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 Confession – 8:30 am Sun. Liturgy – 9:30 am | 11:30 am Weekday Liturgy – Wed. 5:30 pm Thurs., Fri., 7:00 am; Sat. 9:00 am. Great Vespers – Saturdays, 6 pm

Great Vespers – Saturdays, 6 pm Confessions – After Vespers

St. Nicholas Parish, Carvel AB-770, Carvel, Parkland County Div. Liturgy – Jan. 6, 6:00 pm.

St. George Parish, Manly 53032 Hwy #770, Parkland County Div. Liturgy – June 9, 2024, 12 noon

Holy Eucharist Parish, Cherhill Township Rd. 562, Cherhill, AB Div. Liturgy – May 26, 12:30 pm.

Sunday, January 07, 2024 Sunday After Theophany

Tone 7. Synaxis of the Holy and Glorious Prophet,
Forerunner and Baptist John.

DIVINE LITURGY

First Antiphon

When Israel came forth from Egypt,* the house of Jacob from an alien people.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Saviour, save us.

Judah became His sanctuary,* Israel His dominion.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God...

The sea beh<u>e</u>ld this and fled,* the Jordan turned b<u>a</u>ck on its course.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God... Why was it, O sea, that you fled,* that you, O Jordan, turned back on your course?

Through the prayers of the Mother of God...

Glory... Now... Only-Begotten Son...

1

Third Antiphon

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Saviour.

Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

Let us come before His face with praise and acclaim Him in psalms.

Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

For God is the great Lord, and the great king over all the earth.

Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

Entrance

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion, Tone 1: When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,* worship of the Trinity was revealed;* the voice of the Father bore witness to You,* naming You the beloved Son,* and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the word's certainty.* Glory to You, O Christ God,* who appeared and enlightened the world.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 4: Today, You have appeared to the world* and Your light, O Lord, has been signed on us,* who with knowledge sing Your praises.* You have come, You have appeared, O unapproachable Light.

Prokeimenon, Tone 1

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us* as we have hoped in you.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous. (*Psalm 32:2,1*)

Epistle - Ephesians 4:7-13

A reading from the holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters, grace was given to each¹ of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended² on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying "He ascended," what does it mean but that he also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)³ And his gifts were that some should be

¹ given to each: Every baptized believer is given spiritual gifts or charisms to be exercised for the good of the Church. In this context, Paul focuses on the varied graces connected with ecclesiastical offices.

² When He ascended: A reference to Psalm 68:18. Although the wording of Paul's citation differs from both the Hebrew and Greek version of this text know to us, it approximates other renditions of the psalm in Aramaic and Syriac. Psalm 68 celebrates the triumphal procession of biblical history, when Israel, filing out of Egypt behind the Lord, was led on its march to the summit of Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. The victories won by the Lord along the way earned him the right to distribute gifts and spoils of war to the Israelites. For Paul, the psalm points forward to the ascent of Jesus into the heavenly Jerusalem after disarming the forces of evil on the Cross. The Church began to share in this victory when Christ poured out the gifts of the Spirit on Pentecost.

³ A parenthetical explanation of how Jesus fulfills Psalm 68. Interpretations differ over the meaning of lower parts of the earth. (1) Some view this expression as a reference to earth itself, to which Christ descended in His Incarnation (Jn 3:3). (2) Others take it to mean the underworld, to which Jesus descended on Holy Saturday before rising again on Easter Sunday. The second view is more likely correct, in light of similar expressions in the Greek versions of Psalm 63:9 and 139:15 that clearly refer to the underworld of the dead. In this case, Paul is stressing that Christ has charted the extremities of the cosmos, descending to its deepest depths in His Passion and rising above its highest heights at His Ascension. This is not simply a journey through space; rather, it is an expression of Christ's supreme humiliation and exaltation. Several Church Fathers connected this verse with Christ's descent to the dead, in which He released the captive souls of the righteous and led them up to heaven.

apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,⁴ to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Alleluia Verses

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. (Psalm 88:2,3)

Gospel – Matthew 4:12-17

At that time when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.⁵ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Hymn to the Mother of God

Verse: O my soul, magnify Christ the King, baptized in the Jordan.

Irmos: Every tongue is at a loss to praise you as is your due, O Mother of God. Even a spirit from above is filled with dizziness when seeking to sing your praises. But since you are good accept our faith, for you know well our love inspired by God. For it is you who protect all Christians; therefore, we magnify you.

Communion Hymn

The grace of God has appeared* bringing salvation to all (*Titus 2:11*).* Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. (*Psalm 148:1*)

⁴ Apostles... teachers: Ecclesial ministries associated with the proclamation of the Word. These positions are established to promote unity in the Church by (1) preserving doctrinal purity, (2) warding off false teaching, and (3) sanctifying people in truth. These spokesmen of the gospel build up the Body of Christ when they bring believers from immaturity to spiritual adulthood.

⁵ **Galilee:** The uppermost region of Palestine, north of Judea and Samaria. In ancient Israel, Galilee was home to several of the nation's 12 tribes. After military devastations by the Assyrians in the eighth century BC (2 Kings 15:29), Galilee was ruled separately from Judea and Samaria for most of its history extending into NT times. While some Jews resided in Galilee when Jesus lived there, many were descendants of the northern tribes of Israel who lived alongside Gentile immigrants. Even after the NT period, the Jewish Mishnah (A.D. 200) consistently refers to Galileans as "Israelites," as distinct from southern "Jews" or "Judeans." Jesus chose Galilee as the place to restore the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" (15:24), regather his scattered disciples, and send them on a worldwide mission.

⁶ The land of Zebulun... dawned: A citation from Isaiah 9:1-2 concerning the land allotments of two Israelite tribes. Zebulun, and Naphtali. Since these Galilean regions were the first to be ravaged by Assyrian invasions from 733 to 732 B.C. (2 Kings 15:29), Jesus targets Galilee as the place to begin reversing the tragedies of Israel's history by restoring the 12 tribes in the New Covenant. Isaiah foresees a "latter time" (Is 9:1), when God will restore hope to Galilee. Matthew links this with Jesus' residence in "Capernaum," a town north of the Sea of Galilee, where the tribal territories of Zebulun and Naphtali intersect. Matthew's sustained interest in the Davidic kingship of Jesus suggests that the fuller context of this oracle is also significant. Isaiah 9;1-2 prefaces an Immanuel prophecy of the birth of a new king who will sit "upon the throne of David" (Is 9:7) and restore this light of hope to Galilee.

⁷ **Nazorean:** i.e., "Natzorean," from the Hebrew word *netzer*, which means "shoot." Jesus is a "shoot" from the rootstock of David. The title "Nazorean" alludes not so much to Jesus' town of origin, but rather denotes his royal descent from King David.

Instead of "We have seen the true light..." we sing: All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is baptized in the Jordan.

Instead of "May our mouths..." and "Blessed be the Name..." we sing: All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is baptized in the Jordan. (3)

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.

BEST WISHES – to Sharon Holinka, Samuel Bryson, George Laschuk, and to all who celebrate their birthdays or anniversaries this past week or in the next upcoming days. May God bless you with health, happiness and peace!

THEOPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS – If you would like a priest to visit to bless your home with holy water blessed on the Feast of Theophany, please contact Fr. Peter or Fr. Terry to make arrangements.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES — When lighting candles, please ensure that no broken sticks are left behind in the candle wax. Broken sticks within the candle eventually cause the glass to heat-up unevenly and to crack. To light an additional candle:

- 1) First, blow out the ignited stick;
- Place it into the sand, so that any burn part of the stick is broken off and removed;
- 3) Re-ignite the stick;
- 4) Light your next candle.

CATECHISM CLASSES – resume today, Sunday, January 7, at the end of the 9:30 am Divine Liturgy.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHER — we are looking to hire a teacher to provide English language instruction to newcomers from Ukraine. This would be a paid position. If anyone is interested, or knows of someone that would be interested, please contact Alex Shabel at aschabel14@gmail.com or Iryna Laschuk at ilaschuk@telusplanet.net.

THANK YOU! - to all parishioners who generously donated to our campaign to collect hats, toques, gloves and socks for our city's homeless. Your contributions will be donated to Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples. *UCWLC Dormition Branch*.

JAN 07: FELLOWSHIP AND CAROL SING -After today's Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am, you are invited to participate in a special fellowship gathering, featuring opportunity to sing our beautiful traditional Ukrainian Christmas carols, along with some carols in English. This event is a way of honouring a much-loved tradition as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. If you wish to make a donation, envelopes will be available. Donations of \$25 dollars or more will be receipted for tax purposes. Those who have a parish envelope will have their donation added to their total yearly donation.

JAN. 14: PARISH LUNCH SOCIAL AND PRO-LIFE PRESENTATION — will take place NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024, in the Parish Hall, after the 9:30 am Divine Liturgy. Join us, as Cam Cote and Jeff Owen share the CCBR (Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform) roadmap to help you change minds and to save lives. Cost: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children (ages 7 to 12); children ages 6 and under free. To reserve seating, please contact Fr. Peter Babej at 780-993-8037 or by email at fr.babej@eeparchy.com. HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARIALS CAROLING – The seminarians of Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Seminary want to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! For those who are interested, we will be available for Christmas Caroling at your homes in the month of January. If you would like the seminarians to come for a short visit and spread good cheer through song, you're invited to contact Adam Urkow at 587-437-2326 or Ivas Babick at 431-998-3273. (Small donations are appreciated, but certainly not required.)

JANUARY FOOD BANK DRIVE – MOST NEEDED ITEMS! – Currently, the Foodbank provides hampers to approximately 32,000 families per month. And the total keeps growing. The Foodbank relies on donations of not only money, but food products. Our own parishioners who volunteered at the Food Bank have stated the following:

"Based on what we saw, food is in desperate need. Yesterday, there was no bread available, nor eggs. Products we packed into hampers had little or no nutritional value. It was so sad, as the families consisted of 2 or 3 adults and 1 or 2 children. And the products we packed included no meat! For each hamper, we were only allowed to provide 6 mandarin oranges! Hardly enough for a family. We were thinking how great it would be if we as a parish community helped!"

In response to this urgent need, let all of us be generous in donation food to those who are in need of assistance. The following is a list of suggestions. Please leave your donations in the designated box in the church vestibule:

- Canned beans without pork
- Canned fish, meat, milk, stew, soups
- Canned fruit, vegetables, beans
- Dry cereals, beans, lentils, pasta, rice
- Baby formula, baby food, diapers

- Peanut butter (500g), jams
- Healthy school snacks
- Pasta & canned pasta sauce
- Cookies, crackers, packaged meals
- Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, flour, oil
- Salad dressings, ketchup
- Mustard, pickles
- Toothpaste, toilet paper, bar soap
- Bath wash, razors, deodorant,
- Dish soap

NOTE: Safeway was \$10 packs of assorted food items. If you wish to make a monetary donation, cheques can be sent to: Edmonton Food Bank, P.O. Box 62061, Edmonton AB, T5M 4B5.

JAN. 12: ST. NICHOLAS PARISH AGM (CARVEL) — The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of St. Nicholas Parish members will take place on Friday, January 12, at 6:00 pm, in Carvel.

JAN. 13: PREPARATION FOR FIRST SOLEMN CONFESSION AND COMMUNION BEGINS -

The first class will take place on Saturday, January 13, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Parish Hall. To register, contact Fr. Peter Babej at 780-489-8868 or email fr.babej@eeparchy.com. Registration forms are also available in the vestibule.

JAN. 14: SPIRIT OF UKRAINE CONCERT – The Chamber Orchestra of Edmonton and the Alberta Council for Ukrainian Arts presents an afternoon of Ukrainian music, poetry and art on Sunday, January 14, 2024, 3:00 pm, at St. Andrew United Church, 9915 148 Street, Edmonton. Artistic Director: Lidia J. Khaner. Soloist: Anna Kozak – violin. Poet: Veronika Ivanytska. For more information, visit: www.chamberorchestraofedmonton.ca.

JAN. 17: BIBLE STUDY — Bible Study will resume this <u>Wednesday</u>, Jan. 10, 7:00 pm, and will continue every Wednesday, with the

exception of scheduled Parish Council meetings. In 2024, we will continue with the reading of Gen 24 and the story of Isaac and Rebekah.

JAN. 19: MEN'S NIGHT – Our next gather for prayer, witness, reflection, discussion and fellowship will take place on <u>Friday, January 19th, 7:00 pm.</u> Topic for further discussion: *Familiaris Consortio,* Parts 2 and 3 (St. John Paul II). Please confirm your attendance with Fr. Peter Babej at fr.babej@eeparchy.com or call/text 780-993-8037.

JAN. 21: DIVINE LITURGY IN CARVEL — the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at St. Nicholas Parish in Carvel on Sunday, January 21, at 12:00 noon.

JAN. 21: UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT – January 21th, 2024 at 3:00 PM. Admission by donation to the "Bridge of Hope" Children's Orphanages in Ukraine. Tax Receipt issued for donations of \$20 and above. Post concert refreshments in the Verkhonyna Hall. For more information contact Luba Boyko-Bell at (780)469-4890.

2024 MARRIAGE PREPARATION — will take over the course of two weekends: February 9-10, and March 1-2, 2024. To register, please contact Fr. Peter Babej at fr.babej@eeparchy.com or call 780-993-8037.

50th **ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN BILINGUAL PROGRAM** — Edmonton Catholic Schools is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its Ukrainian Bilingual Program on Saturday, February 10, 2024, with a gala banquet at Meridian Banquet Centre. Details and tickets are now available through the Eventbrite link: https://50thAnniversaryUBPAS.eventbrite.ca For updates, visit the Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com?UBPAS

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. We will need to raise at least \$10,000 in order to begin this urgent project. Fundraiser deadline: is April 8, 2024.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

Sunday Collection

N.N.

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,000.00
Loose Donations	\$145.00
Candles	\$19.80
TOTAL Sunday Collection	\$2,164.80
OTHER INCOME	
Donation to Parish	\$300.00
Christmas Donations	170.00
Christmas Caroling	\$100.00

TOTAL Other Income \$570.00

TOTAL INCOME \$2,734.80

CHURCH FLOOR PROJECT

\$1,000.00

\$5.066.00

Benoit and Denise Boudreau	\$1,000.00
N.N.	\$500.00
Justin and Catherine Tamsett	\$500.00
Alex Schabel	\$400.00
Steve and Janet Konowalec	\$300.00
Chris Lirette	\$300.00
Fr. Peter and Dobr. Donna Babej	\$250.00
Iryna Laschuk	\$250.00
N.N.	\$200.00
N.N.	\$100.00
Ivan and Luba Genyk	\$100.00
Sheila Leiding	\$50.00
N.N.	\$50.00
Maria Lang	\$30.00
N.N.	\$20.00
N.N.	10.00
N.N.	5.00

Total Donations

Manifesting the Peace of Christ in a World Still Enslaved to the Fear of Death

By Fr. Philip LeMasters

Today we continue to celebrate the great feast of Theophany, of Christ's baptism when the voice of the Father identified Him as the Son of God and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. Epiphany reveals that the Savior Who appears from the waters of the Jordan to illumine our world of darkness is the God-Man, a Person of the Holy Trinity. He is baptized to restore us, and the creation itself, to the ancient glory for which we were created.

Tragically, our first parents turned away from their high calling and ushered in the realm of corruption that we know all too well. God gave Adam and Eve garments of skin when they left paradise after disregarding Him. Through their disobedience, they had become aware that they were naked and were cast into the world as we know it. Their nakedness showed that they had repudiated their vocation to become like God in holiness. Having stripped themselves of their original glory, they were reduced to mortal flesh and destined for slavery to their passions and the grave. Because of them, the creation itself was "subjected to futility..." (Rom. 8:20)

As we prepared for Theophany, we heard this hymn: "Make ready, O Zebulon, and prepare, O Nephtali, and you, River Jordan, cease your flow and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized. And you, Adam, rejoice with the first mother, and hide not yourselves as you did of old in paradise; for having seen you naked, He appeared to clothe you with the first robe. Yea, Christ has appeared desiring to renew the whole creation." If it seems strange to think of Christ being baptized in order to clothe Adam and Eve, remember St. Paul's teaching that "as

many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27) In baptism, Jesus Christ clothes us with a garment of light, restoring us to our original vocation to become like God in holiness. He saves us from the nakedness and vulnerability of being enslaved to our own passions and to the fear of the grave. Through His and our baptism, He makes us participants in His restoration and fulfillment of the human person. He is baptized in order to save Adam and Eve, all of their descendants, and the entire creation, fulfilling the glorious purposes for which He breathed life into us in the first place.

That certainly does not mean, however, that the rest of our lives after baptism will be perfect in every way without pain, disease, death, and other forms of brokenness. In the aftermath of Christ's birth, Herod the Great had all the young boys in the region of Bethlehem murdered. Today's gospel reading refers Forerunner's arrest by Herod Antipas for denouncing prophetically the king's immorality. After the one who baptized Him was arrested, the Lord went to "Galilee of the Gentiles" to begin His public ministry in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy that "the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." (Matt. 4:15-16)

The Jews who suffered under the oppression of the Romans and their client kings knew all too well about darkness and death. Their homeland was controlled by foreigners who worshiped gods and exploited other the people. Understandably, the dominant expectation among the Jews was for a Messiah like King David to defeat their enemies militarily and establish a political reign of national righteousness. Jesus Christ, however, rejected the temptation to become an earthly king throughout His ministry, from His testing by Satan in the desert to His crucifixion. He repudiated the ultimately idolatrous attempt to identify the Kingdom of God with politics as usual, or even at its best, in our world of corruption. Even though the Savior did not seek earthly power, political rulers still viewed Him as such a threat that a king tried to kill him as a small child and the Roman Empire crucified Him at the request of corrupt religious leaders. He rose in glory over the very worst that those addicted to hatred of their enemies could do.

We are baptized into Christ's death in order to rise up with Him into a life of holiness in which we regain the robe of light rejected by our first parents. In every aspect of our lives, we must become radiant with the divine glory given to us by the New Adam. In order to do so, we must find healing for the passions that so easily corrupt how people relate to and view one another. Instead of being motivated by hatred, anger, or a desire to dominate or get even with others, we must become living icons of Christ's peace. Throughout the Divine Liturgy, we pray for the peace of the entire world, including "all civil authorities and our armed forces" and for "peaceful times that we, in their tranquility, may lead a calm and peaceful life in all reverence and godliness." These are not prayers merely for the interests of our own nation, but for all people. Our Lord's Kingdom is not the possession of any nation, ethnic group, or of government, system but stands in transcendent judgment upon them all.

In the violent insurrection in our nation's Capitol on the very day of Theophany this past week, we beheld a shocking and vivid epiphany of the corruption of the first Adam that the Savior came to heal. In contrast to those who act according to the ways of "the region and shadow of death," we must struggle to find healing for our passions so that we may become epiphanies

of Christ's peace even in relation to those whom the world tells us we should hate as our enemies. Because the Savior has hallowed the water and the entire creation through His baptism, we must never fall prey to the temptation of thinking that politics or anything else in this world is intrinsically profane. We must never accept that participating in any dimension of God's good creation requires us to return to the nakedness of passion. Theophany reveals that we are always on holy ground and must speak, act, and think as those who wear a garment of light. Though we fall short of meeting the goal, we must always strive to relate to others in a way that manifests the peace of Christ.

That does not mean, of course, that there is some kind of perfect Christian politics, government, or economics in the world as we know it. The tension between God's Kingdom and the kingdoms of the world remains. If we are to discern how to fulfill our vocation to bear witness to the peace of Christ in the midst of a world still enslaved to the fear of death, we must embrace the full meaning of our baptism. That requires an ongoing commitment to die to the power of sin in our lives and to enter more fully into the restoration of the human person that the Savior has brought to the world. Doing so requires constant vigilance against ways in which self-centered desire creeps unnoticed into our hearts and distorts our vision of ourselves. our neighbors, and our world. Doing so requires turning the other cheek, going the extra mile, and treating others as we would have them treat us, especially when we think we are justified in responding in kind to our enemies. Doing so requires turning away from whatever fuels the passion of anger so that we may direct our energies toward repentance and building peaceable relationships even with those we are tempted to hate, fear, or disregard.

As we continue to celebrate Theophany in a world that remains in "the region and shadow of death," let us focus mindfully on living each day as those who have died to sin and risen with our Lord to a life of holiness. That is how we may wear a garment of light and become living epiphanies of the salvation of the world.

blogs.ancientfaith.com

"Today we hear the word of comfort: The Lord God Himself will save the Ukrainian people!" — Head of the UGCC on the Sunday after Christmas

We enter the new year, a new era, as a people consecrated to God! Moreover, we sense the incarnation of our Savior within the hearts of our Ukrainian community. It is He who experiences the death anew in the killed sons and daughters of Ukraine. He is the one who is wounded once again by the attacks on our peaceful cities and villages. But it is in Him that we have our strength because we enter the new year together with Him. His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the Father and Head of the UGCC, said this in a sermon at the Church of St. Basil the Great of the Basilian Fathers in Kyiv on the Sunday after Christmas, December 31, 2023.

"Celebrating the feast of the Nativity of Christ, we fascinatingly discover our living God. Listening to the word of God about the childhood of Jesus (Matthew 2:13–23), we realize that the Nativity of Christ is not some New Year's fairy tale about something ideal and inconceivable. No! Christmas is discovering the meaning of reality, the reality of human life, of which we are a part. The Nativity of Christ is a divine story about each of us individually, about our fully human life," the Head of the UGCC said at the beginning of the sermon.

The preacher noted that as we delve into the books of Scripture, we feel that the Holy

Scriptures are a scroll of books that are written about us, about a human historical person.

The word of the divine Gospel, says the Head of the UGCC, recounts three moments when God's people rejected their Savior: we hear how Herod, having heard from the wise men about the birth of the new king of Israel, seeks to kill him; today we hear the lament Rachel mourning the loss of innocent children; we also learn about the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt. We hear how, later, upon their return from Egypt, they were looking for a place to settle in the land of Israel. They do not find a place in Bethlehem, in Judea. But they hurried north to Galilee, to the city of Nazareth, so that the word of Scripture might be fulfilled: "Nazareth shall be called" (Matthew 2:23).

His Beatitude Sviatoslav called on the faithful to reflect on what it means to be called a Nazarene.

"Clearly, Matthew, using this Greek word, refers primarily to the inhabitants of the city of Nazareth... The Greek word 'Nazarene' touches three very deep strings in the history of Israel. It seems to summarize three different meanings, three Hebrew words. One of them is *natzer*, which means sprout. The second is *natzur*, meaning remnant. The last one is nazir — consecrated to God," explained the Patriarch

Interestingly, the Head of the Church continued, "On this Sunday after Christmas we celebrate the memory of three people: King David, Joseph the Betrothed, and James, the brother of our Savior, the first bishop of the Jerusalem Church. These three words reveal the meaning of each of these three people. David is the one who founded the dynasty of the kings of Israel, which was once eradicated completely. That's why Rachel is lamenting, because everything has been destroyed, but here, in Jesus Christ, the roots, the old stump that everyone forgot about,

give a sprout, and hope is born. St. Joseph the Betrothed, who was the guardian, according to God's Law, of the Holy Family of the newborn Savior, shows us this remnant, the remnant of Israel. That is, God's people will always be preserved by God, no matter what wars, migrations, or destruction occur. James, the brother of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the fulfillment of the word 'nazir,' which means consecrated. This salvation, this nucleus of God's people, will not be limited to one ethnic group of people, to a single nation. Those new people, the new Israel, will be the Church of Christ, and you and I will belong to the new messianic people, which the apostle Paul calls the 'mystical body of Jesus Christ," the Patriarch said.

"Listening to the words about the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies in the person of Jesus Christ, in His birth, the discovery of the meaning of His modern historical moment, and thus the birth of hope for the future, we reflect on the meaning of our moment of life and history," said the Father and Head of the UGCC. The Primate remarked that it is no coincidence that the largest attack from the sky on our cities and villages took place on December 29, the day when the Church honors the memory of the innocently by Herod children killed in Bethlehem. It is no coincidence! "Today, Ukraine, like Rachel, is lamenting over its children, whom the modern Herod took away from her," he emphasized.

"Today we ask: Lord, what will this year be like?" the Patriarch called for reflection.

"We hear the word about Jesus as the ancestor, about this germ of Christ's Church, mighty in the power of the incarnation of God's Word. In Him, we learn that our sickly people are a remnant of God, whom the Lord Himself accompanies into a new era. We hear the word of comfort: no matter what happens, the Lord

God Himself will save the Ukrainian people! We receive a word of reassurance: no matter what unfolds, the Lord God Himself will be the savior of the Ukrainian people. Furthermore, He will appoint them as a beacon of hope and guidance for the entire world. In our present era, where humanity is losing its values and uncertainty about the future, we find ourselves living on the verge of pivotal It is a moment when the world needs direction and those capable of paving the way. We find ourselves on the edge—not just between life and death in war, but also at the threshold of a new year. Holding the hand of our Savior, we step together into a new era for humanity," the Head of the UGCC is convinced.

He also noted that the faithful and clergy gathered that day at St. Basil the Great Church in Kyiv to begin celebrating the parish holiday. Tomorrow, January 1, the Church will honor St. Basil the Great.

"Together, we ask for God's blessings for the upcoming year. Today, we aim to rediscover that our future isn't daunting or frightening. Why? Because our hope, our history, our future—everything—is intertwined with our Lord God, Jesus Christ Himself. We confidently embark on the journey into the new year and a new chapter in time with Him and in Him."

"Lord, with You by our side, fear finds no place in our hearts. Your presence assures us of a future filled with joy and brightness. As we dedicate our entire lives to You, the eternal and omnipotent God, we find our consecration in You, and our hope resides in Your embrace. You unfold a new chapter of time before our eyes like a sacred scroll. Today, Lord Jesus Christ, we echo Your words: 'Father, I come to do Your will!'" the spiritual leader added.

The UGCC Department for Information

СЛУЖБА БОЖА

Перший Антифон

1. Во ісході Ізраїлевім із Єгипту,* дому Якова із людей варварів.

Молитвами Богородиці,* Спасе, спаси нас.

2. Стала Юдея святиня Його,* Ізраїль — володіння Його.

Молитвами Богородиці, * Спасе...

3. Море виділо і побігло,* Йордан повернувся назад.

Молитвами Богородиці, * Спасе...

4. Що з тобою, море, що ти побігло, і з тобою, Йордане, що ти повернувся назад? *Молитвами Богородиці,* Спасе...*

Слава Отцю... Єдинородний Сину...

Вхідний Антифон

Прийдіте радісно заспіваймо Господеві,* воскликнім Богу, Спасителеві нашому. Спаси нас, Сину Божий,* що хрестився в Йордані від Івана, співаємо Тобі: Алилуя. Прийдім з похвалами перед обличчя Його,* і псалмами воскликнім Йому. Спаси нас, Сину Божий,* що що хрестився в Йордані від Івана, співаємо Тобі: Алилуя. Бо Бог великий Господь * і Цар великий по всій землі.

Спаси нас, Сину Божий,* що хрестився в Йордані від Івана, співаємо Тобі: Алилуя.

Малий Вхід

ДИЯКОН: Премудрість, прості!

ВСІ: Прийдіте поклонімся,* і припадім до Христа.* Спаси нас, Сину Божий,* що хрестився в Йордані від Івана, співаємо Тобі: Алилуя.

Тропарі і кондаки

Тропар, глас 1: Коли в Йордані хрестився Ти, Господи,* Троїчне явилося поклоніння:* бо Родителя голос свідчив Тобі,* возлюбленим Сином Тебе називаючи;* і Дух у виді голубинім засвідчив твердість слова.* Явився Ти, Христе Боже,* і світ просвітив, слава Тобі.

†Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові, і нині і повсякчас і на віки вічні. Амінь.

Кондак, глас 4: Явився єси днесь вселенній* і світло Твоє, Господи, знаменувалося на нас,* що зі зрозумінням оспівуємо Тебе:* Прийшов єси і явився єси — Світло неприступне.

Прокімен, глас 1

BCI: Будь Господи,* милість Твоя на нас,* бо уповали* ми на Тебе.

Стих: Радуйтеся, праведні, у Господі* правим належить похвала. (Пс. 32:2,1).

Апостол - До Ефесян 4:7-13

ЧТЕЦЬ: До Ефесян послання святого апостола Павла читання.

Браття (брати і сестри)! Кожному з нас дана благодать за мірою Христових дарів. Тому і сказано: «Вийшов на висоту, забрав у полон бранців, дав дари людям.» А те «вийшов» що означає, як не те, що він був зійшов і в найнижчі частини землі! Той же, хто був зійшов на низ, це той самий, що вийшов найвище всіх небес, щоб усе наповнити. І він сам настановив одних апостолами, інших пророками, ще інших євангелистами і пастирями, і вчителями, для вдосконалення святих на діло служби,

на будування Христового тіла, аж поки ми всі не дійдемо до єдности в вірі й до повного спізнання Божого Сина, до звершености мужа, до міри повного зросту повноти Христа.

Стихи Алилуя

1. Милості Твої, Господи, повік оспівуватиму, сповіщу з роду в рід істину Твою устами моїми. 2. Бо сказав Ти: Повік милість збудується, на небесах приготовиться істина Твоя. (Пс. 88:2,3).

Євангелія – Від Матея 4:12-17

В ТОЙ ЧАС, зачувши що Івана ув'язнено, Ісус вернувся в Галилею і, покинувши Назарет, пішов і оселивсь у Капернаумі, що при морі, на границях Завулона та Нафталі, щоб збулося те, що сказав був пророк Ісая: «О земле Завулона та земле Нафталі, приморський шляху, країно за Йорданом, поганська Галилеє! Народ, який сидів у темноті, побачив велике світло; тим, що сиділи в країні й тіні смерти, зійшло світло.» 3 того lcvc часу почав проповідувати й говорити: «Покайтесь, бо Царство Небесне близько.»

Пісня до Богородиці

Замість «Достойно», співаємо: Величай, душе моя, Царя Христа, що хрестився в Йордані. І ірмос, глас 2: Не зуміє ніякий язик достойно благохвалити, тривожиться й ум, і то надсвітний, коли оспівує тебе, Богородице; одначе Ти, благая, прийми віру, бо любов нашу божественну знаєш, бо Ти є християн заступниця, Тебе величаємо.

Причасний

Явилася благодать Божа* спасительна всім людям.* Хваліте Господа з небес* хваліте його на висотах. * Алилуя, алилуя, алилуя.

Замість "Ми бачили світло істинне…": Всесвіт днесь радістю сповняється, Христос хрестився в Йордані. (x1)

Замість "Нехай сповняться уста…": Всесвіт днесь радістю сповняється, Христос хрестився в Йордані. (x3)

Замість "Нехай буде ім'я…": Всесвіт днесь радістю сповняється, Христос хрестився в Йордані. (х3)

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 — з днем народження, складаємо найщиріші побажання Шарон Голінка, Юрію Лащук, Самуїл Брисон, там всім, хто святкує свої уродини. Нехай Господь Бог благословить на многі і благі літа!

ОБІД ТА СПІЛЬНЕ КОЛЯДУВАННЯ — відбудеться СЬОГОДНІ, після кожної Служби Божої в парафіяльній залі.

МАТЕРІ В МОЛИТВІ - Спільнота "Матері в молитві" була заснована для допомоги матерям, які бажають разом молитися за своїх дітей та онуків, дітей парафії та всіх українських дітей і знайти необхідну підтримку. Наступне зібрання і молитва відбудеться у неділю, 14-го січня, 2023, після україномовної Божественної Літургії.

Для додаткової інформації просимо звертатися до Лесі Бабяк за номером 587-937-0311, або електронічною поштою та адресу Lesia.lvanivna.Babiak@gmail.com. Запрошуємо до молитви!

КОНЦЕРТ «ДУХ УКРАЇНИ» — Українське Товариство Альберти має честь запросити Вас на концерт «Дух України», Камерної оркестри Едмонтону (Chamber Orchestra of Edmonton), який відбудеться в неділю, 14-го січня, 2024, 3:00 п.п. у St. Andrew's United Church, 9915 — 148 Street. За дальшими інформаціями, просимо відвідати

www.chamberorchestraofedmonton.ca.

КОНЦЕРТ КОЛЯДОК І ЩЕДРІВОК – відбудеться в неділю, 21-го січня, 2024, в катедрі Святого Йосафата, о год. 3:00 п.п.

підготовка до першої святої сповіді – для дітей почнеться в суботу, 13-го січня, від 1:00 до 3:00 год. п.п. В справі

від 1:00 до 3:00 год. п.п. В справі інформації та реєстрації, просимо звернутися до о. Петра на телефон 780-489-8868, або fr.babej@eeparchy.com.

ПІДГОТОВКА ДО ШЛЮБУ — відбудеться у днях 9-10 лютого, та 1-2 березня. В справі інформації та реєстрації, просимо звернутися до о. Петра на телефон 780-489-8868, або fr.babej@eeparchy.com.

НОВА ПІДЛОГА І КИЛИМ — Як бачите, мусимо вставити в церкві нову підлогу і килим. Щоб почати цей проект, переводимо збірку. Щира подяка за всі пожертви в цьому намірі! Збірка кінчається 8-го квітня, 2024.

Проповідь Блаженнішого Святослава у неділю після Різдва

Ти не хотів ні жертв, ані приносу, але приготував єси тіло Мені... Тоді Я сказав: Ось іду, бо у сувої книги написано про Мене, щоб учинити Твою волю, Боже (Євр. 10, 5–7).

Христос народився!

Святкуючи Різдво Христове, ми поособливому відкриваємо для себе нашого живого Бога. Слухаючи Боже слово про дитинство Ісуса (Мт. 2, 13-23), розуміємо, що Різдво Христове — це не новорічна казка нездійсненне. про ідеальне, шось а реальність, частиною якої є ми. Різдво Христове — це Божественна історія про кожного з нас зокрема, про наше, вповні людське, життя.

Заглиблюючись у книги Святого Писання, можемо збагнути, що Господь Бог дає нам себе пізнати через історію, зокрема історію людини. Відчуваємо, що ось Він тут, з нами, пізнаємо Його, коли переживаємо біль або радість, коли переживаємо історію нашого спасіння: як родина, як народ, як Церква. Відчуваємо, що Святе Письмо, Боже слово, Євангеліє — це сувій книги, у якому написано про мене, про історичну особу, а не тільки про нашого Спасителя, що прийшов до нас у людському тілі.

Цікаво, що слово «тіло» в Божому одкровенні означає не лише людську фізичну оболонку, а й існування людини в усіх її вимірах у видимому, матеріальному світі. Тіло — це родина, народ. Тіло — це болі, страждання, а також радощі й надії людини. Ми чуємо сьогодні, що сам Син Божий на небесах каже до Небесного Отця: «Боже, Ти не хотів жертв, всепалень, але



приготував Мені людське тіло. Ось Я іду чинити Твою волю» (пор. Євр. 10, 5–7).

Слово Божественного Євангелія, яке ми щойно прослухали, розповідає про три моменти відчуження Божого народу від Господа, відкинення цим народом свого Спасителя, новонародженого Дитятка Ісуса: про те, як Ірод, довідавшись від мудреців про народження нового царя Ізраїлю, хоче Його вбити; як у Рамі плаче Рахиль над невинно вбитими у Вифлеємі дітьми до двох років; як Пресвята родина втікає до Єгипту, а повертаючись, шукає місця проживання на ізраїльській землі, проте не знаходить у Юдеї, у Вифлеємі, і спішить на північ, у Галилею, у місто Назарет, щоб здійснилося слово Писання: «... що Назорей назветься» $(M_T. 2, 23).$

Роздумаймо над тим, що означає назватися Назореєм. Уживаючи це грецьке слово, Матей, найімовірніше, говорить про мешканців Назарета. Знаємо зі Святого Письма, що Ісусові написали на хресті: «Ісус Назарянин, Цар Юдейський».

Грецьке слово «Ναζαρηνός» зачіпає глибокі струни з історії Ізраїлю. Воно

начебто підсумовує три єврейських поняття: «neser», що в перекладі «паросток»; «naşûr» означа€ «залишок»; «nazir» — «посвячений Богові». Цієї неділі після Різдва ми вшановуємо пам'ять трьох осіб: царя Давида, Йосифа Обручника і Якова, брата по плоті нашого Спасителя, першого єпископа **Ерусалимської** Церкви. Вищезгадані три єврейські поняття начебто відкривають нам як сенс кттиж і покликання кожного з цих історичних осіб здійснюється в постаті Icyca Христа.

У Христі ми впізнаємо довгоочікуваного паростка, нащадка Давидового; Йосиф опікується Ним як залишком вірного Богові народу, збереженим Ним; апостол і мученик Яків вказує нам на Христа як на всепальну жертву Отцеві, цілковито посвячену Богові людину. Давид заснував був династію царів Ізраїлю, яку свого часу зрубали під корінь. Рахиль плаче, бо все знищено. Проте в Ісусі Христі той старий пень, про якого всі забули, дає паросток — народжується надія. Саме про Христа-Спасителя пророк Ісая говорить як про «паросток із пня Єссея» (11, 1).

Святий Йосиф Обручник, який був новонародженого опікуном Спасителя відповідно до Божого закону, показує, Ізраїлю залишку що захист ЦЬОГО гарантований Господом, тобто самим що ізраїльський народ буде завжди Ним збережений, хоч би які війни, переселення чи відбувалися. знищення Господь Бог завжди захистить якесь ядро, (релігійне, потім відродять шо його суспільне, громадське життя Божого народу завжди буде відновлене). Ми чуємо сьогодні, що з Єгипту під проводом святого Йосифа повертається Пресвята родина, щоб здійснилося слово, сказане пророком: «... і з Єгипту покликав Я Мого сина» (Ос. 11, 1). Це якраз народився старозавітний Ізраїль як Божий народ, коли виходив з Єгипту. А Йосиф, який захищає, — це життєдайне начало народу, Спасителя. Він несе нову надію, з якої народиться майбутнє.

Яків, брат по плоті нашого Господа Ісуса Христа, є нібито здійсненням поняття, яке означає посвяту Богові. Адже спасіння Божого народу не буде обмежене однією етнічною групою, певною нацією. Тим новим народом, новим Ізраїлем буде Церква Христова — ми належатимемо до нового месіанського народу, якого апостол Павло назве таїнственним Тілом Ісуса Христа (пор. Еф. 5, 31-32). Постать апостола Якова, першого єпископа Єрусалима, який загинув мученицькою смертю, будучи скиненим із вершини єрусалимського храму, вкаже нам на розп'ятого і воскреслого Спасителя як на здійснення слова пророка Давида про всепалення і жертви (пор. Пс. 40, 7–9). Саме існування Сина Божого в людському тілі й цілковита посвята в Його особі людини Богові буде справжньою жертвою, про яку написано в сувої священної книги.

Слухаючи слова про здійснення в особі Ісуса Христа, у Його народженні старозавітних пророцтв, про відкриття змісту Його історичного моменту та відтак про народження надії на майбутнє, ми роздумуємо про сенс нашого життя та нашої історії.

Сьогодні Київ, як Рахиль, плаче над своїми невинно вбитими дітьми. Завтра, за розпорядженням міської влади, у столиці оголошений день жалоби. Цей найбільший удар з неба по наших містах і селах відбувся саме в той день, коли Церква вшановувала пам'ять дітей, невинно вбитих Іродом

у Вифлеємі. Це невипадково. Сьогодні плаче Україна над своїми дітьми, яких у неї забрав сучасний Ірод.

Проте ми відчуваємо, що стоїмо на порозі якогось нового часу. Підсумовуємо нині прожити рік. Завершуємо спільною молитвою один із, можливо, найбільш трагічних років в історії нашого народу. Вступаємо в новий рік, не тільки календарний, а й церковний. Питаємо себе: Господи, яким буде цей рік?

Чуємо слово про Ісуса як родоначальника, про цей могутній силою воплочення Божого слова зародок Христової Церкви. У Ньому пізнаємо, що всі ми, зболений люд, є Богом береженим залишком, якого Він супроводжує в новий час. Чуємо слово запевнення: хоч би що там діялося, Господь український сам збереже народ! Ба більше, зробить його надією та орієнтиром для всього світу.

Живемо начебто на межі часів та епох, коли людство втрачає цінності, не знає, що буде далі, боїться всього нового, коли світ потребує орієнтирів і людей, здатних прокладати шлях. Живемо не тільки на межі життя і смерті в умовах війни, не тільки на межі старого і нового року, а й, міцно тримаючи за руку нашого Спасителя, разом із Ним входимо в нову історичну епоху існування всього людства.

У новий рік, у новий час входимо як посвячений Богові народ. Ба більше, відчуваємо, що наш Спаситель воплотився, увійшов у тіло українського народу. Це Його вкотре вбивають у загиблих синах і дочках України. Це Його вкотре ранять, атакуючи наші мирні міста і села. Проте саме в Ньому є наша сила, бо разом із Ним ми входимо в новий рік. Знаємо, що новизна приходить не тільки від календаря чи дня в році. Справді нове, сповнене життям, світлом

і надією, приходить від Господа Бога. Саме Йому ми маємо в молитві віддати, скласти в офіру Новий 2024 рік, у який вступаємо.

Ми сьогодні також започатковуємо ваше парафіяльне свято. Бо завтра свято Василія зі взірцевих Великого. одного «Назорея» богопосвячених осіб, ОТОГО Нового Завіту. Недаремно тут зібралася вся василіанська родина. Ми разом просимо в Бога благословення на новий рік. І вкотре майбутнє хочемо сказати. шо наше не є страшним. Адже надією, нашою історією та нашим майбутнім є сам Господь Бог наш Ісус Христос. І з Ним ми крокуємо в новий рік і час.

Господи, перебувай з нами в новому році. Коли Ти з нами, ми нічого не боїмося. Коли Ти з нами, наше майбутне щасливе і світле. Коли ми віддаємо, посвячуємо Тобі все наше знаємо, що й Ти, як вічний от , кттиж і всемогутній Бог, посвячуєшся нам, і в Тобі перебуває наша надія. Ти — сувій нової книги часу, яка розгортається перед нашими очима. Це сьогодні в нас і разом з нами каже Господь Ісус Христос: «Отче, ось Я іду чинити волю Твою!» (пор. Євр. 10, 7). Амінь.

† СВЯТОСЛАВ

THIS WEEK AT DORMITION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7: SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY.

7:30 AM - Church Open for Prayer.

8:30 AM - Confessions.

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy; for intentions of all parishioners; for Ukraine and its' Armed Forces; in thanksgiving and birthday blessings for Sharon Holinka.

Fellowship and Carol Sing after the Divine Liturgy.

11:30 AM - Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian); for intentions of all parishioners; for Ukraine and its' Armed Forces; for repose of +Orest Burak.

Fellowship and Carol Sing after the Divine Liturgy.

Mon. Jan. 8: Ven. George the Chosebite; post-feast.

Divine Liturgy for the repose of +Orest Burak (celebrated privately).

Tues. Jan. 9: Martyr Polyeuctus; post-feast.

Divine Liturgy for the repose of +Orest Burak (celebrated privately).

Wed. Jan. 10: Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa; Ven. Dometian, Bishop; Ven. Markian the Presbyter; postfeast.

5:30 PM - Divine Liturgy; for the repose of +Orest Burak; for intentions of all parishioners.

7:00 PM - BIBLE STUDY. We continue with the study of the Book of Genesis.

Thurs. Jan. 11: Venerable Theodosius, founder of Cenoebitic Life; post-feast.

7:00 AM - Divine Liturgy; for +Orest Burak.

Fri. Jan. 12: Martyr Tatyana; post-feast.

7:00 AM - Divine Liturgy; for all parishioners of St. Nicholas Parish in Carvel and their AGM; for the repose of +Orest Burak.

6:00 PM - Annual General Meeting (AGM) of St. Nicholas Parish Membership in Carvel.

Sat. Jan. 13: Saturday After Theophany; post-feast.

9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy; for all parishioners; for Ukraine and its' Armed Forces; for repose of +Orest Burak.

1:00 PM - Classes for Preparation for First Solemn Confession and Holy Communion begin.

6:00 PM - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14: SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS.

7:30 AM – Church Open for Prayer.

8:30 AM - Confessions.

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy; for intentions of all parishioners: for Ukraine and its' Armed Forces: for all dedicated workers in the Pro-Life movement.

11:00 AM - LUNCH AND PRO-LIFE PRESENTATION in the parish Hall. All are welcome!

11:30 AM - Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian); for intentions of all parishioners; for Ukraine and its' Armed Forces; for the repose of +Orest Burak.
