

**Христос Раждається! Christ is Born!  
Славіте Його! Glorify Him!**

Dear Parishioners,

As we prepare to welcome Our Savior Jesus Christ at His Birth, we must open our hearts and minds to confront the awesome truth that the Son of God has become one of us. His incarnation reveals that we need more than just a teacher, or a political leader or someone of a Hero status to help us find the healing of our humanity in God. Only Christ who is both fully divine and fully human could make us “partakers of the divine nature” by grace.

We are tempted far too often to walk away from real hope and God himself in sadness when our weakness before our passions becomes apparent, especially when we realize how far short we have fallen of the holiness to which Christ calls us. That is when we must entrust ourselves to the mercy of the Lord as we struggle to reorient the desires of our hearts toward God and away from serving ourselves. In living the sacraments through receiving the Holy Eucharist, attending confession, fasting and prayer, we gain strength in refusing to satisfy our self-centered desires for pleasure, which enables us to serve Christ in our neighbors by giving generously to the needy of our time, energy, and resources. Nothing reflects the true state of our souls more than how we put meeting the needs of others before our own. All the more is the case when those we serve are in some sense our enemies or those we are inclined to disregard or even condemn.

When we come to know our weakness before our sins, let us not walk away in sadness, but instead use our struggle as a reminder that only Christ can save us. He was born to restore the holy glory of the human person in God’s image and likeness, which is something that not even the strictest religious observance could ever achieve by its own power. Our spiritual disciplines do not earn us any guarantee of anything at all. They are however, essential practices for opening our souls in humility to receive God’s healing grace, which we never deserve but is given to us in Love. The same is true of our preparation to receive the Eucharist at liturgy through prayer, fasting, and confession. We are never worthy in our own right of the Lord’s Body and Blood, but must receive Him with the humility of those who know that they are real sinners.

Instead of walking away in sadness when we confront the truth about the weakness of our souls before our distorted desires, as we struggle with the effects of an unsure tomorrow of the pandemic, let us run towards Bethlehem this Christmas to welcome the Son of God born for our salvation. He shows that what is impossible by our own work is possible with Him. Let us prepare to embrace our Savior and to share as fully in His life as possible as we “lay aside all earthly cares that we may receive the King of all.”

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Very Rev. Fr. Mark Gnutel  
Rev. Fr. Alan Wizinsky



**Services for the 2021-2022 Christmas Season**

**2021**

**Sunday, December 12 – Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. St. Anne Parish

**Sunday, December 19 – Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. St. Michael Parish

**Friday, December 24 – EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
4:00 p.m. Family Christmas Service (English) - St. Anne Parish  
-Registration Required  
9:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Service (Bilingual) - St. Michael Parish  
10:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Service (Bilingual) - St. Anne Parish  
-with special guest Archbishop Stefan-Registration Required

**Saturday, December 25 – NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service - St. Anne Parish  
-Registration Required  
11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service - St. Michael Parish

**Sunday, December 26 – Synaxis of the Mother of God, Sunday After Nativity**  
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy - St. Michael Parish  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - St. Anne Parish

**Monday, December 27 – St. Stephen, Protomartyr & Archdeacon**  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - St. Anne Parish  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - St. Michael Parish

**2022**

**Saturday, January 1 – Circumcision of the Lord, Feast of St. Basil, New Year**  
11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - St. Michael Parish  
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy - St. Anne Parish

**Sunday, January 2 – Sunday Before Theophany**  
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy - St. Michael Parish  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - St. Anne Parish

**Wednesday, January 5 – EVE OF THE THEOPHANY**  
7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing - St. Anne Parish  
-with special guest Archbishop Stefan

**Thursday, January 6 – THEOPHANY FEAST DAY**  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing - St. Michael Parish  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - St. Anne Parish



*Join us this Christmas and Rejoice in the Nativity of Our Lord!*

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# Христос Раждається



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