

THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY



Icon of the Nativity of Our Lord



December 21, 2014

TONE 3

SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY - HOLY ANCESTORS

THE HOLY MARTYR JULIANA

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 28

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 - VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY

10:00 AM - Royal Hours

10:00 PM - 3 *Нами Бог!* "Велике Повечір'я" "God is with us" Great Complines
followed by Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 – THE NATIVITY IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For all parishioners

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 – SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY: DAVID, JOSEPH, AND JAMES; THE HOLY TWENTY
THOUSAND MARTYRS BURNED IN NICOMEDIA

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

*If you are reading the bulletin during the Liturgy (including the homily),
please **stop** and be attentive – будьмо уважні!*

***Liturgical Calendars for 2015 are
available in the church hall. Special
thanks to Goodbody Mortuary for
once again sponsoring our calendars.***

Haven't seen someone in a while?

Give them a call. See how they are doing.
Let them know that you not only miss them
but also care enough to see if everything is
okay. A kind word can go a long way.

Greeting Cards

Christmas Cards and various other
greeting cards are for sale in the Church
Hall. Please see Mary Kitt to purchase.

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 or Olena.

Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all of our visitors!
It's good to have you with us!

FLOWER COLLECTION

*Special envelopes are available in the back
of the church do help with the purchase
of flowers for the Feast of Nativity.*

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*

O our Savior, the armies of angels trembled when they saw You baptized by your servant, and the Holy Spirit bearing witness and descending, and when they heard the voice of the Father speaking from heaven: This One upon whom the Forerunner lays his hands is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. O Christ our God, glory to You! O God and Lord, when you resolved to save those who had strayed from You, You condescended to take the form of a servant, for it was fitting that You assumed our human nature for us. And when You were baptized in the flesh, O our Redeemer, it made us worthy of your forgiveness. Therefore, we cry out to You: O Christ our God, our Benefactor, glory to You!



Synaxis of John the Baptist *January 7th*

When the Jordan River 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!

I manifest myself as completely human. I who am rich have willingly become poor, so that I may enrich with incorruption and deliverance all the poor. Come! Baptize the One who is not subject to corruption and who frees the world from decay.

*All text from Vesper Stichera, The Festal Menaion,
Sisters of Saint Basil, Uniontown, PA*



Sunday offering for December 14

Amount	Number
\$10.00	2
\$20.00	4
\$25.00	1
\$26.00	1 (loose)
\$35.00	1
\$40.00	3
\$50.00	4
\$60.00	1
\$75.00	1
\$100.00	1
\$600.00	1
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\$1341.00	

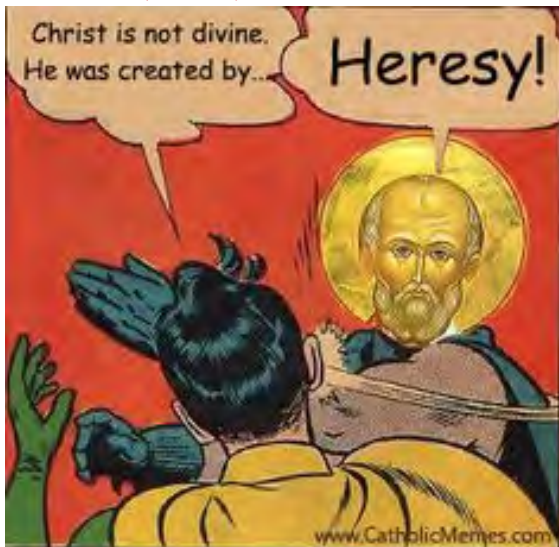
Parishioner Total: \$1321.00

Guest: \$20.00

Average / parish household (42): \$32.22

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00

Deficit: (\$804.00)



Please Note:

When you are away, please don't forget that the church still relies on your contributions. Our bills do not go on vacation. Your absence on any Sunday does not negate your obligation to support your home parish.

Goal:

\$120000

2014

Stewardship Pledges

Pledges received: 18

Pledges:

\$39116

It is impossible to plan any sort of budget until all pledge forms are turned in. If you haven't returned your pledge, please do so.

Parishioners That Are Home Bound

If you or a loved one cannot make it to Church, Fr. James would be more than pleased to visit at your home, in the hospital, at a nursing home, or any other place. Please schedule a visit with Fr. James.

Last Sunday's Bulletin

If you haven't yet picked up last Sunday's bulletin, it is available in the church hall, or on our website, stjohnthebaptizer.org.

Pastor:

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

Pastoral Council:

Fr. Deacon Frank Avant: (760) 805-1667

Vladimir Bachynsky: (619) 865-1279

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Jeanine Soucie: (718) 674-4529

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Megan Hartman (619) 540-4291

Finance Committee:

Bohdan Knianicky: (619) 303-9698

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**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
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Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

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Jesus Our Joy and Peace

When our Lord and Savior came to earth and made Himself bodily present, the angels appeared in chorus and gave the good news to the shepherds: I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all the people. We, too, borrow this hymn from these holy angels and announce great joy to you.

Today, very dearly beloved, the people of Christ have been exalted, and the enemies of truth have been humbled. Today, dearly beloved, Christ is in joy, and the Devil in grief. Today, the angels are in exaltation, and the demons in confusion.

Today, Christ, the King of peace, has come forth with His peace and routed all discord, banished dissension, and dissipated conflict. As the brilliance of the sun lights up the sky, so He illumines the Church with the splendor of peace. For, the text says, there has been born to you today a Savior of the world. O how desirable is the very name

of peace! How firm a foundation peace is for the Christian religion, and what a heavenly ornament for the altar of the Lord! What can we utter worthy of peace? Peace is a name of Christ Himself, as even the Apostle says: For Christ is our peace. He it is who has made both one. The two were at variance, not over conflicting opinions or faith, but because of the Devil's envy. But, just as the streets are cleansed when the king comes forth, and the whole city decked with myriad flowers and banners to keep out of sight anything less worthy of the king's countenance, so also now, when Christ the King of peace comes forth, let everything depressing be removed from our midst. While truth is shining, let falsehood be banished, and discord flee, and concord be resplendent.

St. Peter Chrysologus

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.mytheosis.com**