

# Day After Entrance of the Theotokos

Or Second Weekend of Advent.

Date: 22-24 November

## The Christmas Tree

Opinions vary on the correct date to put up the Christmas Tree:

- the start of the Advent Fast (start of the Nativity seasons)
- the day after Entrance of the Theotokos (the first day of Nativity hymnography)
- the day after Thanksgiving (applicable only in the USA)
- Saint Nicholas' Day
- Saint Lucy's Day
- Christmas Eve before leaving for Vigil (the start of the official Christmas/Nativity season)

Due to the presence of the Nativity troparion in the Christmas Tree Blessing (see attachments), I believe the day (or weekend) after the Entrance of the Theotokos is the best time to put up and bless the Christmas Tree.

## Blessing of the Tree

This is an adaptation of the Serbian "badnyak" blessing tradition, as adapted by Abbot Fr. Benjamin of Prophet Elias Monastery in South Australia.



Invite a priest, family, godfamily, and friends around. Make gingerbread in the shape of Christmas trees, and offer mulled apple cider and spiced tea.

