

ence. The Mother of God frequently has her face averted from the Child, because she has already seen in the swaddling clothes and the manger, the burial clothes and the sepulchre, and she cannot bear to look.

Joseph is detached from the central group of Mother and Child. He is not the father, and does not directly participate in the Incarnation, although he is the witness and guardian of the mystery.

Angels are depicted in the dual role of worshipping spirits and messengers to men. Shepherds hear the good news and the Magi follow the star. In some icons the Magi appear twice - on their journey, and also presenting their gifts at the manger.

Two apocryphal scenes complete the icon. The midwives fetched by Joseph bear witness to the two natures of Christ. They have found the mother to be still a virgin, yet they prepare to wash the Child like any other human infant. Satan appears to Joseph in the innocent guise of a shepherd, tempting him to doubt the miraculous birth. This, of course, is not only Joseph's dilemma, but that of many people up to, and including, the present time, who doubt the reality of anything that seems to conflict with the natural laws of "this world."

Finally, plants and rocks are included with the sheep, men and angels, to show that the Nativity, although a historic event in time, has, nevertheless, an eternal and cosmic significance. This expresses the teaching of the Church on the transfiguration awaiting the entire creation. Man's sin had brought disorder into nature, but now at the birth of the New Adam, the Redeemer, "the whole creation rejoiceth and is jubilant" (Christmas Vespers)

Up Coming Events Mark your Calendar	
Sat Dec 24	<b>Vigil for Christmas</b> 6:30 pm Great Compline with the blessing of the loaves, wheat, wine & Oil
Sun Dec 25	<b>The Birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ</b> 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great
Mon Dec 26	<b>The Synaxis of the Theotokos</b> Solemn Holy Day 9:30 pm Divine Liturgy
Tues Dec 27	<b>St Stephen the Protomartyr</b> Simple Holy Day 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Sun Jan 1	<b>Circumcision of our Lord &amp; Sunday before Theophany of our Lord</b> 10:00 am Liturgy of St Basil the Great
Thur Jan 5 Fri Jan 6	<b>Theophany of our Lord</b> Holy Day of Obligation (Blessing of Water) 7:00 pm Vesper/Liturgy 9:30 am Liturgy
Mon Jan 9 thru Fri Jan 13	<b>Canon Law Conference for All Clergy in Las Vegas</b> <i>Priests will not be available</i>

## Saint Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

9112 Oleander Avenue  
Fontana, CA 92335

**Web Site** [stnicholasfontana.org](http://stnicholasfontana.org)

**Served by** Fr. Stephen G Washko.  
714-533-6292

[fontanastnicholas@gmail.com](mailto:fontanastnicholas@gmail.com)

Fr. James Lane in Residence

**Parish Advisory/Finance Council** John



**The Birth of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ**

**December 25, 2022**

From Father Stephen,  
Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!

Thank you for your love and commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you for your support and love of God's Holy House, St Nicholas which we offer to God. Bring that spirit and love of God from our Holy Altar to your home and to all you meet.

### FUNERAL SERVICES FOR +GLORIA BRISSETTE

Will take place at St Nicholas of Myra Church

Friday January 6, 2023

11:00 am Visitation

11:30 am THE GREAT PARASTAS SERVICE

2:30 pm Internment Service at the Cemetery

Eternal Memory and Blessed Repose

### DIVINE LITURGIES AND INTENTIONS

#### PEOPLE'S BOOK FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY

- <https://mci.archpitt.org/servicebooks/DivineLiturgies.pdf>

- **THIRD HOUR BOOK**

- [https://mci.archpitt.org/sheetmusic/general/Third\\_Hour.pdf](https://mci.archpitt.org/sheetmusic/general/Third_Hour.pdf)

**VESPER BOOK** - <https://mci.archpitt.org/servicebooks/Vespers.pdf>

#### U-TUBE SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY

[youtube.com/@stnicholasofmyra](https://youtube.com/@stnicholasofmyra)

**Special Web site resource for the preparation for the Birth of Our Lord.** <https://godwithusonline.org/wp-content/uploads/Nativity-Fast-for-the-Domestic-Church.pdf>

**24 SATURDAY CHRISTMAS EVE**

6:30 pm *GREAT COMPLINE with the blessing of the Loaves of Bread, Wheat, Wine and Oil.*

**25 SUNDAY-CHRISTMAS DAY, p 289**

9:30 am *Christmas Carols*

10:00 am *The Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great For our parish family and friends.*

*Mirovanije-Holy Anointing with the distribution of the Blessed Bread*

*\*Confessions are not heard on Christmas Day*

**26 Monday Synaxis of the Theotokos, and Ever-Virgin Mary. Memory of the Holy and Righteous, Joseph Betrothed; of David the King; and James, the Brother of God, p. 294**

9:30 am +*Gloria Brissette by John & Barbara Fishell*

**27 Tuesday The Holy, Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen, p. 298**

9:30 am + *John V Kacarab by John & Barbara Fishell*

**21 Wednesday No Liturgy Scheduled**

**29 Thursday No Liturgy Scheduled**

**30 Friday Postfestive of Christmas, p. 289**

9:30 am +*Nabor Villalobos by Irma Villalobos*

**31 SATURDAY Leave-taking of Christmas & Saturday after Christmas, p. 289**

9:30 am *Liturgy Special Intention*

**HEBREW SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAY**

Genesis 17:1–14, Proverbs 8:22–30, Proverbs 10:31–32, 11:2-12

**SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS:** We join with the Saints in heaven to pray for those in need. Request Prayers: [abc72069@gmail.com](mailto:abc72069@gmail.com)

Cho Mary Sabol, Special Intentions: Fr James Lane, Pat Mathis, Enedina Lopez, Lora Carson Lopez, Sophia Gaydus, Victor & Patricia Olmos Family, John Phillips, Sylvia Flambures, Martha Yniquez, Gloria Brissette, Paul Basay, Margaret Geluso, Edward Lopez, Lupe Nevaré, Beatriz Perez, for RAIN/ SNOW, for the people of Ukraine.

**1 SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY. CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. OUR HOLY FATHER BASIL, THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA, P. 305**

9:00 am *Confession available behind the Altar*

9:40 am *The Third Hour*

10:00 am *Divine Liturgy for our parish family and friend*

## Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

**Our Stewardship of God's Gift to Us**

Sunday December 11 Attendance: 9 souls

Tithes: \$274.00

Candles: \$10.00

Holy Day: \$100.00

Religious Retirement: \$10.00

Don't forget your special Christmas Gift to our parish.

**A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE NATIVITY ICON**

**By Miriam Lambouras**

ICONS are the sacred art of the Church, a visual expression of her dogmatic teaching and liturgical worship, - "theology in color" (Trubetskoi).

They are not, - as in Renaissance art, - a copy of, or even an idealization of, the natural, everyday world, but an attempt to convey the spiritual meaning, the "other-worldly" dimension of the events or persons which they depict. Thus, they have no shadows and the perspective is "wrong" from the point of view of "this world."

In the Nativity icon the central figures are the Divine Infant and His Virgin Mother - the two direct participants in the mystery of the Incarnation.

The Divine Infant, in the darkness of the cave, is always adored by the Ox: and the Ass, - a reference to the prophecy of Isaiah: "The ox knows his owner, and the ass his master's crib," while the Star shines down upon Him in a ray of heavenly light, showing that this is seen not as a mere cosmic phenomenon, but a deliberate sign from heaven.

The Mother of God is depicted either reclining on a mat-bed, to emphasize that this is a truly human birth (against the Docetist heresy that Christ assumed a human appearance only and not a true human nature), or seated by the manger, to emphasize her miraculous "birth without pains" (compare Gen. 3:16) and the Divine nature of the Infant (against the Nestorian heresy which denied that Christ was truly God). Later icons show the Mother kneeling before the Child, but this is the result of Western influ