

# Light Will Overcome Darkness

"Christmas Season Schedule of Events 2016-2017"



# Faith Events

**December 15th**, Saint Catherine's Church- Bethlehem. Holy Rosary prayers at 4:00pm. Holy Mass & the Christmas Novena, at 4:30pm, except for Sunday as the Novena will be prayed during the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

**December 16th-17th**, Aboud. The Feast of Saint Barbara in Aboud village, Ramallah district, begins with a vespers service at 3:00 in the Greek Orthodox 4th century Church of the Dormition in the afternoon of the 16th, followed by a procession to a uninhabited Byzantine monastery. A service in is held at 9:00 on the morning of the 17th. For more information, please contact Fr. Emmanuel by phone at 0597952779.

**December 17th**, Feast of St. Barbara & St. John of Damascus at all the functioning Greek Orthodox Churches except Mar Saba Greek Orthodox Monastery. Services start in the early evening of December 16th until the early hours of December the 17th.

**December 17th-18th**, Mar Sabbas. The Feast of Mar Sabbas in the Kidron Valley is held from the afternoon of the 17th until the morning of the 18th, with an all-night service conducted by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. An adjacent church tower holds a service for female pilgrims during this period of time.

**December 18th-19th**, Beit Jala. The feast of Saint Nicholas begins with a vigil in the early evening of the 18th, followed by the main liturgy on the early morning of the 19th that runs concurrently with a procession of pipe and drum scout troops through Beit Jala's Old City. For more information, please contact Fr. Boulos Al Alam by phone at 0598935957.

**December 22nd**, Saint Catherine's Church- Bethlehem. A Prostration Prayer followed by a Mass, at 4:00pm.

**December 23rd**, Saint Catherine's Church- Bethlehem. The Holy Rosary prayer followed by a Mass terminating the Novena, at 4:00pm.

**December 24th -25th, Bethlehem.**

**December 24th:** The Latin Patriarchate Christmas procession begins by mid-morning, with scout troops starting from the Catholic Action Center along Star Street, marching to Manger Square. 1:30PM: Manger Square, The Latin Patriarch arrives, entering Nativity Church and proceeding to Saint Catherine's Church to celebrate an afternoon service.

The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church, Paul VI St. Bethlehem : Christmas Service, at 5:00pm.

9:00 PM: Saint Catherine's Church will open its doors for those who have free reserved seating cards. Services will begin shortly at 11:15PM, leading up to midnight mass in Arabic which will last until 1:30am.

1:30 AM: The Patriarch leads the traditional procession to the Grotto of the Nativity.

2:00 - 8:00 AM: Multiple services in various languages are held at the Nativity Church (without tickets).

10:00 AM: Christmas Day Solemn mass at Saint Catherine's Church in Arabic.

Services are also held at Christmas Lutheran Church, Saint Joseph's Syrian Catholic Church and all other Bethlehem-area Christian communities considered to be on the Western Calendar. For further information on Christmas celebrations at Nativity Church, please contact the Latin Patriarchate at 02-274-3372. For information on non-denominational Christian Church services in Bethlehem district, please contact the Bethlehem Bible College at [www.bethbc.com](http://www.bethbc.com).

**December 24th, Beit Sahour.** A Carol service will be held at the Shepherd's Fields (YMCA), at 4:00 pm. The Greek Orthodox Chapel of St. George inside the Nativity church -Bethlehem: A Service of Lessons & Carols will be also held at 9:00pm. (To book a place on the buses to Bethlehem,

please call 02-6272133 /0532461005 or email: [dean@j-diocese.org](mailto:dean@j-diocese.org). Buses leave the Cathedral of Saint George The Martyr in Jerusalem at 7:00pm, and return following the Service Midnight Mass of the Nativity (A/E), at 11:30pm.

**December 25th.**

- 7:30 Am. St. Spyridon's Feast at the Nativity Church/ Greek Orthodox in Bethlehem. The feast is also celebrated at Jerusalem Old City in the morning, at the Greek Orthodox Monastery dedicated to the saint's name, near the Gate of Damascus.
- The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church, Paul VI St. Bethlehem Christmas Service, at 10:30am.
- Afternoon visits by the Latin Patriarchate to both the Catholic and the Orthodox Shepherds' Field monasteries will occur, starting at 2:00PM.
- Cathedral of Saint George the Martyr - Jerusalem. A Holy Eucharist (E), at 8:00am. A Holy Eucharist (A/E), at 11:00am. A Solemn Evensong, at 6:00pm.

**December 26th:**

- Saint Catherine's Church. Feast of St. Stephen at 7:00 AM.
- Cathedral of Saint George the Martyr - Jerusalem. Saint Stephen's Feast: Holy Eucharist (E), at 7:00 am. Evening Prayer (E), at 6:00pm.

**December 27th:**

Saint Catherine's Church. Feast of St. John the Baptist, at 7:00am.

**December 28th,**

Chapel of the Innocents in the Church of St. Catherine. A Mass in Arabic, at 7:30 am.

Chapel of the Innocents in the Church of St. Catherine. A Latin Mass commemorating the Slaughter of the Innocents (referring to King Herod's decree) will be held at 10:00am.

**December 30th**, Shepherds' Field Church /Grotto-Beit Sahour. Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family at 4:00 pm.

Jerusalem:

Cathedral of Saint George the Martyr - Jerusalem. Holy Eucharist (E), at 8:00am. Evening Prayer (E), at 6:00pm.

December 31st, Saint Catherine's Church. Mass at 7:00 am. A Prostration prayer at 4:00pm. A Thanksgiving Mass marking the end of the year 2016, and the Blessing of Holy Communion, at 5:00pm.

**January 1st, 2017:** Cathedral of Saint George the Martyr - Jerusalem. The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus. Holy Eucharist (E), at 8:00am. Holy Eucharist (A/E), at 11:00am. Evensong (E), at 6:00pm.

**January 1, 2017:** Saint Catherine's Church. Mass for the Feast of Holy Mary & the International Day of Prayer for Peace at 10:30 AM, followed by the Procession to the Milk Grotto with the Icon of Virgin Mary.

**January 5th:**

- Saint Catherine's Church. A Mass, at 7:00am.
- Manger Square. Reception of the Custodian of the Holy Land (Franciscan Order) at 11:30 AM.
- Saint Catherine's Church. Solemn Vespers, at 1:45pm. Office of Readings and the traditional procession to the Grotto of the Nativity, at 3:30pm.

**January 6th-7th**, Nativity Church and Bethlehem. Scout processions will begin mid-morning, ending with the arrival of the Ethiopian Orthodox Archbishop.

9:00 AM: Reception of the Syrian Orthodox Bishop at Nativity Church.

9:30 AM: Reception of the Coptic (Egyptian) Bishop at Nativity Church.

1:00-2:00 PM: Reception of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem at Nativity Church.

2:00-2:30 PM: Vespers for the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, officiated by the Patriarch.

3:00 PM: Reception of the Ethiopian Orthodox Archbishop at Nativity Church.

Services for the Eastern Calendar denominations at the Church of the Nativity begin at midnight and last until 8:30am, with an hour break from 1:00 am until 2:00am. Concurrent services in the Greek Orthodox parishes of Bethlehem, Beit Sahour and the Melkite monastery in Bethlehem are also held. To contact the Greek Orthodox Jerusalem Patriarchate regarding services at Nativity Church, please contact the Patriarchal Representative to Bethlehem at 02-274-8049, or Father Spyridon Sammour at 0569221489 or Father Issa Thaljiyeh at 0598001238.

January 6th: Saint Catherine's Church-Bethlehem. A Mass at 7:30am. The Feast of the Epiphany, or the Adoration of the Magi. Services will start by a Solemn Mass at 10:00am, to be followed by the Solemn Vespers & Solemn Traditional Procession to the Grotto: Veneration of the Infant Jesus with the Gifts of Gold, Incense & Myrrh, at 3:30pm.

Cathedral of Saint George the Martyr - Jerusalem. Epiphany Day. Holy Eucharist (E), at 7:00 am. Holy Eucharist (A/E), at 6:00pm.

January 8th, Bethlehem District. Services at Greek Orthodox churches and monasteries will commemorate the Synaxis of the Virgin Mary. This is also a primary feast day for Shepherd's Field Greek Orthodox monastery. Cathedral of Saint George the Martyr - Jerusalem. The First Sunday of Epiphany. The Baptism of Christ. Holy Eucharist (E), at 8:00am. Holy Eucharist (A/E), at 11:00am. Evensong (E), at 6:00pm.

January 9th, The Greek-Orthodox St Stephen's Church- Jerusalem (Old City). The Feast of St. Stephen's is held in the morning in this church built on the site where he became the first martyr of Christianity.

January 18th- 19th ,Bethlehem. The Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Armenian faithful celebrate Christmas in Bethlehem. Armenian scouts will accompany the Armenian Patriarch to the Nativity Church. Early afternoon: solemn entry of the Armenian Patriarch in the Basilica of the Nativity, followed by Liturgy. Later that evening Midnight Christmas Divine Liturgy is celebrated.

January 19th, Divine Liturgy in the Grotto of the Nativity. Blessing of the Holy Water & Episcopal High mass. For more information on services, please visit [www.armenian-patriarchate.com](http://www.armenian-patriarchate.com) and <https://www.facebook.com/ArmenianPatriarchateJerusalem/> or call 02-6282331.

January 24th, Mar Theodosios. Mar Theodosios celebrates its feast day with a morning liturgy, followed by the opening of the cave of the Magi and a fish dinner.

## Civic Events

### Bethlehem

December 2nd, Layali al-Milad Festival at Bethlehem Convention Palace. The event will be held by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music / the Arabic Music Ensemble, under the auspices of the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Mrs.Rola Ma'ayah, and in the presence & participation of Mohammad Assaf, at 6:00pm. For more information please visit: <http://ncm.birzeit.edu/en/mohammad-assaf-opening-layali-al-milad-festival>.

December 4th, Dar Annadwa-Madbash Square. A Christmas Performance by Diyar Dance Theatre in partnership with the Palestinian Bible Society, at 5:30pm, for the cost of 15 NIS.

December 8th, Ararat Hotel (Beit Sahour Road). A Christmas Performance by Diyar Dance Theatre, at 5:00pm.

The Russian Centre for Science & Culture. Music Ceremony, Sergi Albercofiav Birthday, at 5:00pm.

Bethlehem Peace Centre. A Musical Concert by Aisha's Team from America and Bethlehem Academy Choir, organized by Bethlehem Academy of Music, at 6:00pm.

December 9th, The Elderly Club Health Work Committees- Wade Hanna Saad - Beit Sahour. A Concert by "Anat Band", organized by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, at 6:00pm. For more information you may call the Club by phone at: 02- 2774449.

December 11th, A Christmas Parade will roam the Manger Street, starting from PADECO Bus Stop all the way to Gijon roundabout, at 5:00pm. For more information about the Christmas Parades please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ParadesinPalestine/?fref=ts>

Santa's Village will be launched in December in Bethlehem City to meet and greet the characters of the Christmas Parade. Please follow us on our Facebook page for the dates and location: <https://www.facebook.com/ParadesinPalestine/?fref=ts> Please note that the dates of the tours are subjected to changes depending on the weather conditions.

December 13th, Bethlehem Peace Centre .A Concert by the Young Musicians European Orchestra conducted by Maestro Paolo Olmi in cooperation with Bethlehem Municipality, at 6:00pm.

December 14th, Bethlehem Peace Centre. Slovak Tecknik Choir organized by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, at 6:00pm

December 15th, the Russian Centre for Science & Culture. Exhibition of Fine Art by the Palestinian Artist Adnan al-Zubaidi, at 4:00pm.

December 16th, Edward Said National Conservatory Hall, Bethlehem. Brass Band Show organized by the Edward Said Conservatory of Music, at 6:00pm.

December 22nd:  
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Bait Al-Raja Association. Christmas Celebrations, at 5:00pm. [www.hobbethlehem.org](http://www.hobbethlehem.org)

December 24th,  
• Manger Square. Christmas Carols organized by Bethlehem Municipality, at 10:00am.  
• Christmas Eve: Choirs & Christmas Carols including a performance by the Italian Choir  
• "Cima Tosa "from Trento, at 6:00pm.  
• St. Catherine Church . The Inauguration of a Life-Size Nativity Scene Carved by Master Craftsmen from the Val Di Fiemme in St Peter's Square in Rome at Christmas, on the request of the Holy See and with the Collaboration of the "Amici del Presepio" Association in Tesero, at 11:00pm.

December 27th, Mary Dotty Park. Christmas Activities with Gifts for Children, at 5:30pm.

December 28th, the Russian Centre for Science & Culture. New Year Celebrations, at 4:30pm.

December 29th, Dar Annadwa-Madbash Square. American Festival Choir & Bethlehem Bible College Choir at 6:30pm, Free Entrance.

December 30th, Dar Annadwa-Madbash Square. A Special Music Concert by 140 Musicians hosted by the Holy Land Trust, at 6:00pm.

### Beit Sahour

December 5th -10th, at the Orthodox Church Hall/ Greek Orthodox Church, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm.

December 9th-11th, Christmas Bazaar hosted by the Beit Sahour Municipality at the Municipality Mini- Center, in collaboration with



the Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans. The event will include musical concerts by Suwwan Musical Group, at 5:10pm, Baqoun Folklore Dance Group, at 6:30pm, and Mafar Band, at 7:30pm.

**December 10th**, The Beit Sahour Municipality will hold its annual Christmas Tree Lighting, at the city square (Ararat Circle), at 5:00pm. The event will begin by launching the Shepherds' March led by the Scouts from Ararat to Souq Alshaeb Square. A musical concert will be also held by Nagham Band, from 7:30pm to 10:00pm.

**December 11th**, A Show by Al-Harah Theater, from 11:00am to 12:00noon, Injaz Band, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm, Diamond Dogs Band from 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

**December 17th**, Our Lady of Fatima Parish/Latin Convent - Beit Sahour.

A Christmas Concert entitled (Family is a Grotto of Love & Peace) in cooperation with the Shepherds' Band, at 5:00pm. For more information please call the Latin Convent at 02-2772733.

**December 23rd - 24th**, Shepherds' Nights Festival, at the Greek Catholic School Square, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

On **December 24th**, a special children program will be held at the Greek Catholic School Square, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.

**December 25th**, Our Lady of Fatima Parish/Latin Convent - Beit Sahour . Christmas Mass at 10:00am.

The Annual Candle Procession starting from the Shepherds' Church, at 4:00pm. This event is organized by the Palestinian Center for Rapprochement between People in cooperation with Beit Sahour Municipality.

**December 27th**, Kids' Celebration by the Beit Sahour Council of Churches at Avenue Hall, at 4:30pm.

**January 5th, 2017**, A Christmas Parade will tour in Beit Sahour City, from Souq Al Sha'ab all the way to the Shepherds' Field.

For more information please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ParadesinPalestine/?fref=ts>

## Beit Jala

**December 17th**, Municipality Square ( Al Manshiyyeh)

- The Beit Jala Municipality will hold its annual Christmas Tree lighting, at 5:30pm.
- St. Nicholas Feast celebrations will start with a special Carol and a collection of Christmas & Folklore songs by Rula Azar from Nazareth, at 6:30pm.

**December 18th**, Municipality Square ( Al Manshiyyeh)

- Kids' show by Al-Harah Theatre, at 11:00am.
- A musical concert by the singers Steve Hanna & Wasim Abu Gharfeh, at 6:00pm.
- A show by Baladi Centre for Culture & Arts, at 7:00pm.

**December 19th**, St. Nicholas Feast ( Hosh Mar Jeries )

- (St. Nicholas feast activities are organized under the patronage of al-hsan Arab Orthodox Benevolent Society in cooperation with the Beit Jala Arab Orthodox Scout Troop). The Celebration includes:
  - A Scout Show celebrating St. Nicholas feast, at 12:00 noon.
  - A reception, Christmas Carols & Activities for kids by Inad Theatre.
  - The Christmas Parade organized by Media Plus will tour in Beit Jala City starting from St. Nicolas Church all the way to Al Sahel Street. For more information please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ParadesinPalestine/?fref=ts>

## Ramallah:

**December 4th:**

Rashid Al-Haddadin Square: Christmas Market , from 12:00 noon to 20:00pm.

Yasser Arafat's Square: A musical Performance by Rana Khoury and her band, at 5:00pm.

The Ramallah Municipality will hold its annual Christmas tree lighting at, at 6:00pm.

- **December 5th-7th**, Christmas Bazaar at the Lutheran Hall/ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope, at 6:00pm. • **December 8th-10th**, Christmas Bazaar at the Holy Family Church Hall, at 7:00pm.
- **December 8th-11th**, Christmas Bazaar at the Orthodox Club Hall, at 6:00pm.
- **December 10th**, Christmas Tree Lighting Event at the Holy Family Church ( churchyard), at 7:00pm.
- **December 16th**, Christmas Carols Choir from Haifa, at the Lady of Annunciation Greek Catholic Church, at 7:00pm.
- **December 18th**, Christmas Baby Event & Christmas Children's play at the Ramallah Recreational Compound, at 5:00pm.
- **December 22nd**, Christmas Parade at the City Centre, at 5:00pm. For more information please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ParadesinPalestine/?fref=ts>

## For more information about events in Bethlehem, Beit Jala

Beit Sahour & Ramallah during the Christmas season, please contact these organizations!

Bethlehem municipality: 02-274-1323. Beit Jala municipality: 02-274-2601/3351. Beit Sahour municipality: 02-277-3666/02-2774007. Ramallah municipality: 02-2945555 ext.: 121. [www.ramallah.ps/](http://www.ramallah.ps/) <https://www.facebook.com/R.Municipality?fref=ts>.

The Franciscan Custos of the Holy Land. Phone: 02-626-6777. [www.custodia.org](http://www.custodia.org).

The Bethlehem Peace Center, Manger Square. Phone: 02-276-6677. [www.peacenter.org](http://www.peacenter.org)

The Visitor Information Center, Manger Square. [vicbethlehem.wordpress.com](http://vicbethlehem.wordpress.com).

Dar Ad Naddwa Institute: Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem. Phone: 02-2764576. [www.diyar.ps](http://www.diyar.ps).

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music. <http://ncm.birzeit.edu/en>

The Bethlehem Bible College, Bethlehem. [www.bethlehembiblecollege.edu](http://www.bethlehembiblecollege.edu).

Bethlehem University, Bethlehem. [www.bethlehem.edu](http://www.bethlehem.edu).

Siraj Center, Beit Sahour. Phone: 02-274-8590. [www.sirajcenter.org](http://www.sirajcenter.org).

Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc. Al A'tan Street - Bethlehem. Phone: 02-2750093. [www.HCEf.org](http://www.HCEf.org)

Palestine Center for Rapprochement between Peoples, Beit Sahour. Phone: 02-277-2018. [www.pcr.ps](http://www.pcr.ps).

## For service times of parishes in other locations in Palestine, please contact the following church offices.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Phone: 02-626-6800. [www.elcjl.org](http://www.elcjl.org).

Latin Patriarchate of the Holy Land. Phone: 02-628-2323. [www.lpj.org](http://www.lpj.org).

Anglican Cathedral of Saint George (Jerusalem). Phone: 02-627-1670. [www.j-diocese.org](http://www.j-diocese.org).

Greek Catholic Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Phone: 02-628-2023. [www.gcpjer.org](http://www.gcpjer.org).

Greek Orthodox Jerusalem Patriarchate. Phone: 02-627-4941 /02-620002. [www.jerusalem-patriarchate.info](http://www.jerusalem-patriarchate.info) <http://www.jp-newsgate.net/en/> - [www.jerusalem-patriarchate.org](http://www.jerusalem-patriarchate.org).

Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Phone: 02-6282331 [www.armenian-patriarchate.com/](http://www.armenian-patriarchate.com/) email: [patriarchateofjerusalem@yahoo.com/](mailto:patriarchateofjerusalem@yahoo.com/) <https://www.facebook.com/ArmenianPatriarchateJerusalem>.

Christian Information Center -Jerusalem [www.cicts.org](http://www.cicts.org)

*Note: The Ministry of Tourism would like to thank the various municipalities, religious institutions and civic organizations of Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala and Ramallah for their assistance in compiling this information. All events may be subject to change or cancellation pending unforeseen events.*