



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

November 17, 2008

Protocol 08-25

The Pious Clergy of
the Holy Metropolis of Denver

In this season when you are preparing your Nativity and Theophany schedules, I wish to remind you of the policy I have established for celebrating both Feasts. I ask that you celebrate all of the services described below, even though you may anticipate that only a few individuals will attend one or another of the less-familiar services.

Considering the order for the liturgical services specified in the Typikon of the Great Church of Christ, which applies to all churches under the authority of the Ecumenical Patriarchate including our Archdiocese of America, and to promote uniformity throughout the Metropolis of Denver, please prepare your schedules according to the following guidelines.

The Feast of the Nativity

To commemorate the Feast of the Nativity, which falls on a Thursday in 2008, you are to schedule and celebrate the following services:

Wednesday, December 24, 2008: *The Proeortia (Forefeast) of the Nativity of Christ*

Morning: Matins and the Royal Hours, followed by Great Vespers of the Feast of the Nativity with three readings (1st, 7th, and 8th), followed by the Trisagion, Epistle, and Gospel, and the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Thursday, December 25, 2008: *The Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ*

Morning: Orthros and Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Options:

a. To provide an evening service on Christmas Eve one of two options may be exercised at the discretion of the Proistamenos:

1. Great Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great may be deferred from Wednesday morning until Wednesday evening, if there will be more than 14 hours between it and the subsequent Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom the next (Thursday) morning. For example:

Wednesday morning (e.g., 9:00 & 10:00 am).....Matins and Royal Hours (of the 24th)
Wednesday evening (e.g., 6:00 pm)Vesperal Divine Liturgy (Saint Basil) of the 24th
Thursday morning (e.g., 9:00 & 10:00 am).....Matins and Divine Liturgy (Chrysostom) of the 25th

2. The Matins and Divine Liturgy for December 25 may be scheduled on Wednesday evening as an anticipatory vigil so long as the Liturgy begins after 11:00 PM; if so there will obviously be no Liturgy on Thursday morning in parishes where there is only one priest. This option would allow at least twelve to fourteen hours between the Wednesday morning services and the Wednesday evening services. For example:

Wednesday morning (e.g., 7:00, 8:00 & 9:00 am) ...Matins, Royal Hours, & Vesperal Liturgy (Saint Basil)
Wednesday evening (e.g., 11:00 pm & 12:00 am) ...Matins & Divine Liturgy (Chrysostom) of the 25th
Thursday morning.....No services

b. I parishes with two or more priests, the December 25th Divine Liturgy may be celebrated twice, once on Wednesday evening and again on Thursday morning:

Wednesday morning (e.g., 7:00, 8:00 & 9:00 am) Matins, Royal Hours, & Vesperal Liturgy (Saint Basil)
Wednesday evening (e.g., 11:00 pm & 12:00 am) Matins & Divine Liturgy (Chrysostom) of the 25th
Thursday morning (e.g., 10:00 am) Divine Liturgy (Chrysostom) of the 25th (repeated)

The Feasts of the Synaxis of the Theotokos and of Saint Stephen

Remember that you are also to schedule and celebrate Matins and the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom on Friday, December 26, 2008 for the Feast of the Synaxis of the Most-Holy Theotokos, as well as on Saturday, December 27, 2008 for the Feast of Saint Stephen, the Protodeacon and Protomartyr. Great Vespers may also be scheduled the previous evenings.

The Feast of Theophany

To commemorate the Feast of the Theophany, which falls on a Tuesday in 2009, you are to also schedule and celebrate the following services:

Monday, January 5, 2009

The Proeortia (Forefeast) of the Theophany of Christ

Morning: Matins and the Royal Hours, followed by Great Vespers of the Feast of the Theophany with three readings (1st, 5th, and 6th), followed by the Trisagion, Epistle, and Gospel, and then the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, and, after the hymn, "We have seen the Light," the Service of the Lesser¹ Blessing of Waters

Tuesday, January 6

The Holy Theophany of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ

Morning: Orthros and Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, and after the hymn, "We have seen the Light," the Service of the Greater² Blessing of Waters

Option: To provide an evening service on the Eve of Theophany at the discretion of the Proistamenos Great Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great may be deferred from Monday morning until Monday evening, if there will be more than 14 hours between it and the subsequent Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom the next (Tuesday) morning. For example:

- Monday morning (e.g., 9:00 & 10:00 am)Matins and Royal Hours (of the 5th)
- Monday evening (e.g., 6:00 pm)Vespersal Divine Liturgy (Saint Basil) of the 5th with the Service of the Lesser Blessing of Waters¹
- Tuesday morning (e.g., 9:00 & 10:00 am)Matins and Divine Liturgy (Chrysostom) of the 6th with the Service of the Greater Blessing of Waters¹

The Synaxis Feast of Saint John the Baptist

Remember that you are to also schedule and celebrate Matins and the Divine Liturgy for this Feast on Wednesday, January 7, 2009. Great Vespers may also be scheduled the previous evening.

With Paternal Blessings,



✠ Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver

¹ After the Prayer before the Ambon, the choir sings the Idiomela etc.) and the service continues as indicated in the Menaion. Note that the first prayer is read, the second prayer is not read, and the third prayer (beginning with, is read). After the exclamation following the Prayer at the Bowing of heads, the priest dips the Cross three times into the blessed water, holding it upright while singing the Apolitikion, and the choir repeats the hymn twice. The Priest then sprinkles the church and the people while singing the Kontakion of the Forefeast. Then the Liturgy concludes in the usual manner. After the Dismissal, the faithful come forth to venerate the Cross and kiss the right hand of the priest who sprinkles each one as they do so; during this time the choir sings the Idiomelon.

² Same as above, but all three prayers are read aloud.