

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

**Please register  
online or by  
phone to attend  
services.**

**Services:**

Sunday Divine Liturgy  
(Ukr & Eng) at 10 am  
if needed: (English) at 12 noon  
& Melkite (Arabic) D.L. at 2 pm

**Parish Website:**  
<http://dormition.eeparchy.com>

**Twitter:**  
[@dormitionparish](https://twitter.com/dormitionparish)

<https://twitter.com/dormitionparish>

**Eparchial Website:**  
[www.eeparchy.com](http://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](mailto:fr.nahachewsky@eeparchy.com)

**December 6, 2020**

Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 2; Our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

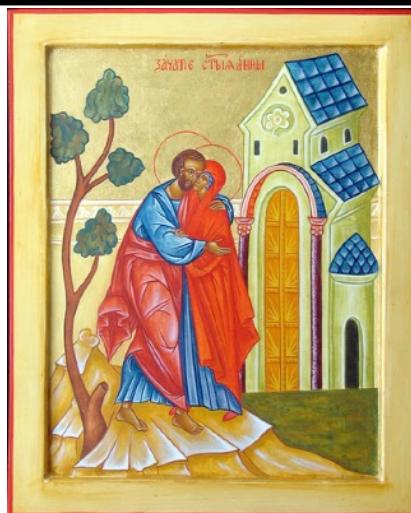
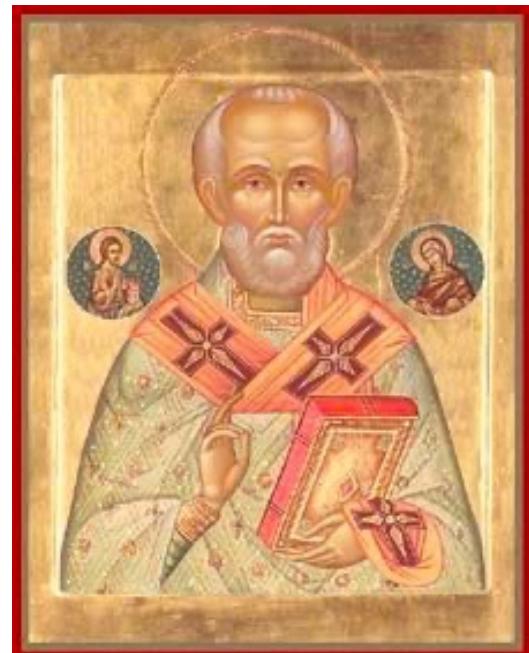
**Welcome to Dormition Parish. We are glad to have you with us.**

**Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker,  
Archbishop of Myra in Lycia**

(from [oca.org](http://oca.org))

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from...



**This Wednesday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> we celebrate:**

**The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Mother of God**

(called by Roman Catholics the Immaculate Conception)

In the fullness of time God sent His Son, born of a virgin in a miraculous way. But long before the birth of Jesus, God prepared the way by making the Mother of God's birth miraculous as well. Anne, Mary's mother, was barren and advanced in years.

The Feast of the Conception of Anne is the day in the Church calendar when we remember how...

**First Solemn Communion for Gabby next Sunday.**

See page 11

## St. Nicholas...

... illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. Saint Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.



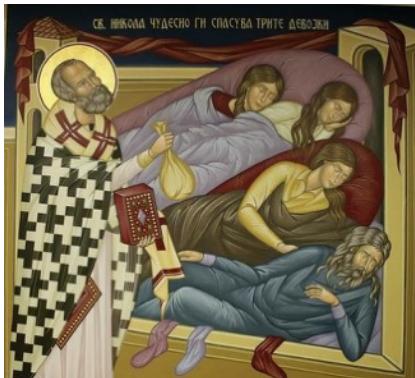
From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.



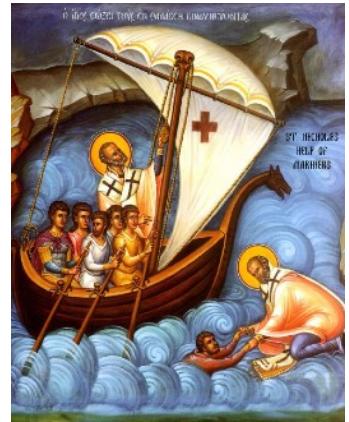
There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom Saint Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With

the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. Saint Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, Saint Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.



The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to Saint Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. Saint Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured, was also restored to health.



When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, Saint Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshiping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, Saint Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.



Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be

named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the

# St. Nicholas...

emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters,



punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine (May 21) as emperor, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of

spirit and purity of heart, Saint Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Saints Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2),

Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

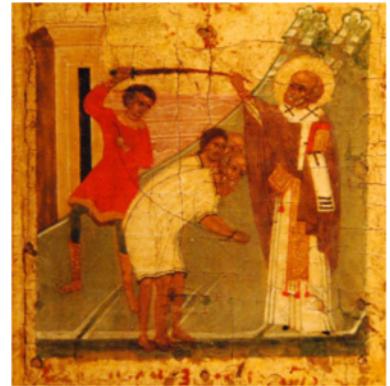
Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing

the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies. The face of Saint Nicholas resembled that of an Angel, resplendent with divine grace. A brilliant ray shone from his face, like that which shone from the face of Moses (Exodus 34:29), so that those who looked at him were astonished. Whoever was oppressed by some affliction or passion of the soul had only to behold the Saint, and his sorrow was eased at once. As for those who conversed with him, they soon found themselves advancing on the path of virtue. Not only were the faithful moved to compassion, but unbelievers as well, and they directed their steps on the path of salvation when

they heard him speak. The evil of unbelief which had been implanted in their hearts since childhood was uprooted, and in its place, the word of truth was sown.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by Saint Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.



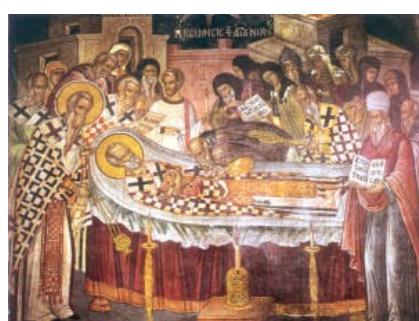
Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of Saint Nicholas. Evil

men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to Saint Constantine in a dream, Saint Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers.



He worked many other miracles, and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now (See May 9).



The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch and wonderworker Nicholas, a speedy helper and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed in every corner of the earth, in many lands and...

## St. Nicholas...

... among many peoples. In Russia there are a multitude of cathedrals, monasteries and churches consecrated in his name. There is, perhaps, not a single city without a church dedicated to him.

Saint Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortunes. He has promised to help those who remember his parents, Theophanes and Nonna.

Saint Nicholas is also commemorated on May 9 (The transfer of his relics) and on July 29 (his nativity).



# The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Mother of God...

continued from first page

...God intervened in the course of human relationships to create the perfect vessel to contain the Word of God — the New Ark of the Covenant, if you will.

God had sanctified Mary at the moment of her conception in His foreknowledge that the Blessed Virgin would consent to bear Christ. In other words, she too had been redeemed—her redemption had simply been accomplished at the moment of her conception, rather than (as with all other Christians) in baptism.

According to Tradition, the names of Mary's parents were Joachim and Anne. They were a devout, childless couple. Both these facts did not escape the attention of those around them, since infertility at that time was regarded as divine judgment. Most especially, they did not escape the attention of the Almighty.

When St. Anne conceived an infant, Joachim and Anne's joy was so great that they immediately dedicated the child to the service of God in the Temple. The child they had prayed and longed for all those years, with great spiritual courage they returned to God.

St. Anne had a remarkable job to do. It was her task to raise the woman who would become the Theotokos, the God-bearer. And hers was the task of relinquishing, little by little, all mothers hold most dear. At the age of three, Mary was brought to live in the Temple. A few years later, she returned home to prepare for her adult life ... and was soon found to be pregnant. No doubt this caused many a sleepless night for Mary's parents, just as it did for Mary's betrothed. And yet, ultimately they held on to the fact that they had offered Mary to God when she was

young; whatever happened, she belonged to Him just as she belonged to them.

Mary is of the created earth, but she is the perfect vessel of creation. We link her to the temple, God's dwelling place, since she carried God in her womb. The Church sees creation gone wrong in Adam and Eve while Jesus becomes the new Adam and Mary the new Eve to show us the way to God's salvation.

The Virgin Mary was always filled with every blessing and gift of the Holy Spirit in whose grace she certainly grew throughout her life. Though born without original sin, according to the view of the Eastern Fathers, she was not made exempt from the temporal penalties of Adam — from sorrow, bodily infirmities, and death.

And so, on this day when we remember Mary's beginnings, we offer a prayer for our own children as well. No matter how our children came to us — through birth or adoption, or through simple association — they are not ours to possess. We are to take care of them and guide them as best we can for as long as they are with us. Ultimately they belong to God.

St. Anne, patroness of small miracles, pray for us.

Adapted with appreciation from:

The Winter Pascha: <http://puluka.com/documents/WinterPascha2.pdf>

<https://extraordinarymomsnetwork.wordpress.com/2010/12/08/st-anne-s-miracle-on-the-feast-of-the-immaculate-conception/> (c) 2010 Heidi Hess Saxton,<https://extraordinarymomsnetwork.wordpress.com/>



## Today is the Fourth Sunday of the Nativity Fast (aka St. Phillip's Fast, Advent).

**Let us prepare ourselves to greet Christ in His Nativity, and also be prepared for His return as He foretold.**

**If you are looking to receive the sacrament of Confession, please contact Fr. Bo (or contact any Catholic priest). Fr. Bo is also available in the Church after the 10 am Sunday Service, and also before the 2pm Melkite Sunday Service.**

## The Nativity Fast

### Week 4: St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

1. Read the material on this Week's Feast slowly and meditatively to yourself. Recall that St. Nicholas was a miracle-working saint who had a special love for children and the poor.

#### St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

St. Nicholas' parents could not have children for many years, but when they prayed to God, God gave them a child, St. Nicholas. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth, was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while in the baptismal font, stood on his feet to pray, praising the All Holy Trinity. St. Nicholas was chosen Arch-Eparch thus: a bishop had a vision of Jesus telling him that the next Arch-Eparch of Myra would be the first person to arrive in church. The bishop went to church at night to see who it would be. The first person in church was the child Nicholas (he was always the first to arrive). "What is your name, child?" the bishop asked. The boy-saint replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant." When he grew up, St. Nicholas participated in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith, which we pray in every Liturgy.

One time, a poor man, with three daughters had no food. In desperation the man planned to sell his daughters so they would have money for food. When the saint learned of the man's poverty and his wicked intention, he secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money, the man arranged an honourable marriage for his daughter. St. Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, St. Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

Another time, a family went on a pilgrimage to Vyshorod, Ukraine — a special place because its Church contained relics of Ss. Borys and Hlib (2 brothers who, witnessing to Christ, were killed by an evil prince). Returning home, their only child, not being careful, fell into the Dnipro-Slavutych River and was lost. The distraught parents asked St. Nicholas to pray to God for the life of their only child. St. Nicholas, hearing the grief-filled prayers of the parents, took the infant from the waters, revived him and placed him in the choir-loft of the church of Holy Wisdom before his wonder-working icon. In the morning, the infant was found safe — though all wet — by his thrilled parents, who praised St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. The icon depicting this event is called St. Nicholas the Soaked.

2. Reflect on this Week's reading and on what it is like to be poor in our society/world and read what Jesus says about the poor (Luke 6:20-26; Luke 12:22-34; Matthew 25:31-46). Ask yourself the following questions:

- What are some new ways we can help the poor as families and as a parish?
- What can you do to help the poor?

3. Pray/sing the Tropar and Kondak of the Week with your family.

#### Tropar - Tone 4

*The truth of your deeds made you for your flock a rule of faith. You are an image of meekness, a teacher of continence. And so you gained the heights through humility, riches through poverty, father and bishop Nicholas. Intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.*

#### Kondak - Tone 3

*In Myra, O holy one, you proved yourself a priest. You fulfilled the Gospel of Christ, O venerable father. You laid down your soul for your people and saved the innocent from death. And so you were sanctified as a great initiator of God's grace. (For music see: Anthology for Worship, p.735)*

4. Read the material on this Week's Feast aloud, slowly and meditatively with your family.

5. Share with your family member(s) your thoughts about the life and lot of the poor.

6. Discuss with family member(s) their experience of meeting/seeing the poor. Consider the following questions:

- What might it be like to be poor?
- Does Jesus love the poor with a special love?
- How does Jesus want us to help the poor?
- What are ways in which we can love the poor?

7. Conclude with the antiphon of St. Philip's Fast.

#### Antiphon of St. Philip's Fast:

*O Bethlehem, be prepared; Eden is opened to all; O Ephratha, be made ready; for in the cave the tree of life has blossomed forth from the Virgin; for her womb has been shown to be a spiritual paradise, in which is the divine plant, from which having eaten, we will live and not die as Adam did. Christ is born to raise the image that had fallen.*



# KIDS & STUDENTS:



**SEND IN  
SOME OF  
YOUR ART  
AND  
MAYBE  
YOU WILL  
WIN**

**\$50!**



Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada -  
Eparchy of Edmonton

## Christmas/Rizdvo Artwork Contest 2020-2021

**To capture the TRUE meaning of Christmas**

### Submission Guidelines:

- Any students Gr.1-12 in the Eparchy of Edmonton throughout Alberta
- One ORIGINAL entry per student
- Artwork must not exceed an 8.5" x 11" page
- Winning artwork will be made into **2021 Christmas cards!** (Winning artwork may also be published in UCWLC publications.)
- A \$50.00 monetary prize will be given to the top winner in each of these categories: Grades 1 - 3, Grades 4 - 6, Grades 7 - 9, Grades 10 - 12 and children with exceptionalities.
- Entries must illustrate some aspect of the birth of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels **OR** illustrate Ukrainian Christmas traditions. (So please, no Santas, reindeer, elves or presents.)



**Submissions Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2021**

**All children, regardless of their limitations are encouraged to participate.**

### **RULES**

- A completed entry form is required for every entry.
- Scan/submit JPEG, 300dpi, or PDF of the original artwork.
- The entry should also include a short description of the artwork. Artwork description should include: a) why the artist chose to create this particular illustration and b) what materials they used to create it.
- Entries become the property of the UCWLC Edmonton Eparchy and will NOT be returned to the artist.
- UCWLC reserves the right to reproduce the work of art for the use of marketing materials and products without the consent of the student and without paying royalty.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

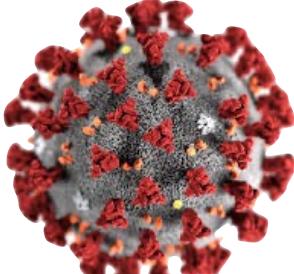
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send entries in one of two ways:**

1- email [christmasrizdvoartcontest@gmail.com](mailto:christmasrizdvoartcontest@gmail.com)

2- Mail to **Christmas/Rizdvo Artwork Contest** 13908 - 86 St., Edmonton, AB T5E 3C1



# At Dormition everyone is welcome....

## ...unless you are feeling sick.

We will continue to be vigilant and to do our best to follow all the covid directives as strictly as possible for everyone's sake. Thanks for your cooperation.

### A Message From Bishop David about Covid:

Dear Pastors, CIX!

The Government of Alberta updated its COVID-19 restrictions as of November 24, which are in place for at least the next three weeks.

Faith communities are often significant aspects of people's lives, and include intimate and close contact between members. This measure will help limit exposure at these activities, reducing outbreaks and protecting vulnerable members who attend.

Regarding places of worship, the new measures include:

In areas of enhanced status, for example Calgary and Edmonton ([Enhanced status \(purple\) areas](#)), a maximum of 1/3 normal attendance and held at normal location, including rental spaces like a community hall. For all areas throughout the entire Province of Alberta:

- Two-metre physical distancing between households must be maintained
- Mask use is mandatory in the areas of and around Edmonton and Calgary, unless you have a medical exemption. Those choosing not to wear a mask will not be permitted to enter the church for the safety of other parishioners.
- Hand-sanitizing at entrance/exit to church is required.
- The faithful are required to sign-in upon entry for tracking purposes should someone present as COVID-19 positive.
- Ushers are to remind the faithful of the above requirements.
- Recited liturgies are encouraged. Where singing is practiced, no congregational singing. Rather, a single cantor may lead the responses, while the faithful remain prayerfully silent.
- Online liturgical services are encouraged
- In-person faith group meetings can continue but physical distancing and public health measures must be followed
- Receptions are not permitted
- Maximum of 10 people for weddings, funerals and baptisms
  - This includes the officiant, bride/groom and witnesses
  - This does not include staff or organizers who are not considered an invited guest
  - This applies to any facility, including places of worship and funeral homes.
  - This includes services held indoors or outdoors, seated or non-seated.

Kindly include these reminders in your parish-bulletins and websites. It will also be helpful to announce the pertinent measures at the beginning of each liturgical service, especially with the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord approaching, with some of our faithful in attendance who may not be familiar with the practices during the pandemic.

My prayers are with you and your faithful as we journey through Saint Philip's Fast, preparing ourselves for the birth of our Lord.

God bless, Bishop David



*Our Annual Bishop's Gala fundraiser is coming to you this year from the comfort of your own home and in support of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton!*

#### What you need to know...

<b>Date</b>	Thursday, December 17, 2020 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
<b>Supporting</b>	The Eparchy of Edmonton 2021 Evangelization Plan
<b>Donate</b>	at <a href="http://www.eeparchy.com/gala">www.eeparchy.com/gala</a> or by mail to Eparchy of Edmonton, 9645-108 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5H 1A3 or call 780 424 5496
<b>A Special Gift</b>	For everyone who generously donates \$250 or more
<b>Auction</b>	Bid on unique items at <a href="http://www.eeparchy.com/gala">www.eeparchy.com/gala</a> December 9 to 15
<b>What to Expect</b>	Bishop David's Message, a look back at 2020, the first look into 2021 Evangelization Plan, faith testimonials, winners of our online auction, and more!
<b>Entrance</b>	All donors will receive a link emailed for this private event, and a warm meal will be donated to a local shelter on behalf of each attendee

## The Impact OF YOUR SUPPORT

#### How your donations helped us in 2020

- ✓ Journeying with our faithful during the COVID-19 pandemic
- ✓ Providing Live Streamed Divine Liturgy, Bible Study, and Catechesis, as well as other online events including St. Basil's Summer Camp, Viter-Na Dii (Young Adults International Conference), Men's Conference, Jesus Prayer 40, and more...
- ✓ Continued support of parish youth ministry through the Youth Evangelization Fund

#### A sneak peek at 2021 ~ Your donation dollars at work

Tune in to the Armchair Gala December 17 to hear about Bishop David's Christmas wish list and get a sneak peek at our 2021 Evangelization Plan, and how we will evangelize as Church, reach out to youth and the elderly, and support our parishes.

#### Faith Messages

"It's important for me to make faith my own without customizing Christianity. My faith allows for intuition, reason and questioning, while still adhering to God's Word." ~Oksana



# Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton

## Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

Dear Friends,

The year 2020 has been one of unexpected challenges and hidden blessings, with a refocus on our families and neighbours. *Thank-you* for continuing to support your local parish and community. We also express our heartfelt gratitude for the generosity you have shown each year at our Annual Bishop's Gala. Although we are saddened that we can't see you in person this year, we are excited to invite you to:

- **Donate** in support of our Eparchial Ministries
- **Bid** on auction items December 9-15 at [www.eeparchy.com/gala](http://www.eeparchy.com/gala)
- **Join us** at the *Armchair Gala* on December 17 at 7:00 pm at [www.eeparchy.com/gala](http://www.eeparchy.com/gala)
- **Help us** lead change by connecting more people to Christ

This year at the Gala, you will get a sneak peek at our 2021 Evangelization Plan and our new eparchial initiatives which will directly impact how we evangelize as Church, reach out to youth and the elderly, support our parishes, effect change in our communities, and more.

To do this, we need your help. In the spirit of St. Nicholas and with Christmas on our doorstep, we invite you to give generously in support of these eparchial ministries.

To make a donation, visit [www.eeparchy.com/gala](http://www.eeparchy.com/gala), mail your donation to Eparchy of Edmonton, 9645 – 108 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5H 1A3 or call 780 424 5496.

May God bless you and your family as we prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

+ David

Bishop David Motiuk  
Eparchial Bishop

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9645 – 108 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5H 1A3

Phone (780) 424-5496; Fax (780) 425-2330

[chancery@edmontoneparchy.com](mailto:chancery@edmontoneparchy.com); [www.edmontoneparchy.com](http://www.edmontoneparchy.com)

**The handmaiden of God, Gabby Lange, will be taking her  
First Confession and her  
First Solemn Communion  
next Sunday with us here in the parish.**



First Solemn Communion is an important step in our spiritual lives. It is the first major opportunity for a child to learn about their faith, and **fully participate in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist on their own**.

In one sense this is a spiritual graduation from being a child who passively receives the faith from their parents, to a young person who actively participates in their own spiritual development.

Usually children are presented as infants to the Church to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation (aka Confirmation) and Eucharist . These children are then brought forward at each Divine Liturgy by their parents, God-parents, or grand-parents to continue receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. When they become old enough to understand the basic truths of the faith, and to recognize the meaning of their own actions, they are prepared to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and then approach the Holy Eucharist, no longer being brought forth, but on their own.<sup>1</sup>

This is what “First Solemn Communion” is all about. It is a program designed to recognize a child’s growth in maturity, to teach him or her what Life with Christ is about, and to encourage the child to take more responsibility for his or her own spiritual well-being.

**We congratulate you Gabby, and the whole Lange family** (Mom: Marijana, Dad: Kevin) **for taking this important step in your life. May God always bless you profoundly, and may you always feel His presence with you. Mnohaya Lita!**

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<sup>1</sup> It is the Tradition of the Ukrainian Catholic Church to receive all three Sacraments of Initiation at the same time. This Tradition is not only the historical one but also is the method recommended by the Canadian Bishops, as well as the entire Synod of Bishops. In the past, due to influences from the Roman Catholic Rite, some priests and parishes only Baptized infants and withheld Chrismation and/or Eucharist for a later date. This Latinized tradition, although remembered by many and still valid, is discouraged in the Ukrainian Catholic Church (illicit). If you have more questions about this, please speak to Fr. Bo.



# CHRISTMAS 2020

This Christmas Eve will look a different than many other Christmases due to Covid.

**At Dormition parish we take very seriously our many precautions** so as to ensure that we can gather as safely as possible in prayer.

For those who wish to come we will be celebrating three services on Christmas Eve with a limit of 34 people (including the priest), all while being socially distanced and all wearing masks.

All these services will be spoken (no singing) as is mandated by the Bishop and the AHS.

Our Christmas Eve services (Thursday, Dec. 24) will take place at:

- **6 pm in English;**
- **8 pm in English; and**
- **10 pm in both Ukrainian & English**

**There will also be 2 Arabic services on Christmas Day (Dec 25) for the Melkite Parish at 12 noon and 2 pm.**  
(to reserve a spot at one of these you must talk to Rita Estaphan)

Everyone should register for these services as soon as possible so that we keep a spot open for you.

If you show up but do not register, we might not be able to let you in. (Please don't make us send you away, it would make us (and you) sad.)

If many people register well in advance so that we fill the three services, then we are willing to add a 4th. However if you do not register soon (I'm thinking before Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup>) and then there are no spots left...

Therefore register online ASAP at our parish website:

**dormition.eeparchy.com**

Or if you are not comfortable with the online process simply call Fr. Bo at 780-340-3726.

Please note:

- Only one household per pew.
- If your extended family is coming, they must reserve a pew of their own (or you can do it for them).
- If you or someone registers then will not be able to come PLEASE CALL FR. BO to cancel your reservation.
- There will also be no visiting with each other before or after services.
- There will be no sharing of food, before or after the services.
- We will follow all directives of the AHS and the Eparchy of Edmonton, if any new rules or regulations develop.

Yes, covid is frustrating.

Thank you all for your cooperation.



**I just found out that I'm colour blind.  
The news came completely out of the green!**

Our annual parish seminary assessment has been received from the Eparchy. Our required Assessment for the seminary is \$875.00. This is approximately \$20.00 per family. All parishioners are kindly requested to make their seminary donation as soon as possible.

We would certainly appreciate any donations or support you can give to the parish. We do still have to pay the bills during these difficult times. We have made it much simpler to donate to our parish online, on our parish website. Now you can choose to do a one time donation, or a monthly donation automatically to our parish. (Special thanks to Ben who helped make this happen.)

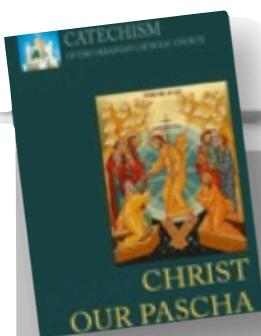
Our parish's website is: [dormition.eeparchy.com](http://dormition.eeparchy.com)

If you do not want to do things online, you can mail it to 15608 -104 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5P 4G5. (Please, do not send cash through the mail.)

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- We are praying for Virginia's brother-in-law Arni who has died this past Thursday evening. May God grant rest to His ever to be remembered servant +Arni, and grant him Eternal Memory. Vichnaya Pamyat
- Please pray for several of our parishioners and family members including (but not limited to): Cory & Family, Ross, Ron, Peter, Anne, Katie, Jean, Fr. Josaphat, Edward, Verna, Miranda, Sarah, Marge, Ann, Louis & Rosa Maria.
- Happy birthday to Andrij Genek & Thomas Ostopowich who both celebrate their birthdays this week. May God grant you many years.
- Please send Fr. Bo a selfie, so that he can put together a Parish Photo Directory. Include your name, and... don't wear a mask. The photo does not need to look all fancy. We love you as you are.

- Register for one of the Christmas Eve services on our website. Your choices are: 6 pm in English, 8 pm in English, or 10 pm Bilingual (Ukrainian & English). Those who do not register might not be allowed in if we have reached the covid safety limit.
- Special thank you to those who volunteered their time, and effort to make our Liturgical Space extra festive for this season of the Nativity Fast. The church looks lovely.
- Also special thanks to those who helped make St. Nicholas' visit today possible. The presents and presence are very appreciated.



#### Excerpt from *Christ Our Pascha*

##### ***Anger and its Opposite Virtue - Long-Suffering***

Anger as a passion is not merely a feeling of malice, it is the state of a person who aggressively defends his or her existence without hope in God and to the detriment of one's neighbor. The Holy Fathers differentiate between three types of anger: 1) *anger that burns within* - this is a state of the soul in which a person loses internal tranquility and is overcome by feelings of malice, offense and irritation; 2) *anger manifested in word and deed*, in speech that is coarse and devoid of gentleness and love. The most common manifestations of this anger are flashes of rage, the intentional humiliation of one's neighbor, getting offense to another and calumny. St. John Chrysostom teaches: "when you inflict insults, then you are defeated, not by another person, but by what is far more disgraceful, but by the slavish passion of anger. However, if you remain silent, then you will conquer;" and 3) *anger that seethes for a long time or resentment* - this sort of anger is particularly ruinous for a person, since he or she consciously refuses to forgive an insult or wrong, and burns with a yearning for revenge. (#768)

The virtue of long-suffering, which we also call patience or quite gentleness, is characterized by confidence in the protection of God this allows one to resist human anger. ... Saint John Chrysostom teaches: "For if we show patience, we shall be invincible... nobody will have power to hurt us." (#770)

## Dormition Parish December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>6</b> <b>Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 2; Our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ephesians 6:10-17;</li> <li>• Luke 13:10-17</li> </ul> <b>9 am D.L. Bilingual Ukrainian / English with St. Nicholas visiting</b> <b>11 am D.L. English with St. Nicholas visiting</b> <b>2 pm D.L. Bilingual Arabic / English with St. Nicholas visiting</b>	<b>7</b> Our Holy Father Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (397); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Timothy 2:20-26;</li> <li>• Luke 19:37-44</li> </ul> <b>Fr. Bo is teaching an Icon workshop at St. Joseph's Seminary this week</b>	<b>8</b> Our Venerable Father Patapius; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4;</li> <li>• Luke 19:45-48</li> </ul> <b>Fr. Bo is teaching an Icon workshop at St. Joseph's Seminary this week</b>	<b>9</b> <b>The Conception of Saint Anna when she conceived the Most Holy Mother of God;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galatians 4:22-31;</li> <li>• Luke 8:16-21</li> </ul> <b>Fr. Bo is teaching an Icon workshop at St. Joseph's Seminary this week</b>	<b>10</b> The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and Euphragus; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Titus 1:5-2:1;</li> <li>• Luke 20:9-18</li> </ul> <b>Fr. Bo is teaching an Icon workshop at St. Joseph's Seminary this week</b>	<b>11</b> Our Venerable Father Daniel the Styliste (493); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Titus 1:15-2:10;</li> <li>• Luke 20:19-26</li> </ul> <b>Fr. Bo is teaching an Icon workshop at St. Joseph's Seminary this week</b>	<b>12</b> Our Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus (337-61); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ephesians 1:16-23;</li> <li>• Luke 12:32-40</li> </ul> <b>Publishing of Bulletin &amp; Liturgy and updating of the Parish website.</b>
<b>13</b> Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, Tone 3; The Holy Martyrs Eustratios, Auxentius, Eugenius, Mardarius and Orestes (284-305); the Holy Martyr Lucia, the Virgin (284-305); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colossians 3:4-11;</li> <li>• Ephesians 6:10-17;</li> <li>• Luke 14:16-24;</li> <li>• Luke 21:12-19</li> </ul> <b>10 am D.L. Bilingual Ukrainian / English with the First Solemn Communion of Gabby Lange</b> <b>2 pm D.L. Bilingual Arabic / English</b>	<b>14</b> The Holy Martyrs Thyrus, Leucus (249-51), Philemon, Apollonius and Callinicus (284-305); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19;</li> <li>• Luke 20:27-44</li> </ul>	<b>15</b> The Holy Priest-Martyr Eleutherius; Our Venerable Father Paul of Latra (956); Our Holy Father Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Surozh (8th century); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hebrews 4:1-13;</li> <li>• Luke 21:12-19</li> </ul> Brittney Kwas' & Sharon Lonsberry's Birthdays	<b>16</b> The Holy Prophet Haggai (6th c. BC); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hebrews 5:11-6:8;</li> <li>• Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24;</li> </ul> <b>9 am Youth Ministry "YETI" Training Setup</b> <b>Parish Pastoral Council Meeting at 7 pm</b> Sophie Vizza's Birthday	<b>17</b> The Holy Prophet Daniel, the Three Holy Youths Ananias (Ananias), Azariah (Azarias) and Mishael (Misael) (6th century BC); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hebrews 7:1-6;</li> <li>• Luke 21:28-33</li> </ul> <b>Youth Commission Meeting at 6 pm</b>	<b>18</b> The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hebrews 7:18-25;</li> <li>• Luke 21:37-22:8</li> </ul> <b>Online Young Adult's</b>	<b>19</b> Saturday before the Nativity of Christ; The Holy Martyr Boniface (230); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galatians 3:8-12;</li> <li>• Luke 13:18-29</li> </ul> Sonja Dashkewytch's, Steven Shakeshaft's and John Vizza's Birthdays
<b>20</b> <b>10 am D.L. Bilingual Ukrainian / English</b> <b>2 pm D.L. Bilingual Arabic / English</b>	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b> <b>Nativity Eve 6, 8 &amp; 10 pm Services for Christmas Eve for Dormition</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Nativity Day 12 noon &amp; 2 pm Services for Melkites</b> Jesus Son of God's Birthday	<b>26</b>

## Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 2; Our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

### Nativity Fast reflection before Liturgy:

**All Together:** Make ready, O cave, for the Mother-Lamb comes bearing Christ in her womb. Receive Him, O manger, Who released the dwellers on the earth from all lawlessness.

**Priest:** Today on this fourth Sunday of our journey towards the birth of Christ, we commemorate St. Nicholas, the Wonderworker, a saint, especially connected with the birth of Christ. We celebrate his feast on December 6. St. Nicholas' life is an example to us all of preparing our hearts by loving acts for one another. In our liturgical prayers we ask the earth to open wide its arms to receive the Saviour. We ask the cave to offer its manger to the Lord, as we offer the gifts of love to each other by our acts of love, caring and compassion.

**All Together:** Blessed Nicholas, who makes the world shine with wonders, pray for us that like you we may bring the bread of life to the needy, justice to the persecuted, comfort to the suffering and joy to the lonely.

**Priest/Leader:** Let us now light a candle as a symbol of our love and caring for one another.

**All Together:** The fruit of your good works, O holy Father, has brought joy to the hearts of the faithful. Who, indeed has not heard of your wonderful works, and not admired your patience and humility, the joy with which you fill the poor, and the compassion that you show to the afflicted? You have truly been an admirable example for us all. And now that your unfading crown has been placed on you, O holy Nicholas, pray for the souls of us servants. Amen.

**Troparion:** When You went down to death, O Life Immortal,\* You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity.\* When You raised the dead from the nether world,\* all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory be to You!"

**Troparion:** The truth of your deeds made you for your flock a rule of faith\* and an image of meekness,\* a teacher of continence.\* And so you gained the heights through humility,\* riches through poverty,\* father and bishop Nicholas.\* Intercede with Christ our God\* for the salvation of our souls.

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

**Kontakion:** You rose from the tomb, O almighty Saviour;\* and Hades, seeing this wonder, was stricken with fear; and the dead arose.\* Creation saw and rejoices with You, and Adam exults.\* And the world, my Saviour, sings Your praises for ever.

Now and forever and ever. Amen.

**Kontakion:** In Myra, O holy one, you proved yourself a priest.\* You fulfilled the Gospel of Christ, O venerable father.\* You laid down your soul for your people\* and saved the innocent from death.\* And so you were sanctified as a great initiate of God's grace.

### Prokeimenon:

The Lord is my strength and my song of praise, and He has become my salvation.

**verse:** The just man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

### Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17 (NRSV)

*Brothers and Sisters,* be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

### Alleluia verses:

The Lord will hear you in the day of tribulation; the name of the God of Jacob will shield you.

Your priests shall clothe themselves with justice, and Your venerable ones shall rejoice.

### Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 (NRSV)

*At that time,* Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

### Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest.  
(*Psalm 148:1*)\*

The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance;\* of evil hearsay he shall have no fear.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.