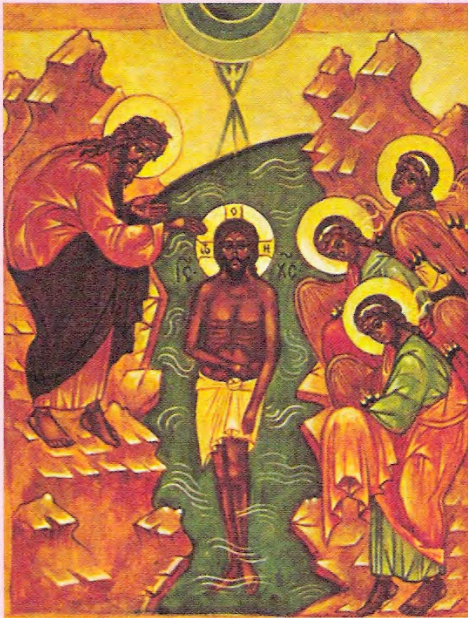
Saint Basil the Great

January 1st

You have been called by the name of Basil, after the kingdom. In your kingly rank you led the people of Christ to wisdom and knowledge. Then the Lord of all and King of Kings adorned you with the crown of the kingdom, O Basil. He is the everlasting and co-eternal Son who was united to her that bore Him. Therefore, intercede with Him that He may enlighten and save our souls.

Adorned with the vestments of a bishop, O Basil, you gladly proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and poured out the teachings of the true faith for the Church. Now enlightened by them, we confess and glorify the one Godhead, indivisible in three Persons; namely the Almighty Father, the only-begotten Word of God, and the Divine Spirit. Intercede with Him that He may enlighten and save our souls.





Theophany of Our Lord in the Jordan

January 6th

When the Jordan received You, O Fountainhead, the Comforter descended in the form of a dove. Now behold the marvel: the One who bowed the heavens bows his head to the Forerunner, and the one made of clay cries out to his Maker: Why do you command me to perform what is beyond my power? It is I who need to be baptized by You. O Christ our God, O Sinless One, glory to You!

You have bowed your head before the Forerunner, and You have crushed the heads of the demons. You have descended into the waters and given light to all things that they may glorify You, O Savior, and Enlightenment of our souls.

Synaxis of John the Baptist

January 7th

The Forerunner said to the Creator: For my part I am held back, and I do not know where to flee. O generous One, You are the river of delight. How is it, therefore, that the streams of the river receive You as You enter them? To all those who venerate your holy manifestation, You pour out salvation, O Word!

O luminary in the flesh and Forerunner of the Savior, O offspring of the barren one, O friend, by leaping in the womb you adored the One who is born of the Virgin; and you baptized Him in the waters of the Jordan. O prophet, we pray to you: Implore Him that we may escape the future torments.



All text from Vesper Stichera of each feastday in The Festal Menaion, Sisters of Saint Basil, Uniontown, PA

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

Папox: о. Яків Бенькстон
Pastor: Fr. James Bankston
frjames@mac.com
Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

An Otherworldly Man Involved in the Great Issues of His Day

Saint Ambrose was born in Gaul where his father, who belonged to Roman nobility, was the praetorian prefect. When his father died, Ambrose, still a child, was taken to Rome. Still young, Ambrose became a lawyer in Rome and was noted for his oratory and learning. Before his thirty-fifth birthday, he was appointed governor of Liguria and Aemilia with his headquarters in Milan. The whole province was rent by the Arian heresy. In 374 the death of Auxentius, bishop of Milan and an Arian, threw the city into turmoil as Arians and orthodox Christians fought to have their candidate made bishop. Ambrose, nominally a Christian but not yet baptized, went to the cathedral to attempt to quiet the seething passions. He was unanimously elected bishop by all parties after a child cried out "Ambrose for bishop!" Despite his refusal to accept the office, he was forced to do so when the Emperor confirmed the election. Ambrose was baptized and on December 7, 374, was consecrated bishop.

He proved to be one of the greatest bishops and excelled as an administrator, writer, preacher, protector of the poor, and as "the hammer of Arianism." It was Saint Ambrose who uprooted Augustine from his former ways and led him to his convictions about Christ. It was Ambrose who placed his hands on the shoulders of the naked Saint Augustine as he descended into the baptismal fountain to put on Christ. Saint Ambrose died on Good Friday, April 4, 397.