



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE
DORMITION

OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
ΠΑΡΑΦΙΑ ΥΣΠΙΝΝΙΑ ΠΡΕΣΒ. ΒΟΓΟΡΟΔΗΤΙ

Address:

15608 -104 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB
T5P 4G5

Services:

Sunday Divine Liturgy
(Ukr & Eng) at 10 am

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

Parish Website:

<http://dormition.eeparchy.com>

Eparchial Website:

www.eeparchy.com

Pastor:

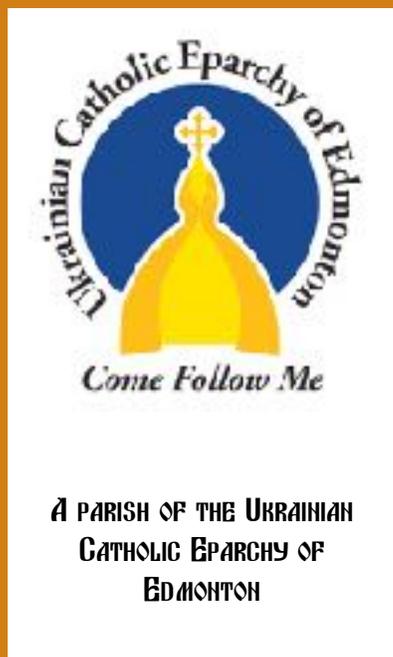
Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

Fr. Bo's cell phone:

780-340-FR.BO (3726)

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A PARISH OF THE UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF
EDMONTON

September 5, 2021

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 6; Holy Prophet Zachariah and Elisabeth, Parents of John the Baptist;

The first Major feast of the New Liturgical Year:

Nativity of the Theotokos

(by Fr Thomas Hopko)



In addition to the celebration of the Annunciation, there are three major feasts in the Church honoring Mary, the Theotokos. The first of these is the feast of her nativity which is kept on the eighth of September.

The record of the birth of Mary is not found in the Bible. The traditional account of the event is taken from the apocryphal writings which are not part of the New Testament scriptures. The traditional

teaching which is celebrated in the hymns and verses of the festal liturgy is that Joachim and Anna were a pious Jewish couple who were among the small and faithful remnant—"the poor and the needy"—who were awaiting the promised messiah. The couple was old and childless. They prayed earnestly to the Lord for a child, since among the Jews barrenness was a sign of God's disfavor. In answer to their prayers, and as the reward of their unwavering fidelity to God, the elderly couple was blessed with the child who was destined, because of her own personal goodness and holiness, to become the Mother of the Messiah-Christ.

Your nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe. The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse he bestowed a blessing. By destroying death he has granted us eternal life (Troparion).

By your nativity, O most pure virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you: The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our Life (Kontakion).

The fact that there is no Biblical verification of the facts of Mary's birth is incidental to the meaning of the feast. Even if the actual background of the event as celebrated in the Church is questionable from an historical point of view, the divine meaning of it "for us men and for our salvation" is obvious. There had to be one born of human...

Nativity of the Theotokos continued

flesh and blood who would be spiritually capable of being the Mother of Christ, and she herself had to be born into the world of persons who were spiritually capable of being her parents.

The feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, therefore, is a glorification of Mary's birth, of Mary herself and of her righteous parents. It is a celebration as well of the very first preparation of the salvation of the world. For the "Vessel of Light," the "Book of the Word of Life," the "Door to the Orient," the "Throne of Wisdom" is being prepared on earth by God Himself in the birth of the holy girl-child Mary.

The verses of the feast are filled with titles for Mary such as those in the quotations above. They are inspired by the message of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. The specific Biblical readings of the feast give indications of this.

At Vespers the three Old Testamental readings are "mariological" in their New Testamental interpretation. Thus, Jacob's Ladder which unites heaven and earth and the place which is named "the house of God" and the "gate of heaven" (Gen 28.10–17) are taken, to indicate the union of God with men which is realized most fully and perfectly—both spiritually and physically—in Mary the Theotokos, Bearer of God. So also the vision of the temple with the "door 'to the East'" perpetually closed and filled with the "glory of the Lord" symbolizes Mary, called in the hymns of the feast "the living

temple of God filled with the divine Glory" (Ezek 43.27–44.4). Mary is also identified with the "house" which the Divine Wisdom has built for himself according to the reading from Proverbs 9.1–11.

The Gospel reading of Matins is the one read at all feasts of the Theotokos, the famous Magnificat from Saint Luke in which Mary says: "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden, for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed" (Lk 1.47).

The epistle reading of the Divine Liturgy is the famous passage about the coming of the Son of God in "the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of man" (Phil 2.5–11) and the gospel reading is that which is always read for feasts of the Theotokos—the woman in the crowd glorifies the Mother of Jesus, and the Lord himself responds that the same blessedness which his mother receives is for all "who hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk 11.27–28).

Thus, on the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, as on all liturgical celebrations of Christ's Mother, we proclaim and celebrate that through God's graciousness to mankind every Christian receives what the Theotokos receives, the "great mercy" which is given to human persons because of Christ's birth from the Virgin.

Melkite Update:

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

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

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

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

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



Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, parents of Saint John the Baptist

oca.org



The Holy Prophet Zachariah and the Righteous Elizabeth were the parents of the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. They were descended from the lineage of Aaron: Saint Zachariah, son of Barach, was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and Saint Elizabeth was

the sister of Saint Anna, the mother of the Most Holy Theotokos. The righteous spouses, “walking in all the commandments of the Lord” (Luke 1:6), suffered barrenness, which in those times was considered a punishment from God.

Once, during his turn of priestly service in the Temple, Saint Zachariah was told by an angel that his aged wife would bear him a son, who “will be great in the sight of the Lord” (Luke 1:15) and “will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias” (Luke 1:17).

Zachariah doubted that this prediction would come true, and for his weakness of faith he was punished by becoming mute. When Elizabeth gave birth to a son, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit she announced that his name was John, although no one in their family had this name.

They asked Zachariah and he also wrote the name John down on a tablet. Immediately the gift of speech returned to him, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, he began to prophesy about his son as the Forerunner of the Lord.

When King Herod heard from the Magi about the birth of the Messiah, he decided to kill all the infants up to two years old at Bethlehem and the surrounding area, hoping that the new-born Messiah would be among them.

Herod knew about John’s unusual birth and he wanted to kill him, fearing that he was the foretold King of the Jews. But Elizabeth hid herself and the infant in the hills. The murderers searched everywhere for John. Elizabeth, when she saw her pursuers, began to implore God for their safety, and immediately the hill opened up and concealed her and the infant from their pursuers.

In these tragic days Saint Zachariah was taking his turn at the services in the Temple. Soldiers sent by Herod tried in vain to learn from him the whereabouts of his son. Then, by command of Herod, they murdered this holy prophet, having stabbed him between the temple and the altar (MT 23: 35). Elizabeth died forty days after her husband, and Saint John, preserved by the Lord, dwelt in the wilderness until the day of his appearance to the nation of Israel.

On the Greek calendar, Saints Zachariah and Elizabeth are also commemorated on June 24, the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist.



- **Please pray for** several of our parishioners and family members including (but not limited to): Greg, Peter, Ross, Ron, Peter, Katie, Jean, Edward, Verna, Miranda, Sarah, Marge, Ann, Louis & Rosa Maria.
- The Ukrainian Dnipro Choir is starting a new season September 13 and is gladly accepting new male and female voices. If interested, please contact Artistic Director Irena Szmihelsky at (780) 906-1793 or Email: iszmihelsky@shaw.ca.
- **Happy birthday** to **Sheila Leiding** who celebrates her birthday this week. May God grant you many happy years. Mnohaya Lita.
- **Bishop David** admitted **John Lukey**, a parishioner of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Edmonton, to the **Diaconate Formation Program**.
- **POSTPONED UNTIL 2022 (dates to be announced when available)**. The **40th Biannual Conference** of the **Ukrainian Catholic Council (Centralia) – Eparchy of Edmonton** will take place November 12-13, 2021 at Saint Josaphat Cathedral/Chateau Louis Conference Centre, Edmonton.

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

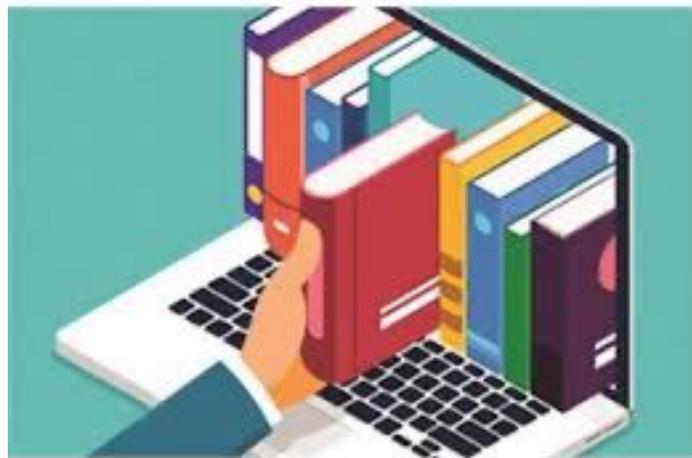
The Ukrainian Catholic Council comprises the Ukrainian Catholic Women’s League of Canada, the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada, the Ukrainian Catholic Youth of Canada, and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy Chapter Knights of Columbus.

Given that the Convention celebrates the contribution of our lay organizations in the life of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Alberta, for only the second time, representatives of our Parish Pastoral Councils throughout the Eparchy of Edmonton are invited to participate

- **The Annual Clergy Study Days** (followed by a Clergy Conference) will take place online (via Zoom), 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Monday-Thursday, October 4-7.
- **2022 Annual Clergy Retreat**, May 16-20, 2022, Sanctum Retreat Centre, Caroline

Edmonton Eparchy's Library Launches Online

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



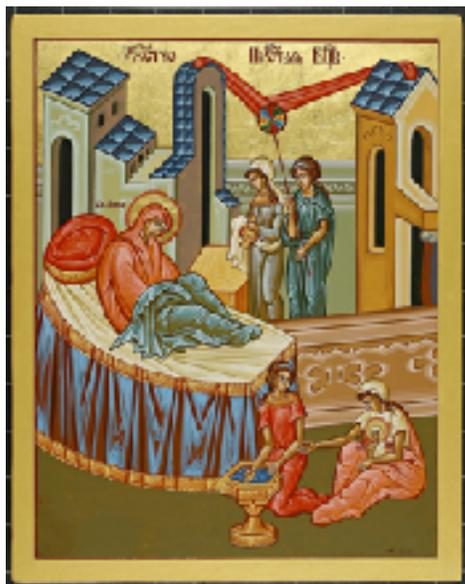
It is our desire that the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchial Library becomes an important teaching tool, as well as the source for the growth of individual members' Eastern Catholic faith.

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

Icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos

to learn more about this icon you can go to the Eparchial Website:

<https://eeparchy.com/2021/08/30/icon-of-the-nativity-of-the-theotokos/>



A termite walks into the bar and asks, 'Is the bar tender here?'

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



Tues: St. George, 11305 – 95 A St

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

Thurs: St. Josaphat, 10825 – 97 St

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Year I: Certificate in Eastern Christian Traditions I

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The suggested donation amount is \$25.00 per family.

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



SEASON OF CREATION

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

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

For more information and resources on the Season of Creation, please visit the website at [seasonofcreation.org](https://www.seasonofcreation.org/).

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

To record Liturgy, or not to record Liturgy? This is the question!

Or... maybe we can figure a way to broadcast live, via Youtube live? (which keeps a recording that stays online after)

As Fr. Bo's family is often singing with the community on Sunday mornings (when they are in town), there is less desire by them to set aside extra time during the week to celebrate another service for the sake of recording (especially since school is back "in person"). So in order to keep some online Liturgical presence, I (Fr. Bo) am looking into broadcasting our service live on Sunday mornings. If you have any ideas on how to do this well, please talk to me.

Hands On History Festival



To celebrate the 130th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada, the Basilian Fathers Museum invites you to their Hands On History festival featuring a farmer's market, a contemporary art exhibit and a launch of the Sawchuk Summer House restoration project.



You Are
Invited! Free
Admission!

September 11, 2021
Sawchuk Street & Secondary 855
8:30am-2:30pm

For more info visit
basilianmuseum.ca



Catholic Scouts Troop in our parish?

Information Night:

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



Real Scouts.
Real Experiences.

Visit scouts.ca



First time discoveries and cool adventures begin with Scouts. After all, it's the perfect place for kids to be kids and have a lot of fun along the way!

Dear Community

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

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

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

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

Come and be part of the excitement.

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

HERE ARE SOME QUICK FACTS ABOUT SCOUTS CANADA



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



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



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



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

Dormition Parish Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5</p> <p>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 6; Holy Prophet Zachariah and Elisabeth, Parents of John the Baptist; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Matthew 22:35-46</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy bilingual Ukr / Eng</p> <p>2 pm Divine Liturgy bilingual Arabic / Eng</p> <p>5:30 appointment</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Commemoration of the Miracle Performed at Colossus in Chone by the Archangel Michael; Holy Martyr Eudoxius and His Companions (284- 305); Our Venerable Father Archipus; Galatians 4:28-5:10; Mark 6:54-7:8</p> <p>Labour Day</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Forefeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God; Holy Martyr Sozon the Shepherd (304). Zhyrovynsi Icon of the Mother of God; Ephesians 6:10-17; John 15:17-16:2</p> <p>2 pm Meeting with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for Scouts</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary; Feast of the Mother of God. Holy day of obligation. Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>Post-feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God; Holy and Righteous Forebears of God Joachim and Anna; the Holy Martyr Severian (321-23); Ephesians 1:1-19; Mark 7:24-30</p>	<p>10 🐟</p> <p>Post-feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God; Holy Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, Nymphodora (303-11); Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Ephesians 1:7-17; Mark 8:1-10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Post-feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God; Saturday before the Exaltation of the Cross; Our Venerable Mother Theodora of Alexandria (474-91); 1 Corinthians 2:6-9; Matthew 10:37-11:1</p> <p>Sheila Lieding's Birthday</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 7; Leave-taking of the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God; Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross; The Holy Priest-Martyr Autonomus (284-305); Galatians 6:11-18; John 3:13-17</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy bilingual Ukr / Eng</p> <p>Following Panachyda for + Katie Bunio</p> <p>2 pm Divine Liturgy bilingual Arabic / Eng</p> <p>Anticipated arrival of Abuna Sayed</p> <p>5:30 appointment</p> <p>Roman Workun's Birthday</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Commemoration of the Dedication of the Holy Church of the Resurrection of Christ Our God (335); Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross; the Holy Priest-Martyr Cornelius the Centurion; Ephesians 1:22-2:3; Mark 10:46-52</p>	<p>14</p> <p>The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross; Feast of our Lord. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Great-Martyr Nicetas (374); Ephesians 3:8-21; Mark 11:23-26</p> <p>7pm PPC Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Great-Martyr Euphemia, the All-Famed (303); Ephesians 4:14-19; Mark 11:27-33</p> <p>6pm Camp Oselia Society Meeting</p>	<p>17 🐟</p> <p>Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Martyr Sophia, and Her Three Daughters Faith, Hope and Love; Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Ephesians 4:17-25; Mark 12:1-12</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Saturday after the Exaltation of the Cross; Our Venerable Father Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; John 8:21-30</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross, Tone 8; Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedontus (276-82); Galatians 2:16-20; Mark 8:34-9:1</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy bilingual Ukr / Eng</p> <p>2 pm Divine Liturgy bilingual Arabic / Eng</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Great-Martyr Eustathius and those with him (276-82); Holy Martyrs and Confessors for the Faith, the Grand Prince Michael, and His Nobleman Theodore, Wonderworkers of Chernihiv (1245); Ephesians 4:25-32;</p>	<p>21</p> <p>The Leave-taking of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Apostle Codratus of Magnesia (249-52); Ephesians 5:20-26; Luke 3:23-4:1</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Holy Priest-Martyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope (98-117); Holy Prophet Jonah (786-46 BC); Venerable Jonah the Presbyter, Father of Theophanes, Composer of Canons, and Theodore the Branded; Ephesians 5:25-33; Luke 4:1-15</p> <p>First Day of Autumn</p>	<p>23</p> <p>The Conception of the Honourable and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; Galatians 4:22-31; Luke 1:5-25</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Holy First-Martyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thekla; Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Ephesians 6:18-24; Luke 4:22-30</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Our Venerable Mother Euphrosyne; 1 Corinthians 15:39-45; Luke 4:31-36</p> <p>Melkite Baptism</p>

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost;

The Beheading of the Honourable and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John;

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!

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

Kontakion: With His life-giving hand* Christ our God, the Giver of life,* raised all the dead from the murky abyss* and bestowed resurrection upon humanity.* He is for all the Saviour,* the resurrection and the life, and the God of all.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Theotokion: Undaunted patroness of Christians,* O steadfast intermediary with the Creator,* turn not away from the suppliant voices of sinners,* but in your kindness come to help us who cry out to you in faith.* Be quick to intercede, make haste to plead,* for you are ever the patroness of those who honour you, O Mother of God.

Prokeimenon:

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

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (NRSV)

Brothers and Sisters, for it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Alleluia Verses:

He who lives in the aid of the Most High, shall dwell under the protection of the God of heaven.

He says to the Lord: You are my protector and my refuge, my God, in Whom I hope.

Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46 (NRSV)

At that time a lawyer, asked Jesus a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens,* praise Him in the highest.

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

