



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DORMITION

OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
Парафія Успіння Пресв. Богородиці

Address:

15608 -104 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB
T5P 4G5

Services:

Sunday Divine Liturgy
(Ukr & Eng) at 10 am

& Melkite (Arabic) D.L. at 2 pm

Parish Website:

<http://dormition.eeparchy.com>

Eparchial Website:

www.eeparchy.com

Pastor:

Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

Fr. Bo's cell phone:

780-340-FR.BO (3726)

Fr. Bo's Emails:

fr.nahachewsky@eeparchy.com



A PARISH OF THE UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF
EDMONTON

September 12, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 7; Leave-taking of the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God; Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross; The Holy Priest-Martyr Autonomus



Our Services are now Live Online & recorded for all to see!

With the assistance of our Eparchial Communications person (Ben Windsor) our parish has now moved into a new technological era. Our services will now be broadcast live, with a copy of the service recorded for anyone who would want to watch it at a later time. Even the words of the Liturgy will be available for people at home to read and sing along with us thanks to OBS. So... smile, if you are standing in front of the *analog* (the icon kissing stand with the computer on it) then you might be visible for the whole world to see!

Once we get good at this we will likely try to figure out how to expand beyond YouTube to other Social Media... like FaceBook.

Elevation of the Cross

By + Fr. Thomas Hopko

The Elevation of the Cross, celebrated on the fourteenth of September, commemorates the finding of Christ's Cross by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century; and, after it was taken by the Persians, of its recovery by the Emperor Heraclius in the seventh century at which time it was "elevated" in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. From this latter event the "universal elevation" of the Cross was celebrated annually in all of the churches of the Christian Empire.

The day of the...



Elevation of the Cross, Continued...

...Elevation of the Cross became, as it were, the national holiday of the Eastern Christian Empire similar to the Fourth of July in the United States. The Cross, the official emblem of the Empire which was placed on all public buildings and uniforms, was officially elevated on this day by the bishops and priests. They blessed the four directions of the universe with the Cross, while the faithful repeated the chanting of "Lord have mercy." This ritual is still done in the churches today after the solemn presentation and elevation of the Cross at the end of the Vigil service of the holy day following the Great Doxology of Matins.

The troparion of the feast which was, one might say, the "national anthem" sung on all public occasions in the Christian Empires of Byzantium and Russia, originally petitioned God to save the people, to grant victory in war and to preserve the empire "by the virtue of the Cross." Today the troparion, and all the hymns of the day, are "spiritualized" as the "adversaries" become the spiritually wicked and sinful including the devil and his armies, and "Orthodox Christians" replace the names of ruling officials of the Empire.

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by the virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation (Troparion).

As Thou was mercifully crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy name; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries, by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace (Kontakion).

The holy day of the Elevation of the Cross, although it has an obviously "political" origin, has a place of great significance in the Church today. It remains with us as a day of fasting and prayer, a day when we recall that the Cross is the only sign worthy of our total allegiance, and that our salvation comes not by "victories" of any earthly sort but by the only true and lasting victory of the crucifixion of Christ and our co-crucifixion with him.

When we elevate the Cross and bow down before it in veneration and worship to God, we proclaim that we belong to the Kingdom "not of this world," and that our only true and

enduring citizenship is with the saints in the "city of God" (Eph 2.19; Heb 11.10; Rev 21–22).

The first Old Testament reading of the Vespers of the day tells of the "tree" which changes the bitter waters into sweetness—the symbol of the Tree of the Cross (Ex 15.22–16.1). The second reading reminds us that the Lord chastens and corrects those whom He loves and that Divine Wisdom is "a Tree of life to those who lay hold upon her and trust in her, as in the Lord" (Prov 3.11–18). Again the reference is to the Cross which is, as the

epistle reading of the day proclaims, "to those who are called . . . the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor 1.24).

The third Old Testament reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah which tells of the "city of the Lord" where both Jews and Gentiles will live together and "shall bow themselves down" at the place of God's feet and "shall know that I the Lord am Thy Saviour and Thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Israel" (Is 60.11–16). Here we have the direct reference to God's city where men shall worship at His feet; and together with the psalm line repeated constantly during the services which calls us to "bow before His footstool," we have once again the reference to the Holy Cross (Ps 99.5, 110.1, et al.).

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy resurrection, we glorify (Hymn of Veneration before the Cross).

This central hymn of the Elevation of the Cross which lasts for eight days in the Church is sung many times. It replaces the Thrice-Holy of the Divine Liturgy. The normal antiphons are also replaced by special verses from the psalms which have direct reference to Christ's crucifixion on the Cross (Ps 22, 74, 99). At the Matins, in the gospel reading from Saint John, Christ says that when He is elevated on the Cross He will draw all men to Himself (Jn 12.28–36). The long gospel reading at the Divine Liturgy is the passion account from this same gospel.

Thus, at the Elevation of the Cross the Christians make their official rededication to the crucified Lord and pledge their undivided allegiance to Him by the adoration of His holy feet nailed to the life-creating Cross. This is the meaning of this holy day of fasting and repentance in the Church today.



Melkite Update:

As most of you know, our parish has been hosting St. Nicholas Melkite Greek Catholic Parish for the past 7+ years. Early in 2020, as the pandemic began, the parish was left without a priest. Fr. Bo volunteered to look after the spiritual needs of their community till their bishop (Bishop Ibrihim) could assign them a new pastor.

We have recently found out that Fr. Sayed (pronounced Sa-yeed, I think) a priest from Lebanon, who has spent some time in Australia and therefore knows English, will be arriving to Edmonton tonight, Sunday, September 12. The community of St. Nicholas Melkite is excited about his arrival and doing their best to find him furnishings, transportation and the likes.

Also, our parish due primarily to its financial situation has asked Bishop David to seek another parish to host their community in the near future. Last week St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish met with St. Nicholas Melkite Greek Catholic Parish to discuss the eventual transfer of their community from worshipping at Dormition to their parish on the East side of Edmonton. This change of location will happen once Fr. Sayed has settled into a new home, gotten a vehicle, and acclimatized... to his new parish community (doubt that he will acclimatize to winter in Canada...), then they will move to their new home. We anticipate this before the New Year (calendar, not liturgical).

Fr. Bo will continue to assist with the Melkite Parish till Fr. Sayed is confident in his new pastoral assignment.

And, just to make things a little more interesting, Bishop Ibrihim of the Melkite Eparchy of Montreal, which covers all of Canada, has been elevated and will become an Archbishop in Lebanon. Although he is currently still in Canada, his move will be in the near future, and the Eparchy will be administrated by its vicar till a new bishop will be installed. This may be soon, but also sometimes takes years.



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- **Please pray** for several of our parishioners and family members including (but not limited to): Kristopher, Greg, Peter, Ross, Ron, Peter, Jean, Edward, Verna, Miranda, Sarah, Marge, Ann, Louis & Rosa Maria.
 - **Happy birthday** to **Roman Workun** who celebrates her birthday this week. May God grant you many happy years. Mnohaya Lita.
 - **Bishop David** admitted **John Lukey**, a parishioner of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Edmonton, to the **Diaconate Formation Program**.
 - **The Annual Clergy Study Days** (followed by a Clergy Conference) will take place online (via Zoom), 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Monday-Thursday, October 4-7.
 - **2022 Annual Clergy Retreat**, May 16-20, 2022, Sanctum Retreat Centre, Caroline

- **POSTPONED UNTIL 2022 (dates to be announced when available).** The **40th Biannual Conference** of the **Ukrainian Catholic Council (Centralia) – Eparchy of Edmonton** will take place November 12-13, 2021 at Saint Josaphat Cathedral/Chateau Louis Conference Centre, Edmonton.

The Convention theme is “The Family: Our Hope, Our Future,” flowing from Pope Francis’ promulgation of *The Year of the Family* (March 19, 2021 – June 26, 2022).

The Ukrainian Catholic Council comprises the Ukrainian Catholic Women’s League of Canada, the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada, the Ukrainian Catholic Youth of Canada, and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy Chapter Knights of Columbus. Given that the Convention celebrates the contribution of our lay organizations in the life of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Alberta, for only the second time, representatives of our Parish Pastoral Councils throughout the Eparchy of Edmonton are invited to participate

Our Parish Pastoral Council Meeting is Scheduled for this Wednesday at 7pm in the Church.

Edmonton Eparchy's Library Launches Online

We are proud to announce the launch of Edmonton Eparchy's Library online catalogue on Librarika. This online catalogue gives you the convenience to search through a collection of more than 5,000 book titles and periodicals that can be found and picked up at the Pastoral Centre on 9645 – 108 Avenue NW, Monday to Friday 8:30am – 12:00pm and 1:00pm to 4:30pm. The library collection is centered around Eastern Catholicism and has several books on Orthodoxy as well. University students, seminarians, parents, grandparents, and priests can find books on philosophy, bible study, service books, prayer books, Christian living, pastoral care, canon, theology, evangelism, apologetics, and history. All these books and periodicals are available to information seekers and readers that want to deepen or refresh their knowledge. Moreover, most of the resources are in English however, you can also find in Ukrainian on similar topics.



It is our desire that the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchial Library becomes an important teaching tool, as well as the source for the growth of individual members' Eastern Catholic faith.

To learn more go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKiEiQu_wp4

Beginning Sept 22, a number of parishes in Edmonton will be holding morning Divine Liturgies during the week at **9:00 am**. The intent is to accommodate parents with young children that would like to attend weekday services but are getting school aged children ready and off to school first thing in the morning, so early times are not possible for them. All Divine Liturgies will be either fully in English or Bilingual.



Tues: St. George, 11305 – 95 A St

Wed: Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 9003 – 153 Ave

Thurs: St. Josaphat, 10825 – 97 St

Fri: Holy Eucharist, 6425-120 Ave - Following Divine Liturgy we will pray special prayers for our children.

Note * Although this initiative was undertaken at the request of parents with young families, of course, everyone is welcome to worship together!

When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic.

Interested in learning more about God, your faith, and the Church?

Sign up for an online course (or two or three) or even work towards a Certificate in Eastern Christian Traditions at Newman Theological College (Edmonton).

The course offerings include Scripture, Eastern Christianity Theology I and II, Eastern Catholic Worship and Spirituality, the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), and Praying with Icons.

Each course consists of 10 online sessions, spanning 5 weeks, requiring some 4 hours of work per week (2 hours per lesson). No exams. Cost of registration per course \$85.00 plus the cost of books.

To register and for more information, visit Newman.edu/CCS, or contact Bernie Mandrusiak education@eeparchy.com or Andrea Leader admin@eeparchy.com or call the Pastoral Centre (780) 424-5496.

Year I: Certificate in Eastern Christian Traditions I

- **CCS-002 Scripture** (mid-September-mid October) – [Dr. Stéphane Saulnier](#)
- **CCS-046 The Theology of Eastern Christianity Part I** (November) (The Orthodox Way, K. Ware) – Rev. Stephen Wojcichowsky
- **CCS-047 The Theology of Eastern Christianity Part II** (mid-January-mid-February) (The Orthodox Way, K. Ware) – Rev. Stephen Wojcichowsky
- **CCS-048 Worship and Spirituality of Eastern Catholic Churches** (mid-February-mid-March,) (The Face of God, Joseph Raya) – Andrea Leader
- **CCS-050 The Holy Mysteries: An Introduction** (April) (Inexhaustible Delights: God with us Series) – Rev. Danylo Kuc
- **CCS-049 Praying with Icons** (mid-May-mid-June) (Icons in the Church) – Rev. Bohdan Nahachewsky

During the month of September, the Eparchy of Edmonton conducts its annual Vocations and Seminary Collection.

"It takes a whole village to raise a child." It likewise takes the support of the whole Church to form a deacon, priest, religious, monastic and lay member for ministry in the Church. It also takes our support to offer on-going education and formation for those already in sacred orders or involved in lay ministry.

The faithful can acknowledge the role they play in nurturing vocations by offering their financial support to help defray such expenses as formation programs, retreats, conferences, seminars, tuition, books, and room and board.

Studying for the priesthood this year, on behalf of the Eparchy Edmonton are:

- **Volodymyr Babiak** (Bachelor of Arts in Catholic Studies, Newman Theological College, Edmonton);
- **Deacon Cyril Kennedy** (Doctoral Studies in Sacred Scripture, Catholic University, Washington, DC);
- **Julian Savaryn** (Pastoral Internship, Newman Theological College);
- **Orion Wiebe** (Theology Studies, Newman Theological College); and
- **John Vizza** (Theology Studies, Newman Theological College).

Studying for the diaconate this year, on behalf of the Eparchy Edmonton is:

- **John Lukey** (Diaconate Formation).

The suggested donation amount is \$25.00 per family.

Thank you for your generosity! May God bless you and your families!



SEASON OF CREATION

Endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015 and supported by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the annual month-long ecumenical celebration entitled the **Season of Creation** will **begin on 1 September (World Day of Prayer for Creation)** and continue until 4 October 2021 (feast of Saint Francis of Assisi).

The celebration calls on the global Christian community to promote prayer and action to protect our common home. The theme for this year's season is [A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God](#).

For more information and resources on the Season of Creation, please visit the website at seasonofcreation.org.

Pastors and parishes are invited to include prayer petitions for Care for Creation during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy throughout September. Parishes may also choose to mark the World Day of Prayer for the Care for Creation through the video celebration of the [Akafist Service Thanking God for Grace, Creation, and all Good Things](#).

5 Activities for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the Domestic Church



Learn about it:

Access the Bozhi Dity (God's Little Children) lesson on the Edmonton Eparchy Website. You will learn about the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and have fun making flowers to decorate your crosses: <https://eeparchy.com/children/>

Practise:

making the sign of the cross and prostrations. Watch videos of Marilyn the catechetical puppet to learn about it at www.theosis.com or click here: [How to make the sign of the cross Blog #2](#) and [Mary's yes and prostrations Blog #7](#).



Count:

all the crosses you can find in your house. They may be hanging on the wall, jewelry crosses, in icons or pictures, on religious books, even fridge magnets or art projects! This can become a real treasure hunt. You may be surprised at how many you have. (If you don't have many you might want to acquire some).

Decorate

the crosses you found all around your house with flowers from your yard, garden, purchased or tissue paper flowers from the Bozhy Dity lesson that you made together.

Pray together:

Process together to your icon corner or small table. Have one person hold the icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. One person can carry a cross. The others can hold flowers. Place the icon, and cross in the corner and put flowers in front and around the icon and the cross.

"To Your cross, O Master, we bow in veneration, and we glorify Your holy resurrection." (3x with prostrations)

POSTER CONTEST

Calling all children and teens! Tell the world about the gift of the earth that we have received from the Creator. As a precious gift from God we want to take good care of it. This year's theme is: **A Home for all. Renewing the Oikos of God.**

Oikos is a Greek word meaning home. Create a poster that reminds people that the earth is a home created by God. It is home to everyone and everything and what we do affects everyone and everything. When we treat the world poorly the whole world suffers and when we treat it well, the whole world rejoices!

Submit your poster by email it to education@eeparchy.com

Design a poster so that it:

- Encourages people to love the earth
- Show ways we can take care of the earth
- Reminds people how beautiful the earth is
- Suggest ways we can protect the earth

The deadline to submit is Sept 20, but get them in early because we want to post them on our website and other social media all through the Season of Creation (Sept 1 – Oct 4)!

There are four categories and prizes:

- Age 5-7 \$25 and a surprise gift
- Age 8-10 \$25 and a surprise gift
- Age 11-14 \$35 and a surprise gift
- Age 15-18 \$50 and a surprise gift

We will post the winners on Oct 5, 2021, 12:00 pm on our website and social media. Winners will also be contacted by email after the announcement.

Details:

- Create the poster on an 8 ½ X 11 sheet of paper
- Crayons, felt, paint and other media are acceptable
- No photographs, digital images or logos
- One submission per person
- Parental permission required for all minors
- Posters will be displayed with first name and age only

Catholic Scouts Troop in our parish?

Information Night:

Tuesday, September 28, 2021 from 6 pm - 7 pm



Dear Community

As we slowly emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, and we continue to learn about past hurts experienced within the Catholic Church and beyond, our thoughts turn to the future. In particular, how can we help support our children in their social, physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth within this beautiful world of ours?

A group of us are interested in starting a joy-filled Catholic Scouting Troop with Scouts Canada at Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church (located in central west Edmonton).

We are inviting all interested families to an "Information Night," where we will gauge interest, discuss program possibilities, have activities for the kids, and hear from members of the Northern Lights Council of Scouts Canada who will answer our questions about Scouting.

Our planned new Scout Troop will include a fun balance of friendly, age-appropriate outdoor quests, indoor learning and play, community involvement and Catholic faith-building adventures, all under the umbrella of Scouts Canada.

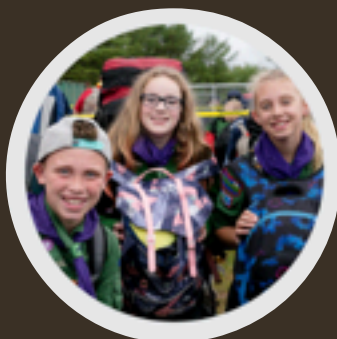
Come and be part of the excitement.

More info about this "Information Night" can be found at: dormition.eeparchy.com/scouts

HERE ARE SOME QUICK FACTS ABOUT SCOUTS CANADA



We are one of Canada's largest youth organizations, with **over 20,000 Volunteers** serving **over 60,000 youth** in communities across the country.



We accept all genders. Scouts Canada started accepting girls in some of its programs in 1972 and became a fully co-ed in 1998.



We are inclusive. Scouts Canada does not discriminate for reasons of gender, culture, religious belief or sexual orientation. Anyone willing to make the Scout Promise is welcome to participate in the Scouting program.



We are safe. Scouts Canada places great importance on creating a fun and safe environment for our members, especially children and youth, based on a culture of safety that extends throughout the organization.

Dormition Parish Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 7; Leave-taking of the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God; Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross; The Holy Priest-Martyr Autonomus (284-305); Galatians 6:11-18; John 3:13-17 10 am Divine Liturgy bilingual Ukr / Eng Following Panachyda for + Katie Bunio 2 pm Divine Liturgy bilingual Arabic / Eng Anticipated arrival of Abuna Sayed 5:30 appointment Roman Workun's Birthday	13 Commemoration of the Dedication of the Holy Church of the Resurrection of Christ Our God (335); Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross; the Holy Priest-Martyr Cornelius the Centurion; Ephesians 1:22-2:3; Mark 10:46-52	14 The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross; Feast of our Lord. Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat. 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35 	15 Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Great-Martyr Nicetas (374); Ephesians 3:8-21; Mark 11:23-26 7pm PPC Meeting	16 Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Great-Martyr Euphemia, the All-Famed (303); Ephesians 4:14-19; Mark 11:27-33 6pm Camp Oselia Society Meeting	17  Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Martyr Sophia, and Her Three Daughters Faith, Hope and Love; Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat. Ephesians 4:17-25; Mark 12:1-12	18 Saturday after the Exaltation of the Cross; Our Venerable Father Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; John 8:21-30
19 Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross, Tone 8; Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedontus (276-82); Galatians 2:16-20; Mark 8:34-9:1 10 am Divine Liturgy bilingual Ukr / Eng 2 pm Divine Liturgy bilingual Arabic / Eng 5:30 appointment	20 Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Great-Martyr Eustathius and those with him (276-82); Holy Martyrs and Confessors for the Faith, the Grand Prince Michael, and His Nobleman Theodore, Wonderworkers of Chernihiv (1245); Ephesians 4:25-32; Luke 3:19-22 7:30 appointment Thomas Sokolowski's & Rebecca Vizza's Birthday	21 The Leave-taking of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Apostle Codratus of Magnesia (249-52); Ephesians 5:20-26; Luke 3:23-4:1	22 Holy Priest-Martyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope (98-117); Holy Prophet Jonah (786-46 BC); Venerable Jonah the Presbyter, Father of Theophanes, Composer of Canons, and Theodore the Branded; Ephesians 5:25-33; Luke 4:1-15 First Day of Autumn	23 The Conception of the Honourable and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; Galatians 4:22-31; Luke 1:5-25	24 Holy First-Martyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thekla; Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat. Ephesians 6:18-24; Luke 4:22-30	25 Our Venerable Mother Euphrosyne; 1 Corinthians 15:39-45; Luke 4:31-36 Melkite Baptism
26 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 1; The Passing of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; 1 John 4:12-19; Luke 5:1-11; John 19:25-27; 21:24-25 10 am Divine Liturgy bilingual Ukr / Eng 2 pm Divine	27 Holy Martyr Callistratus and His Companions; Our Venerable Father Nilus, Founder and Hegumen of the Grottaferrata Monastery; Philippians 1:1-7; Luke 4:37-44	28 Our Venerable Father and Confessor Chariton (350); Holy Viacheslav, Czech Prince; Synaxis of the Venerable Fathers of the Monastery of the Caves in Kiev Who Repose in the Nearer Caves of the Venerable Anthony; Passing into eternal life of Blessed Nykyta Budka (1949), First Bishop of Canada and	29 Our Venerable Father Cyriacus the Anchorite (c. 448-556); Philippians 1:12-20; Luke 5:33-39	30 The Priest-Martyr Gregory, Bishop of Great Armenia (284-305); Philippians 1:20-27; Luke 6:12-19 Nation Day for Truth and Reconciliation 3:30 Prayers for + Anne Prokop Anne Prokop's Birthday	1 The Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God; Holy Apostle Ananias, One of the Seventy Disciples; Our Venerable Father Roman Who Sang Sweetly (560); Feast of the Mothe of God. Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat. Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28	2 The Holy Priest-Martyr Cyprian; the Holy Martyr Justina; and the Holy Andrew, Fool for the Sake of Christ; 1 Corinthians 15:58-16:3; Luke 5:17-26

Sunday before the Exaltation: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost;

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 7; Leave-taking of the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God; Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross; The Holy Priest-Martyr Autonomus

Troparion: By Your cross You destroyed death;* You opened Paradise to the thief;* You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy,* and charged the apostles to proclaim* that You are risen, O Christ our God,* offering great mercy to the world.

Troparion: Your nativity, O Virgin Mother of God,* has made joy known to all the world,* for from you dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God.* He abolished the curse and gave the blessing;* and by making death of no effect He bestowed on us eternal life.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion: No longer shall the dominion of death be able to hold humanity,* for Christ went down shattering and destroying its powers.* Hades is bound.* The prophets exult with one voice.* The Saviour has come for those with faith, saying:* "Come forth, O faithful, to the resurrection!"

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion: By your birth, O immaculate one,* Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness,* and Adam and Eve* from the corruption of death.* And your people, redeemed from the guilt of their sins,* celebrate as they cry out to you:* "The barren one gives birth to the Mother of God* and nourisher of our life."

Prokeimenon:

Save Your people, O Lord,* and bless Your inheritance.

verse: Unto You I will cry, O Lord, my God, lest You turn from me in silence. (*Psalm 27:9,1*)

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 (NRSV)

Brothers and Sisters, see what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Alleluia verses:

I have exalted one chosen from the people and with my holy oil anointed him.

My hand shall always be with him and my arm shall make him strong.

Gospel: John 3:13-17 (NRSV)

The Lord said, no one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Hymn to the Mother of God & Irmos

O my soul, magnify the Virgin Mary, born from a barren womb.

Virginity is alien to mothers* and childbearing is foreign to virgins;* yet in you, O Mother of God, both of them came together.* Therefore we and all the nations of the earth* without ceasing magnify you.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest. (*Psalm 148:1*)* I will take the cup of salvation;* and I will call upon the name of the Lord. (*Psalm 115:13*)* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

