



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DORMITION

OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
ПАРАФІЯ УСПІННІА ПРЕСВ. БОГОРОДНИЦІ

Our Mission is to joyfully bring all people into the knowledge, love and service of the Holy Trinity, Who dwells amongst us.

Address:

15608 -104 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB
T5P 4G5

Services:

Sunday Divine Liturgy
(Ukr & Eng) at 10 am

Presacrtified Liturgies:
Wednesdays of Lent at 7 pm

Festal Liturgies:
Major Feast Days at 7pm

Parish Website:

<http://dormition.eeparchy.com>

Eparchial Website:

www.eeparchy.com

Pastor:

Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

Fr. Bo's cell phone:

780-340-FR.BO (3726)

Fr. Bo's Emails:

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Sunday, March 20, 2022

Third Sunday of the Great Fast: Veneration of the Holy Cross. Octoechos Tone 2. Our Venerable Fathers Martyred by the Saracens at the Monastery of St. Sabbas (580-97)



Today during our 10 am Liturgy the servant of God

Declan James Armstrong

will be initiated into the Church via the Sacraments of

Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist.

Declan is the child of Hugh and Stephanie Armstrong (Setlack). May God grant you Declan, and your family, many long and happy years.

Major Feast of the Annunciation this Friday!

Liturgy at 7pm Friday. Description & Activities on pages 3 - 5

Veneration of the Cross



The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

oca.org

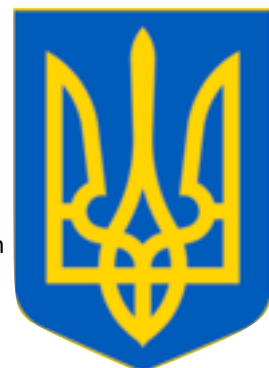
Are you looking to help the victims of the War in Ukraine?

Prayers for peace are needed always. Stay informed. Don't let false information spread.

The Eparchy of Edmonton is accepting donations. Go to

eeparchy.com to donate online, or mark an envelope clearly with the words "FOR UKRAINE" and you can put it in our parish's collection plate. Donations are also accepted at the Eparchial office weekdays from 8:30-4:30.

If you want to help with refugees by offering employment, housing, immigration sponsorship, consulting, legal aid, in-kind donations, service donations, transportation of people or logistics, childcare or in any other way, please go to **UCC.ca**, which is the website of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and click on the "I want to Help" button.



Martyred Holy Fathers who were slain at the Monastery of Saint Savva

Saints John, Sergius, Patrick and others were slain in the Monastery of Saint Savva. During the VIII century the area around Jerusalem was subjected to frequent incursions by the Saracens. The monastery of Saint Chariton was devastated and fell into ruin. Twice the Saracens tried to plunder the Lavra of Saint Savva the Sanctified, but God's Providence protected the monastery. The monks would have been able to escape the barbarians by going to Jerusalem, but they decided not to forsake the place where they had sought salvation for so many years.

On March 13, the Saracens broke into the monastery and demanded all the valuables. The monks told them that there was nothing in the monastery but a meager supply of food and old clothing. Then the Saracens began shooting arrows at the monks.

Thirteen men were killed and many wounded, and monastery cells were set afire. The Saracens intended to torch the monastery church, but seeing a throng of people in the distance, they mistook this for an army sent from Jerusalem. The Saracens managed to get away, carrying off the little they were able to plunder. After the enemy fled, Father Thomas, an experienced physician, began to help those who remained alive.

On Great Thursday, March 20, the Saracens again descended upon the Lavra with a larger force and started to beat the monks. The survivors were driven into the church, where they were tortured in order to force them to reveal where any treasure might be hidden. The monastery was surrounded, so no one could save himself by fleeing. The barbarians seized Saint John, a young monk, who had cared for vagrants. They beat him savagely, then they cut the sinews of his hands and feet and dragged him over stones by his feet, which tore the skin from the martyr's back.



The keeper of the Church vessels, Saint Sergius, hid them and attempted to flee, but he was captured and beheaded. Several of the monks nevertheless managed to hide themselves outside the monastery in a cave, but they were spotted by a sentry on a hill, and they ordered everyone to come out. Inside the cave Saint Patrick whispered to the brethren with him, "Fear not, I will go alone and meet my death. Meanwhile, sit and pray."

The Saracens asked whether there was anyone else in the cave, and Patrick said that he was alone. They led him to the Lavra, where the captives awaited their fate. The Saracens demanded of them a ransom of 4,000 gold pieces and the sacred vessels. The monks were not able to give such a ransom. Then they led them into the cave of Saint Savva inside the monastery walls. They lit a fire on which they piled up dung in front of the entrance to the cave, hoping to suffocate the monks with the poisonous fumes. Eighteen men perished in the cave, among whom were Saints John and Patrick. The Saracens continued to torture those who were still alive, but got nothing out of them. Finally, they left the monastery.

Later, on the night of Great Friday, the monks hidden in the hills returned to the Lavra, they took up the bodies of the murdered Fathers to

the church and buried them there.

The barbarians who plundered the monastery were punished by God. They were stricken with a sudden illness, and they all perished. Their bodies were devoured by wild beasts.

The Saints commemorated today should not be confused with other martyrs of the Saint Savva Lavra, who suffered in 610, and are commemorated on May 16. The two dates reflect separate attacks on the monastery at different times. History tells us that barbarians raided Saint Savva Lavra on several occasions.

Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life,
keep from me the spirit of
indifference and discouragement,
lust of power, and idle chatter.
(prostration)

Instead, grant to me, Your
servant, the spirit of
wholeness of being, humble-
mindedness, patience, and
love. (prostration)

O Lord and King, grant me the grace
to be aware of my sins and not to
judge my brothers and sisters; for You
are blessed, now and ever and
forever. Amen. (prostration)

The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (OCA.ORG)

The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. There is a painting of the Annunciation in the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome dating from the second century. The Council of Toledo in 656 mentions the Feast, and the Council in Trullo in 692 says that the Annunciation was celebrated during Great Lent.

The Greek and Slavonic names for the Feast may be translated as “good tidings.” This, of course, refers to the Incarnation of the Son of God and the salvation He brings. The background of the Annunciation is found in the Gospel of Saint Luke (1:26-38). The troparion describes this as the “beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the eternal mystery,” for on this day the Son of God became the Son of Man.

There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God’s promise to send a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15): “I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for his heel.” The Fathers of the Church understand “her seed” to refer to Christ. The prophets hinted at His coming, which they saw dimly, but the Archangel Gabriel now proclaims that the promise is about to be fulfilled.

We see this echoed in the Liturgy of Saint Basil, as well: “When man disobeyed Thee, the only true God who had created him, and was deceived by the guile of the serpent, becoming subject to death by his own transgressions, Thou, O God, in Thy righteous judgment, didst send him forth from Paradise into this world, returning him to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Thy Christ Himself.”

The Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth in Galilee. There he spoke to the undefiled Virgin who was betrothed to Saint Joseph: “Hail, thou who art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

In contrast to Eve, who was readily deceived by the serpent, the Virgin did not immediately accept the Angel’s message. In her humility, she did not think she was deserving of such words, but was actually troubled by them. The fact that she asked for an explanation reveals her sobriety and prudence. She did not disbelieve the words of the angel, but could not understand how they would be fulfilled, for they spoke of something which was beyond nature.

Then said Mary unto the angel, “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (Luke 1:34).

“And the angel answered and said unto her, ‘The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee: therefore also that which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.’ And Mary said, ‘Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.’ And the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1: 35-38)



In his Sermon 23 on the day of the Annunciation, Saint Philaret boldly stated that “the word of the creature brought the Creator down into the world.” He explains that salvation is not merely an act of God’s will, but also involves the Virgin’s free will. She could have refused, but she accepted God’s will and chose to cooperate without complaint or further questions.

The icon of the Feast shows the Archangel with a staff in his left hand, indicating his role as a messenger. Sometimes one wing is upraised, as if to show his swift descent from heaven. His right hand is stretched toward the holy Virgin as he delivers his message.

The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary Continued...

The Virgin is depicted either standing or sitting, usually holding yarn in her left hand. Sometimes she is shown holding a scroll. Her right hand may be raised to indicate her surprise at the message she is hearing. Her head is bowed, showing her consent and obedience. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon her is depicted by a ray of light issuing from a small sphere at the top of the icon, which symbolizes heaven. In a famous icon from Sinai, a white dove is shown in the ray of light.

The Annunciation falls during Lent, but it is always celebrated with great joy. The Liturgy of Saint Basil or Saint John Chrysostom is served, even on the weekdays of Lent. It is one of the two days of Great Lent on which the fast is relaxed and fish is permitted (Palm Sunday is the other).

The Feast of the Annunciation 4 Activities for the Domestic Church (the family)

1. **Learn about it:** by accessing the Bozhy Dity (God's Little Children) lesson on the Edmonton Eparchy Website. Learn about this amazing day in the life of the Church: <https://eeparchy.com/children/>
2. **Angels are all around us:** The angel Gabriel came to give Mary the message that she would be the Mother of God. Lots of people like to collect angel figurines & some even have them in their gardens & yards. Go on a treasure hunt around the house &/or outside to see how many you can find.

Older children (and parents) might like to learn more about angels. Read about the different ranks of angels & what Scripture tells us [here](#).

3. **Say YES to God:** like Mary who prayed & listened & when the Angel Gabriel asked her to be the mother of God, she said YES. Take a few minutes just to be silent and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. Afterwards, talk about your thoughts. Write or draw your thoughts about what God is asking of you on pieces of paper (parents can write for the little ones). This might be as simple as "Pray Lord have mercy everyday" or "call (name) just to say hello." They also may be larger life changing callings.

Discuss how you might say YES just like Mary did? Put them in your icon corner & pray about them.

4. **Pray:** a decade of the rosary (or the entire rosary). Find the text [here](#). Talk about what the angel [Gabriel said to Mary](#) (Luke 1:27-29) and what her cousin [Elizabeth said to her](#) (Luke 1:41,42) when they greeted her. Does this sound familiar? The prayer to the Mother of God comes from these two greetings! It is beautiful to think that we are echoing the words of the angel Gabriel & the mother of John the Baptist when we pray:

Rejoice, Mother of God Virgin Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne Christ, the Saviour and Redeemer of our souls.

БОГОРОДИЦЕ ДІВО, радуйся, благодатна Маріє, Господь з тобою. Благословенна ти між жінками і благословенний плід лона твого, бо ти породила Христа Спаси, Ізбавителя душ наших.

Created by the Religious Education Department of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton.

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Our UCWLC will be baking Paskas.

If anyone is interested in ordering some, please contact Helen at 780-435-2017, or speak with Virginia or Diane at Church.

Catholic Bishops of Canada invite all Canadian faithful to join Pope Francis and to pray for peace

On Friday, 25 March 2022, Pope Francis will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary during the Celebration of Penance that he will preside over at 5:00 pm (Rome time), in St Peter's Basilica. Pope Francis wishes to place the people of Ukraine and Russia under the protection of Mary, the Mother of God, with a special liturgical act. To this end, he will consecrate the two countries to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at a penitential celebration. This act has been well received by the Catholic Bishops in Ukraine, as well as by the Russian Bishops.

In response to Pope Francis' decision to consecrate both Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Ukrainian Catholic leaders will prepare with a novena that will start on 17 March 2022. They hope that all Catholic faithful from around the world will join them. In view of this appeal, the Catholic Bishops of Canada, united with the Holy Father, invite their faithful and all people of good will to participate in the novena with the following prayer:

*God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.*

From Bishop: "join me in the Act of Consecration in unity with Pope Francis at the 9:30 am Divine Liturgy, Friday, March 25, at Saint Josaphat Cathedral."

How will Canada handle Refugees from Ukraine?

The following has been released from [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#)

Canada launches new temporary residence pathway to welcome those fleeing the war in Ukraine

From: [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#)

News release

March 17, 2022—Ottawa – The resiliency and courage of Ukrainians have inspired the world, and Canada is unwavering in its commitment to provide support to Ukraine as it fights for its sovereignty and for the democratic ideals that our countries share.

In response to Vladimir Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, today announced the launch of the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET). The CUAET is a special, accelerated temporary residence pathway for Ukrainians seeking safe haven in Canada while the war in their home country continues.

With the CUAET, Ukrainians and their immediate family members of any nationality may stay in Canada as temporary residents for up to 3 years. Applicants who are overseas need to apply online for a Canadian visitor visa and provide their biometrics (fingerprints and a photo). Applicants are encouraged to apply for a 3-year open work permit at the same time as their visa application. This permit will allow them to work in Canada. Under this special program, many of the regular requirements associated with a normal visitor visa or work permit have been waived. Elementary and high school students can register for and start attending school as soon as they arrive in Canada, and anyone looking to study at the post-secondary level can apply for a study permit once on Canadian soil.

Applicants who do not have a valid passport may still apply, and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will issue a single journey travel document on a case-by-case basis, where appropriate.

Ukrainian workers, students and visitors and their family members who are already in Canada also benefit from these measures. They may either apply to extend their visitor status or work permit for 3 years, apply for a new work or study permit, or extend their existing permit. IRCC will waive all extension and work or study permit application fees.

Continued on following page...

How will Canada handle Refugees from Ukraine? continued...

...To ease the burden on applicants, IRCC is waiving all application fees for these programs.

The Government of Canada is also calling on employers who wish to support Ukrainians with offers of employment to register these offers on [Job Bank's Jobs for Ukraine webpage](#). Job Bank will then work with local organizations and employers to help connect them with Ukrainians seeking work in their communities. We are also in discussions with partners, including provinces and territories, the business community, the Ukrainian-Canadian community and settlement organizations, on how best to support those arriving from Ukraine, and more information will be available soon. IRCC will continue to monitor volumes of travellers and their needs closely and will take action as required.

We are working around the clock to help Ukrainians and their families get to Canada as quickly and as safely as possible. We are already prioritizing and fast-tracking applications, and waiving application and processing fees. We have increased our operational capacity in the region, in anticipation of an increased volume of requests. This includes relocating staff and moving additional supplies and equipment, such as mobile biometric collection kits. We are also adjusting operations in offices across our global network to ensure service continuity for Ukraine.

Ukrainians and their family members are exempt from Canada's COVID-19 vaccination entry requirements. However, they must still meet all other [public health requirements for travel](#), such as quarantine and testing. With limited exceptions, all travellers to Canada, including anyone arriving under the CUAET, must also use ArriveCAN.

The CUAET and Job Bank will be instrumental in supporting the Government of Canada's response to Vladimir Putin's brutal full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Most importantly, these measures help us do our part to welcome more Ukrainians to Canada.

Quotes

"To the Ukrainians who are defending the values we hold dear, we stand with you—not only in our words, but also in our actions. Canada will offer safe haven to your families while you fight on the front lines of a war to defend your freedom to the benefit of the entire world."

– The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

"As brave Ukrainians fight for their lives and their freedom, Canada is ready to welcome their loved ones who are forced to flee. When they arrive safely in Canada, we're going to help Ukrainians find work and so they can provide for themselves and their families. From ensuring that children can enroll in school to helping parents join our workforce, we want every Ukrainian to find peace, stability, and community in Canada."

– The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion

Quick facts

- Visa applications can be submitted [online](#) from anywhere in the world. Biometrics can be given at any [visa application centre](#) (VAC) outside of Ukraine. VACs are open in Moldova, Romania, Austria and Poland, and there is an extensive VAC network across Europe.
- In addition to our pre-existing VAC network, we have been working to set up additional biometrics collection locations and increased capacity at existing ones as demand requires such as in Chisinau. For example, additional biometric capacity has been added to the Visa Application network and missions in Warsaw, as well as to Vienna and Bucharest. Clients should visit the [VAC website](#) to find the closest service point.
- For standard cases, the CUAET will facilitate the rapid processing of electronic visa applications within 14 days of receipt of a complete application.
- All visa applicants will undergo standard background checks and be carefully screened before coming into Canada.
- The CUAET is a temporary residence pathway and is not a refugee stream.
- Those wishing to immigrate to Canada permanently can apply for permanent residence under a variety of different [immigration programs and streams](#). IRCC is also developing a special permanent residence stream for family reunification.
- IRCC established a dedicated service channel for Ukraine immigration enquiries available for clients both in Canada and abroad at **613-321-4243**, with collect calls accepted. Clients can add the keyword "**Ukraine2022**" to the [IRCC crisis web form](#) with their enquiry and it will be prioritized.
- Employers wishing to support Ukrainians through offers of employment can register available jobs using [Job Bank's Jobs for Ukraine webpage](#). Job Bank is a free, bilingual website that provides access for employers to thousands of potential employees and offers a free and secure space for job posting.
- Avoid becoming a victim of fraud. There is no fee to be considered for the CUAET for Ukrainians and their family members. Only the Government of Canada can request personal information or decide your eligibility for the CUAET. There are no agents or consultants acting on our behalf.
- Special measures for Ukrainians will not impact the processing of refugee applications. We remain steadfast in our commitment to welcoming individuals through our government-assisted and privately sponsored refugee programs, including welcoming at least 40,000 Afghan refugees.