

# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DORMITION

OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Парафія Успіння Пресв. Богородиці

A PARISH OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPRIC 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>

## 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 13, 2020

**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)**

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

## Sunday of the Forefathers ([oca.org](http://oca.org))

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

The **First Solemn Communion** of Gabby will be postponed till the new year due to covid.



## 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 **20** people (14 in pews, 5 in the loft, and 1 priest), all while being socially distanced and all wearing masks. This complies with the 15% AHS mandate.

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**

**Everyone who would like to come should register for these services as soon as possible. First registered, first served.**

## Saints of the Day, from [oca.org](http://oca.org)

### Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes, at Sebaste

The Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes (the Five Companions) suffered for Christ under the emperor Diocletian (284-305) at Sebaste, in Armenia.

Among the first Christians imprisoned and undergoing torture at that time was Saint Auxentius, a presbyter of the Arabian Church. One of those who witnessed the steadfastness of the Christians was the noble military commander Saint Eustratius, the city prefect of Satalios, and archivist of the province. He was secretly a Christian, and when he openly confessed his faith, he was subjected to torture. They beat him, and put iron sandals studded with sharp nails on his feet, then forced him to march to the city of Arabrak.

Witnessing the arrival of Saint Eustratius in Arabrak, one of the common people, Saint Mardarius, confessed that he was also a Christian like Saint Eustratius. He was arrested and cast into prison. Holes were drilled in his ankles, and ropes were passed them. He was suspended upside down, then heated nails were hammered into his body. He died a short time later. To him is attributed the prayer "O Master Lord God, Father Almighty ..." (which is read at the end of the Third Hour).

As for Saint Eugene, they ripped out his tongue, they cut off his hands and feet, and then they beheaded him with a sword. Saint Auxentius was also arrested and beheaded. The young soldier Saint Orestes confessed himself a Christian and stood trial for this "crime." He was sentenced to be stretched out upon a red-hot iron bed, and became frightened when he approached it. Encouraged by Saint Eustratius, he made the Sign of the Cross and got onto the heated bed, where he surrendered his soul to God.

Saint Eustratius was sentenced to be burned alive on December 13. As he was being led to his death, he prayed aloud ("I magnify Thee exceedingly, O Lord, for Thou hast regarded my lowliness..."). This prayer is still read at the Saturday Midnight Office.



## Today is the Fifth 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.**



**Why don't ants get sick?  
Because they have little anty-bodies.**

# We Love Saint Nicholas!

## He was Here! He was Here!

A humungous thank you to our Holy Father Nicholas who came to visit us last weekend in a perfectly covid safe way.

Also thank you to those who helped prepare gifts for our lovely children.



**This entire past week Fr. Bo was teaching and leading the annual Iconography Workshop & Retreat with the Propodudic Students at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Seminary.**



Each student was able to paint and pray with the icon of "It is Truly Meet". (see above)

Everything went quite smoothly considering we had to teach and work on opposite sides of the room.

# The Nativity Fast

## Week 5: Ancestors of the Messiah

**I. Read the material on this Week's Feast slowly and meditatively to yourself. Recall that Jesus' Holy Ancestors include all of his biological and spiritual ancestors from the Old Testament. They cooperated in, prepared for, and helped enable his Nativity because they answered the Call of God. Be mindful of the fact that God calls us too to go and witness to His Love.**

### The Story of Moses (Exodus 1:8 )

A new king, who did not know what Joseph had done for Egypt, told the Egyptians: "There are too many of those Israelites in our country, and they are becoming more powerful than we are. If we don't outsmart them, their families will keep growing larger. And if our country goes to war, they could easily fight on the side of our enemies and escape from Egypt." The Egyptians put slave bosses in charge of the people of Israel and tried to wear them down with hard work. Those bosses forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Ramses, where the king could store his supplies. But

even though the Israelites were mistreated, their families grew larger, and they took over more land. Because of this, the Egyptians hated them more than before and made them work even harder, so that their lives were miserable. The Egyptians were cruel to the people of Israel and forced them to make bricks and to mix mortar and to work in the fields. Finally, the king called in Shiphrah and Puah, two women who helped the Hebrew mothers when they gave birth. He told them: "If a Hebrew woman gives birth to a girl, let the child live. If the baby is a boy, kill him!" But the two women were faithful to God and did not kill the boys. The king called them in again and asked, " Why are you letting those baby boys live?" They answered: "Hebrew women have their babies much quicker than Egyptian women. By the time we arrive, their babies are already born." God was good to the two women because they truly respected him, and He blessed them with

children of their own. The Hebrews kept multiplying until finally, the king gave a command to everyone in the nation, " As soon as a Hebrew boy is born, throw him into the Nile River! But you can let the girls live." A man from the Levi tribe married a woman from the same tribe, and she later had a baby boy. He was a beautiful child, and she kept him inside for three months...

**(Read the rest of the story by your family Bible and/or watch the movie *The Prince of Egypt* together or other movies about Old Testament characters--there are many to choose from! If you have older children/teens try *One Night With the King*, the story of Esther. All of these stories Gods loving providence in the lives of his people. )**

**2. Reflect on the following readings: on the Birth of Moses (Exodus 1: 8-22 and 2:1-10) and the Call of Moses (Exodus 3:1- 10). Then, think about the following points:**

- God chooses each of us even before we are born.
- God gives each of us a mission to love other people. Finally, consider ways in which God might be calling you.

**3. Pray/Sing the Tropar and Kondak of the Week (see below) with your family.**

### Tropar - Tone 2

By faith you justified your ancestors, and through them you betrothed the Church taken from the nations. These saints exult in glory, from their seed comes the blessed fruit, the one who bore you without seed. By their prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy on us!

### Kondak - Tone 6

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. (Anthology for Worship, p.741,742)

**4. Read the material on the Feast aloud slowly and meditatively with your family**

**5. Share with your family your thoughts about God's Call and Mission.**

**6. Ask your children or family member(s) to consider the following questions:**

- What would they like to do for God? (Ask them to name 3-5 things that they might do to be more loving.)
- How would they like to serve God in the future?
- How can they serve God now?
- When is your Name Day and what was your Saint like?

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

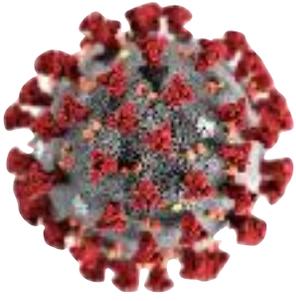
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**The Latest from AHS... And a few additions as the Eparchy also has its own rules, which make our parishes even safer.**

### In Dormition Parish:

We are following all the rules strictly to ensure we can have the safest possible church while still remaining open with public services.

Some of our current restrictions that we are imposing are:

- All people attending services must wear masks,
- All people must maintain a social distance from other households of at least 2 meters (if not, more)
- **NEW: Only 15 people are allowed in the Church Nave, and 5 additional people can be in the Church Choir Loft. This follows the 15% occupancy rate that we are permitted by the AHS.**
- Everyone is to sanitize their hands when entering and exiting the church
- No singing is permitted. All liturgies will be recited till further notice.
- Eucharist is distributed using one time use spoons which are respectfully incinerated after use. This allows for the safest possible distribution of Communion and fully complies with Eparchial Covid policies.
- All people entering are to answer covid screening questions, and to provide contact information that can be used for contact tracing.
- The building and furniture is regularly sanitized.
- We are also recording weekly and special Divine Liturgies so that people can participate from the safety of their homes. The video's are available here: [Liturgy Videos](#)

### The Latest from AHS:

*Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Effective Dec. 13*

Faith services are limited to 15% of fire code occupancy for in-person attendance:

- Physical distancing between households must be maintained
- Mask use is mandatory

Alternatively:

- Virtual or online services are recommended
- Drive-in services where people do not leave their vehicles and adhere to guidance are allowed  
**HOWEVER Drive-In services are not permitted by the Eparchy.**

Additional safety measures:

- In-person faith group meetings and other religious gatherings are:
  - not permitted in private homes while these measures are in effect
  - permitted when conducted at a place of worship as long as physical distancing and public health measures are followed
- Faith leaders and other speakers can remove their masks while speaking if there is a distance of 2 metres. The mask must be put on again once finished speaking.
- Group performance activities, such as choir singing and playing music, are permitted if they are normal worship practices and not for the purpose of entertainment. Performers must wear masks at all times.  
**HOWEVER we as an Eparchy are not allowing any singing, as it poses a higher risk threshold than simply reciting.**



***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 <i>emailed</i> 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

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.eepararchy.com](http://dormition.eepararchy.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.)



- Congratulations to the Vizza family who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The child's name is Simeon Edward Aloysius Vizza and Mom (Rebeca) and the whole family are happy. The three big sisters have a big job to help Simeon grow up.
- 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 Britney Kwas, Sharon Lonsberry, Sophie Vizza, Sonja Dashkewytch, Steven Shakeshaft and John Vizza who all celebrate their birthdays this week. May God grant you all many happy 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.

**Oh come on.  
It's only a  
mask.**

**It's not like it's  
a Flames  
Jersey.**



## Dormition Parish December 2020 - January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><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);</p> <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> <p><b>10 am D.L. Bilingual Ukrainian / English with the First Solemn Communion of Gabby Lange</b></p> <p><b>2 pm D.L. Bilingual Arabic / English</b></p>	<p><b>14</b>  The Holy Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius (249-51), Philemon, Apollonius and Callinicus (284-305);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19;</li> <li>Luke 20:27-44</li> </ul>	<p><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);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hebrews 4:1-13;</li> <li>Luke 21:12-19</li> </ul> <p>Brittney Kwas' &amp; Sharon Lonsberry's Birthdays</p>	<p><b>16</b>  The Holy Prophet Haggai (6th c. BC);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hebrews 5:11-6:8;</li> <li>Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24;</li> </ul> <p><b>9 am Youth Ministry "YETI" Training Setup</b></p> <p><b>Parish Pastoral Council Meeting at 7 pm</b></p> <p>Sophie Vizza's Birthday</p>	<p><b>17</b>  The Holy Prophet Daniel, the Three Holy Youths Ananiah (Ananias), Azariah (Azarias) and Mishael (Misael) (6th century BC);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hebrews 7:1-6;</li> <li>Luke 21:28-33</li> </ul> <p><b>Youth Commission Meeting at 6 pm</b></p>	<p><b>18</b>  The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hebrews 7:18-25;</li> <li>Luke 21:37-22:8</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Young Adult's</b></p>	<p><b>19</b>  Saturday before the Nativity of Christ; The Holy Martyr Boniface (230);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Galatians 3:8-12;</li> <li>Luke 13:18-29</li> </ul> <p>Sonja Dashkewytch's, Steven Shakeshaft's and John Vizza's Birthdays</p>
<p><b>20</b> Sunday before the Nativity of Christ - Sunday of the Holy Fathers, Tone 4; the Holy Priest-Martyr Ignatius the Godbearer (110);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40;</li> <li>Matthew 1:1-25;</li> </ul> <p><b>10 am D.L. Bilingual Ukrainian / English</b></p> <p><b>2 pm D.L. Bilingual Arabic / English</b></p>	<p><b>21</b>  Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; the Holy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (284-305);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hebrews 8:7-13;</li> <li>Mark 8:11-21;</li> </ul>	<p><b>22</b>  Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; The Holy Great-Martyr Anastasia (305);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hebrews 9:8-10,15-23;</li> <li>Mark 8:22-26;</li> </ul>	<p><b>23</b>  Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; The Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete (249-51);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hebrews 10:1-18;</li> <li>Mark 8:30-34</li> </ul>	<p><b>24</b>  <b>Eve of the Nativity of Christ;</b> The Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hebrews 1:1-12;</li> <li>Luke 2:1-20;</li> </ul> <p><b>6 pm, 8 pm &amp; 10 pm Services for Dormition</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>The Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ</b> Christmas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Galatians 4:4-7;</li> <li>Matthew 2:1-12;</li> </ul> <p><b>12 noon, 2 pm &amp; 4 pm Services for Melkites</b></p> <p>Jesus Son of God's Birthday</p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God;</b> The Holy Priest-Martyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis (824);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Timothy 6:11-16;</li> <li>Hebrews 2:11-18;</li> <li>Matthew 12:15-21;</li> <li>Matthew 2:13-23</li> </ul>
<p><b>27</b> <b>Sunday after the Nativity</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> <b>Circumcision of Christ &amp; St. Basil the Great</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>
<p><b>3</b> <b>Sunday before Theophany</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>Theophany Eve</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>The Great Feast of Theophany</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>

## 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)

### The Nativity Fast Reflection Before Liturgy

#### The Fifth Week of St. Philip's Fast: Sunday of Our Holy Ancestors

**Reader:** The Word of the Father comes forth from the Virgin and without change is born in a cave for my sake. Let all creation dance with joy and magnify His holy condescension and compassion with thanksgiving. (from the Matins of the feast)

**Priest/Leader:** Today, on the fifth Sunday of our travels towards the nativity of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, we commemorate the ancestors of our faith, the great men and women of the Bible who kept the promise of the Messiah alive through the ages. We honour the prophets, who foretold the coming of the Saviour. We especially admire the Prophet Daniel and the faith and courage of the three children who went into the fiery furnace believing that God would send us a promised Saviour.

**All Together:** O holy youths, you shone as heaven's lights enkindled by the life of piety. You called forth the choir of all creation as you sang to the Master who saves all from temptation.

Bless Him, O youths! Exalt Him! Praise Christ, all people, throughout the ages!

Righteous Fathers and Mothers of our faith, who shone forth with faith and went to death believing and trusting in God's promise, pray that we may bring faith to the unbelieving, courage to the disheartened and strength to the weak!

**Priest/Leader:** Let us light a candle for faith and courage to be a part of our hearts and lives.

**All Together:** Those in need will turn to Him. He will hear their cry. He will rule with justice and joy, consoling those who mourn. He will lead us like a shepherd, calling us each by name. He will walk in the favour of God and we shall do the same. Be hope to help unhappy hearts, and love to light the earth. We shall praise His name forever. God is with us!

---

### Propars:

**Troparion, Tone 3:** Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,\* for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm.\* He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead;\* He saved us from the abyss of Hades\* and granted great mercy to the world.

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

**Troparion, Tone 2:** By faith You justified Your ancestors\* and through them in advance You betrothed the Church taken from the nations.\* The saints exult in glory;\* from their seed comes the blessed fruit, the one who bore You without seed.\* By their prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

**Kontakion, Tone 6:** 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, Tone 4

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.

---

### Epistle: Colossians 3:4-II (NRSV)

Bothers and Sisters, when Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

---

### Alleluia, Tone 4

*verse:* Moses and Aaron are among His priests and Samuel among those who call upon His name.

*verse:* They called on the Lord and He heard them. (*Psalms 98:6*)

---

### Gospel: Luke 14:16-24 (NRSV)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

---

### Communion Hymn

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

Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;\* praise befits the righteous.\* (*Psalms 32:1*)

Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.