

40 Divine Liturgies

For the forty days of the Nativity Fast (Advent), we are serving forty consecutive Divine Liturgies at St. George's. This will be the fourth year that we are doing this. Liturgies will begin at 9 a.m. with vespers everyday at 5 p.m.

In the past, we tried live streaming the Liturgy through the internet. Please check out our church's Facebook page to see a live stream, barring any technical difficulties, of the service at 9 am (central time).

If there are any names you would like to give (to be said by the priest during these Liturgies) for the health of your loved ones and/or to commemorate any beloved Orthodox who have reposed, please write Fr. Kristijan (via postal mail, email or text) with your request. Put "Attn: Fr. Kristijan" for postal mail.

Entrance of the Mother of God—Dec. 4th

On Monday, December 4th, we will celebrate the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple, one of the 12 major feastdays of the Church. On Sunday, December 3rd—the eve of the feast—there will be Great Vespers at 6 p.m.; and on Monday, Divine Liturgy at 9 a.m.

On the Entrance of the Mother of God by St. Nikolai Velimirovich from the Prologue of Ohrid

When the Most-holy Virgin Mary reached the age of three, her holy parents Joachim and Anna took her from Nazareth to Jerusalem to dedicate her to the service of God according to their earlier promise. ...

Leading the procession into the Temple were virgins with lighted tapers in their hands, then the Most-holy Virgin, led on one side by her father and on the other side by her mother. The virgin was clad in vesture of royal magnificence and adornments as was befitting the "King's daughter, the Bride of God" (Psalm 45:13-15). Following them were many kinsmen and friends, all with lighted candles.

Fifteen steps led up to the Temple. Joachim and Anna lifted the Virgin onto the first step, then she ran quickly to the top herself, where she was met by the High Priest Zacharias, who was to be the father of St. John the Forerunner.

Taking her by the hand, he led her not only into the Temple, but into the "Holy of Holies," the holiest of holy places, into which no one but the high priest ever entered, and only once each year, at that. ...

On the Entrance of the Mother of God cont'd.

Mary's parents then offered sacrifice to God according to the Law, received the priest's blessing and returned home. The Most-holy Virgin remained in the Temple and dwelt there for nine full years. While her parents were alive, they visited her often, especially Righteous Anna. When God called her parents from this world, the Most-holy Virgin was left an orphan and did not wish to leave the Temple until death nor to enter into marriage. As that would have been against the Law and custom of Israel, she was given to St. Joseph, her kinsman in Nazareth, after reaching the age of twelve.



Under the acceptable role of one betrothed, she could live in virginity and thus fulfill her desire and formally satisfy the Law, for it was then unknown in Israel for maidens to vow virginity to the end of their lives. The Most-holy Virgin Mary was the first of such life-vowed virgins, of the thousands and thousands of virgin men and women who would follow her in the Church of Christ.

Nativity Fast & Preparing for Communion

We have now entered the Nativity Fast consisting of the forty days before Christmas. Please try to fast at least one week, during this opportune time set up by the Church, before receiving Communion before Nativity.

If one is going to fast for only one week, then please follow this rule, which is an *unofficial* rule, dispensed out of regard for people's weakness: 1) refrain from meat and dairy products (while having fish, vegetables, fruits and oils) on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and 2) fast more strictly—by refraining from fish and oils—on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

If one is strong enough to fast the entire forty days, please fast according to this *official* rule of our Church: 1) Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays: one can have fruits and vegetables with oil (no fish during these days); 2) on Wednesdays and Fridays: one can have fruits and vegetables *without* oil (still no fish on these days); 3) and on Saturdays and Sundays: one can have fruits and vegetables *with* oil, and fish is allowed.

Fish is also allowed on all red-letter feastdays, for example, the Entrance of the Mother of God (Dec. 4th)

Nativity Fast & Preparing for Communion cont'd.
and on St. Nicholas' Day (Dec. 19th), as well as the "black-letter" feastday of the Conception by St. Anna of the Theotokos (December 9th). -Fr. Kristijan

Confession During Nativity Fast

The practice of confession before Communion is just as important as fasting in our preparation for Holy Communion. Confessions will be heard starting at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Please be in church early, no later than 9:45 a.m., so that we can preserve church order and start the service on time. Additional opportunities for confessions will be before and after Divine Liturgy everyday of the week during the Fast, as well as before and after Saturday evening vespers services. If one cannot make it for these times, please contact me to make an appointment. -Fr. Kristijan

Kolo Annual Meeting

The Kolo's Annual Meeting and next monthly meeting will be on Sunday, Dec. 3rd, after Liturgy.

Executive Board Meeting

The next executive board meeting will be Monday, December 4th, at 6 p.m.

Annual Church Assembly

On Sunday, December 17th, we will hold our Annual Assembly to elect a new church board and go over the yearly reports for 2017. Please make every effort to attend and participate in this important meeting of our parish.

Candidates for the 2018 Church Board

The following are the candidates running for the 2018 Church Board:

President: Stevo Lubovich
Vice President: Lori Ulvi
Financial Secretary: Barbara Lubovich
Treasurer: Andy Nygren
Secretary: Tammera Bastie
Member-at-large: Mike Zigich
Member-at-large: Sam Misceovich
Member-at-large: Brian Knezevich

Choir Annual Meeting

The Choir will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 10th, at 6 p.m. All members are kindly asked to attend.

Bulletin Donation

Helen Desich

Building Repair Fund Donation
Richard Soderberg

Thank You's

The Kolo thanks the following people for their generous donations and apologizes that these were not in the last bulletin:

- Scott Stoyanoff for the good health of Teta Mary Petrich and in memory of †Baba Božana Stoyanoff
- Eli Kokotovich
- &
- The Jedinstvo Orchestra

Corrections

In the past bulletin, some donations were not clear or omissions were made in printing. We apologize for the inconvenience. Here are the corrections:

- For the health of Saya Kovich:* Ray & Sonja Ulvi
- For the health of Marlene Balach:* Kuma Bess Morrison and Carol Griak

Poinsettia Donation Appeal

People in the past have expressed a wish to purchase flowers in their name and/or for their loved ones for the Nativity season. If you would like to make a donation, please earmark it with the words "Flower Donation."

Every year, by your generous donation, we have more and more flowers. Let's make this Nativity the most yet!

Calendar Reminders

THIS ENTIRE MONTH, DIVINE LITURGY EVERY WEEKDAY AND SATURDAY AT 9 A.M. (see other side for details)

Vespers everyday at 5 p.m. (except on Thursdays at 6:30)

Sat. Dec. 2—Vespers at 5 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 3—Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m.; Kolo Annual meeting after the service.

Mon. Dec. 4—**Entrance of the Mother of God**—Divine Liturgy at 9 a.m.; Executive board meeting at 6 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 9—Vespers at 5 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 10—Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m.

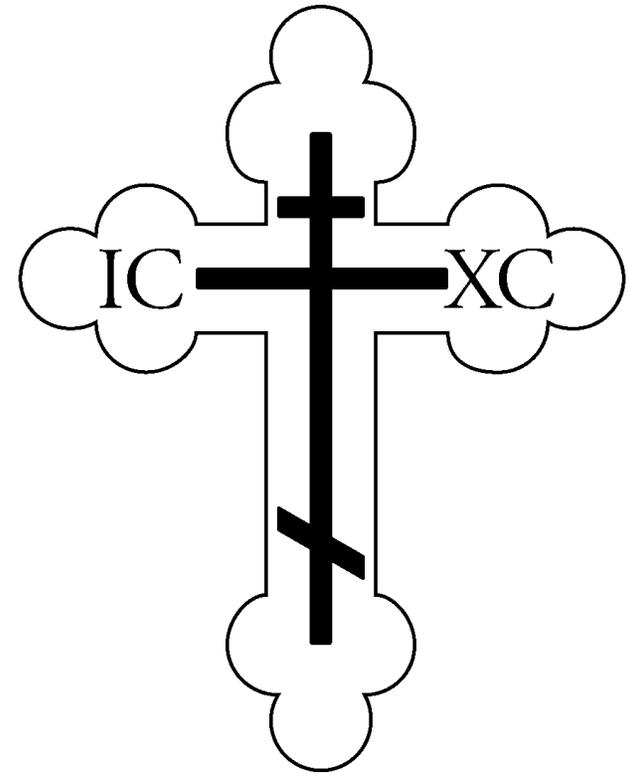
Sun. Dec. 17—**Annual Assembly** (see other side for details)

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Duluth, MN 55808

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**ST. GEORGE'S
BULLETIN**



December 1-15th, 2017
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