

		Byzantine	Polish National	
Date	Roman Catholic	Catholic	Catholic	Notes
Dec 25	Nativity of the Lord	Nativity of the Lord	Nativity of the Lord	1
Dec 26	St. Stephen, Protomartyr	Synaxis of the Theotokos	St. Stephen, Protomartyr	2
Dec 27	St. John the Evangelist	St. Stephen, Protomartyr	St. John the Evangelist	2
Dec 28	Holy Innocents	20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia	Holy Innocents	3
Dec 29	Optional Memorial	Holy Innocents	Optional Memorial	3
Dec 31	St. Sylveser, Pope	Leave Taking of the Nativity; St. Melania	St. Sylvester, Bishop	4
Sunday After the Nativity	Solemnity of the Holy Family	Commemoration of Joseph, David, and James	Sunday of the Humble Shephards	5,6
Jan 1	Solemnity of Mary	Circumcision of the Lord; St. Basil the Great	Circumcision of the Lord	7
Second Sunday After the Nativity	Baptism of the Lord	Sunday Before the Theophany	Baptism of the Lord	8

1. The Nativity begins a postfestive period of varying lengths for all three churches. This will be a subject of a future article.

2. A Synaxis is the feast of a saint connected with another major feast and generally follows the day after the major feast. The BCC therefore transfers the celebration of St. Stephen the first deacon and martyr to Dec 27

3. The commemoration of the Martyrs killed during the persecution of Christians beginning in 303/304 caused the transfer of the Commemoration of the Holy Innocents killed by Herod to the next day in the BCC.

4. Note: St. Sylvester is commemorated by the PNCC as a Bishop and not as Pope.

5. The RCC commemorates the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary and Joseph) on this day. The BCC commemorates the lineage and extended family of Jesus by remembering Joseph, St. James the Brother of Jesus and King David, the ancestor of Jesus.

6. According to a local PNCC parish bulletin: The Humble Shepherds feast was created in 1906 by the PNCC. The members of the PNCC were hardworking immigrants that wished to recognize the humble and hardworking shepherds. The feast remembers all those disadvantaged in society. The readings for the day are: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; and Luke 2:15-20.

7. The Synaxis of Mary the Theotokos is celebrated on the day after the Nativity by the BCC. It is transferred to Jan 1 by the RCC. The PNCC and BCC celebrates the Circumcision of the Lord on Jan 1. In addition, the BCC celebrates St. Basil the Great, a founder of monasticism and a great liturgist. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated that day, one of ten times during the year.

8. The Sunday Before the Theophany is a preparation day for the Theophany of the Lord celebrated by the Eastern Churches.