

## **SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS FOR NATIVITY (CHRISTMAS) 2011 FROM HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH**

The Royal Hours & Typika are served on the morning of **Friday, December 23**, which is the day BEFORE the Paramon (Eve). Therefore, we sing the Apolytikion of the Forefeast: *Be thou ready, O Bethlehem...* (Nassar, p. 369). The Royal Hours may each be offered in either of the following orders:

- **Consecutively**, starting at 9:00 AM in the following manner: start the First Royal Hour with “Blessed is our God”, and OMIT the Dismissal at the end of each Hour (except the last), and OMIT the section between “Blessed is our God” to right before “Come let us worship” in the Third, Sixth and Ninth Hours. **SIMPLY PUT, OMIT THE BOXED PORTIONS OF THE TEXT.**
- **At their usual times** (6:00 AM, 9:00 AM, Noon and 3:00 PM), with the Ninth Royal Hour and Typika being served at 3:00 PM. If desired, **Vespers (without an Entrance) for the Paramon (Eve) of the Feast and for our Righteous Mother Eugenia** follows immediately. Alternatively, this same Daily Vespers may be celebrated in the early evening hours.

We have provided rubrics for the Priest to cense at the beginning of each Royal Hour Service. He performs the Great Censing of the entire church at the First and Ninth Royal Hours, and the Small Censing from the Beautiful Gate (Holy Doors) – like he would before the Great Entrance in Divine Liturgy – at the Third and Sixth Royal Hours.

On Saturday morning, December 24, we celebrate Daily Orthros and **Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom** for Christmas Eve (Paramon).

On Saturday evening, we celebrate **Great Vespers but without the Liturgy**, with the entire triple stases of scriptural readings and antiphons, etc., as provided. Remember, in this service the Entrance is with the Gospel-book, since the Gospel is read in this Vespers (even when there is no Liturgy). The Service of the Lita-  
Artoklasia ought to be celebrated, as well.

On the morning of the Feast of Nativity, Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, we serve Festal Orthros and **Festal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great**. Because the Feast falls on a Sunday this year, parishes are to celebrate these services at the usual Sunday times.

If there is a real pastoral need to reschedule any of these services, please contact His Eminence, Archbishop JOSEPH directly to discuss your particular situation.

Please be sure to print the proper Nativity Texts for 2011, as found at:

[http://www.antiochianladiocese.org/service\\_texts\\_weekends.html](http://www.antiochianladiocese.org/service_texts_weekends.html).