

## **The Jordan**

### **Nativity Fast and Christmas 2025**

Christ Is Among Us! He Is and Shall Be!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:  
May the Lord give to You the Gift of His Peace!

At a Founders' Day Talk given by the Very Reverend Dr. Alexander Schmemmann, he offered some key points for the establishment of an Orthodox Parish. Allow me to note some of these vital ideas:

- To receive the Holy Sacraments frequently.
- To lead a moral life consistent with the Gospel.
- To participate in the Lord's Day, which means coming together and receiving the Eucharist.
- To volunteer time, resources, and talents as well as being respectful, loving and obedient to the Bishop, their spiritual father.
- To continue their spiritual growth, ever striving, working out salvation daily.
- To be alive and active in the life of the Church.

***When the Lord Jesus was born of the Holy Virgin,  
The whole universe was filled with light.  
The shepherds watched in the fields.  
The Wise Men worshipped, and the Angels sang.  
But Herod was troubled,  
for God had appeared in the flesh.  
He is the Savior of our souls.***

You may remember this from Our Christmas Greeting....  
These verses from the Christmas Eve Liturgy of St. Basil

the Great, encapsulates the magnificent joy of the Nativity Celebration in the Orthodox Church. ...The Magnificent Joy of which I pray you will participate with attendance at **Holy Confession and Holy Communion** *during this Season of Celebration.*

I noted Father Alexander Schmemmann's remarks to encourage Our Little Flock to remember some of the reasons why St. John the Baptist Parish still continues. We continue because of the **Mission of Our Parish**: to offer the *faithful administration of the Sacraments*; to teach the *Gospel Message*; to Celebrate the weekly *Remembrance of the Resurrection*; to lead in the performance of the *Gospel and the Spiritual Life.*

***One Christian is no Christian*** (*Unus Christianus, nullus Christianus*) is an early church saying meaning genuine faith requires community, discipleship, and accountability with other believers, as a solitary Christianity is incomplete and vulnerable. We hear, many times, *God is everywhere and I can pray at home, as well as in church.* Yet, **Christ gives us the Church, with its Gifts, to acquire what Christ Himself offers.**

*We invite you, your family, and friends to share a fuller celebration of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus with Your Parish Community during this Christmas Season.*

The Stores have Christmas Carols played repeatedly overhead and we are surrounded by Decorations and Christmas Sales; you need to spiritually take-hold of this *precious moment!* How? Most of the Nativity Fast (Filopivka) has passed. What do I do now? Well, take the

Church's teaching to heart and withdraw from purely worldly ways and ***add to the strength of your soul.***

**Join Us**, as we **Celebrate Christmas**, with **Our Great Act of Thanksgiving... the Holy Eucharist**, shared in **Holy Communion** at the **Divine Liturgy!** *Consider joining us in Prayer and Worship.* But, if you cannot join us, then I ask you to join us **By Praying for Us!**

**If you need a Pastoral Visit and/or Communion Call, then please let me know!**

**+Blessings, Love, and Peace!  
Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!**

*Father John Holoduek*

**Acting Rector—Pastor**

**201-306-3271**

**[deaconholoduek@yahoo.com](mailto:deaconholoduek@yahoo.com)**

### **Holy Day Schedule 2025-2026**

**21 December at 9:30 AM** Sunday of the Holy Fathers  
**25 December at 10:00 AM** Christmas Liturgy\*  
**27 December at 9:30 AM** Protomartyr St. Stephen  
**28 December at 9:30 AM** Sunday of St. Joseph,  
King David, St. James the  
Brother of the Lord  
**1 January at 9:30 AM** Circumcision of the Lord  
Blessing of the New Year  
**4 January at 9:30 AM** Sunday Before Theophany  
**6 January at 9:30 AM** Theophany, Blessing of the  
Water