Protocol 18-05

The Pious Clergy of the Holy Metropolis of Denver

To assist you in preparing the schedule of Nativity and Theophany services for your parish, I wish to remind you of the policy I have established for celebrating both Feasts.

The Feast of the Nativity

To commemorate the Feast of the Nativity, which falls on a Tuesday in 2018, you are to schedule and celebrate the following services:

**Sunday, December 23, 2018**
*Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ*

**Morning:** Matins and Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom.

**Evening:** Great Vespers is celebrated.

**Monday, December 24, 2018**
*The Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ and the Feast of the Venerable Martyr Evgenia*

**Morning:** Matins, Royal Hours, and the Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great.

**Tuesday, December 25, 2018**
*Feast of the Nativity of Christ*

**Morning:** Matins and Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom.

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

The Matins and the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom are celebrated on Wednesday, December 26, 2018 for the Feast of the Synaxis of the Most-Holy Theotokos, as well as on Thursday, December 27, 2018 for the Feast of Saint Stephen, the Protodeacon and Protomartyr. Great Vespers may also be scheduled the previous evenings.

The Feast of the Theophany

To commemorate the Feast of the Theophany, which falls on a Sunday in 2019, you are to schedule and celebrate the following services:

**Saturday, January 5, 2019**
*The Forefeast of the Theophany of Christ*

**Morning:** Matins and the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom; after the hymn, "Blessed be the name of the Lord ...," the Service of the Lesser Blessing of Waters.

---

1 After the Prayer before the Ambon, the choir sings "Εἰς τὸ ὄνομα Κυρίου ...," followed by the Idiomela, "Φωνή Κυρίου ..." etc. The service of the Small Blessing of Waters continues as indicated in the Menaion. Note that the first prayer ("Κύριε Ιερον Χριστε ...") is read, the second prayer, ("Τριάς Ὑπερούσα ...") is not read, and the third prayer ("Μέγας εἶ, Κύριε ...") is read. After the exclamation following the Prayer at the Bowing of heads, "Σῶ γάρ εἶ ὁ ἄγιος τῶν υἱῶν ...," the priest dips the Cross three times into the blessed water, holding it upright while singing the Apolitikon, "Ἐν Τοῦτον ἥμαρτημά καὶ βαπτίζομενον σοι, Κύριε ...," which the choir then repeats twice. The Priest then sprinkles the church and the people while
Evening: Great Vespers\(^2\) is celebrated.

**Sunday, January 6, 2019**

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

**Morning:** Matins and Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great; after the hymn, “Blessed be the name of the Lord. . . .” the Service of the Greater\(^3\) Blessing of Waters.

*The Synaxis Feast of Saint John the Baptist*

Services should be planned for Monday, January 7, 2019, the *Feast of Saint John the Baptist*. Great Vespers may also be scheduled the previous evening.

With Paternal Blessings,

\[+\text{Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver}\]

---

\(^2\)At Sunday Vespers, the Entrance is with the Gospel Book at "O Gladsome Light," followed by the three prophetic readings (First, Fifth, and Sixth) as well as the Epistle and the Gospel pericopes.

\(^3\)Same as above, but all three prayers are read aloud.