

# *Year of Our Lord 2021*

January 1<sup>st</sup> Circumcision of Our Lord and  
Friday the Feast of St. Basil the Great

*(Solemn Feast Day)*

This Feast will be celebrated Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m. (See previous page). There are no daily liturgies on Friday.

January 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Theophany of Our Lord  
Sunday Follows the Sunday Liturgical Schedule

January 5<sup>th</sup> Matins with Royal Hours for Theophany  
Tuesday Matins with Royal Hours 8:00 a.m.

January 5<sup>th</sup> Vigil for the Feast of Theophany  
Tuesday Great Vespers with Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of Jordon Water 6:30 p.m.

January 6<sup>th</sup> Theophany of Our Lord *Holy Day of Obligation*  
Wednesday Festal Matins and Divine Liturgy 8:00 a.m.

## *House Blessings Begin*



**Christ is Born!**

*Glorify Him!*

**Christós Raždájetsja!**

*Sláвите Jeho!*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

***Christ is Born! Glorify Him!***

Seasons come and seasons go, the sun rises and the sun falls, the moon waxes and the moon wanes. In our human experience change is the one great constant. The Wisdom Literature of Sacred Scripture attest to this common experience we all share.

However, it is in the ebb and flow of our human existence that the Ever Existing Word of God ‘became flesh for our salvation.’ He, who is above the Heavens, lowered Himself and entered into the human flow of life with us. He assumed the very flesh of His most beloved creation – Man.

As we celebrate this wondrous mystery of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, whether with family, with friends, or in solitude, let us allow ourselves time to stand in “AWE” of what God has done and is doing for each of us. The fruit of the Nativity is the sanctification of the flesh and all creation. It is the forgiveness of sins and new life that is not bound by death. No longer do we just converse with God as did Adam in the Garden, but now ‘we become partakers of Divine Nature.’ Athanasius, reflecting on the Incarnation writes: ‘He indeed assumed humanity that we might become God,’ we do not become God by nature, but by grace, by the life of God within us. Out of love for us Jesus sanctified our body by having a body Himself, a body he received from the Most Holy Theotokos. This action expresses the great reality of the depth of God’s gift of love to us.

May this Christmas Gift of Love be yours! This is the prayer of Pani Kelly and myself for you during this Holy Season of Incarnational Joy.

In His Incarnational Love,

*The Rev. Michael J. Mandelas  
& Pani Kelly*

## **2020 Christmas Liturgical Schedule**

***Christ is Born! Glorify Him!***

***Christós Raždájetsja! Slávite Jeho***

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** **Royal Hours**  
**Thursday** Matins with Royal Hours at 8:00 a.m.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** **Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord,**  
**Thursday** **God and Savior Jesus Christ**

*In the evening, at first star, begins Holy Supper in your homes.*

Great Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, Litija, & Great Compline beginning at 9:00 p.m.

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** **Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ**  
**Friday** Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**December 26<sup>th</sup>** **Synaxis of the Theotokos**  
**Saturday** Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

**December 26/27** **Sunday after Christmas/Memory of David, Joseph &**  
**Sat./Sunday** **James/Protomartyr Stephen**  
Follows the Sunday Liturgical Schedule

**December 28<sup>th</sup>** **Monday after Christmas**  
**Monday** No Daily Liturgical Services this day.

**December 31<sup>st</sup>** **Vigil of Circumcision of Our Lord**  
**Thursday** Great Vespers with Divine Liturgy of Basil the Great at 5:30 p.m.  
***There will be NO Liturgy Friday January 1<sup>st</sup>***