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Cantor
Joseph Luzanski
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Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy
Sunday: 8:30 am
Holyday: 9:00 am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or
by appointment

Served By

Father Vasyl Yakubych
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The Divine Liturgy intention is for the parish family

If you would like to schedule a Liturgy please talk to Father Vasyl or use the sign up sheet in the vestibule.

Philip's fast begins on November 15th.

The regulations of this Fast are not strict, as it falls during the winter. Abstinence remains in force for Friday, and is recommended for Wednesday and if possible, also Monday. **Christmas Eve** remains a day of strict fast: no meat, no dairy, one main meal, which is the Holy Supper in the evening.



Reminder:

There is a list for Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp intentions in the vestibule of the church.

For those of you who wish to donate towards the **Christmas Flowers** there will be envelopes in the vestibule.



Impossible to recount is Christ's descent according to His divinity, but His ancestry according to His human nature can be traced, since He who deigned to become Son of Man in order to save mankind was the offspring of men. And it is this genealogy of His that two of the evangelists, Matthew and Luke, recorded. But although Matthew, in the passage from his Gospel read today, begins with those born first, he makes no mention of anyone born before Abraham. He traces the line down from Abraham until he

Sunday before the Nativity
(Sunday of the Ancestors))

Tone 6

Menologion

The holy great martyr Anastasia. Born into a senatorial family in Rome, she was a Christian from a tender age. Forced by her father to marry a pagan landowner, she refused to have marital relations with him. For this, her husband had her tortured and imprisoned. When her husband drowned during a business trip, she began to openly minister to Christians and to all the poor who needed her help. She was arrested again, starved to death, and finally was bound to a wheel over an open fire and killed. (304)

Propers

Pages 152, 285-287

Fasts & Feasts

DECEMBER

- 22 The Sunday before the Nativity (Sunday of the Ancestors). 9 am
- 24 Compline and Divine Liturgy for the Vigil of the Nativity. 6:30 pm
- 25 The Nativity Of Our Lord, God And Savior Jesus Christ. 9 am
- 26 Great Doxology The Synaxis Of The Theotokos And Ever-Virgin Mary. 9 am
- 27 Stephen the Protomartyr 9 am

JANUARY

- 1 Circumcision of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ
Feast of St. Basil the Great 9 am
- 6 Theophany of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ 9 am

reaches Joseph to whom, by divine dispensation, the Virgin Mother of God was betrothed (Matt. 1:1-16), being of the same tribe and homeland as him, that her own stock may be shown from this to be in no way inferior.

If you would like some Christmas straw to put under your table, there is some bagged straw in the basement. This is keeping with our tradition of placing straw under the table for the Holy Supper.

We heard in this morning's epistle reading that it was in faith that those who traveled and acted and worked in the Old Testament experienced or were guided. So what does it mean to be in faith? To be in faith or to have faith means that you walk with God, you listen to God, you cooperate with God. Your life is inside of Christ. We are baptized into Christ and we put Christ on. We hear the voice of God through the scriptures and through our living in a righteous way. Our being in faith means that we cooperate with what God is doing around us and within us.

This morning's Gospel lesson is about the genealogy of Christ. Even though it is difficult to hear or read all of these names, it is a very important Gospel reading for our faith. The flesh that Christ took on from Mary was real flesh. The ancestors of God in Christ, were real characters. When you study them, you find that they were jews and non-jews; righteous and murderers; people who were faithful and people who betrayed God; there were slaves and there were free, and so on. So, none of us can claim that God can't understand us because of our circumstances, because of our lousy childhoods, because our parents weren't perfect.

For 14 generations plus 14 generations plus 14 generations of extremely real people, the Word of God took on very real flesh.

The significance of dividing the genealogy this way is that seven (7) is the number of completeness. Fourteen (14) is double completeness. We have seven days in the week, seven brings us full circle. We have seven generations plus seven generations, PLUS seven generations plus seven generations, PLUS seven generations plus seven generations. This implies that all of time is encompassed, and everything is complete. The Word of God takes on flesh from everything that it needs to become human and to regain and recapture the world that we are in.

Joseph needed God to give him a right heart and a right relationship in order to be guided to understand the fulfillment of the mysteries of the generations that the Word of God would take on flesh and become human.

The significance of the Magi is that even those honest people who didn't have the scriptures but were seeking truth to know God understood from their studies of the stars that God was taking on flesh and was being born. So, they came from the East to worship God, bringing the gifts that no human being needs. I don't know how many of you give your kids incense or myrrh or burial oils for Christmas. So, they knew that the King was God and is being revealed to us and reclaiming us and recapturing us. So, it is meet and right and reasonable to gather as the Church to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, to offer each other love and encouragement and life, so that together we can know what God is calling us to be, to know what God is calling us to do. We can then love each other and challenge each other and forgive each other and work together to discern God's will and guidance for us.

In the tradition of the Byzantine Rite, the night-time vigil for the feast of the Nativity consists of: the service of Great Compline – the litija procession, with prayers for the world – the service of Matins, with the Gospel of the Nativity, and the Great Doxology which begins with the words of the angels, announcing the birth of our Lord and Savior in Bethlehem: Glory to God in the highest!

I have purchased copies of the Compline service. The vespers and compline books that we had on hand have vanished. If anyone knows where they have gone please let me know. The vesper books are no longer available from the Seminary Press.

