

CHRISTMAS AND THEOPHANY SCHEDULE



Saturday, December 10th - Eve of the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Sunday, December 11th - Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

9:30 a.m. Third Hour

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, December 14th - Moleben to Christ Emmanuel

7:00 p.m.

A Moleben is a special prayer of praise and petition. The Moleben to Christ Emmanuel celebrates Jesus' unique fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy of the coming of Emmanuel (God with Us). This service will awaken a sense of prayerful expectation as we prepare for the great Feast of Christmas. *Following the Moleben we will share a light, fast-friendly meal in the parish hall.*

Saturday, December 17th - Eve of the Sunday of the Holy Ancestors of Christ

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Sunday, December 18th - Sunday Before Christmas - The Holy Ancestors of Christ

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Friday, December 23rd - The Royal Hours

7:00 p.m.

This Friday, two days before Christmas, is observed as a day of strict fast and yet, we enjoy a scriptural feast in the service of The Royal Hours. All of the appointed "hours" of prayer throughout the day are brought together in one service of readings and hymns, combining Prophetic, Apostolic and Gospel readings into a scriptural tapestry to tell the entire story of the birth of Christ.

Saturday, December 24th - The Eve of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ

6:00 p.m. - **Parish Holy Supper:** Join us for a parish pot-luck of fast-friendly food (no meat or dairy products) as we conclude the Nativity Fast and prepare for the Feast.

7:30 p.m. - **Vigil Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for the Feast of the Nativity:** The three greatest feasts of the year, Christmas, Theophany and Pascha, are celebrated with a Vigil Divine Liturgy on the eve of the feast itself. The Christmas hymns of Vespers are combined with the beautiful Liturgy of Saint Basil as we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord. *If you are only able to make it to one service this Christmas, be aware that this is the primary celebration of the feast at which the entire parish gathers.*

10:00 p.m. - **Midnight: The All-Night Vigil for the Feast of the Nativity:** The All-Night Vigil is a combination of the service of Great Compline and Matins, celebrated on the eve of a feast and generally lasting till midnight. Great Compline is a simple service of chanted psalms and includes the dramatic singing of the hymn "God is With Us" from the prophecy of Isaiah. Bread, wheat, wine and oil are blessed for distribution. Great Compline then transitions into Matins which features the beautiful hymns of the Canon of the Nativity. The All-Night Vigil is a long service, especially after the other services of the day, but is full of joy and grace for those who keep watch till the end.

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Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Day

10.00 am – The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

The major celebrations of the Feast of the Nativity itself, which began with the Vigil Divine Liturgy of St. Basil on Christmas Eve, end on Christmas Day with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

Monday, December 26th - Synaxis of the Theotokos and the Commemoration of David, Joseph and James

7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, December 27th -The Holy Protomartyr and Apostle Stephen

7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 31st - New Year's Eve

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers for the Eve of the Feast of St. Basil the Great and the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord in the Flesh

Sunday, January 1st, 2012 – New Year's Day - The Feast of St. Basil the Great and the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord in the Flesh

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, the Patronal Procession and the Blessing of the Vasilopita.

Wednesday, January 4th - Pre-feast of the Theophany of Our Lord

7:00 p.m. - Royal Hours of Theophany

Just as with the Feast of Christmas, the Great Feast of the Theophany (Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River) is anticipated with the service of the Royal Hours. Prophetic, Apostolic and Gospel readings, as well as special hymnody, prepare us to celebrate this great feast.

Thursday, January 5th - The Eve of the Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

7:00 p.m. Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for the Feast of Theophany and the Great Blessing of Water

The All Night Vigil for the Feast of the Theophany: *following the Liturgy, the services of Great Compline and Matins will be combined as we keep watch and mark the coming of this great feast.*

Friday, January 6th - The Feast of the Theophany

6.30 pm Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Theophany and the Great Blessing of Water

at the **Byzantine Community of Austin**

Please note: There are no services at St. Basil's on January 6, 2012.

