



# St. George Romanian Catholic Cathedral

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Holidays remind us that there is something else to our lives than the day-to-day struggle to earn a living, stay healthy and raise a family. Though the grace of Christmas lasts all the year, this day offers us the opportunity to see it reflected in the faces of those around us – not just family and friends, but the poor, the sick, the unlovely, the unwanted. May each face we encounter in this blessed season offer us a vision of that manger-child, who comes to bring hope even in a troubled day and may you enjoy a blessed and peaceful Christmas. Christ is born! Glorify Him!

+john michael

With every birth comes a new beginning in everyone's life. A beginning to figure out what we need to do next, how to respond to crisis and all sorts of situations that we cannot expect. It can be an inconvenience, or it can be an opportunity to be able to challenge us to better ourselves.

I believe that the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – *Crăciunul* as we often call it – is a birth that needs to challenge us rather than inconvenience us. Challenge us to what? To envision God's meticulous plan for our salvation. How great we feel at work or at home when someone does many things for us, right? How blessed we feel when someone cares so much for us that they ensure we have everything? That is how we should feel as we approach this Christmas. God is crossing all the T's and dotting all the I's in our life. Because He cares for all of us and he wants us to be with Him, that is why He sent His beloved Son to ensure that will happen through Him. Let's approach this Christmas with open hearts ready to receive God's love in our lives! Merry Christmas! *Crăciun Fericit si La multi ani!*

Fr. Ovidiu, Rector

Call the office to schedule Confessions.

- Dec 24 Fri 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours
- Dec 24 Fri 1:00 p.m. Confessions (one hour)
- Dec 24 Fri 4:30 p.m. Confessions (one hour)
- Dec 24 Fri 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers & Divine Liturgy
- Dec 25 Sat 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**  
**†Nativity of our Lord: Holy Day**
- Dec 26 Sun 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy:**  
**†Synaxis of the Mother or God: Holy Day and Sunday after the Nativity**
- Jan 1 Sat 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy:**  
**†Circumcision of our Lord**
- Jan 05 Wed 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours
- Jan 05 Wed 6:30 p.m. Vespers and Divine Liturgy: †Theophany with Blessing of Water**
- Jan 06 Thur 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy:**  
**†Theophany with Blessing of Water**
- Jan 06 Thur 6:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy:**  
**†Theophany**
- Jan 30 Sun 12-2 p.m. **Three Saints Dinner**  
**Order by January 25, 2022**



Much ink has been spilt both fomenting and lamenting the divisions among us in our human family. Differences of perspective and opinion have had more of an effect than usual on our capacity simply to connect with one another, to be together. Into that situation, a terrible disease has fallen, not only tearing us apart with sickness and death, but also keeping the living and the well separated by quarantines and shut-downs. Our homes and gathering places we have relied upon in the past for comfort and companionship have become possible dangerous turf where an invisible enemy lies in wait.

The One who came to us as a child two thousand and twenty years ago invites us in our turn to go to Him at this very moment: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28-29 (NABre). Not for nothing has the Source of all that exists entered our history and taken on our flesh and our nature, weak as it is. It is for us, for our wellbeing, our flourishing, indeed our eternal life that God is born and comes to us as Jesus, son of Mary.

What that means right now is that Jesus is waiting to welcome us into His human arms and divine heart. He yearns to give us comfort, joy, and rest. This is the Good News that we Christians are bound to proclaim to a weary world, but that we personally must rely upon in our own weariness. Relationship with Jesus is not a fiction or a pious wish we need to persuade our doubting minds to accept. It is a warm and loving invitation to approach, to accept, to find our rest with a very real man who is also truly God. Allowing Jesus into our hearts, as we do in a special and concrete way in Holy Communion, is all the response to His invitation we need to offer for Him to enter into our exhaustion, our isolation, and our sorrow. He so wants to give us rest and peace from the troubles that assail us every moment. Jesus yearns to give us the companionship we need, to come to know Him intimately and to experience for ourselves the truth at the center of the universe: that God is love.

It is from the safety of our relationship with Jesus Christ that we are able, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to overcome each division we encounter in our own lives, to become apostles of unity and disciples of the *Philanthropos*, the Lover of Humankind. This is the last word of the Divine Liturgy we celebrate, the one thing the Church asks us to take with us when we leave our assemblies.

May the one who for our salvation—our comfort, our joy, our rest and our peace—was born in a cave and laid in a manger, Christ our true God, be the source of the new life that lies before us. May He be all that and more, transforming this season of our need into a season of our triumph.

A blessed Christmas to you. God bless us all, every one.

*+john michael*