

January 1st, 2023

The Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ

SUNDAY, 1/1 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners
10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

MONDAY, 1/2 8:00 am Divine Liturgy for special intention

TUESDAY, 1/3 NO Divine Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, 1/4 8:00 am Divine Liturgy for special intention

THURSDAY, 1/5 4:00 pm Divine Liturgy for special intention

FRIDAY, 1/6 **Theophany**
8:30 am Divine Liturgy (English) for special intention
10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

Night Time Prayers

9:00pm Confession
9:30pm Akaphist
10:00pm Vigil Divine Liturgy
11:15pm All Night Adoration

SATURDAY, 1/7 4:00 pm Divine Liturgy for special intention

SUNDAY, 1/8 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners
10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

**Extract from CHRISTMAS PASTORAL
MESSAGE**

Of His Beatitude Sviatoslav

Christ is born! Glorify Him!
Beloved in Christ!

I share a great joy with you, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2:11). For us who believe in the Lord Jesus, to celebrate Christmas is to open ourselves to a joy that lasts forever. The Son of God becomes one of us—God is with us!

In life, we often experience joyful or pleasant events: the birth of a child, a wedding, some achievement, dinner with relatives and friends, etc. However, life experience tells us that such moments are very fragile: a brief moment—and what brought us joy and pleasure, irrevocably sinks into nothingness, and we are left alone with pain, sadness and disappointment. There are many reasons for such a sudden change: a second of inattention, an accident, illness, human malice, or war, as we see in the fate of our long-suffering nation.

And yet, today, we announce to each other a joy that no earthly ordeal or misfortune can deprive us of—the invincible joy of Christ’s Nativity. This is not some fleeting experience or form of distraction that allows us to escape for a while from some daily or even cruel reality.

*Upcoming Events
in Parish & Eparchy*

Jan..6th – Theophany
Feb..2nd – Encounter
Feb.20th – Great Lent begins

The joy of Christmas is an immersion into the reality of God himself. The Son of God enters into human life, human reality, and takes upon himself the fragility and drama of human existence in order to bring a heavenly perspective into human horizons: “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!’” (Lk 2:13-14). Christmas invites us to an encounter with a God who comes as the Saviour of the world—an encounter that brings heavenly joy. However, in preparing for it, we inevitably become aware of our own weakness and unworthiness, which give rise in us to fear. In itself, this fear is not a bad thing, if it arises from the humility of a creature before its Creator, a disciple before his Master, a servant before his Lord. At the Divine Liturgy, the celebrant invites the faithful to Holy Communion with the words: “Approach with the fear of God and faith.” Awareness of our sins and weaknesses should not lead to paralysis, but to repentance and action. That is why the angel says to the shepherds, frightened by the bright vision of divine glory: “Do not be afraid!” The Lord overcomes our sinfulness and weakness. And so, a person should not be afraid of heavenly joy. We are called to joy—one that is authentic, sincere, profound, eternal. It is given to us as a generous gift from God. This is the profound meaning of the incarnation of the Son of God—He becomes one of us to pave for us the way to the joy of his Father and ours.

Therefore, despite all our limitations, anxieties and fears, as human beings we are called to accept this joy, to open our hearts to it. The angel explains how to recognize it: “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger” (Lk 2:12). The Almighty God makes himself known “not in a royal palace, but among cattle, in the desert, in a cave...,” as we sing in the carol. The Apostle of the Nations writes about this when he paints a contrast between divine and human wisdom: “For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Cor 1:25). The divine path to true joy passes through weakness and patience, as once again notes St. Paul: “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Cor 12:9).

Finally, a person is called to share the joy of Christmas: “The shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them” (Lk 2:15-18). Dear brothers and sisters, no matter where we are, let us sincerely share the joy of the Birth of our Saviour, so that it truly becomes “a joy for all the people.”

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Sunday collections for the weekend of 12/25/22, including envelope offerings - \$3025, donations -\$1040, candle -\$77, parishioners yearly contribution - \$100
Weekly budget: \$1250, Income \$4242

**Protection of the Mother of God
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Confession before or after Divine Liturgy.

Confession is recommended as a regular monthly practice. The graces received from confession are an excellent way to help us become closer to Jesus.

*THE CHURCH WAS A MOTHER TO YOU IN LIFE, PROVIDING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS;
PLEASE REMEMBE YOUR PARISH AND THE EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT IN PARMA IN
YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.*