



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE **DORMITION** OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Парафія Успіння Пресв. Богородиці

A PARISH OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF EDMONTON

Address:

15608 -104 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB
T5P 4G5

Services:

Sundays at 10:00 am

Most Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
(see calendar)

Parish Website:

[http://
dormition.eeparchy.com](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 Email:

[fr.bo.nahachewsky
@gmail.com](mailto:fr.bo.nahachewsky@gmail.com)

Sunday, December 23

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, Tone 6; the Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete (249-51)

Monday, December 24

Eve of the Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ – Christmas

& Tuesday, December 25, 2018

Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ

CHRIST IS BORN! - LET US GLORIFY HIM!
Христос Раждається! - Славім Його!

PASTORAL LETTER OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIVITY
OF OUR LORD 2018/2019

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favors!" (Luke 2:14)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we celebrate the Feast of the
Nativity of Our Lord, we do so with a
sense of wonder in our hearts. The
story of the birth of Jesus serves as a
constant reminder of God's love for us.

To express God's boundless love for us,
God appears among us in the person of
his own son, Jesus Christ. God with us.
Emmanuel. And in this we rejoice!

This year, we celebrate Christmas in the
context of the 100th Anniversary of the
End of World War I. On November 11,
1918, church bells rang out throughout
the world as an outpouring of relief

that four years of war had come to an end. We remember and honour those who served and
sacrificed – millions who gave with their lives – that we might have peace. We remember the
joy that peace brought after so much death and destruction. (Continued on next page...)



PASTORAL LETTER OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA... Continued

Peace.

Jesus, at his birth, comes into the world as the Prince of Peace, in fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9: 6).

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He comes into the world as the great peacemaker among humanity.

He teaches in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5: 9).

At his death, he tells his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (John 14: 27).

On that very first Easter, we are told: "When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'" (John 20: 19).

Alongside other powerful names such as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and Eternal Father, Jesus is given the title Prince of Peace, indicating one of His many roles — the One who is the leader of peace and offers it to others.

As we celebrate Jesus' birth this Christmas, let us thank God for the gift of peace. And let us honour the Prince of Peace by continuing to be peacemakers in the world, starting within our own families and among our friends and neighbours.

But how can we do so?

The story is told about an old rabbi once asked his students how one could recognize the time when night ends and day begins. One student asked, "Is it when, from a great distance, you can tell a dog from a sheep?" "No," said the rabbi. Another student asked, "Is it when, from a great distance, you can tell a date palm

from a fig tree?" "No," said the rabbi. "Then," the students asked, "when is it?" The rabbi answered, "It is when you look into the face of any human creature and see your brother or sister there. Until then, night is still with us."

Ah, to see brother or sister in all. This is the call of all humanity.

Yet, we live in a world that is all too often filled with horrific examples of communities torn apart: hunger and starvation, ethnic cleansing, segregation, genocide, tougher immigration, and so on.

Still, there is plenty of food and work for everyone in the world if we but share our common wealth and recognize that we are all brothers and sisters. We are not alone but are related with others all around the world. We belong to the family of God, and it is the love of God that binds us together.

This Christmas, we remember those that fought for peace in the world. We remember the joy that peace brought, and pray for peace and a better world — including places where there is conflict today: Ukraine, Syria, the Middle East, and others — when we can truly call each other brother and sister.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, may Christ, truly bless you and your family with peace, love and joy, now and in the New Year!

Christ is Born! Let us Glorify Him!

+ Lawrence Huculak OSBM, Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg

+ Michael Wiwchar CSSR, Bishop Emeritus of Saskatoon

+ Severian Yakymyshyn OSBM, Bishop Emeritus of New Westminster

+ David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton

+ Stephen Chmilar, Eparchial Bishop of Toronto

+ Ken Nowakowski, Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster

+ Bryan Bayda CSSR, Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon

Saints of the Day for Sunday, Dec. 23: (texts from the OCA website)

The Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord (December 18-24) is known as the

Sunday of the Holy Fathers. On this day the Church commemorates all those who were well-pleasing to God from all ages, from Adam to Saint Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, those who are mentioned in the genealogy of Luke 3:23-38. The holy prophets and prophetesses are also remembered today, especially the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (December 17).

The Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete:

Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician, Zoticus, Pompilus, Agathopus, Basilides and Evaristus suffered for Christ during the third century under the emperor Decius (249-251). The governor of Crete, also named Decius, fiercely persecuted the Church, and arrested anyone who believed in Christ. Once, ten Christians were brought before him from various cities of Crete, who at the trial steadfastly confessed their faith in Christ and refused to worship idols.

For thirty days they were subjected to cruel tortures, and with the help of God they all persevered, glorifying God. Before their death they prayed that the Lord would enlighten their torturers with the light of the true Faith. Since pain did not influence them, the saints were beheaded.

St Paul of Constantinople (November 6) visited Crete about a hundred years later. He took the relics of the holy martyrs to Constantinople to serve as a protection for the city, and a source of blessings for the faithful.

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

**Most Reverend Archbishops and Metropolitans,
God-loving Bishops, Very Reverend Clergy, Venerable
Monastics, Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters,
in Ukraine and throughout the world**

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government
shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace. (Isaiah 9:5)*

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Beloved in Christ!

Today heaven and earth is filled with the light of joy and peace. Angels and men, all creation welcomes Christ the Saviour born in human flesh. All of us together with the shepherds and wise men hasten to the poor stable-cave to join Mary and Joseph in venerating the incarnate God, who rests on hay in a manger. We hasten to receive the love and peace that the Lord brings into a world of hate and violence.

The Gospel narrative of the Nativity conveys to us the Good News proclaimed by the angel: "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12). In the Christmas carols and services of this mystical night we hear of a mighty heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:14). All of humanity, in awaiting the birth of the Saviour, had hoped for the beginning of a new era in human history—a new time when the Messiah as Prince of Peace would restore harmony to human relations, would abolish all forms of violence of men against men; not as a victor in war, like his ancestor David, but as the Son of God, conquering the very reason for wars and hostility—human sin, that evil which is the greatest disfigurement of paradisiacal happiness.

Human beings are created by God for peace which is a sign of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23). In spite of our nature, fallen through sin, human beings invariably seek this peace, even though we may not always know how to achieve it. For this very reason our Divine Liturgy, after calling for the establishment and strengthening of the blessed Kingdom of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, immediately invites us to pray for peace from on high for the entire world and the well-being of God's holy churches. Indeed, today's feast proclaims to us that Christ is the Prince of Peace and that the might of God is revealed in peace.

When we hear the word "prince," we immediately think of a person who has authority and power. We encounter many "princes," good and bad, in various spheres of human life: politics, employment, family, and even church life. However,

from the Gospel perspective and in light of the example of Christ as Prince of Peace, it becomes evident that divine authority is expressed through service, and divine power is found in the infinite and unconditional, faithful, and sacrificial love of the Lord for His creation.

A human being can live in peace and become a servant of peace only when he or she receives the Prince of Peace, newly-born today, into their hearts, into their internal spiritual world, into their personal and social life. Saint Paul writes in his epistle to the Ephesians: "He is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14). Therefore, the greatest expression of God's universal might, the manner in which the Prince of Peace manifests His power and authority, is not in the humiliation of others through injustice and violence, but in serving others out of unconditional love for the sake of peace!

At times in our daily lives it may seem to us that the one who is powerful is the one who is able to humiliate another. However, in reality such an expression of power is violence. Therefore, standing before the manger of the Prince of Peace, we begin to understand that violence is always the argument of a weakling, of one who wishes to appear powerful. It is the behaviour of a coward, who simply fears the other, no matter how weak.

Christ endured violence from the very moment of His birth. King Herod, whom history calls great, in reality was a little coward: he feared for his authority, he perceived himself a failure in the face of God as a powerless Child. In order to retain authority and the riches entailed in it, he resorted to violence: commanding the death of the little ones of Bethlehem, the children of his own people! The peace of God, on the other hand, is always mightier than human violence, and that is why He is always victorious.

Only the powerless and weak in spirit adopt a strategy of insidious attack, aggression, or blind violence as a method of ensuring one's authority, being incapable of convincing or leading others any other way. In contrast, human frailty, vested in Divine power, often becomes the pledge of true victory and a lasting peace. Let us recall what the Lord revealed to the Apostle of the nations: "My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). The weakness of God is mightier than the appearance of human power. Herod was buried not long after the birth of our Lord Jesus, while Christ, the Prince of Peace, is alive—yesterday, today and forever! (see Hebrews 13:8).

Beloved in Christ! To celebrate Christmas is to be filled with peace from heaven and to say "no" to violence. Let us receive the newly-born Saviour as Prince of Peace in our families and become, following the example of St. Joseph and Mary the Theotokos, bearers and custodians of peace. Let us avoid all forms of violence—in word and deed—especially in our family circle, in relations between husband and wife or parents and children. Let us reject the culture of death which allows for the killing of the innocent unborn and, as we see in some countries of the world, encourages the gravely ill or elderly to shorten their life under the guise... (continued on next page)

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV... Continued

... of a so-called “sweet death,” which is nothing more than an offense against God and a crime against the sanctity and inviolability of human life.

Let our ancient Christmas carols resound in our schools and educational institutions, safeguarding our children from events of violence. In societies where we live, let us not permit the presence of blind physical or moral violence on the political battleground. Representatives of political forces who encourage violence and foment conflicts are in reality spiritual weaklings, and they will never be capable of serving the common good of our people. Wherever we live, whether in Ukraine, which in the near future will be electing a president and parliament, or in the countries where our people have settled, let us support those who aspire elected office not in order to rule others, but in order to serve. Let us support those who resist violence and seek to establish the peace of God, a peace that is just and lasting.

Let us celebrate Christ’s Nativity today and bring forth the joy and peace that comes from heaven. Let us conquer violence and fear, both in our personal lives, and on all the fronts of this war, whose consequences profoundly affect each and every one of us. Let us counter foreign aggression, as do those who defend our native land in Ukraine’s East, with the sacrifice of our love, in active solidarity with the victims of aggression. Let us be persistent in prayer, calling for the peace of God upon our land, in our families and hearts! May the words of the prophet Isaiah be fulfilled for us: “Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise” (Isaiah 60:18).

Beloved Brothers and Sisters! With this Christmas letter I greet all of you who today, as domestic Church, receive the new-born Christ into your families—parents and children, the elderly and youth. I hasten to share the good news of joy and peace with those, who labour abroad—far away from their home and loved-ones. I embrace those brothers and sisters who have been forced to migrate, who miss their native lands, and all, who today carry on their bodies and in their hearts the wounds of war and violence.

With the Nativity of Christ, I especially greet our soldiers, the defenders of peace and victors of war. My thoughts and prayers go to the cold prisons, where our prisoners of war and of conscience continue to suffer; to the hospitals, where our wounded in battle for our nation regain their health; to the homes, where Ukrainians afflicted with grief mourn the loss of their loved-ones because of the war. The Lord of peace is with us! May the Christmas star shine upon us with its light, and in every home the words of our carol-song resound clearly:

Ангели співають: (The Angels sing:)
«Слава» восклицают, (Exclaiming “Glory!”)
На небесах і на землі (In heaven and on earth)
Мир проповідують. (Proclaiming peace.)

I wish all of you the authentic joy that is given to the children of God, a cheerful celebration of Christ’s Nativity, and a happy, peaceful and blessed New Year!

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

† SVIATOSLAV

Were infomercials invented 2000 years ago at the birth of Christ?

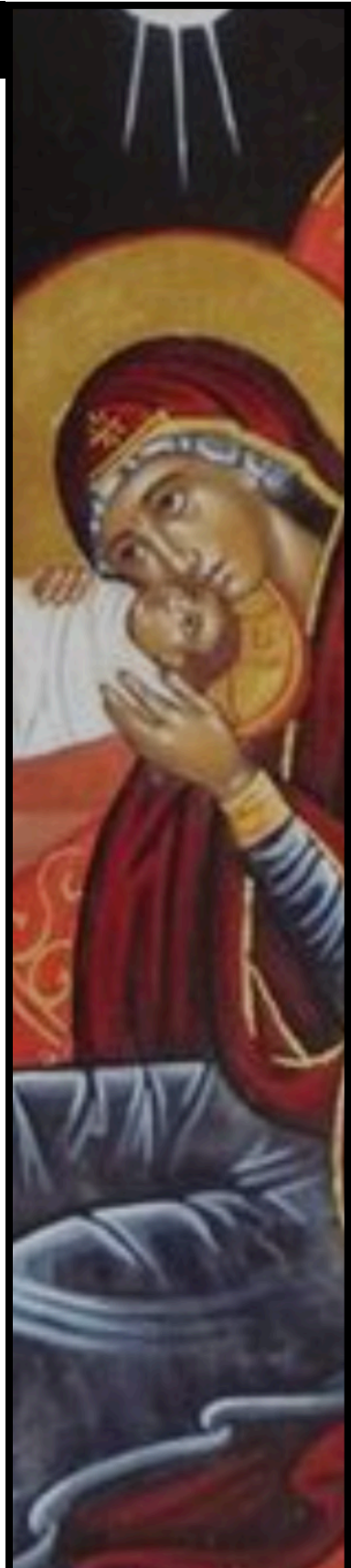


Mary: because of your willingness to give birth to God Most High you get this stunning 24 karat gold, and at no extra cost to you, this beautiful smelling frankincense! Delivery included!

**But wait!
There is Myrrh!**








Dormition Parish's 2018-19 Christmas Season Schedule:

Feast	Date	Service	Time
Christmas Eve	Monday, Dec. 24	Complines & Liturgy	10 pm
Christmas Day	Tuesday, Dec. 25	Festal Divine Liturgy	10 am
		Melkite service	2 pm
Sunday after the Nativity: St. Joseph, St. King David & St. James	Sunday, Dec 30	Sunday Divine Liturgy (with Fr. Peter Brezden)	10 am
		Melkite service	2 pm
St. Basil's / Circumsion / New Year's	Tuesday, Jan. 1	Liturgy with Baptism of Baby Vizza & Chrismations of Joanna & Katharine Vizza (with Fr. Danylo Kuc)	10 am
		Melkite service	2 pm
Theophany Eve	Saturday, Jan. 5	Complines & Liturgy	7pm
Theophany Day	Sunday Jan. 6	Great Blessing of Water	9:15 am
		Festal Divine Liturgy with Baptism of Shiela (with Bishop, Fr. Stephen Wojcichowski & Fr. Bo)	10 am
		Melkite service	2 pm
Parish "Kutia"	Sunday, Jan. 13	Sunday Liturgy with Baptism of Tamara Ruff, followed by the traditional Parish Christmas Meal: "Kutia"	10 am



Please invite your friends, neighbours and family members to the services. Let's tell the whole world about how God loves us so much that he comes to dwell with us.

December 2018 - January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>23 </p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy no fellowship this day</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p>	<p>24 </p> <p>Eve of the Nativity of Christ - a.k.a. Christmas Eve</p> <p>10 pm Complines followed by Festal Divine Liturgy</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>Feast of the Nativity of Christ - a.k.a. Christmas</p> <p>10 am Festal Divine Liturgy</p> <p>2pm Melkite Liturgy, Hall used by Melkites afterwards</p> <p>Jesus Christ's Birthday</p>	<p>26</p> <p>NO Prayers or Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Fr. Bo & Young Adult pilgrims head out to Mt. Tabor...</p>	<p>28 FAST FREE</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p>
<p>30</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy with Fr. Peter Brezden no fellowship this day</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p> <p>10 am Liturgy for the Feast of St. Basil with Sacraments of Initiation for the Vizza girls (with Fr. Danylo)</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy, Hall used by Melkites afterwards</p> <p>Irene Pryma & Anne Skwarchuk's Birthdays</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p> <p>NO Prayers or Bible Study</p> <p>Joanna Vizza's Birthday</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p> <p>Greg Ostapowich's Birthday</p>	<p>4 </p> <p>...Fr. Bo & Young Adult pilgrims return from Mt. Tabor</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Eve of Theophany</p> <p>7 pm Complines followed by Festal Divine Liturgy</p> 
<p>6</p> <p>The Major Feast of Theophany (Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan River)</p> <p>9:15 am am the Great Blessing of Water</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy with the Baptism of Sheila Leiding (with Bishop David & Fr. Stephen Wojcichowski)</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Samuel Bryson's Birthday</p> <p>7pm Ruff Baptismal Prep</p>	<p>8</p> <p>George Laschuk's Birthday</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6 pm Prayer</p> <p>7 pm Bible Study with an Eastern Twist: All Welcome</p> 	<p>10</p>	<p>11 FAST FREE</p> <p>Melkite Bible Study</p> <p>Michael Orysiuk's & Kristofer Workun's Birthdays</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Preparations for the Parish "Kutia"</p> <p>First Solemn Communion Class for Elizabeth Shakeshaft</p>
<p>13</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy with the Baptism of Tamara Ruff</p> <p>Parish "Kutia" to follow Divine Liturgy</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6 pm Prayer</p> <p>7 pm Bible Study with an Eastern Twist: All Welcome</p> <p>Luna Genyk's Birthday</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>4 pm Youth Commission Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Fr. Bo teaches Lethbridge Icon Workshop</p> <p>Olfa Hapak's Birthday</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Fr. Bo teaches Lethbridge Icon Workshop</p>

Dormition News

- Congratulations to our youngest parishioner **Sophie Anna Maria** who was born on Sunday December 16th. And Congratulations to the rest of the family. Mom - Rebecca, and family are all happy and healthy.
- We **pray for the health and well-being** of all the servants and handmaidens of God who need our prayers: **Sarah Komar, Marge Woitas, Katie Bunio, Stella Dronyk, John Puto, Ann Horsman, Annie Polack, Louis Pewar & Rosa Maria Santos.** (If you know any other people who should be on this list: please email me.)
- We wish God's blessings and a **happy birthday** to our parishioners: **John Vizza, & Sonja Sashkewytch, Elena Sotnikova-Artymkov & Luba Dasher** who all celebrate their birthdays this week. God grant you many years!

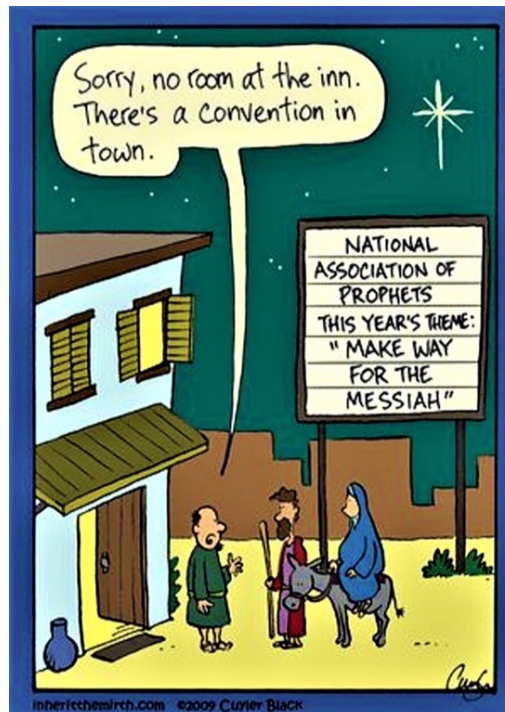
If we don't have your birthday, or if we have your birthday info wrong... please send an email (or at least a piece of paper) with the corrected birthdate and your name.
- **Bible Study with an Eastern Twist:** Our next session will resume in the new year with our regular Bible Study on January 9th. The theme for that class will be "Egypt & Exodus" part 1. All are welcome. Free tea.
- It's time for people to consider helping the parish by serving on the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). If you would like to serve, please tell Fr. Bo or one of the members on the current PPC. Likely we will be voting in new members on a weekend near the beginning of February.
- **Confessions:** Fr. Bo is always around before services, so please do not hesitate to ask him to hear your confession. If you are planning to make a "longer" confession, he is always available by appointment too.

- **Call for Casino Volunteers.** The dates for our parish casino are **Monday March 18 & Tuesday March 19, 2019** at the Starlight Casino at WEM. We still have a number of volunteer positions to fill. Our completed application needs to be submitted to AGLC by January 19th.

- Day shifts begin at 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Afternoon shift from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Evening shift from 7:30 pm to 3:15 am (including countroom)

If you are able to help, please see Alex Schabel or Iryna Laschuk to complete the required AGLC volunteer forms in the church office or contact Alex at aschabel@shaw.ca.

- Would you like to **put an ornament on our Parish's Christmas Tree?** There are a number of ornaments that can be found in the church near the candles. If you wish to put a few up please do. If you would like to attach the names of our loved ones, as a type of prayer for them, that would be very nice.
- One of our **parish fridges has died.** Funeral plans are being figured out. In the mean time please use the small white fridge or the cooler in the "bar" room.
- *Early in the new year we will be working on several projects:*
 - Moving our "Little Friends of Jesus" classroom upstairs.
 - Working on our Liturgical singing.
 - Getting all of our "Safer Environments" Policy work up to date.
 - Having Fr. Bo grow a better beard.
 - Maybe a fundraiser?
 - Updating our Parish Bylaws including our Parish's Mission Statement. Our current proposal is:
"To joyfully bring all people into the knowledge, love and service of the Holy Trinity who dwells within us."



SUNDAY,

DECEMBER 23 - DIVINE LITURGY CHANGEABLE PARTS

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion: Angelic powers were upon Your tomb* and the guards became like dead men;* Mary stood before Your tomb* seeking Your most pure body.* You captured Hades without being overcome by it.* You met the Virgin and granted life.* O Lord, risen from the dead,* glory be to You!

Troparion: Great are the achievements of faith!* In the fountain of flames, the three holy youths rejoiced as by the water of rest,* and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep.* Through their intercession, O Christ God,* save our souls.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion: Armed by the Being that defies description* You defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth.* In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God:* “In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid,”* for You can do whatever You will.

Prokeimenon

Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

verse: For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us. ([Daniel 3:26,27](#))

Epistle Hebrews II:9-10,17-23,32-40

Brothers and Sisters: By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom he had been told, “It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you.” He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, “bowing in worship over the top of his staff.” By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial.

By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the

prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Alleluia

verse: O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us the work You did in their days.

verse: You saved us from our oppressors and put to shame those who hate us. ([Psalm 43:2,8](#))

Gospel Matthew I:1-25

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, ... (continued)

Sunday, the 23rd - Continued

... and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord

appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest ([Psalm 148:1](#)). * Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; * praise befits the righteous ([Psalm 32:1](#)). * Alleluia, alleluia, * alleluia.

CHRISTMAS EVE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 - COMPLINES IN BOOKLET

THEN DIVINE LITURGY WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGEABLE PARTS

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion: Your nativity, O Christ our God,* has shed upon the world the light of knowledge.* Through it those who worshipped the stars* have learned from a star to worship You, O Son of Truth* and to recognize in You the One who rises from on high.* O Lord, glory be to You.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kondakion: Today the Virgin gives birth to the One who surpasses all created essences,* the earth offers a cave to the inaccessible.* The angels with the shepherds sing his glory,* and wise men follow the star:* for unto us is born an infant, God in all eternity.

Prokeimenon:

The Lord said to Me: You are My Son,* today have I begotten You.

verse: Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations as an inheritance, and as Your possession, the ends of the earth.

Epistle Hebrews: I: I-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,

whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

CHRISTMAS EVE Continued...

Alleluia:

verse: The Lord said to my lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet."

verse: The Lord will send you a sceptre of power out of Sion; reign in the midst of your enemies.

verse: Yours is the dominion on the day you are given power in the splendour of your holy ones.

Gospel Luke 2: 1-10

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were

there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.'

Hymn to the Mother of God

In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angelic ranks and all the human race. Sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, virgins' pride and boast, from whom God is made flesh and became a little Child; and He who is our God before all ages, He made your womb a throne, and He made it wider that all the heavens. In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. ([Psalm 148:1](#))

CHRISTMAS DAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 - DIVINE LITURGY CHANGEABLE PARTS

Antiphon 1

I will confess You, Lord, with all my heart,* I will declare all Your wondrous deeds.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

In the council of the just and the congregation,* great are the works of the Lord, conforming to His will in every way.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

His work is filled with praise and majesty,* and His righteousness endures forever.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

Glory... Now...

Only-Begotten Son...

Antiphon 3

The Lord said to my lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet."

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,* made the light of knowledge dawn on the world:* through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star* to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness,* and to know that You, the Dawn from on the high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

The Lord will send you a sceptre of power out of Sion; reign in the midst of your enemies.

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,* made the light of knowledge dawn on the world:* through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star* to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness,* and to know that You, the Dawn from on the high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

Yours is the dominion on the day you are given power in the splendour of your holy ones.

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,* made the light of knowledge dawn on the world:* through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star* to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness,* and to know that You, the Dawn from on the high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

Entrance

(Priest: Wisdom, stand aright.)

From the womb before the daystar I begot you. the Lord has sworn an oath and will not go back on His word: You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion, Tone 4: Your Nativity, O Christ our God,* made the light of knowledge dawn on the world:* through it,...

CHRISTMAS DAY Continued...

... those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star* to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness,* and to know that You, the Dawn from on the high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion: The Virgin today gives birth to Him who is above all being;* the earth offers the cave to Him whom no one can approach;* Angel with shepherds give Him glory,* while Magi make their way with a star,* for to us is born a little Child – the pre-eternal God.

Instead of Holy God:

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia! (3)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

You have put on Christ! Alleluia!

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia!

Prokeimenon:

Let all the earth worship You and sing to You; let it sing to Your Name, O Most High.

verse: Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing now to His name, give glory to His praise. (Psalm 65:4,2)

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

Brothers and Sisters: when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Alleluia:

verse: The heavens tell the glory of God, and the firmament declares the work of His hands.

verse: Day announces its message unto day and night proclaims its knowledge unto night. (Psalm 18:2,3)

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and

all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn to the Mother of God and the Irmos:

O my soul, magnify Christ the King born in a manger.

A strange and glorious mystery do I behold:* the cave is heaven;* the Virgin, the throne of the cherubim;* the manger, a dwelling place* in which is laid Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain.* Singing His praises, we magnify Him.

Communion Hymn

The Lord has sent deliverance* to His people.* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (Psalm 110:9)

Instead of "Blessed is He who comes..." we sing:

All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is born of a Virgin.

Instead of "We have seen the true light..." we sing:

All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is born of a Virgin.

Instead of "May our mouths..." and "Blessed be the Name..." we sing:

All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is born of a Virgin. (3)

Instead of "May our mouths..." and "Blessed be the Name..." we sing:

All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is born of a Virgin. (3)