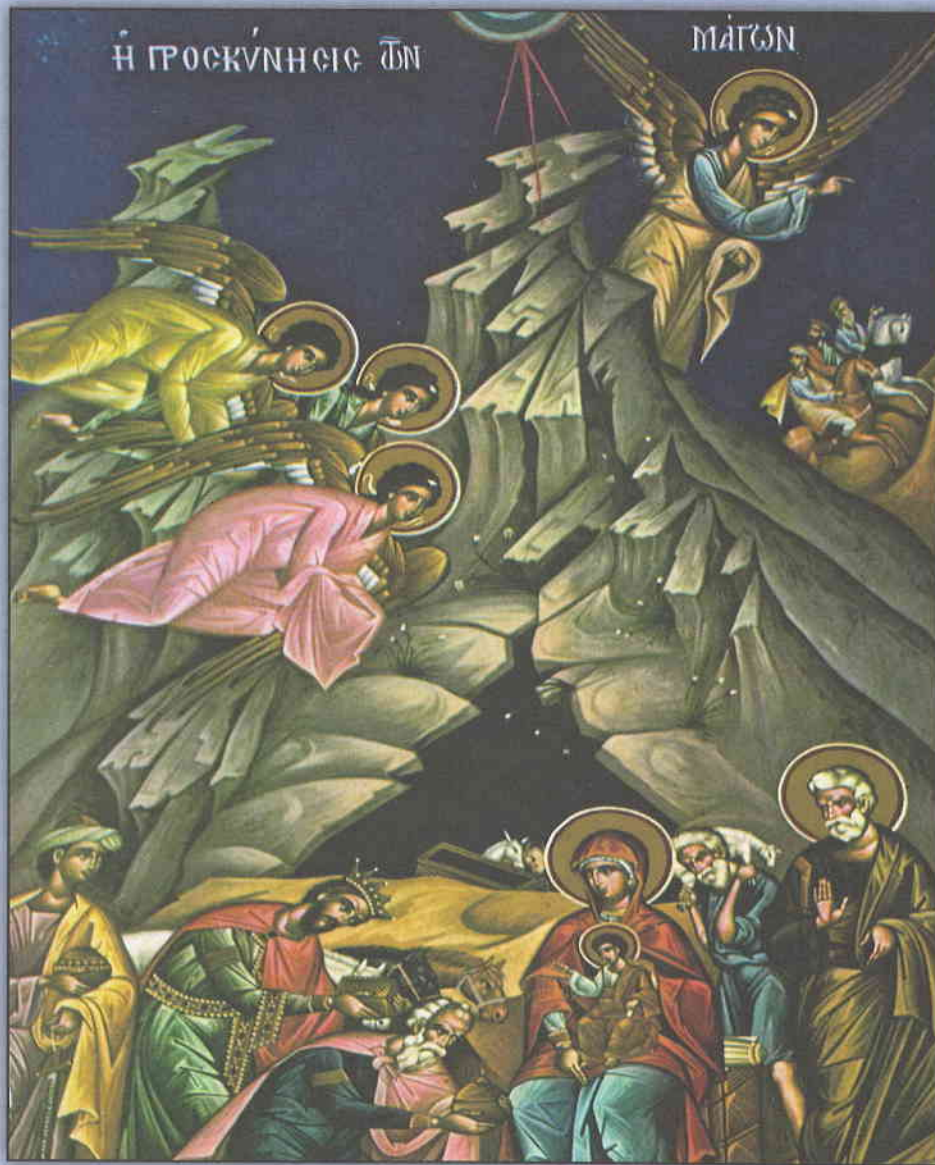


CHRISTMAS, THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD,
GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST



Icon of the Visit of the Magi

Welcome to St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Христос раждається! Славіте його!

St. Michael's Parish is part of the world-wide Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church. We are Eastern Catholics – Orthodox Christians living in full and visible communion with the See of Rome, under the leadership of Pope Francis and our Patriarch, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk. One need not be ethnically Ukrainian to worship with us. The Ukrainian Catholic Church comes from the Ukrainian people, but it is for the entire human race. *Welcome! We're very glad you're here!*

Divine Liturgy Schedule – Порядок Богослужень

Sundays: Usually 10:00 a.m.

Solemn Feast Days: Usually 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays

The schedule sometimes varies; please check the bulletin or website, or request email notifications from ndworian@comcast.net.

On the first and third Sundays of the month, the Divine Liturgy is typically celebrated primarily in English. On other Sundays and Feast Days, the Liturgy is primarily in Ukrainian. Preaching is usually bilingual: English and Ukrainian.

To schedule a Confession, please contact Father Andriy at (480) 217-8505.

Божественна Літургія щонеділі о 10:00 ранку

Звичайно перша і третя неділя місяця - головною англійською. Інші неділі – українською. Проповіді – на двох мовах. Тому, що отець парох часом змушений бути поза містом, порядок богослужень може мінятися. Прошу перевірити порядок поданий на вебсайті та в бюлетені. Про електронні пригадки можна зареєструватись по адресі ndworian@comcast.net.

Порядок богослужень у свята зазначений на вебсайті. Переважно о год. 7-ій вечора в будні дні, а о 10-ій ранку коли свято припадає в суботу. Про Тайну Сповіді прошу домовитися з Парохом.

Monday, December 26, Synaxis of the Mother of God: 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, December 27, Feast of St. Stephen Protomartyr: 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 1, Circumcision of the Lord; St. Basil the Great: 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

NOTE: The services previously announced for Thursday, January 5, have been cancelled.

Friday, January 6, Theophany of Our Lord: 10:00 AM Great Compline of the Theophany (excerpts), followed by Divine Liturgy, Great Blessing of Water

The schedule for the rest of the Christmas Cycle is on our website: www.stmichaeltucson.org. Paper copies of the schedule may also be found in the church, in English and Ukrainian.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Христос раждається! Славіте його!

The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ

(See page 7 for the Christmas story in the Gospel of St. Luke)

***For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given ... and His name will be called
"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)***

***God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him
should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world not to
condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. (John 3:16-17)***

*Your Nativity, O Christ our God, made the light of knowledge dawn on the world:
through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to worship You, the
Sun of Righteousness, and to know You, the Dawn from on high. Glory to You, O Lord!*

*The Virgin today gives birth to Him who is above all being; the earth offers the cave to
Him Whom no one can approach; Angels with shepherds give Him glory, while Magi
make their way with a star, for to us is born a little Child, the pre-eternal God.*

*A strange and glorious mystery do I behold: the cave is Heaven; the Virgin, the throne
of the cherubim; the manger a dwelling place in which is laid Christ, the God Whom
nothing can contain. Singing His praises, we magnify Him!*

*O Christ, what shall we offer You for Your coming on earth in our humanity for our sake?
Every creature that has its being from You gives thanks to You: the angels offer hymns of
praise, the heavens give a star; the magi present their gifts and the shepherds their wonder;
the earth provides a cave and the desert, a manger. As for us, we offer a Virgin Mother.
O God Who are from all eternity, have mercy on us.*

*Today is born of the Virgin He Who in His arms holds all creation. He Who is uncontainable is
wrapped up in swaddling clothes; He Who created the heavens with a word is laid in a manger;
He Who, in the desert, sent down manna from heaven like rain, is nursed at the breast of the
Virgin. The Bridegroom of the Church receives the magi, and the Son of the Virgin receives
from them gifts. We bow before Your birth, O Christ! We bow before Your birth, O Christ!
We bow before Your birth, O Christ! Now manifest to us Your divine Theophany.*



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

It is with some reluctance that I write this Pastor's Letter for the **final issue of our Parish Bulletin**. When I first arrived at St. Michael's, the bulletin was edited by Christina Vecbastiks. The task was later taken up by Peter W. Fesz. In the last few years, the person behind our beautiful bulletin was Julie Rogers. I want to thank all of the parishioners who have worked hard to provide a weekly publication for our parishioners, with needed information and with inspirational material as well. We tend to take for granted the labors of the bulletin editor. We expect the bulletin to simply show up week after week, but it is a task that requires constant attention and weighs heavily on those who volunteer for the task.

Perhaps that is why no one has stepped forward to continue this work. The Pastoral Council has decided unanimously to discontinue the bulletin. This will save us some money on printing costs and on bulletin covers. It was decided that in this age of digital communications, better utilization of our parish website and our email list will have to take the place of our bulletin. If you are not currently receiving our parish emails, please make sure that Mrs. Nadya Dworian has your email address. We do want everyone to receive the very helpful reminders regarding the schedule and other issues. We will begin adding weekly financial reports to those emails as well. Until now they were carried in the bulletin. On occasion I may still write a Pastor's Letter and disseminate it electronically as well. Pastoral Letters from our hierarchy will also be distributed this way. Any liturgical schedule changes will be posted on the home page of our website. I encourage you to visit www.stmichaeltucson.org if you have not done so in the last couple of weeks, as the website

has been entirely redone. You will notice a box with a red outline on the home page. That is where schedule changes will go. That should make them easy to find.

Please note that the parish is facing some major expenses currently, since we need to replace our antiquated heating/air conditioning system, which is on its last legs. The Pastoral Council has accepted a proposal from Hamstra Air Conditioning that will cost us \$17,394.00. The Eparchy has approved this expenditure, but we need to raise the funds. So far we have a pledge of \$5000 from the Sisterhood of Sts. Mary and Martha as well as \$1500 raised in donations. That means that **we need to raise over \$11,000.00 in the next two months!** This should get everyone's attention. The new system will be much more energy efficient and it will be safer for our church from a fire safety perspective. I know that we all tend to overextend ourselves in terms of generosity as we prepare for Christmas, but please do remember this need as well.

2016 has been a memorable year. I don't think any of us will soon forget the tumultuous presidential election of 2016. It has also been a good year for us as a parish. We were finally able to complete the sale of our old parish property on Brown Avenue, and pay off the mortgage which had been a burden around our necks for seven years. The interior of our church went through a significant beautification project, with a warm wood finish replacing the exposed bricks of our walls. We are all grateful to Bohdan Gojnycz, and his assistants Ivars Vecbastiks and George Terleckyj for this labor of love (and not a little sweat). George and Lesia Terleckyj painted a series of 16 small circular icons depicting St. Michael and some of the New Martyrs of Ukraine. My own efforts to have the Sheptytsky Institute find a new home at the University of Toronto also came to fruition this year. In 2016 we saw eight children approach First Confession and Solemn Holy Communion. Our Eparchy held its first Sobor. We welcomed new parishioners, held our Vibrant Parish planning sessions and immediately began to implement some recommendations of those planning events. Our long-awaited adult Bible Study got off to a good start. We held a Vacation Bible School for our children for the first time as well. 2016 is also the year that Bishop Richard Seminack passed into eternal life. We await his successor with prayer and hope for the future. The fact that we now have a whole new crop of Altar Servers ranging from little to extra tall bodes well for our future as well. We continue to support our seminarians Martin Nagy and Carlos Batiz as they further discern their futures.

Amidst all of this we dare not forget all of the perhaps less exciting, but very important ongoing good works: the prayers, the charitable activities, the weekly parish lunches, the cleaning of the church and hall, the singing practices, the Sisterhood meetings, a hard-working Pastoral Council and a responsible Financial Council, and ongoing catechesis among them.

From Halia and myself I wish you a quietly joyful Christmas season. While the world forgets about Christmas after the last post-holiday sale, we are just beginning to celebrate the birth of our Savior, and we won't let go until February 2! In a world that keeps getting more interesting and significantly more challenging for us Christians, how good it is to know that our Lord became one of us and knows intimately all the joys and all the struggles of being human. And more importantly, he wants us to come to know intimately the very life of God. Today we shall begin singing: "Бог Предвічний народився! God from before the ages is born today!" God bless you in 2017!

Усім парафіянам і прихожанам бажаю від себе та імені Галі благословенного святкування Різдва Христового та щасливого нового 2017-го року!

Your servant in Christ,

Andriy, sinner-priest December 25, 2016

Reports • Prayer Requests • Announcements

† WELCOME to all our Guests today! We hope you will come worship with us again! †

BULLETIN INSERT: Please enjoy and meditate on the beautiful enclosure with icons pertaining to the Christmas season, beginning with the real St. Nicholas, a Catholic bishop in the 4th century!

LAST ISSUE OF BULLETIN: This is the last paper issue of our parish bulletin. Please see the Pastor's Letter (p. 4) for how future announcements will be handled via emails and our website.

FINANCIAL REPORT for December 18: \$1,355.00 Candles: \$27.00 Books: \$25.00 Thanks to all!

SOCIAL HOUR: Many thanks to Juliana Osinchuk and Luba Cybulsky for the delicious lunch last Sunday, and to Iryna Petryna and the Sisterhood for providing Christmas goodies today!

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for Joe Cybulsky, Lubomyra Lutz, Zenon Korytko, Stefa Szubak, the Skibicky family, seminarian Martin Nagy and his son, our Eparchial Administrator Fr. Richard Janowicz, and all those involved with selecting our next bishop.

ST. MICHAEL'S FOOD DRIVE: Our parish collects food year-round for distribution to the poor. Please place your donations in the boxes/bags at the east door of the Hall. The Gospel says regarding the Last Judgment: *Then the righteous will answer Him, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."* (Matthew 25:37-40)

The Christmas Story: The Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ

As Recorded in the Gospel According to Saint Luke, Chapter 2

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into Heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this Child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

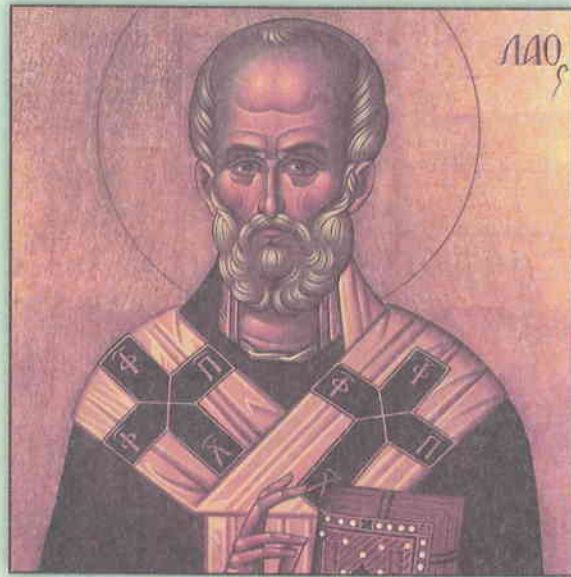
And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Христос рождается! Славите його!

CHRISTMAS AND THEOPHANY
THE INCARNATION AND MANIFESTATION OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker
December 6th

We have gathered to celebrate and to praise with song the model of bishops and a glory to the fathers, a fountain of miracles and a great helper of believers. Let us sing to the saintly Nicholas: Rejoice, O Protector of Myra who was revered as its leader and strongest pillar. Rejoice, O Radiant Star whose light of miracles shines throughout the world. Rejoice, O Divine Joy to those in sorrow. Rejoice, O Defender of those who are oppressed; for even now, all-holy Nicholas, you still pray to God for us who celebrate your feast with faith and who honor you with zeal and joy.



Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, the Patriarchs

Today we commemorate the ancestors of Christ. Sing with fervor a hymn of praise to Christ the Savior who exalted them among all nations. He is the Lord who does wondrous deeds because He is powerful and mighty. From them He brought forth a royal scepter, the immaculate maiden of God and virgin Mary. From her, Christ our God came forth to give life and eternal salvation for all. O believers, let us give praise today to all the Fathers who lived before the Law: Abraham who was beloved by God, Isaac who was born according to the promise, Jacob and the twelve Patriarchs, the very meek David and the favored prophet Daniel. Let us also glorify with them the three youths who changed the fiery furnace into a place of refreshing dew. Let us beg forgiveness of our sins from Christ our God who is glorified in his saints.

Sunday of the Holy Fathers

He who is carried by the Cherubim has taken human nature in the abode of the immaculate womb. He has come to earth to be born of the tribe of Judah. The holy cave has been adorned like a splendid palace for the King of all; the manger, like a ruby throne. The Virgin will place the Child into it for the renewal of his boundless creation.

Having conceived in a manner beyond understanding, the Virgin places You into the manger of the dumb animals, O eternal Word of God, because You come to pardon the ignorance that I acquired through the envy of the serpent. You come to be wrapped in swaddling clothes in order to break the chains and fetters of my sins. O only-blessed One and Lover of Mankind, I most joyfully glorify, extol, and adore You and your coming in the flesh; for through You I have been freed.



Nativity of Our Lord December 25th

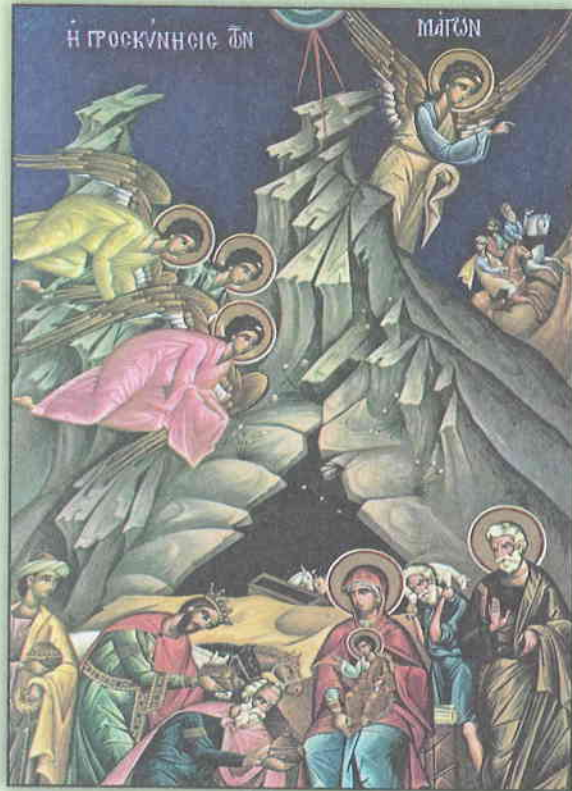
Because the Lord Jesus was born of the holy Virgin, all creation is enlightened. Behold! The shepherds keep watch and the Magi are adoring; the angels are singing hymns of praise and Herod is trembling; for the Savior of our souls has revealed himself in the flesh.

O Christ, what shall we offer You for your coming on earth in our humanity for our sake? Every creature that has its being from You gives thanks to You: the angels offer hymns of praise, the heavens give a star; the Magi present their gifts and the shepherds, their wonder; the earth provides a cave and the desert, a manger. As for us, we offer a Virgin Mother. O God who are from all eternity, have mercy on us.

*Synaxis of the Holy Mother of God
December 26th*

O Christ our God, your kingdom is eternal, and your reign is from generation to generation. You became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and became man from the ever-virgin Mary. Your coming, O Christ, has shed a great light upon us. You are the Light of Light and the radiance of the Father. You have illumined the whole creation. Therefore, everything that breathes sings a hymn of praise to You. You are the image of the Father's glory. You are the eternal God, existing before all ages, who shone forth from the Virgin. O Lord our God, have mercy on us.

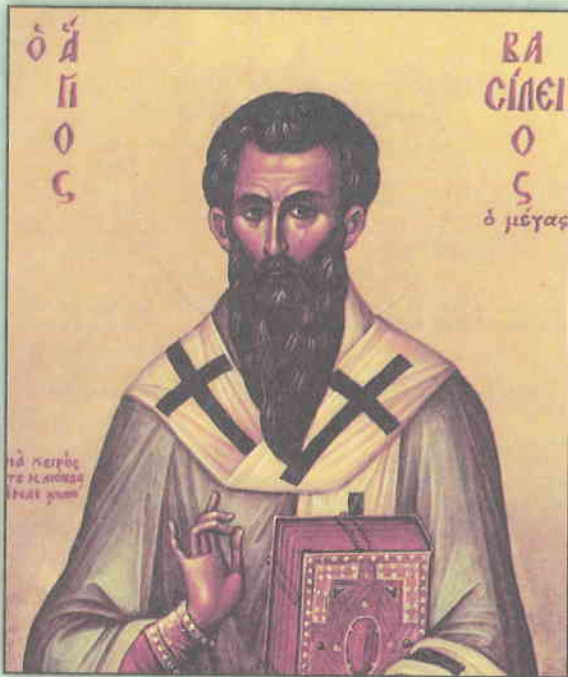
Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth. Today Bethlehem receives the One who at all times sits with the Father. Today the angels sing the praises of the newborn infant. Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will to all.



*Saint Basil the Great
January 1st*

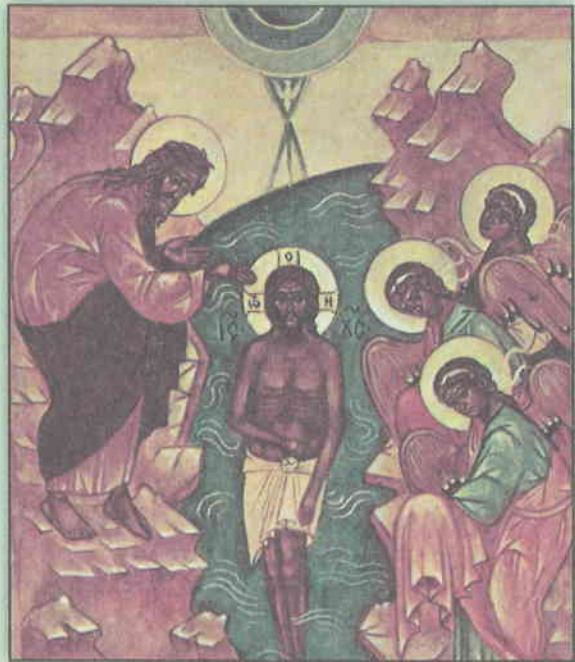
O venerable Father, you became a lover of wisdom, preferring life with God to all possessions of the world. Your contemplation of death made you forsake the wealth of the earth, and by your perseverance in fastings, you overcame the sting of passions. By study of the divine law you preserved the freedom within your soul.

By your generous practice of virtue you subjected the passions of the flesh to the spirit. You renounced the flesh, the world, and the princes of the earth; now you stand in the presence of Christ. Intercede with Him for great mercy upon our souls.



Theophany of Our Lord in the Jordan
January 6th

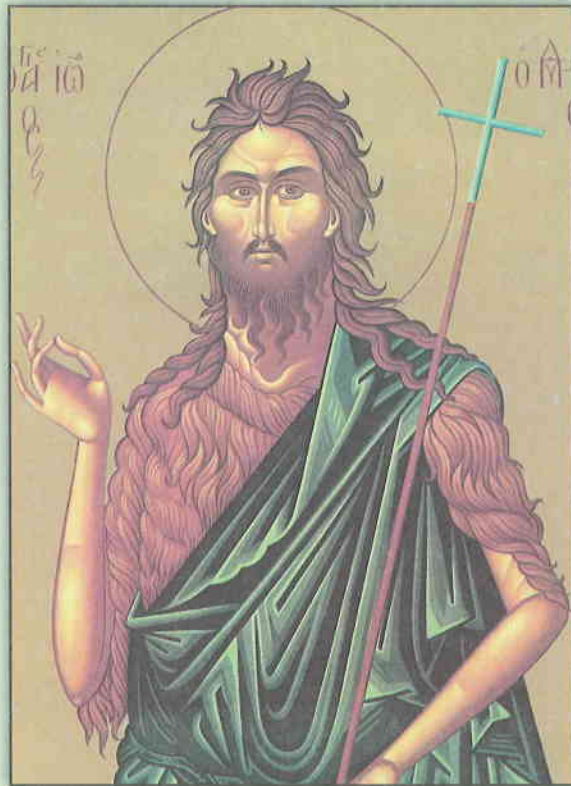
O our Savior, the armies of angels trembled when they saw You baptized by your servant, and the Holy Spirit bearing witness and descending, and when they heard the voice of the Father speaking from heaven: This One upon whom the Forerunner lays his hands is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. O Christ our God, glory to You! O God and Lord, when you resolved to save those who had strayed from You, You condescended to take the form of a servant, for it was fitting that You assumed our human nature for us. And when You were baptized in the flesh, O our Redeemer, it made us worthy of your forgiveness. Therefore, we cry out to You: O Christ our God, our Benefactor, glory to You!



Synaxis of John the Baptist
January 7th

When the Jordan River received You, O Fountainhead, the Comforter descended in the form of a dove. Now behold the marvel: the One who bowed the heavens bows his head to the Forerunner, and the one made of clay cries out to his Maker: Why do You command me to perform what is beyond my power? It is I who need to be baptized by You. O Christ our God, O Sinless One, glory to You!

I manifest myself as completely human. I who am rich have willingly become poor, so that I may enrich with incorruption and deliverance all the poor. Come! Baptize the One who is not subject to corruption and who frees the world from decay.



*All text from Vesper Stichera, The Festal Menaion,
Sisters of Saint Basil, Uniontown, PA*

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Христос раждається! Славіте його!

December 25, 2016

St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church

Українська Католицька Церква св. Михаїла



Right Rev. Andriy Chirovsky, S.Th.D., Pastor
715 W. Vanover Road (at 15th Avenue)
Tucson, Arizona 85705

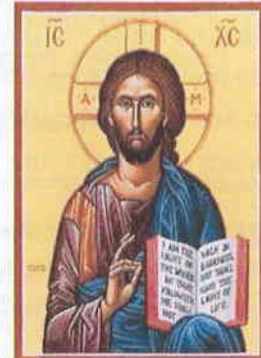
*(Between Interstate 10 and Oracle Road,
and Miracle Mile and Grant Road)*

Church phone: (520) 298-4967

Pastor's cell phone: (480) 217-8505

www.StMichaelTucson.org

www.facebook.com/stmichaeltucson



The Lord Has Made His Salvation Known to the Whole World

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days He would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ. A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith.

In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judea only, but in the whole world. ... As Isaiah prophesied: the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned. He spoke of them to the Lord: The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you. ...

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

St. Leo the Great

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
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