

December 24th, 2021

Sunday before Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

SUNDAY, 12/24 **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners
10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention
2:30 pm Great Compline with Lytia

MONDAY, 12/25 **Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**
9:00 am Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners
10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

TUESDAY, 12/26 **Synaxis of the Mother of God**
9:30 am Divine Liturgy for special intention

WEDNESDAY, 12/27 **St. Stephen the First Martyr and Archdeacon**
8:00 pm Divine Liturgy for special intention

THURSDAY, 12/28 **NO** Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, 12/29 **NO** Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, 12/30 **4:00 pm** Divine Liturgy for special intention

SUNDAY, 12/31 **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners
10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

Announcements

1- Divine Liturgy on Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Divine Liturgy for Christmas will be at 9am on December 25th.

2-New Year Divine Liturgy

On December 31st, we will have New Year Divine Liturgy at **11:00 pm** for the blessings received during the year and to be blessed in the coming year and at **10:30 pm** we will have also Akaphist service to the Holy Mother of God.

Christmas Pastoral of the Hierarchs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States of America to clergy, religious, seminarians, and laity

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear”.

(1 John 4:18)

Dear brother and sisters in Christ!

On this blessed, glorious day, we embrace you with words of hope, peace, and solidarity.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

In the joy of the Nativity, let us raise our prayers to the Prince of Peace, beseeching Him to bestow His peace, one that heals, restores, and makes whole.

Peace, healing, and renewal is what we all need: Ukraine, torn by the devastating war, which brings untold pain and suffering; our schools and cities agonized by mass shootings and violence; refugees stuck on our borders who

***Upcoming Events
in Parish & Eparchy***

Dec. 25th – *Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

Dec. 26th – *Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God*

Dec. 27th – *St. Stephen the First Martyr and Archdeacon*

Jan. 1st – *The Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

try to flee from destitution and menace; our families and communities enduring internal discords and external pressure; our hearts tormented by doubts, fears, uncertainties, and anxieties.

The Lord comes to all of us and says: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” (John 14:27) In the midst of severe trials and personal challenges, we assure you that God is with you, and God’s truth will prevail. Cherish your spiritual resilience, examine the depth of your heart. It is our God-given dignity, our true identity, that Jesus comes to restore.

When we understand who we truly are and live our identity and vocation, the enemy – both internal and external – has no power over us. Everything falls into place. We receive inspiration to persevere and we become authentic instruments of the God’s truth. “Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

Today’s feast tells us precisely who we are. We are the ones to whom the Lord comes. We are the ones for whom the Almighty becomes a defenseless Child. We are the magi who try to comprehend God’s Providence. We are the shepherds who are on the margins of society yet the first to hear the Good News of salvation.

We know clearly who the bloodthirsty Herod is. Together with Rachel, we mourn the death of our children, of our warriors, our destroyed houses, Churches, cities, and villages. We journey with the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph who are forced to flee their home. Follow their example and learn how to accept the Son of God into our hearts and lives and walk together in the full trust in God’s Providence.

We are the ones who hear the voice “This is my beloved Son” and are reassured in our belovedness. This is the cornerstone of our identity. We are with Christ.

Let us be mindful of our heart as it needs protection against evil, hatred, and despair. “Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7)

In the Nativity, let us gaze into the eyes of the loving God, who comes into our turbulent world. God is where it hurts, God is near, God is with us.

Let this joyful news resonate in our hearts and homes!

We wish you a blessed Christmas and happy New Year!

Christ is born!

Glorify Him!

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

***Sunday collections* for 12/24/21, including envelope offerings - \$656, donations - \$377, candles - \$79**

Weekly budget: \$1250, Income \$1112

**Protection of the Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Byzantine Rite**
2880 Highway 138 NE
Conyers, GA 30013

Father Volodymyr Petrytsya

Parish office phone 770-760-1111
Emergency phone 224-400-0558
Email: motherofgodch@aol.com
www.motherofgodatlanta.com

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.*