

Успіння Пресвятої Богородиці

Українська Католицька
Церква



Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God

Ukrainian Catholic Church

DORMITION DISTRICT

Office

Telephone: **780-489-8868**

Email: dormition.edm@gmail.com

Website: dormition.eeparchy.com

Clergy

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Peter Babej

Email: fr.babej@eeparchy.com

Emergencies: 780-993-8037

Dormition Parish, Edmonton

15608-104 Ave, Edmonton, AB

Sunday Liturgy – **9:30 am**

Weekday Liturgy – Wed. 5:30 pm

Thursdays, Fridays, 7 am

Great Vespers – Saturdays, 6 pm

St. Nicholas Parish, Carvel

AB-770, Carvel, Parkland County

Sunday Liturgy – Oct. 15, Nov. 19,
Dec. 17, 12 noon

St. George Parish, Manly

53032 Hwy #770, Parkland County

Sunday Liturgy – Nov. 12, 12 noon

Holy Eucharist Parish

Township Rd. 562, Cherhill, AB

Christmas Divine Liturgy – Dec. 25,
12:30 pm.

Sunday, October 8, 2023

19th Sunday After Pentecost

Octoechos, Tone 2. Our Venerable Mother Pelagia.

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DIVINE LITURGY

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion, Tone 2: 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!”

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

Kontakion, Tone 2: 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 for ever and ever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 2: The tomb and death could not hold the Mother of God,* unceasing in her intercession and an un failing hope of patronage,* for as the Mother of Life she was transferred to life* by Him Who had dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.

Prokeimenon, Tone 2

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

Verse: The Lord has indeed chastised me, but He has not delivered me to death. (Ps 117:14,18).

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

The Lord is my strength and my song of praise.

And He has become my salvation.

Epistle - 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

Brethren (brothers and sisters), the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.¹ It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and

revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago²—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.³ And I know such a man⁴—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.⁵ Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh⁶ was given to me, a messenger of Satan⁷ to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you,⁸ for My

¹ Paul had to flee from Damascus when Jewish opponents from the synagogue conspired with the city’s governor to arrest him and kill him as a troublemaker (Acts 9:23-25). This plot is dated within the reign of the Nabatean ruler King Aretas IV, who controlled the city between AD 37 and 40. This was Paul’s first experience of persecution as a Christian, only a few years after his conversion in the same city. This dramatic escape is one more example of his weakness, making him look more like a fugitive than like a hero.

² **fourteen years ago:** this corresponds approximately to AD 42, when Paul was in Antioch or Jerusalem.

³ **Third heaven:** This reflects a common Jewish tradition that the Lord stacked the “heavens” three levels high: 1) the first heaven is the atmosphere of birds and clouds; 2) above that stands the realm of the sun and stars; 3) and beyond that lies the dwelling of God. Paul’s journey took him to the highest heaven, “Paradise” (12:3), where he caught a glimpse of eternal glory.

⁴ **I know such a man:** Although his language is indirect, 12:7 makes it clear that Paul is speaking about his own experience. Paul remembers a heavenly journey that he experienced years earlier. Though he is unable to articulate the precise nature of this rapture (in body or simply in spirit), it gave him a foretaste of glory that would encourage him

through earthly trials. The NT indicates that Paul received numerous visions and revelations throughout his apostolic career.

⁵ **not lawful for a man to utter:** Paul was bound to silence by a prophetic restraint. This means he was not permitted to disclose the heavenly secrets he saw and heard, not that it was necessarily impossible to speak of them with words.

⁶ **A thorn in the flesh:** Sometimes interpreted as a sickness or physical disability, such as failing eyesight. Others connect it with the Hebrew idiom used in Num 33:55, where it denotes personal opposition or harassment. Either way, God allowed Paul to suffer so that he would maintain perspective and not take pride in his heavenly experiences. Even the heights of Paul’s mystical life were tempered with suffering and weakness.

⁷ **A messenger of Satan:** Like righteous Job, Paul endured afflictions that were permitted by God and administered by the devil.

⁸ **My grace is sufficient for you:** Paul’s petition for relief was denied, indicating that his suffering was serving a higher purpose in the plan of God. Grace was given him to endure these trials and make him rely upon the Lord. His experience shows that God gives us what we need and not always what we want.

strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Апостол – 2 Кр. 11,31-12,9

Браття і Сестри, Знає Бог і Отець Господа нашого Ісуса Христа, а Він благословенний навіки, що я не говорю неправди. У Дамаску намісник царя Арети стеріг місто Дамаск, щоб схопити мене, але по мурі мене спущено в коші віконцем, і я з рук його втік! Не корисно хвалитись мені, бо я прийду до видінь і об'явлень Господніх. Я знаю чоловіка в Христі, що він чотирнадцять років тому чи в тілі, не знаю, чи без тіла, не знаю, знає Бог був узятий до третього неба. І чоловіка я знаю такого, чи в тілі, чи без тіла, не знаю, знає Бог, що до раю був узятий, і чув він слова невимовні, що не можна людині їх висловити. Отаким похвалюся, а собою хвалитись не буду, хіба тільки своїми немочами. Бо коли я захочу хвалитись, то безумний не буду, бо правду казатиму; але стримуюсь я, щоб про мене хто більш не подумав, ніж бачить у мені або чує від мене. А щоб я через пребагато об'явлень не величався, то дано мені в тіло колючку, посланця сатани, щоб бив в обличчя мене, щоб я не величався. Про нього три рази благав я Господа, щоб він відступився від мене. І сказав Він мені: Досить тобі Моеї благодаті, бо сила Моя здійснюється в немочі. Отож, краще я буду

хвалитись своїми немочами, щоб сила ристова вселилася в мене.

Alleluia Verses, Tone 2

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

Verse: Lord, grant victory to the king and hear us in the day that we shall call upon You. (Psalm 19:2,10)

Gospel - Luke 6:31-36

The Lord said, “Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them⁹ likewise. “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most-High.¹⁰ For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore, be merciful,¹¹ just as your Father also is merciful.”

Євангеліє – Лк. 6,31-36

Сказав Господь: бажаєте, щоб вам люди чинили, так само чиніть їм і ви. А коли любите тих, хто любить вас, яка вам за те ласка? Люблять бо й грішники тих, хто їх любить. І

⁹ **you also do to them:** The “Golden Rule” summarizes the moral law of the New Covenant and is a sure test to distinguish virtue from vice.

¹⁰ **sons of the Most-High:** From a Hebrew perspective, parents reproduce character traits in the children who bear their image. Jesus applies this same logic to the family of God: as the Father is forgiving and loving, even toward the unfaithful and undeserving, so his children must imitate his kindness toward all without discrimination.

¹¹ **Be merciful:** Mercy is the towering rule of Christ’s kingdom. Jesus reformulates the teaching of Lev 19:2, replacing the command to imitate God’s holiness with a command to imitate His mercy. The subtle difference between these divine attributes points to the difference between the Old Covenant and the New. The quest for holiness in ancient Israel meant that God’s people had to separate themselves from everything ungodly, unclean, and impure, including Gentiles and sinners (Lev 15:31; 20:26). Jesus gives holiness a new focus, defining it as mercy.

коли добре чините тим, хто добро чинить вам, яка вам за те ласка? Бо те саме і грішники роблять. А коли позичаєте тим, що й від них сподіваєтесь взяти, яка вам за те ласка? Позичають бо й грішники грішникам, щоб одержати стільки ж. Тож любіть своїх ворогів, робіть добро, позичайте, не ждучи нічого назад, і ваша за це нагорода великою буде, і синами Всевишнього станете ви, добрий бо Він до невдячних і злих! Будьте ж милосердні, як і Отець ваш милосердний!

Communion Hymn

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BULLETIN BY EMAIL – if you wish to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, please let us know by calling the parish office or send your request to fr.babej@eeparchy.com.

Dormition Parish

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & BEST WISHES – to all who have celebrated birthdays this past week or in the next few days. May God bless you with health, happiness and peace! Many happy years!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! – The Divine Liturgy will be offered today in thanksgiving for this year's harvest, and all blessings received.

NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TODAY – Coffee fellowship will resume next Sunday.

NO CATECHISM TODAY – Catechism will resume next Sunday, as usual.

NO DIVINE LITURGY THIS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11th – Due to a Funeral Service in Calgary this Wednesday, Oct. 11, Divine

Liturgy will not be offered at 5:30 pm. We will resume as usual, the following Wednesday, October 18th.

BIBLE STUDY – every Thursday evening, at 7:00 pm. Please review the commentary notes for Genesis, Chapter 3. In preparation for the next session, please read Genesis, Chapter 4, along with commentary notes.

BOOK CLUB – meets briefly today, in the parish hall. We will be reading *The Art of Living: The Cardinal Virtues and the Freedom to Love* by Edward Sri. We will meet weekly after the 9:30 AM Liturgy in the parish hall. You may still join by contacting Joel Sych at joel.e.sych@gmail.com. It is a great opportunity to grow in your faith and build community.

CHILDREN OF MARY – we are forming a group of girls, ages 8 and up. Meetings will take place once a month. If you wish to register your daughter(s), please contact Theodosia Sych at 587-936-0068 or theodosia.babej@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY SOCIALS – We are in need of volunteers to assist with Sunday Coffee and Lunch Socials on a rotational basis. If you are able to assist, please provide your name, phone number and/or email on the sign-up sheet on our bulletin board in the hall.

COMMUNION VISITS – If you know of anyone at home, in a care facility or hospital, that is in need of a visit, please contact Fr. Peter at fr.babej@eeparchy.com or the parish office.

VOCATIONS & SEMINARY COLLECTION – Every year, our Eparchy conducts its annual Vocations and Seminary Collection throughout all parishes in Alberta. Donations support Holy Spirit Seminary in Edmonton, and the formation of future religious leaders in our Church. Currently, our Eparchy is

blessed with five seminarians studying for the priesthood, and two candidates studying for the diaconate. We kindly request your support! Based on eparchial assessment, the suggest donation is \$30.00 per family. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

DIRECT DEPOSIT – if you are interested in making monthly donations by means of DIRECT DEPOSIT, please contact Sheila Leiding at <sheilaleiding@hotmail.com>. To make this possible, we need at least 10 people.

CHURCH FLOOR AND CARPET – As you can see, our church carpet and flooring need to be replaced. This month, we begin our fundraising for this project. We need to raise at least \$10,000 in order to begin this renovation project. All donations are welcome!

District Parishes

DIVINE LITURGY IN CARVEL – The next Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Parish will be celebrated on Sunday, October 15, at 12:00 noon. A brief catechism lesson will take place in church, after the Divine Liturgy.

MANLY: DIVINE LITURGY – at St. George’s Parish in Manly has been tentatively been scheduled for Sunday, November 12, 12:00 noon.

CHERRILL: DIVINE LITURGY – Christmas Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at Holy Eucharist Church in Cherhill on Monday, December 25, at 12:30 pm. The annual Liturgy and blessing of graves is scheduled for Sunday, May 26, 2024.

Eparchy and Community

OCT. 15: BISHOP’S NAME DAY CELEBRATION
– Please join us in celebration of Bishop

David’s Name Day! WHERE? Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 9003 153 Avenue NW. Divine Liturgy at 10:30 am (Bilingual). Luncheon to follow. Doors will open at noon, luncheon at 12:30 pm. Donations will be accepted for food packages for the people of Ukraine affected by the war. Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations over \$20. Please RSVP by using the sign-up sheet posted in the vestibule, or email Patty Zakordonski to: pzakordonski@gmail.com.

NOV. 1: RETURN TO REGULAR PRACTICE OF DISTRIBUTING HOLY COMMUNION. “The Covid-19 pandemic required our parishes to find alternate ways to distribute the Divine Eucharist in order to ensure the health and well-being of our faithful, namely, using individual “single-use” Holy Communion spoons. **For some time now, most Ukrainian Catholic Churches throughout the world have returned to our regular practice in distributing the Divine Eucharist, using a single common spoon for all. It is time for our Eparchy to do the same.**

However, to allow some time for communities to transition, pastors may implement either of the following practices wherever some of the faithful still wish to receive Holy Communion with individual spoons. 1) In parishes where only one priest distributes Holy Communion, he begins by distributing Holy Communion with “single-use” spoons to those who desire this, before using the common spoon for others. 2) In parishes where the Eucharist is distributed from several chalices, some ministers use one common spoon while others use individual “single-use” spoons. The manner in which the Divine Eucharist is distributed should not be an obstacle to those desiring to be nourished by the life-giving Body and Blood of Our Lord. May the Holy Eucharist be our strength and

nourishment in our journey towards holiness.”

It would be best for us to take the month of October to prepare our faithful for this change, including a reminder of the manner in which we receive the Holy Eucharist, taking care to avoid unnecessary contact with the spoon. While remaining respectful of each parishioners’ individual experience, pastors should reassure them 1) of the reduced threat from the Corona Virus, no longer considered a pandemic by the WHO, given widespread immunity and effective treatments, and 2) of the value of distributing the Eucharist to the faithful via a single spoon, reorienting them to this long-standing tradition and the reverence for the Holy Mysteries that it helps to foster.

EPARCHIAL SOCIAL COMMISSION – If you have a passion for protecting human rights, especially for the poor and marginalized, ethical consumption, taking care of our environment, reconciliation between all people, and promoting the sanctity of human life - **then we are excited to meet YOU!** The Eparchial Social Mission Commission is searching for two new members to join our team of passionate parishioners hoping to make a difference. Please contact socialjustice@eeparchy.com

2023 WOMEN OF DIGNITY CONFERENCE – **October 20-21.** WHERE? At Holy Trinity Parish, Spruce Grove, AB. “Carry on Bravely.” All women, from teen to granny, single, married and mothers, are invited to attend the Women of Dignity Conference on October 20-21 weekend at Holy Trinity Parish in Spruce Grove. You can expect a weekend filled with prayer, uplifting music, adoration, confessions, Mass, fellowship and a weekend of inspired speakers with engaging talks to help women affirm their faith in God. It is an

opportunity to find meaning and purpose in life’s challenges. Invite family and friends to make this a special faith-building journey and experience! Check out the web site for conference information. Register online today at www.catholicfamilyministries.com

2023 MEN’S CONFERENCE AND RETREAT – October 27-28. Join other men of faith to learn, laugh, and pray as you grow in faith. Keynote speaker: Fr. Matthew Hysell. DATES AND TIMES: October 27, 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm; October 28, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. LOCATION: Holy Spirit Seminary, 12909 – 113th Avenue NW, Edmonton. COST: \$95 – commute; \$155 – live-in. Prices include Saturday breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Optional Friday supper available for \$20. CONTACT: Bernadette Mandrusiak (780) 424-5496 or email education@edmontoneparchy.com. Registration deadline is October 21, 2023. Late registrations will not be accepted. Limited number of rooms available for overnight stay. Online registration: <https://tinyurl.com/Calledtobeholy2023>.

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UKRAINIAN YOUTH UNITY COMPLEX – 50th Anniversary Celebrations. 9615 – 153 Ave., Edmonton.

Friday, Nov. 3: **Champagne Gala Reception.** Doors open at 6:15 pm. Program at 7:15 pm. Semi-Formal. Tickets: \$30.

Sat. Nov. 4: **Reunion Zabava.** Doors open at 7:00 pm. Music by Zabava v Koli. Late lunch, cash bar. Tickets: \$25 for adults; \$20 for students (17 and under).

Sun. Nov. 5: **High Tea and Concert.** Doors open at 2:30 pm. Tickets: \$20.

All tickets are available on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) (October 1-31, 2023).

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HORIZON OF HOPE: A TOOLKIT FOR CATHOLIC PARISHES ON PALLIATIVE CARE –

How does our faith in Christ help us to understand the human experience of dying and death? You are invited to join this 4-part program **OCT. 16, 23, 30 Nov. 6, 7:00 - 9:00 pm** focusing on Catholic teaching regarding end-of-life care. We will share and discuss the importance of palliative care and learn more about how we can respond to our Christian call to provide compassionate care for our loved ones at the end of life. Parishes and church groups across Alberta will connect virtually and in person. There will be two in person centres: St. Stephen Protomartyr parish hall, 4903 – 45 St., SW, Calgary AND St. Josaphat's Cathedral basement, 10825 97th Street N.W. Edmonton. WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Those seeking to learn about palliative care in the Catholic Church, caregivers, persons diagnosed with a terminal illness, family members who need guidance, parishioners & pastoral care teams. REGISTER AT: <https://tinyurl.com/Eparchyhorizonofhope2023> or find the link on the Edmonton Eparchy website. If you cannot attend in person, you are welcome to join virtually. You will receive the Zoom link when you register online. CONTACT: socialjustice@eeparchy.com

ОГОЛОШЕННЯ

ВІСНИК ЕЛЕКТРОННОЮ ПОШТОЮ – якщо хтось бажає отримати парафіяльний вісник електронною поштою просимо звернутися до о. Петра на адресу fr.babej@eeparchy.com.

МНОГАЯ ЛІТА! – Складаємо найщиріші побажання всім, хто святкує свої уродини. Нехай Господь Бог благословить щастям та здоров'ям, на многі і благі літа!

СПІЛЬНОЇ КАВИ ТА СПІЛКУВАННЯ – сьогодні не буде. В слідууючу неділю, як звичайно, в парафіяльній залі, після Служби Божої.

КАТЕХИЗАЦІЇ – Сьогодні не буде. В слідууючу неділю, як звичайно, після Служби Божої.

ВІДПРАВИ СВЯТОЇ ЛІТУРГІЇ В ЦЮ СЕРЕДУ – не буде. Слідууючу середу, 18-го жовтня, як звичайно, о год. 5:30 п.п.

КЛУБ ЧИТАННЯ КНИГ – Ми почали спільне читання книжки *The Art of Living: The Cardinal Virtues and the Freedom to Love*. Автор - Edward Sri. Сходини клубу відбуваються що неділі під час спільної кави, в парафіяльній залі. Щоб стати членом нашого клубу, просимо звернутися до Джол Сич через електронну адресу joel.e.sych@gmail.com.

МАРІЙСЬКА ДРУЖИНА – формуємо групу дівчат від 8-15 років життя. В справі інформації та реєстрації, просимо звернутися до Теодосії Сич на тел. 587-936-0068, або theodosia.babej@gmail.com.

DIRECT DEPOSIT – Хто бажає складати пожертву на церкву раз у місяць, через прямий депозит, просимо звернутися до Шіли Лейдінг, sheilaleiding@hotmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 2023 DONATIONS

Sunday Collections	\$4,239.60
General Donations	315.00
Bingo Replacement	<u>40.00</u>
Total Donations	4,594.60

So far in September we have had \$255 in donations for the Seminary collection.

Understanding the Divine Liturgy

The Opening Blessing

What is the kingdom of God? The kingdom of God is God's reign, His Rule, His Presence, and His dwelling place.

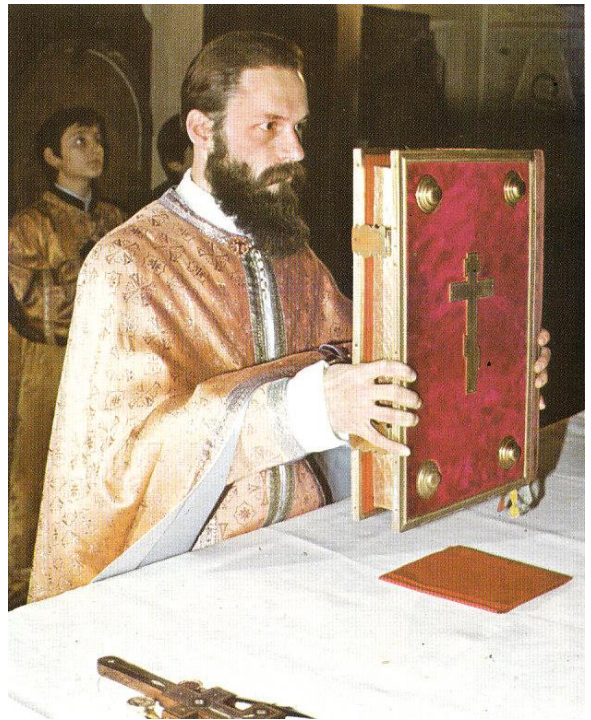
The Divine Liturgy opens majestically, with a solemn blessing of the Kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity. As the priest reverently pronounces these awesome words, he raised the Gospel book lying on the Holy Table and with it he traces the sign of the Cross over it.

The gathered people of God, with bowed heads, make the sign of the Cross, thus showing their reverence upon hearing the Name of the Triune God, acknowledging God's Kingdom to be the goal of their lives. They respond, "Amen" (from the Hebrew, meaning *let it be so*). May the Kingdom "be blessed."

By blessing the Kingdom, the priest and the faithful acknowledge and profess several important things about the Kingdom.

First, the Kingdom of God is present in the hearts those who have received the gift of the Holy Spirit in baptism. "For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you" (Lk 17:21). Blessed be God's kingdom in the hearts of His faithful.

Second, the Kingdom of God is present whenever the faithful assemble together to pray. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My Name, I am there in the midst of them" (Mt 18:20). Blessed be kingdom in the assembly of His holy ones.



Third, the Kingdom of God is present in the holy place, wherever the Holy Gifts are reserved. Blessed be God's Kingdom in Holy Places.

Fourth, the Kingdom of God is present on earth, through the Church, the Body of Christ. Blessed be God's Kingdom, the Church, here on earth.

Fifth, the Kingdom of God is in heaven, where the unceasing worship of God takes place before His Holy Throne. Blessed be God's Kingdom in heaven.

Sixth, the Kingdom of God is the goal of every Divine Liturgy. The blessing of the Kingdom identifies the goal and destination – the faithful are leaving the world. The Divine Liturgy will take them out of this world, lifting them up the Holy Throne of God in the Kingdom of heaven, to join the unceasing

worship that takes place there. Blessed be God’s Kingdom, where He dwells in heaven.

Seventh, the Kingdom God is the age that is to God, when Jesus returns in glory. Blessed be God’s Kingdom in its fullness, the destination of our lives, and our final dwelling place with God for ever, “and to the ages of ages.”

We should make every effort to be in church on time, when the Divine Liturgy opens with the awesome words: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit... Let us all proclaim that we live the life that we are people of the Kingdom, people not of this world, but of the Kingdom of God, “living in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life” (Lk 1:75).

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Perfecting Holiness and Loving Our Enemies

Fr. Philip LeMasters

If it is hard for us to live faithfully as Christians in our time and place, imagine how difficult it was for the new Gentile converts in the Greek city of Corinth. They lived in a culture that was notoriously immoral and had themselves worshiped pagan gods before their baptism. There was so much corruption all around them that they were surely constantly tempted to return to decadent ways of life. The outrageous problems that St. Paul had to correct in their congregation provide evidence that many of those converts still lived in worldly, as opposed to holy, ways. (If you ever start to think that our generation has invented new sins, just read his letters to the Corinthians and you will see that there is nothing new under the sun.)

He was not speaking here of cleanness according to the externals of the Jewish law, such as following kosher dietary practices. Instead, St. Paul called the Corinthians to turn away from

everything that hindered their full participation in the healing and blessing of humanity that Jesus Christ makes possible for all who share in His life. Those who live according to their calling as God’s temple and people must abandon both the sins that we associate with the body (such as sexual immorality or gluttony) and those that we associate with the spirit (such as pride or hatred). That is not due to some kind of legalism, but instead because all sins are incompatible with true holiness. As those created in the image and likeness of God, our calling is to become “partakers of the divine nature,” to be transformed by personal union with the Lord such that His holiness becomes truly characteristic of us. We are to become living icons of His salvation to the depths of our being and to live out that identity in every thought, word, and deed.

That high calling ought to bring us all to our knees, for we all fall short of it in one way or another. If that is not clear, all that we have to do is to pay attention to Jesus Christ’s teaching on loving our enemies. It is fairly easy to do good to those who do good to us. When we help someone with whom we have a good relationship, we can usually expect something positive in return. But it is quite hard to do good to those with whom we do not have a good relationship and from whom we can realistically expect nothing positive in return.

We may wonder why the Lord gave us such difficult teachings to follow as those as we find in today’s gospel lesson. Be merciful even as your Father in heaven is merciful. Love your enemies. Do good to everyone; lend expecting nothing in return. Treat others as you wish to be treated. Christ Himself tells us that this is the difficult path of true holiness.

No matter whether we live in Corinth, Abilene, or elsewhere, we all struggle against the spiritual diseases that make it so hard to forgive, love, and serve those who have violated our pride by offending us or who will probably not respond in kind. We have these struggles because we have turned away collectively and individually from the

truth that we are made for a common life in the image and likeness of God. We have forgotten that it is our very nature as persons to be united with one another in love as are the members of the Holy Trinity. When St. Paul wrote of Christians as the temple and people of God, he was pointing to the fulfillment of our calling as human beings by the power of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and our collective life.



It might be fairly easy to obey a set of religious or moral laws about this or that form of outward behavior, even though personal experience teaches that we often fall short of them. It is an entirely different thing, however, to acquire such purity of heart that we love, give, and forgive as God does to the ungrateful, the selfish, and to our enemies and nuisances. So instead of patting ourselves on the back that at least we are decent to those who love us, we should instead fall on our knees asking for mercy and strength to love those who hate, disregard, or simply ignore us.

Of course, it is much easier to recognize the flamboyant sins of the people of Corinth than it is to recognize how we ourselves fall short of “perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” It is much easier to point our fingers at individuals and groups today who celebrate beliefs and behaviors

contrary to the way of Christ. Yes, we like to praise ourselves and condemn others because we want to let ourselves off the hook, perhaps by saying that at least we go to church and lead fairly decent lives.

Maybe that would be enough if we were part of a religion that called only for superficial decency and did not condemn self-righteous judgment, but that is not the case for orthodox Christians. God

really does call us to become holy because we are His temple and people by the power of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and our collective life as Christ’s Body, the Church. We are to be merciful, perfect, and holy like our Heavenly Father. What is true of God by nature must become true of us by grace. That is what it means to become “partakers of the divine nature” as we participate in the eternal life of our Lord.

So, when we refuse to show mercy and love toward difficult, annoying, and inconvenient people from whom we expect nothing in return, we turn away from our calling to be God’s holy temple as surely as if we bowed down before an idol like the pagans of Corinth. For when we do so, we simply serve ourselves and disregard the calling that the Lord has given us all: to be so transformed by the mercy of our Father in heaven that we exude that same mercy to others. For He is kind to the ungrateful and selfish and loves even those who reject Him, even those who killed His Son and the rest of us who reject Him so often in how we live. Still, He bestows countless blessings on us all. And through the Son whom He sent out of love for the world, He has made us His own sons and daughters.

How tragic, then, that we so often choose to make the same mistakes as the Corinthians and to live in ways that are really no different from the unholy and corrupt practices so dominant in our world. How sad that we so often prefer death to

life, pain to joy, and the hollow victory of self-exaltation to the blessedness of growing in communion with one another and with the Lord Himself. And if we as Christians live this way, what hope is there for a world where, helping our friends and cursing our enemies is just business as usual?

Jesus Christ is certainly the hope of both the Church and the world. He is our hope because He brought a new, blessed, and saving way for human beings to relate to others and to God. He died and rose again for those who rejected Him, who nailed Him to a cross and thought that He was demon-possessed. He not only healed His own people the Jews, but showed the same mercy to Gentiles, Samaritans, and even a Roman centurion, a foreign soldier who occupied His homeland. He was at times very frustrated with the disciples for their lack of faith; they largely abandoned Him at His arrest and crucifixion, but Christ still appeared to them after His resurrection and blessed them as the leaders of the Church.

Our Savior is the embodiment of mercy to everyone, for He came to save and transform the entire world and especially every human being. Even more amazing is the truth that we are able to participate in Him, to be nourished by His Body and Blood, the medicine of immortality and holiness in Holy Mystery of the Eucharist. And, yes, we really are able to become merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful. By being filled and transformed by His grace, we may become living icons of the divine love and light even in our most difficult relationships.

In other words, what we do in this temple today is a crucial dimension of being His temple and people, of receiving the strength and power to turn away from all the sins that frustrate our growth in holiness and personal union with the Lord and one another. We are enabled to become like the Father by receiving the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit. And then let us live as we

have received, “cleans[ing] ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and mak[ing] holiness perfect in the fear of God.”

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Ukrainian Army Reveals Ukraine’s Strong Spirit to the World: The Head of the UGCC congratulated the defenders of Ukraine

We remember the noble goal which is worth living for and sacrificing our lives for. This goal is an independent Ukrainian state in the family of European nations of high civilization and culture. These words were spoken by the Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, in his greeting speech on the occasion of the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God and the Day of Defenders of Ukraine.

Christian Ukraine celebrates the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the first time on October 1. The Primate emphasized that this day is one more great national holiday for the Ukrainian state.

“Today, we celebrate the Day of Defenders of Ukraine. Historically, our Ukrainian army has been the army of those who protect and secure the



life and development of the Ukrainian people. They are the ones who fight for Ukraine’s dignity and freedom. Therefore, on this day, our gratitude and greetings go to our men and women at the front who are protecting the future of Ukraine at the cost of their own lives,” said the Head of the Church.

Three words come to mind today. The first is memory. “We remember,” the spiritual leader reminds us, “all our predecessors, entire epochs, generations of the national liberation struggle of Ukraine for its freedom and independence. We remember all those who fell in an unequal battle with the Russian aggressor. Today, we pray for them from the earth to the heavens, from the human heart to the throne of God.”

The second word is fraternity. “We win only when we can rely on the shoulder of a comrade-in-arms, on the strength and courage of the Ukrainian army. It is the brotherhood of those at the front and those who live and work for the front. This national solidarity and unity in the struggle is the key to our victory. This brotherhood is like a cry forged in the furnace of our struggle for freedom,” His Beatitude Sviatoslav urges us to reflect.

The third word is vocation. “The Lord God is calling our soldiers forward to defend the space of life and to remain human even in inhuman circumstances. The Ukrainian army today is called to conquer death with life, to bring light where there is darkness,” said the Head of the Church.

According to him, we are now called to bring the space of freedom to where the Russian invader seeks to bring oppression and slavery. “Once again, we express our gratitude to the Ukrainian soldiers for showing the whole world what Ukraine is capable of — demonstrating that we are invincible and strong in spirit. The strength of spirit and will of the Ukrainian soldier now amazes the world,” the Primate emphasized.

The UGCC Department for Information

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THIS WEEK AT DORMITION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8: 19TH SUN. AFTER PENTECOST; Mother Pelagia.

8:30 AM - Confession

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Bilingual); for the health and intentions of all parishioners; for Ukraine; a personal intention of thanksgiving to the Most Holy Trinity; in thanksgiving for all blessings received.

Mon. Oct. 9: James Alphaeus, Apostle.

No Divine Services.

Tues. Oct. 10: Eulampius and Eulampia, Martyrs.

No Divine Services.

10:00 AM – Funeral Service at St. Josaphat Cathedral.

Wed. Oct. 11: Phillip, Deacon and Apostle.

10:00 AM – Funeral Service at Assumption Parish in Calgary.

NO 5:30 PM DIVINE LITURGY.

Thurs. Oct. 12: Probus and Others, Martyrs.

7:00 AM – Divine Liturgy; for a mother’s special healing intention; for health and intentions of Leona Prokop.

7:00 PM – Bible Study: Reading and Meditation on Genesis, Chapter 4-5 (Cain and Abel).

Fri. Oct. 13: Carpus and Others, Martyrs.

7:00 AM – Divine Liturgy; for the repose of the soul of the servant of God +Maria; for health and intentions of Leona Prokop.

Sat. Oct. 14: Paraskevia, Venerable.

6:00 PM – Great Vespers.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15: 20TH SUN. AFTER PENTECOST; FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.

8:30 AM - Confession

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Bilingual); for the health and intentions of all parishioners; for Ukraine; a personal intention of thanksgiving to the Most Holy Trinity.

12:00 noon – Divine Liturgy – at St. Nicholas Parish, in Carvel; for intentions of all parishioners.

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