

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 29, 2023

22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5. The Holy Venerable-Martyr Anastasia (249-51); Our
Venerable Father Abraham, Archimandrite (11th c.)

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DIVINE LITURGY

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion, Tone 5: Let us the faithful acclaim and worship
the Word,* co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,*
and born of the Virgin for our salvation.* For He willed
to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer
death* and to raise the dead by His glorious
resurrection.

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

Kontakion, Tone 5: You, my Saviour, descended to
Hades,* and as the Almighty, You shattered its gates.*
With Yourself You, as the Creator, raised the dead and
shattered the sting of death,* and delivered Adam
from the curse, O Lover of Mankind.* And so we cry
out: "Save us, O Lord."

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 5: Rejoice, O rampart and protection of
those who have recourse to you!* Rejoice, O tranquil
haven and Virgin,* who gave birth in the flesh to your
Maker and God!* Fail not to interced for those who
sing and worship the Child you bore.

Prokeimenon, Tone 5

You, O Lord, will guard us* and will keep us* from this generation* and for ever.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer left a just man. (Psalm 11:8,2)

You, O Lord, will guard us* and will keep us* from this generation* and for ever.

You, O Lord, will guard us and will keep us.*

From this generation* and for ever.

Epistle – Galatians 6:11-18

A reading from the epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians.

Brothers and sisters in Christ: See with what large letters I have written¹ to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.² For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,³ by whom the world has been crucified to me,⁴ and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation⁵. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and

¹ **I have written:** Paul penned the postscript of Galatians himself, whereas the body of the letter was dictated to a secretary. He writes with large letters either for emphasis or because of poor eyesight.

² The Judaizers were driven by fear of persecution, probably from Jewish nationalists who pressured them to make circumcision the focus of their missionary efforts. Paul accuses them of abandoning the true gospel, not out of conviction, but out of cowardice.

³ How does one **boast . . . in the cross**? Throughout the history of the Church, Christians have preached the Cross, displayed the Cross in their homes and altars, venerated the Cross in the liturgy, and signed themselves with the Cross in worship of the Holy Trinity and during times of fear or temptation.

upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.⁶ *Brothers and sisters*, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Alleluia, Tone 5

Verse: Your mercies, O Lord, I will sing for ever; from generation to generation I will announce Your truth with my mouth.

Verse: For You have said: Mercy shall be built up for ever; in the heavens Your truth shall be prepared. (Ps 88:2,3)

Gospel – Luke 16:19-31

The Lord told this parable: “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool

⁴ **crucified to me:** Paul reiterates what he said earlier in 2:20 and 5:24 that in Christ our sins and worldly passions are put to death. Paul thus emphasizes that the Cross—not circumcision—is the sign of our salvation.

⁵ A new creation: The indwelling of the Spirit renews us from within and makes us sharers in the divine life. The regenerating grace of the New Covenant will eventually permeate the entire cosmos.

⁶ **marks of the Lord Jesus:** Property and slaves in the ancient world were branded with a mark of ownership. Paul views himself as a slave of Christ who bears physical scars from the many persecutions that accompanied his apostolic work.

my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment. Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest. (*Ps 148:1*)* Alleluia (3).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

General 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.

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 of 1) the reduced threat from the Corona Virus, no longer considered a pandemic, 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.

Dormition Parish

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & BEST WISHES – to Theodosia Sych, and to all who celebrate birthdays. May God bless you with health, happiness and peace!

MANY HAPPY YEARS – to the handmaiden of God, Lilyanne Dawn Yaremchuk, newly enlightened and initiated into the Church through the waters of Baptism, the anointing of Holy Chrism and the joy of the Most Holy Eucharist; for her godparents, Justin and Ashley; for her parents, Eric and Jessica; and for all family and friends.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP – Coffee fellowship today, after the Divine Liturgy, in the Parish Hall.

COFFEE MEETING FOR ESL – A quick meeting will take place today during the Coffee Social for those who are interested in assisting with the ESL program for newcomers from Ukraine. In the very near future, we hope to offer English language instruction at Dormition Parish. Please look for Alex Schabel and Iryna Laschuk.

BOOK CLUB – meets today, as usual, during the Coffee Social.

NEEDED ITEMS – A new family has recently arrived from Ukraine and is in need of several items for their one-bedroom apartment:

- A couch or sofa in good condition;
- A storage closet or cabinet with drawers;
- Two floor lamps;
- A table with four chairs;
- A vacuum cleaner;
- A mixer;
- A blender;
- A fan or air purifier or air conditioner.

If you are able to donate any of these items or if you wish to make a monetary contribution to help purchase essential items, please contact Fr. Peter at 780-993-8037 or fr.babej@eeparchy.com.

BIBLE STUDY – This Thursday, November 2, at 7:00 pm. We will continue with the reading of Genesis, Chapters 9-11.

FIRST FRIDAY – On Friday, November 3, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 7:00 am.

FIRST SATURDAY – On Saturday, November 4th, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9 am. Rosary Prayer – at 8:30 am.

UCWLC MEETING – will take place next Sunday, November 5th, after the Divine Liturgy.

HEALING SERVICE – Encounter Ministries will offer a

HEALING SERVICE – Encounter Ministries offers a Healing Service on the last Saturday of each month at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 200 Boundary Road, Spruce Grove, Alberta. A Healing Service is a time for God to demonstrate His love and mercy, and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him. All are welcome!

NOV. 11: REMEMBRANCE DAY – Divine Liturgy and Panakhyda will be offered on Saturday, November 11, at 9:00 am. Remembrance Day commemoration will also take place on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at the 9:30 am Divine Liturgy.

NOV. 15: NATIVITY FAST – begins on Wed. November 15th, 2023. This fast lasts for 40 days and concludes on Christmas Eve. On the first day of the fast, abstinence from meat and meat products.

NOV. 17: MEN'S NIGHT – will take place on Friday, November 17, at 7:00 pm. We will begin with Rosary Prayer in the church and a brief presentation on the papal document *Familia Consortio* by St. John Paul II, followed by fraternal fellowship and discussion. Please confirm your attendance by contacting Fr. Peter at 780-993-8037 or fr.babej@eeparchy.com.

NOV. 21: ENTRANCE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE – On this major feast day, which falls on Tuesday, November 21, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 7:00 am and 7:00 pm. Great Vespers and Lytia will be celebrated on Monday, November 20th, at 6:00 pm.

ST. NICHOLAS PARTY – will take place on Sunday, December 10, 2023. Prepared by *Sharon's Cuisine*, the brunch menu will include: fresh fruit, sausages, pancakes, syrup, whip cream, scrambled eggs, hashbrowns, coffee, tea, and juice. COST: free donation. Since we need to know how many people will be attending, please fill out the form provided and submit to Fr. Peter or the parish office.

DIRECT DEPOSIT – we have a total of 4 parishioners who are interested in Direct Deposit. To move forward, we need a total of ten people. 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.

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!

CHURCH FLOOR PROJECT – As you can see, our church carpet and flooring need to be replaced. Also, the floor in the sanctuary

needs to be repaired and levelled. Our fundraising for this project has begun. We need to raise at least \$10,000 in order to begin. All donations are welcome!

District Parishes

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!

CARVEL: DIVINE LITURGY – will be celebrated on Sunday, November 19, at 12:00 noon.

MANLY: DIVINE LITURGY – at St. George's Parish in Manly will be celebrated on Sunday, November 12, at 12:00 noon.

CHERHILL: 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

BISHOP'S GALA - Fourteenth Annual Bishop's Gala Thursday, December 7, 2023 supporting the new *"Image to Likeness: Our Life in Christ"* *Ukrainian Catholic Religious Education Curriculum/Program* for use in Ukrainian Bilingual Schools, parishes, the home and beyond! Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre, cocktail reception and silent auction at 6:00 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm, followed by an exciting live auction. Tickets \$200 each (\$1600 per table of eight) with tax receipt for \$100 per ticket. Contact the Pastoral Centre for tickets or to make a monetary or auction donation: 780 424 5496 or chancery@edmontoneparchy.com. Go to www.eeparchy.com/gala for more information and to view on-line auction. All proceeds of the Gala will support the

development of *Image to Likeness: Our Life in Christ, Ukrainian Catholic Religious Education Program*.

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

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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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 Теодосії Сич, та всім, хто святкує свої уродини. Нехай Господь Бог

благословить щастям та здоров'ям, на многі і благі літа!

МНОГАЯ ЛІТА! – Складаємо найщиріші побажання ново-хрещені дитині Ліліанні Яремчук, батькам, хресним та родині!

КАВА ТА СПІЛКУВАННЯ – після Служби Божої сьогодні, у парафіяльній залі.

ПЕРША П'ЯТНИЦЯ – в п'ятницю, 3-го листопада, Служба Божа відправиться о год. 7:00 ранку.

ПЕРША СУБОТА – в суботу, 4-го листопада, Служба Божа відправиться о год. 9:00 ранку.

ПИЛИПІВКА – цей перед-Різдв'яний піст починається в середу, 15-го листопада, і триватиме 40 днів, кінчаючи у навечеря Різдва Христового.

ВХІД БОГОРОДИЦІ В ХРАМ – це свято припадає у вівторок, 12 листопада. Служба Божа відправиться о год. 7:00 ранку та 7:00 вечора.

НЕДІЛЯ МИКОЛАЯ ЧУДОТВОРЦЯ – неділю, 10-го грудня, вітаємо св. Миколая до парафії Успіння Пресвятої Богородиці! Просимо виповнити форму подану у сьогоднішньому віснику та передати о. Петрові, або лишити в парафіяльній канцелярії.

ВІДНОВЛЕННЯ ХРАМУ – Як бачите, нам треба вставити нову підлогу і диван і храмі. Також, існує потреба направити підлогу у святилищі. Просимо ваших пожертв на відновлення нашого храму!

DIRECT DEPOSIT – Хто бажає складати пожертву на церкву раз у місяць, через прямий депозит, просимо звернутися до Шіли Лейдінг, sheilaleiding@hotmail.com. До цього часу, зголосилися 4 осіб. Щоб уможливити цей процес, потрібно мінімально 10 осіб.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$1,165.00
Loose Donations	\$85.00
Seminary Collection	<u>\$20.00</u>
Total Donations	\$1,270.00

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CHURCH FLOOR PROJECT

Chris Lorette	\$300.00
Fr. Peter and Dobr. Donna Babej	\$250.00
Maria Lang	\$30.00
Total Donations	\$580.00

Our goal is to fundraise a total of \$10,000 so that we can begin and complete this most-urgent project!

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**LEARNING TO SEE AND SERVE
CHRIST IN POOR LAZARUS**

Father Philip LeMasters

It is tempting to think that those who seem to have it all in this world are God's favorites whose success is a reward for holiness and virtue. It is appealing to think that God's kingdom is simply an eternal manifestation of the arrangements of this world, of life as we know it, where the powerful usually lord it over the weak and the rich almost always seem to get their way.

The parable of Lazarus and the rich man powerfully warns again that temptation, for it shows that those who love, worship, and serve only themselves, ultimately become blind to Christ Whom they encounter in the poor and needy. It shows that in God's kingdom, the humble will be exalted, blessed, and comforted, while the high and mighty will be put down. The issue, of course, is not simply how much money one has, but whether

we have opened our souls in humility to personal union with the Lord such that His mercy, love, and holiness have become characteristic of us. The issue is whether we have been healed of the ravages of sin, whether our spiritual vision has been filled with light that overcomes the darkness within us. Ultimately, the question is whether we have become living icons of Jesus Christ.

The rich man ignored the clear teachings of Moses and the prophets on his obligation to care for his poor neighbors. By literally stepping over the wretched beggar Lazarus on his porch time and time again, he blinded himself to the humanity of one created in the image and likeness of God and with whom Christ identified Himself as "the least of these my brethren." He ignored God every time that he ignored his neighbor. This blindness became so characteristic of the rich man that, once he departed this life, he was unable to behold the brilliant glory of God and could perceive only a tormenting flame. St. Isaac the Syrian referred to the sufferings of those in Hades as "the scourge of love." In other words, God's love remains eternally, but some become so distorted by self-centeredness, disregard for their neighbors, and hatred of God that they are incapable of experiencing being in the presence of the Lord as anything other than the torment of "bitter regret." They suffer the consequences of their own self-imposed rejection of a relationship with Him.

We do not yet have the eyes to see it, but everything that we say, do, and think in this life shapes who we are before God, both now and for eternity. That is especially true in matters relating to other people, particularly those who are needy, inconvenient, and easy to overlook. Whether we liked it or not, our

Lord has identified Himself with them. If we say that we love and serve Him while disregarding the poor, sick, and lonely, we are simply deceiving ourselves.

Our Lord brought salvation to the world by lowering Himself even to the point of death on the Cross, burial in a tomb, and descent into Hades. He went to the place of the dead in order to look for fallen Adam and Eve and to set them, and all the departed, free from the slavery to sin and death that had so distorted their ancient glory as those created to become like God in holiness. Having lowered Himself out of love, Christ rose in glory and brought them into the eternal presence of God.

We will take our place in this narrative of salvation by manifesting in our own lives the descent of the Savior into a world corrupted by sin and death out of love for others. We will find the healing of our souls as we learn to see, serve, and love Christ in the people we encounter every day. The point is not to attempt to use God in order to get what we want in this life or the next, but instead to find the fullness of life in Him by joining ourselves to the selfless offering that Lord has made on the Cross for the salvation of the world. We will have good hope of rising with Him in glory when we serve Him in the Lazarus's we encounter daily. Already today, right now, we may participate in the great reversal of God's Kingdom by blessing those who are last in the world as we know it. In serving them, we serve Jesus Christ. When we call out for His mercy as we struggle to live faithfully in this way, we will behold a measure of the divine glory and find ourselves already participating in the eternal Reign of God.

October 26

Holy and Glorious Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-Streaming

Demetrius was born in Thessalonica, the capital city of the Roman province of Macedonia, in approximately the year 270 AD. His parents were of noble ancestry, and secretly, devout Christians. His father was the governor and military commander of Thessalonica.

The family home served as a secret house church for Christians. This is where Demetrius was baptized and raised in the faith. He was well educated, intelligent, athletic and heroic in spirit. As a soldier in the Roman Army, he quick rose to a high officer's rank at a young age. Despite his success in the military, Demetrius considered himself first to be a soldier of Christ, His King and God, and then second, a soldier of Rome. He remained fervent in faith and good works, bringing many to faith in Christ, and encouraging those



who were suffering persecution for the sake of Christ.

In the year 305, Galerius Maximian became the emperor of the eastern part of the Roman Empire, while Diocletian ruled in Rome as the senior emperor of the western part of the Empire. After the death of Demetrius' father, the emperor Galerius Maximian, confident in the leadership, administrative and military abilities of Demetrius, appointed him to succeed his father as governor and military commander of Thessalonica. The main task that was assigned to Demetrius was to protect the city from foreign invasion and the eradicate Christianity. The policy regarding Christians was expressed simply, "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrius as governor, he had provided a way for him to lead many people to faith in Christ.

As the new governor and military commander of Thessalonica, Demetrius began to openly teach the Christian faith to inhabitants of the city, and to overthrow pagan customs and idolatry. According to St. Symeon Metaphrastes, a writer who compiled the lives of the saints, Demetrius, by his teaching zeal, became "a second Paul" for Thessalonica, a city where Paul himself had established the first community of believers (1 and 2 Thessalonians).

The Lord also destined Demetrius to follow the holy Apostle Paul on the road to martyrdom. It was soon reported to Galerius Maximian that the newly-appointed governor was a Christian, and that he was converting many to the Christian faith. Returning from a military campaign against the Sarmatians in the Black Sea region, the emperor decided to

enter the city of Thessalonica with his army and to deal with the situation.

Knowing what lay ahead for him, Demetrius ordered his faithful servant Lupus to distribute all his possessions to the poor after his death. He then began to pray and to fast, preparing himself for martyrdom.

When the emperor came into the city, he summoned Demetrius to appear before him. Standing before the emperor, Demetrius openly confessed that he was a Christian, and that no power would force him to renounce Christ the Saviour. The emperor then gave orders to bind him and to throw him into prison. While praying in his prison cell, an angel of heaven appeared to Demetrius, strengthening and comforting him with the hope of a speedy martyr's death.

While in Thessalonica, the emperor decided to celebrate his recent victory in battle with games and sacrifices. His champion in the arena was a giant man named Lyaeus. As part of the festivities, Galerius Maximian offered a rich reward to any Thessalonian who would battle one-on-one with his prize gladiator. A special arena was prepared, with a bed of upright spears on each side.

In Thessalonica, there was young Christian, Nestor, who was willing to take up the challenge. He first came to visit Demetrius in prison to receive his blessing. In prayer, Demetrius received a prophet word from God. He blessed Nestor and said to him, 'You will overcome him, but you will suffer for Christ.' Nestor went to the place where the games and festivities were taking place, and he entered into the arena to fight the gladiator Lyaeus, one-on-one. The crowd expected a quick victory for Lyaeus, but to their surprise, Nestor proved to be a worthy opponent.

Having invoked the name of Jesus the Christ, and making the sign of the cross, Nestor fought Lyaeus in the arena and overcame him. He then thrust him onto the bed of spears where the giant gladiator died.

When the emperor heard Nestor invoke Christ, he was enraged. Rather than reward him for his victory, he gave orders to behead Nestor with a sword. And so, Nestor suffered a martyr's death for the sake of Christ. The prophetic word received by Demetrius was fulfilled.

Then, the emperor learned that Nestor had visited Demetrius in prison to receive his blessing for victory. To avenge the death of his gladiator, he gave orders to have Demetrius killed. Soldiers were sent to the to prison and they stabbed Demetrius to death with their spears. This happened on the 26th day of October, in the year 306.

Lupus, the faithful servant of Demetrius, dipped his garment into his blood, and he collected the soil that was soaked with the martyr's blood into an earthen vessel. The body of Demetrius was buried close to the site of his martyrdom.

In the year 313 AD, the Western emperor, Constantine, met with the Eastern emperor, Licinius, in the city of Milan, Italy. As part of their discussions, they issued a joint statement, later known as the Edict of Milan. This proclamation gave full rights to all Christian citizens of the Roman Empire, restoring their property, releasing them from prisons, and effectively banning government persecution of the Christian faith. The edict also declared a general state of tolerance for all religions. After nearly three hundred years of persecution, Christians were free to practice their faith openly.

Soon after, during the reign of the emperor Constantine (306-337), a small church was built over the site of St. Demetrius' martyrdom, and numerous miracles continued to take place. In the years that followed, the inhabitants of Thessalonica would often invoke the prayers and intercession of St. Demetrius, and they were not disappointed. The survival of the city from foreign invasion, famine, pestilence, and natural disasters was accredited to the intercession of St. Demetrius.

In the fifth century, the prefect Leontius visited the small church dedicated to St. Demetrius, and he was miraculously healed. To express his gratitude to God, Leontius constructed a large and beautiful three-aisled basilica on the same site, replacing the original church. During the construction, the relics of St. Demetrius were uncovered, and a fragrant myrrh was found exuding from his relics. The relics of the saint were then transferred to special ciborium, and set in the centre aisle of the church.

This 5th century basilica burned down in the seventh century; and soon after, a larger five-aisled basilica was constructed (629-634). During Turkish occupation, in 1493, the church was converted to a mosque. It was restored to Christian worship after the liberation of Thessalonica from the Turks in 1912. Unfortunately, the basilica was destroyed in the great fire of 1917. It was restored and re-dedicated in the year 1949. Every year, at the feast of St. Demetrius on October 26), the ciborium is opened and the fragrance of the myrrh can be detected several blocks away from the church.

The Holy and Great Martyr Demetrius continues to be the patron saint of the city of

Thessalonica, and the patron saint of many churches built in his honour throughout the world.

Prayer

Troparion, Tone 3: In you, O martyr Demetrius,* the world has discovered a champion in its travails,* for you have routed the nations* and so, as you smashed the pride of Lyaeus,* encouraging Nestor to struggle,* pray to Christ our God to grant great mercy to our souls.

Kontakion, Tone 2: With streams of your blood, O Demetrius,* God, who gave you invincible strength,* has dyed the Church in royal crimson* and preserved your city invulnerable* for you are its fortification.

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Abbot of the Holy Dormition Univ Lavra Named Archbishop and Metropolitan of Prešov

His Holiness Pope Francis named the Rev. Fr. Jonah Maxim, Abbot of the Holy Dormition Univ Lavra, Archbishop, and Metropolitan of Prešov (Slovakia), the Holy See press service reports.



The Reverend Hieromonk Jonah was born November 21, 1974, in Levoca, Slovakia. He received his initial theological education at the **Prešov** Seminary. On July 11, 1998, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Jan Hir ka. In the autumn of 2004, he entered the Holy Dormition Univ Lavra. In 2018, he defended his PhD on Studite monasticism at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. Afterward, he served as abbot at St. Michael's Monastery in Lviv. On June 18, 2020, he was elected abbot of the Holy Dormition Univ Lavra. Apart from Slovak and Ukrainian, he speaks Italian, English, French, Polish and German.

The UGCC Department for Information.

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The Head of the UGCC addresses participants of the XII World Congress of Ukrainians: “Be evangelizers of the truth about the struggle of Ukraine”

On Sunday, October 22nd, the XII Congress of the Ukrainian World Congress convened with the election of a new UWC leadership as one of its agenda items. Bishop Stephen Sus led the opening prayer of the general meeting. About 300 delegates and guests from 30 countries participating in the Congress were greeted by the Father and Head of the UGCC, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, who assured them of his prayers and wished them to be evangelizers of the truth about Ukraine's struggle in the places where they reside.

The Head of the UGCC thanked the members of the UWC for helping their fellow Ukrainians during the war with the Russian occupier, which can be described in the

slogan “God and Ukraine.” “Your efforts,” said the Primate, “are aimed at supporting the victims of the war, precisely the forced migrants, who, according to sociological studies, already number in the millions. We highly appreciate your constant cooperation with our Church, which has brought many good fruits for our long-suffering mother Ukraine.”

“Thank you for continuously caring about preserving and promoting Ukrainian identity worldwide. I ask you to be evangelizers of the truth about our struggle in the places where you are. The world needs to know that Ukraine exists, that it is fighting and praying! Use the instruments at your disposal to open the world’s eyes to the ideology of the *Russkiy mir*, which has led to numerous destructions and, most terribly, the deaths of thousands of civilians in our country,” His Beatitude Sviatoslav urged.

The Head of the UGCC also asked the UWC members to focus their attention on the future, in which “a free and victorious nation must make great efforts to restore what was destroyed brutally.” “You have many tasks ahead of you,” said the Patriarch, “but I believe that your enthusiasm and your love for your homeland will give you the strength and inspiration to accomplish everything planned for the welfare of the global Ukrainian community.”

Invoking the Holy Spirit’s blessings upon the participants of the XII UWC Congress so that they may serve the people of Ukraine with dignity, the Head of the UGCC bestowed his hierarchical blessing upon them.

The UGCC Department for Information

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THIS WEEK AT DORMITION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29: 21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; Anastasia, Venerable Martyr.

7:30 AM – Church Open for Prayer.
8:30 AM – Confession.

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Bilingual); for the health and intentions of all parishioners; for Ukraine; for Israel; for the repose of the servant of God +Christine; for health and quick recovery of Mark after surgery.

Mon. Oct. 30: Anastasia, Venerable Martyr.
No Divine Services.

Tues. Oct. 31: Blessed Theodore Romza, Martyr
No Divine Services.

Wed. Nov. 1: Cosmas and Damian, Unmercenaries.
5:30 PM – Divine Liturgy; for the repose of the servant of God +Dionizij and +Maria Glavacki; for the repose of all souls.

Thurs. Nov. 2: Akindynos and Others, Martyrs.
7:00 AM – Divine Liturgy; for the repose of the soul of the servant of +Don Hucal.
7:00 PM – Bible Study.

Fri. Nov. 3: Acepsimas and Others, Martyrs
7:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (First Friday); for the repose of the soul of the servant of +Don Hucal; for the repose of all souls of the faithful departed.

Sat. Nov. 4: Joannicius, Venerable
8:30 AM – Rosary Prayer
9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (First Friday); for Grace and James Kunysz, Tanya and Daniel Schuman, Eva and Franciszek Romaya, Katie and Joseph Ma.
6:00 PM – Great Vespers.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5: 21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; Galaction and Episteme.

7:30 AM – Church Open for Prayer.
8:30 AM – Confession.

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Bilingual); for the health and intentions of all parishioners; for Ukraine; for Israel; for Grace and James Kunysz, Tanya and Daniel Schuman, Eva and Franciszek Romaya, Katie and Joseph Ma.

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