

TODAY'S FEAST: Today, the second Day of Christmas, is the Feast of the Gathering for of the Most Holy Birthgiver-of-God. It is the first and most ancient feast honoring the Birthgiver-of-God. She is glorified by Christians on Earth as well as in Heaven and honored as the Mother of the Son of God who had played a indispensable role in the great mystery of the Incarnation.

God chose Mary from infancy for this great event. Her presence in the Holy of Holies of the ancient Temple at Jerusalem prepared her for the future realization of Divine Motherhood. The holy environment of the Temple, the continuous communion with the world above, pure as the heavenly dew, continuous praying, conscientiously reading the Holy Scriptures, caring for the pious elder: All of this prepared the pure soul of the Virgin Mary to become the abode of the Holy Spirit, and the subsequent annunciation of the Archangel signaled the beginning of our salvation.

The mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God was clandestine. Joseph the Betrothed and the Virgin Mary set out on the long and difficult road from Nazareth to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. And there in a small cave the Most Pure and Blessed Virgin Mary gave birth to Her Firstborn Son. She wrapped Her Most Sweet Child in pure linen swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. She was the first to adore Him as Her God and Creator, and all the manger became like the Cherubic Throne. St. Athanasios of Alexandria observed: "Behold how secretly she gives birth, by Herself. She delivers and swaddles the Infant. She does not permit anyone to touch the Pre-Eternal Infant with unclean hands. "As a Virgin conceived, as a Virgin she bore Him, and as a Virgin she gave birth", St. Gregory of Nyssa wrote in amazement.

The ancient prophecies about the Son refer also to her. Sit at My right hand and reign in Heaven and on Earth; let the Angels and men pay homage to you as Queen and Mother of God. I am God, but I am also Your Son. As God I give you My glory, as Son I give you My heart. And so, intercede, My Mother, because I shall not turn away from you and shall fulfil your requests, and the world shall know what a true Mother I have, and all the human race will delight in You."

Let us always offer our fervent prayers to the Mother of God, for she has been given the great grace of praying for us. We must always honor and venerate her for all generations shall call her blessed! (Luke 1:48). May our Lord Jesus Christ and the Most Pure Virgin Mary His Mother be impressed in our hearts.

"Who is there that does not bless you, All-Holy Virgin? Who is there who does not chant hymns about your undefiled birth-giving?"

"Rejoice, O Isaiah! A Virgin is with Child; and shall bear a Son, Emmanuel: He is both God and Man; and Orient is His Name. Magnifying Him we call the Virgin blessed."



The Wonderworker

Monthly Bulletin for
St. Nicholas Pro-Cathedral
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

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Dean: V. Rev. Father Dennis Kristof
Council President: Reader Joseph Stolitzka



Welcome to our parish. We invite you to worship with us again.

January, 2022

Christ is Born!

Khristos Rozhdayetsya!

Al Masseeh Wolod!

Christos Gennatai!

Glorify Him!

Slavite Yeho!

Mazheedoohoo!

Doxasate!

Schedule of Services

(December 26, 2021—February 6, 2022)

Sunday, December 26

The Sunday after the Nativity in Which the Holy Righteous Ones are Commemorated: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord, Resurrectional Tone 2; The Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity, the Gathering for the Most-Holy Birthgiver-of-God

10:00 a.m. - The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth

Sunday, January 2, 2022

The Sunday before the Divine Manifestation (Theophany); The First Prefestive Day of Theophany; Resurrectional Tone 3; Our Holy Father-Among-the-Saints, Sylvester, Pope of Rome (335); Repose of our Venerable Father Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov; The Sunday before the Divine Manifestation

9:30 a.m. - Public Chanting of the Prayers of Preparation for the Holy Mystery of Repentance Followed by an Examination of Conscience and Concluded by Individual Absolutions

10:00 a.m. - The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth

Thursday, January 6

The Holy Divine Manifestation (Theophany) of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Baptism in the Jordan)

10:00 a.m. - The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth
The Great Sanctification of the Jordan Water

Sunday, January 9

The Sunday after the Divine Manifestation, Resurrectional Tone 4; Fourth Day of the Divine Manifestation; The Holy Martyr Polyeuctus of Melitene in Armenia (259); Hieromartyr Philip, Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia

10:00 a.m. - The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth
Blessing of the new Valli home, 28530 Hunters Ridge Lane, Olmsted Twp. All are invited

Sunday, January 16

The Thirtieth Sunday after Pentecost, Resurrectional Tone 5; Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-Glorious Apostle Peter

10:00 a.m. - The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth

Sunday, January 23

The Thirty-First Sunday after Pentecost, Resurrectional Tone 6; The Holy Bishop-Martyr Clement of Ankyra, and the Holy Martyr Agathangelos (312); Commemoration of the Sixth Ecumenical Council (680-681)

10:00 a.m. - The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth

Sunday, January 30

The Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, Resurrectional Tone 7; Assembly for the Ecumenical Teachers and Great Archpriests: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom. Hieromartyr Hippolytus, Pope of Rome, and those with him

10:00 a.m. - The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth
Holy Anointing Мирваніє

Wednesday, February 2

The Meeting (Encounter) of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple

10:00 a.m. - The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth
Holy Anointing Мирваніє

Sunday, February 6

The Thirty-Third Sunday after Pentecost, Resurrectional Tone 8; The Fifth Day of the Meeting; Our Venerable Father Bukolos, Bishop of Smyrna (ca. 100); Our Holy Father-Among-the-Saints, Photios the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople (891) (Zacchaeus)

9:30 a.m. - Public Chanting of the Prayers of Preparation for the Holy Mystery of Repentance Followed by an Examination of Conscience and Concluded by Individual Absolutions

10:00 a.m. - The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth

January Milestones, Birthdays: 8, Maryann Liguore; 26, Issa Hanna; 28, James Valli. May God grant them and their families peace, health, salvation and longevity for many, blessed years, на многая і благая літа!

The **Church Calendars for 2022** are available on the table at the entrance to the Pro-Cathedral. Please help yourself to as many as you would like. We thank the Joseph Misencik Funeral Home for once again

sponsoring our calendars.

My Christmas Gift to St. Nicholas

It is estimated that the average American spends over \$500 on gifts alone for Christmas. This doesn't count food, decorations and other things associated with the season. Figuring that in would put it well over \$1000! I have made the challenge in the past to tithe (Donate 10%) of what you spend on Christmas and give it to your parish of St. Nicholas. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. (Matthew 6:21)

House Blessing Open House

Jim and Lillian Valli are inviting everyone to their House Blessing Open House on Sunday, January 9, 2022, right after Church services. A hot lunch will follow the House Blessing. Both Jim and Lillian are triple vaccinated. The address again is 28530 Hunters Ridge Lane, Olmsted Twp. Street parking ok. Plan to spend the afternoon with them, to pray, eat and talk and have a good time.

Signs of the Season for Orthodox Christians

Due to the great joy of this season in which we celebrate the great feasts of Christmas and the Divine Manifestation, the Church calls us to reflect this in our liturgical and daily practices from December 25 to January 14, the final day of the feast of the Divine Manifestation (Theophany)

1. There is no fasting (except on January 5, the Eve of Theophany)
2. There is no kneeling at both public services and private prayer
3. You should greet everyone saying Christ is Born! (Khristos Razhdayetsya!), and answering Glorify Him! (Slavite Yehol!). You may greet one another in this manner up to the feast of the Encounter in the Temple (February 2).
4. From January 6-14, the greeting changes to Christ is Baptized (in the Jordan)! Khristos Kreshchayetsya vo Yordani!

