



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Ukrainian Catholic Parish

Українська Католицька Парафія Воздвиження Чесного Хреста

Sundays:

- 9:30 am Rosary
- 10 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesdays:

- 9 am Divine Liturgy

Most Major Feasts*:

- 10 am Divine Liturgy

(* It's always best to check the calendar in this bulletin for upcoming special events & feasts.)

Pastor: Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

780-340-3726 (call or text)
fr.nahachewsky@eeparchy.com

Deacon François Provençal

fprovence23@outlook.com

SubDeacon John Lukey

Church Website:

EHCUCP.CA

Facebook: facebook.com/ehcucp

Church Email: office@ehcucp.ca

Pastoral

Emergencies: 780-340-3726

Church: 780-478-5260

Hall: 780-478-4275

Fax: 780-476-6485

Eparchy: 780-424-5496

Church Address:

9003 - 153 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB

Church Mailing Address:

Londonderry P.O. Box 70029
Edmonton, AB T5C 3R6

More info on the next page.

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ - Sunday of the Holy Fathers,
Octoechos Tone 5; Eve of the Nativity of Christ;
The Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Христос Раждається! Славите Його!



Welcome to Holy Cross Parish

We are very happy you have come to join us in praising our Lord on the occasion of the celebration of His Incarnation. Please know you are always welcome here.

May the profound truths of our God's Incarnation move your hearts and minds this festive season. And may His peace and good health descend upon you and your families.

(Have a great New Year too.)

Sincerely, Fr. Bo & family
& all of us at Holy Cross

Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Introduction

The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus is one of the most joyful days of the Church. It ranks next to the greatest holiday, the Resurrection of Jesus. The Feast of the Birth of Jesus is also known as the "Incarnation of Christ." This means that Jesus became a man and came into the world to save us. We also refer to this joyous feast as Christmas.

Biblical Story

The story of the Nativity of Christ is beautifully told in the Holy Scriptures. The story is found in [Matthew 1:18-25](#) and in [Luke 2:1-20](#). No matter how often the Birth of Jesus is told, we realize that it is an important event.

continued on next page

Hall Rentals:

call Lisa at: 780-222-9155
 or email: hallrental@ehcucp

Perochy Off Sales: 780-478-4275

Membership:

email: membership@ehcucp

Reminder: To receive member rates for funerals/memorials the deceased person must have been a fully paid up member of Holy Cross Parish for the past 22 consecutive months. Deceased children of fully paid up members are also entitled to member rates however child must be under the age of 18.

Funeral Dinners:

Call Cheryl: 780-456-2828

Parish Pastoral Council:

Parish Priest – Fr. Bo Nahachewsky
 Deacon - Dcn. François Provençal
 President – Mark Helmak
 Past President – Peter Fedorak
 1st Vice-President – Mark Ramsankar
 2nd Vice-President – John Lukey
 Secretary – Gwen Uchach
 Treasurer – Peter Fedorak
 Archivist – Diana Horyn
 Cultural – Maryka Bodnar
 Fundraising – Edd Horyn
 Hall Rental – Lisa Borosuik & Gladys Woitas
 Ladies' Club – Heather Gauthier
 Knights of Columbus – Darrell Uchach
 Men's Club President – Marc Chiasson
 Youth Coordinator – *Emmette Lysak*
 Maintenance – Larry Waye
 Membership – J'lyn Ramsankar
 Social – *Vacant*
 Spiritual – Elizabeth Podloski

Baptism, Chrismation & Eucharist:

- Contact Fr. Bo, at least a month in advance if possible

Weddings:

- Contact Fr. Bo, at least a year in advance if possible

Funerals:

- Contact Fr. Bo, as soon as you are able.

Confessions:

- Sundays from 9 till 9:30 with Fr. Bo
- Sundays with Fr. Myron: See Calendar
- or anytime, just call Fr. Bo to arrange it.

Nativity Continued

As the story is told by the Apostles, the Roman Empire was powerful. The Romans had conquered much of the then known world. Judea and Samaria, what we know today as Israel, were included in their conquests. Emperor Augustus ordered that a census be taken in all his lands. He needed to know how many people lived in the empire so he could tax them. Everyone had to go to the town of their family's origin to register for the census. This meant that Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. They were descendants of King David and Bethlehem was the City of David.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and it was a great distance from Bethlehem. It was about 100 miles over very rugged roads. Moreover, Mary was expecting the baby and it was almost time for her to give birth. Bethlehem was a small town and there were many descendants of David who had come to register for the census. By the time Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no place for them to stay. Joseph tried very hard to find a place to sleep that evening. There was no room at the inn. Finally, Joseph found a cave-like place where they could rest. This place was used by shepherds to protect their sheep in stormy weather. It was here that Mary gave birth to Jesus. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the straw in the manger.

Now, that night the shepherds were out in the fields guarding their sheep. Suddenly, there was a bright light which startled the shepherds. The light was so bright that it turned the night into daylight. Of course, the shepherds were frightened. Nothing such as this had ever happened. Soon an angel appeared and calmed them. The angel said:

"Fear not for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior; which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11-12).

Then a larger group of angels appeared. They praised and glorified God and sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). When the angels finished singing, they disappeared and the light began to fade. It became dimmer and dimmer until it was dark again. The shepherds were awed. They didn't know what to do. Finally, they decided to leave their flocks of sheep and go to Bethlehem. They decided that they wanted to see for themselves what the angels had told them. When they got to Bethlehem, they found Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. They fell to their knees and adored Jesus.

Some Wise Men came from the East for they knew of the coming of Jesus. They had seen a star that told them that a new king had been born to the Jews. They followed the star and were looking for the child. At this time the governor of Judea was King Herod. He was a wicked man and was feared and hated by the people. When Herod heard about the Wise Men looking for the child, he invited them to his palace. Herod asked the Wise Men to find the child so that he, too, could worship Him. But Herod was lying. He did not want anyone to take his place. The Wise Men went on to look for Jesus. The Star led them to Jesus and Mary. When the Wise Men found Jesus, they fell to their knees and worshipped Him. They gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Wise Men left but did not return to Herod. They had a dream that warned them that Herod wanted to harm Jesus. Instead, they returned to their native country by a different route.

the article above is from from goarch.org, and it continues for the next two and a half pages.

the Nativity Continued

The Icon of the Nativity

(This section of the article has been significantly rewritten by Fr. Bo so that it better fits the particular image and explains a little more about the reasons why the icon was written as it is. The original article comes from the same document on goarch.org as the one on the first pages.)

The icon of the Nativity tells the story of Christ's birth from the Scriptures. It also shows that all creation is taking part in Christ's birth. The angels give thanks with their song; the heavens give the star; the Wise Men give their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The poor, humble shepherds give their praise and amazement; the earth gives the cave, and humanity gives the Virgin.

This Holy Icon is an icon with many scenes. First, it stresses the importance of the Theotokos, the Mother of Jesus. She is placed in the centre and is the largest figure in the icon. In this icon, she is lying on a bed and looking away from the Christ child she gave birth to. The reason for her awkward contemplating gaze is that she knows from Sacred Scripture that no-one can look at the face of God and live, and that indeed lying next to her is God Himself.

The three stars, denoting her virginity before, during, and after the Nativity, are on her garments (although in this

particular icon

one is not visible as she lies on her side). The Christ Child, in the center of the icon, is in swaddling clothes and is lying in the manger. This manger is depicted as a tomb, and the swaddling clothes as a burial linen foretelling the purpose of Christ's birth; to die for us.

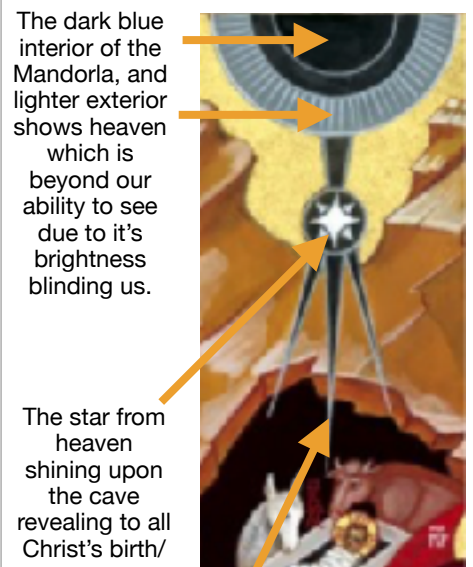
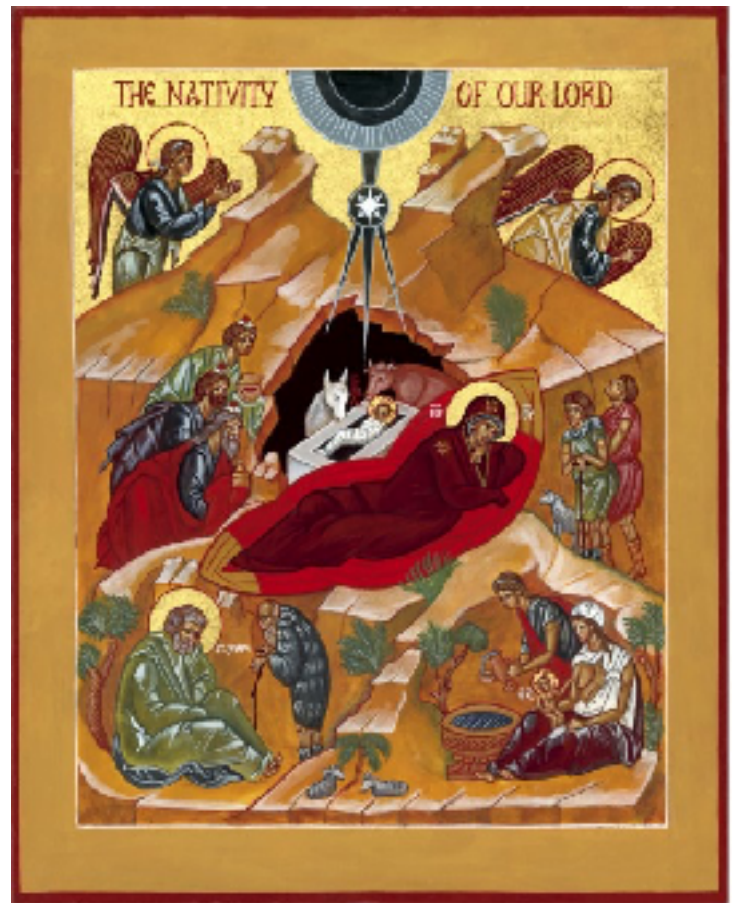
In the background is the dark cave where He was born. In the cave are an ox and a donkey guarding the newborn Babe. Even though the Gospels say nothing of the cave, this information is from Holy Tradition. Neither do the Gospels speak of the ox and the donkey, but all icons of the Nativity include these animals. Including the animals in the icon fulfills the prophecy of **Isaiah 1:3**, "The ox knows his master, and the donkey his master's crib; but Israel does not know me, and the people have not regarded me."

A beam of light comes from a "mandorla" which signifies heaven and therefore the presence of God the Father.

Note that mandorlas are

painted with their inside darker than the outside as they are so intensely bright that the further we gaze into them the more blinded by the light we become. From the heavens a star appears to all parts of the world. It teaches that this bright star is an astronomical happening, and is a messenger from heaven announcing the birth of Jesus. Then the light from the star points directly to the cave. This beam is split into three rays with the second ray pointing directly at baby Jesus showing that He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

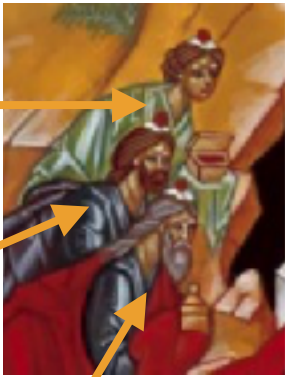
continued...



The second of three rays shines directly at Christ, identifying Him as the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

the Nativity Continued

Young Wise Man with no beard.



Medium aged Wise Man.

Old aged Wise Man with long white beard.

On the left hand side of the icon is another scene. The Wise Men, who were led by the star, are riding horses to bring their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. The Wise Men are of various ages. One is without a beard. In those days, young men did not wear beards. The other Wise Man has long hair and a long beard, which indicates that he is much older. These details teach that regardless of age and appearance, the Good News was given to each and everyone.

Opposite the Wise Men is the scene with the humble shepherds. An angel proclaims the glad tidings. Often a young shepherd is shown playing a reed instrument. This scene reveals that the music of the humans was added to the hymn of the angels.

Across from the shepherd's scene is the heavenly choir of angels. They are giving glory to God. The angels serve two purposes in the Nativity of Christ.

They give glory to God and announce the good news to all mankind.

The background shows a very rugged terrain. This is not a true representation of the land in this area. Joseph could not find room in Bethlehem, so they went outside of Bethlehem to a cave. This rocky mountain formation only serves as a background for the event.



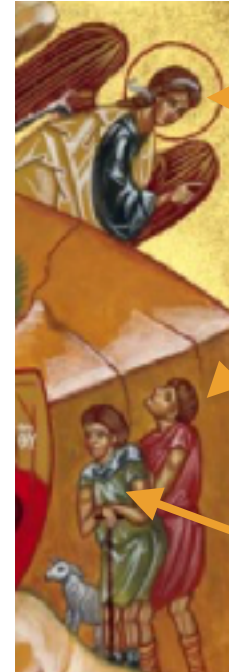
Angels look to the heavens and sing majestic praises about God's glorious love. God so loved mankind that he chose to become one so that He and they would not remain separated.

Him just as any baby is bathed. The humanity of Jesus is clearly shown in this setting.

Opposite the bathing of Jesus scene sits a sad and worried Joseph. He is not part of the central group the Christ Child and the Theotokos as he is not the natural father. The old man who is actually Satan is depicted in wild furry robes and portrayed in profile. The reason he is depicted in profile is that he is less than fully human. Normally all people are depicted with both eyes visible. (the Shepherd looking up at the angel is technically painted wrongly). Here Satan is trying to convince Joseph that virgin birth is impossible. He's telling Joseph that he's a fool if he believes this. This story comes to us from Holy Tradition. The sad Joseph shows us not only his personal predicament but the dilemma of all mankind the difficulty of accepting that which is "beyond words or reason."



Satan trying to convince Joseph to reject both Mother and Child by claiming that the conception was illegitimate.



An Angel explaining to the Shepherds where they will find the Christ Child.

One of the Shepherds looks to the Angel and receives the message.

The poor Shepherds with their sheep gaze in wonder at the humility of their God choosing to be born in a lowly cave.



Two midwives bathe the infant Jesus, who like all humans comes from the waters of the womb naked. Midwives were present indicating the normal human birth, from a blessed but normal human Mother, of a human Child.

the Nativity Continued

The tree, which is in the middle of the lower part of the icon, is a symbol of the Tree of Jesse. This tree refers to [Isaiah 11:1-2](#), "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him." King David is the son of Jesse and Jesus is a direct descendent from the House of David.

The Celebration of the Feast of the Nativity

(this last section of the article is not edited significantly from the original)

As with Pascha, or Easter, the Feast of the Nativity begins with a period of preparation. It is preceded by a fast corresponding to Lent and lasting for forty days. The fast begins on November 15.

On the Sundays immediately before December 25, special commemorations emphasize the link between the Old Covenant and the New. On December 20 the Forefeast of the Nativity is

commemorated, and the daily liturgical texts are directed toward the Feast itself. On Christmas Eve, services typically include the Great or Royal Hours, Great Vespers, and the Liturgy of Saint Basil.

On Christmas Day the service commemorates the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, the adoration of the Shepherds, and the arrival of the Wise Men with their gifts. The service held on this day is the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom.

The days following Christmas are associated with the Theotokos and Joseph. December 26 is the Synaxis of the Mother of God, and the first Sunday after the Feast commemorates "Joseph the Betrothed." December 29 commemorates the Massacre of the Innocents, and January 1 the Circumcision of our Lord. The Nativity season concludes on December 31, but the spirit of the festival extends to the celebration of Theophany (Epiphany), the feast commemorating the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River.

Look who is getting ordained!

**A new Bishop for
Saskatchewan,
and a new deacon for us
here at Holy Cross!**

Bishop-Elect Michael Smolinski, C.Ss.R.

Save the Dates

January

Friday - Dormition Parish
120 105th Street West
Nomination 19
-6:30pm, followed by dinner & fellowship

Saturday - Saints Peter & Paul
1202 11th Street East
Cheirotonia (Consecration) 20
-10:00am, followed by ticketed luncheon

Sunday - St. George Cathedral
210 Avenue M South
Installation 21
-10:00am, followed by light lunch 2024

Saskatoon, SK



Ordination of John Lukey to the Diaconate

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Exaltation of the Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Parish
9003 -153 Ave. N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta

Liturgy & Ordination: 10:00 am
Lunch and short program to follow

Tickets for Lunch - \$15.00/person

Tickets can be purchased after Liturgy
or email Darrell Uchach at
dwuchach@gmail.com

Christmas Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav

Most Reverend Archbishops and Metropolitans,
God-loving Bishops, Very Reverend Clergy,
Venerable Monastics, Dearly Beloved Brothers and
Sisters, in Ukraine and throughout the world

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a
son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

(Is. 7:14)

Christ is born! Glorify Him!
Beloved in Christ!

In this time of war, we, the Ukrainian people need a sign, a sign of hope—that God is with us, that God's life-giving power is stronger than the deadly power of the enemy fighting against us. In the Holy Scriptures, the birth of a child is a sign of hope from God! Today throughout the world the Church proclaims: "But as he [Joseph] considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit... She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us)" (Mt. 1:20, 22–23).

Isaiah prophesied about Christ: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Is. 9:6). As often happens with God's promises, the fulfillment of the prophecy exceeds all human expectations because the Child that is born is not just an ordinary human child but the Son of God! He is the living God present among us. What is now being sent to humankind is not only a sign and symbol of hope – the Lord Himself comes to ensure and fulfill this hope. He comes as a baby in whom is God's power and might, God's authentic peace for all humanity, and for Ukraine in particular. The eternal God becomes man, one of us, for all time. So indeed, God is with us!

Angels rejoice in heaven, and people exalt today, and all creatures leap with joy because of the birth of the Lord Saviour in Bethlehem; for all deceit of idolatry has ceased, and Christ reigns forever.

We must live with the hope of Christ, overcoming all challenges and trials. Even when it seems to us that the world around us is collapsing, when the enemy's deceitful propaganda suggests to us that we have no

future, we still hope against hope—because God is with us! The Holy Apostle Paul reminds us: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). If we have Christ, we have a future that no one can take away from us.

The Almighty God comes into the world even now, this year, in His Nativity, in the body of a defenceless, weak child, to dispel fear before the strong and powerful of this world. God does not force anyone to anything but captivates us with his beauty and light, joy and peace. He appears to us today as a weak and vulnerable baby so that we accept Him, love Him, and tenderly embrace Him—embrace the One who envelops us with His love. How wondrous are God's plans! The Ruler of the world, the Prince of Peace is the Child of God! So, in the Nativity of Christ, we can already see today that our future is not to be feared—it is full of peace, joy, tenderness, grace, and love, as we sing in the carol:

*And the bright star cries out to the world:
The Messiah brings joy and happiness!
To Bethlehem hasten all of you now,
To welcome God in a poor cave!*

God makes Himself dependent on people. He becomes a child so that we, taking up the mission of Mary, His Mother, and Joseph the Betrothed, protect Him from all dangers, all the Herods of this world.

We feel the same responsibility today regarding the children of the war in Ukraine. This is the most vulnerable segment of our society, and the trauma of war in children is the most complex. There are millions of women and children among Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons. Among the various types of humanitarian crises are the education and upbringing of children under the constant threat of rockets and bombs, poorly implemented school programs, stolen years of childhood innocence, and freedom from worry. We will protect our children in every way available to us! At the same time, let us remember that their spiritual wounds are healed in love, both in their family and in the family of God's children—in the Church of Christ. Let our church communities be a safe space for children, free from all forms of violence and contempt for human life, because to accept a child in the name of God is to accept the newborn Christ.

Dreaming of a bright future for our children, we must understand that...



Christmas Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav Continued

... for our people true victory is not only the liberation of territories and secured borders. Winning the war means creating a safe spiritual space of hope for the Ukrainian family, unafraid to give birth to children in their native land. Let every Ukrainian child be for us a sign of hope from God and of our faith in a blessed future.

On this joyful day of Christ's Nativity, "let us commend ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God." May all those imprisoned and held captive know that we have not forgotten them and continue to pray for them. May all the wounded and traumatized experience the joy of our Saviour's birth and God's healing touch. May the relatives and friends of those who have gone missing without trace never doubt the Lord's closeness to them.

With Christ in our hearts, already today let us plan to rebuild all that has been destroyed—both physical

and spiritual, so that our brothers and sisters, scattered around the world, do not lose hope of returning home, but, on the contrary, dream of their active participation in the revival of the country. But above all, let all the children of our nation know how much God loves them, and that with God's love even the greatest evil can be overcome.

From the bottom of my heart, I impart on you all my fatherly blessing, and wish each of you, from the youngest to the oldest, the authentic joy of the children of God, a tasty kutia, a merry celebration of Christ's Nativity, and a happy, peaceful, and blessed New Year!

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

SVIATOSLAV
Given in Kyiv
at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ,
on the day of the Holy and Fearworthy Apostle Andrew the First called
the 30th of November in the 2023rd Year of our Lord



Christmas Message from the CCCB

Dear friends,

The Christmas season is an invitation to experience the renewed joy and hope that comes to us in the realization of God's promises. In the words of Pope Francis: "It returns us to the horizon of hope, a horizon that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God". This hope is what we desire in our hearts despite the darkness that can permeate our world. In our current times the reality of war and terrorism, violence and hate crimes, economic and social injustices continue to disfigure our shared dignity as human beings and the world in which we live.

In the Solemnity of the Birth of Jesus we celebrate the Incarnate Word, the nearness of God which has transformed human history and restores to humanity this profound gift of hope and joy. It is when we choose to draw near to others that we can experience this gift of Christ's presence in our brothers and sisters. It happens on a daily basis in ordinary and also profound ways. It is found in those who give their lives to pursue freedom and justice for the oppressed,

those who advocate in promoting human life from conception to natural death, those who care for and visit the sick, those who serve at foodbanks and all who are close to those who suffer the loss of a love one, separation from family, and who are imprisoned with the addictions that afflict their life.

In this Christmas season we will hear the proclamation of the Word of God in celebration of the Eucharist. May our lives be founded on this Word which confirms us in the hope and the joy of the Gospel message which is echoed in the song of the angels each Christmas... "Rejoice a Saviour has been born for us"!

May the humble witness of our faith and service be the joyous gift we give to others to restore in them the hope which is promised in this Christmas Season. God's blessings in the New Year.

The Most Rev. William McGrattan - Bishop of Calgary
- President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops



What?!?!? No Message from the Pope?

Although the Pope did address the Roman Curia (which you can find online), his normal message for Christmas will likely be spoken at the Mass that he will celebrate on Christmas Day.

Christmas Message from Bishop David and all the other Canadian Ukrainian Catholic Bishops

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!” (Luke 2:14)

As we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, we do so with a sense of wonder in our hearts. The story of the birth of Jesus serves as a constant reminder of God’s love for us. To express God’s boundless love for us, God appears among us in the person of his own son, Jesus Christ. God with us. Emmanuel. And in this we rejoice!

This year, we celebrate Christmas in the midst of much unrest in the world, in Ukraine, the Middle East and the Holy Land – the very birthplace of Our Saviour – and elsewhere.

Peace. We long for peace.

Jesus, at his birth, comes into the world as the Prince of Peace, in fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah: “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9: 6).

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He comes into the world as the great peacemaker among humanity.

Alongside other powerful names such as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, and Eternal Father, Jesus is given the title Prince of Peace, indicating one of His many roles – the One who is the leader of peace and offers it to others.

As we celebrate Jesus’ birth this Christmas, let us thank God for the gift of peace. And let us honour the Prince of Peace by continuing to be peacemakers in the world, starting within our own families and among our friends and neighbours.

The story is told about an old rabbi who once asked his students how one could recognize the time when night ends and day begins. One student asked, “Is it when, from a great distance, you can tell a dog from a sheep?” “No,” said the rabbi. Another student asked, “Is it when, from a great distance, you can tell a date palm from a fig tree?” “No,” said the rabbi. “Then,” the students asked, “When is it?” The rabbi answered, “It is when you look into the face of any human creature and see your brother or sister there. Until then, night is still with us.

Ah, to see brother or sister in all! This is the call of all humanity!

Yet, we live in a world that is all too often filled with horrific examples of communities torn apart: hunger and starvation, ethnic cleansing, segregation, genocide, drug wars, tougher immigration, and so on.

Still, there is plenty of food and work for everyone in the world if we but share our common wealth and

recognize that we are all brothers and sisters. We are not alone but are related with others all around the world. We belong to the family of God, and it is the love of God that binds us together.

This Christmas, we remember those that fight for peace in the world. We remember the joy that peace brings, and we pray for peace and for a better world, especially in those places where there is conflict today. We pray for a day when we can truly call each other brother and sister.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, may Christ, truly bless you and your family with peace, love and joy, now and in the New Year!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

→ + Lawrence Huculak, OSBM - Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg

← + David Motiuk - Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton

→ + Bryan Bayda, C.S.s.R. - Eparchial Bishop of Toronto

← + Michael Kwiatkowski - Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster

→ + Michael Smolinski, C.S.s.R. - Bishop-Elect of Saskatoon

← + Andriy Raby - Auxiliary Bishop of Winnipeg

→ + Michael Wiwchar, C.S.s.R. - Bishop Emeritus of Saskatoon

← + Stephen Chmilar - Bishop Emeritus of Toronto

Lots of Greetings in today's bulletin from various Bishops. But just who are all these Bishops?

What's the difference between, Bishops, Cardinals, Metropolitans, the Pope, Patriarchs and other 'Bishopy' People?

Well, lets start locally and move our way up the hierarchy.

A "parish" is a community of people who worship the Holy Trinity and work together to spread the Good News. A parish is lead by the "pastor" who is an ordained priest appointed to a parish by the local bishop. Sometimes a parish can also have assistant pastors and deacons, as well as other leaders both ordained and not (such as Sub-deacons, Catechists, Cantors, Parish Pastoral Council members, etc...) who help the pastor lead the community.

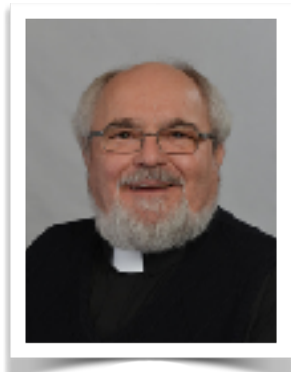


An "Eparchy" is an organized geographical area which contains several parishes. It is lead by a bishop (aka Eparch). The bishop oversees the local parishes, priests and deacons. In some church circles they call this a "Diocese." We belong to the Eparchy of Edmonton, which covers all of Alberta (and technically a portion of the Northwest Territories). Our Bishop is **Bishop David Motiuk**.

Similar to an Eparch who leads an Eparchy, there are also Exarchs who lead Exarchies. An Exarchy is a geographical area which is either not organized enough or not big enough to be made into an Eparchy. Exarchs are bishops just like Eparchs. There are no Exarchies in North America, but there are several in other places.

And another type of bishop is an "Auxiliary Bishop". This is a Bishop who does not oversee an Eparchy or Diocese, but rather assists another Bishop. In Canada currently there is only one Auxiliary Bishop who assists in Winnipeg.

A "Metropolia" is a collection of Eparchies. When all the bishops of a Metropolia gather, the "Metropolitan" or "Arch-bishop" chairs their work. In our case as Ukrainian Catholics within the country of Canada, we are part of the "Metropolia of Canada." **Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak** of Winnipeg is our leader. Since the "Eparchy" of Winnipeg is the territory of Metropolitan Lawrence, and Metropolitan Lawrence is an Arch-Bishop, that Eparchy is properly called an "Arch-eparchy".



When all the bishops of an entire "Particular Church" (such as the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church from around the whole world) gather it is called a "Synod". The synod is our Church's highest authority.

The one who presides (leads) the synod is called the "Patriarch" (or "Major-Archbishop"). Our Ukrainian Catholic Patriarch is the local Bishop of Kiev & Halych, as well as the Metropolitan of the Kievan Metropolia. **Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk** therefore sets the agenda and oversees the entire Particular Church.



There are 23 Particular Catholic Churches which are all equal in value to each other, yet differ greatly from one another in size. Together they make the whole Catholic Church.

The leader of the whole "Catholic Church" is the local Bishop of Rome, the Archbishop of Vatican City (a Metropolia), and the Patriarch of the Particular Catholic Church known as the Roman Catholic Church. His title is "Pope" which perhaps is best translated as "Papa or Dad." Our current Pope has taken the name **Pope Francis**.



There is one more group that we should perhaps talk about: Cardinals. Popes select various bishops to be Cardinals. These are often, but not always, taken from among the Archbishops and Patriarchs. A Cardinal is basically an advisor to the pope. In addition to administrating and advising, Cardinals get to nominate and choose (elect) a new Pope if there is need for a new one.

It is important to note that in the eyes of God all people are equal. God loves a simple child as much as He loves the Pope. Everyone has a God given role to fulfill in our communal pilgrimage to the Heavenly Kingdom. Therefore Bishops are not greater than any of the Laity (non ordained), however we recognize their very important role in the Church as our spiritual leaders and shepherds. May God grant them many happy years!

(Bishop-Elect means a soon to be Bishop, and Bishop Emeritus means retired Bishop)

Parish News:

- **Holy Spirit Seminarians Christmas 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.)
- Peter our Parish Treasurer says: "Many of our parishioners like to contribute additional funds before year end for tax purposes." **To ensure that your donation is counted in the 2023 Tax Year**, please make sure the donation is given on or before **DECEMBER 24, 2023**, Any donations after the 24th, no guarantee that it will make the 2023 tax year.
- Holy Cross Parish Pastoral Council is looking to fill several Positions in March 2024 (so if you are interested let us know), however **our Treasurer position needs to be filled asap**. Our current Treasurer Peter anticipates that he may be unable to finish this full term. Council would like to hear from any parish member that would like to be the next treasurer for the parish. Peter is able to provide training for this position in order to do knowledge transfer and tap his many years of experience. The Treasurer position is a key position in our organization and there are supports in place to help the function of the treasurer. If you have any questions about the position, please contact Peter Fedorak or Mark Helmak (780) 473-2972 to talk further.
- Holy Cross Ladies' Club is looking to **hire a paid casual cook for our parish**. The position requires flexibility as functions/events occur on an as needed ongoing basis. People who are qualified in catering and food handling and safety will be considered. If you love working in a fast paced environment and working with dynamic team members, please get in touch with either Heather Gauthier at (780) 982-4189 or Dianne Kluk at (780) 242-1534 for further information.
- We're also seeking positive women leaders to join our **Ladies' Club's Executive**. The Ladies' Club is a very active group of hardworking people who have been taking care of the parish in many ways (and they still do). They support and make a huge impact on various church initiatives including our youth, faith development, liturgy, finances and well... everywhere! Consider grabbing a few of your friends and make an impact in this awesome parish, so it can be even more awesome. Your energy is needed. Call the parish office (780-478-5260) or Fr. Bo (780-340-3726) who can get you in touch with some of the current team.
- **No Coffee Hour today** due to Christmas this week. The Schedule for the coffee groups is on the Bulletin Board as usual.
- We need a few more **volunteers** for our Hall Carpet and Chair Cleaning Day: **Tuesday, January 16th**. If you can help move tables and chairs around, we could use your assistance. Contact Marc Chiasson if you can help.
- **Tickets** for Deacon-to-be John's **Ordination** will be available on Sunday, December 31st.
- **Food Bank Collection:** Let us not forget those who are hungry! We are always called to think about those who are less fortunate. A box for nonperishable food donations is always in the entrance of the Church.
- Our Eparchy is continuing to raise **funds for people in Ukraine** through CNEWA. If you wish to help you can donate through our parish, which will pass the donation to the Eparchy.
- Join us as we pray the **Rosary** before Divine Liturgy on Sundays. The Schedule is on the Bulletin Board as usual.
- **Any 50th Anniversaries?** Let us know so that we can congratulate you and give you a plaque. (and put you in the bulletin). Call Diana Horyn at 780-455-9926 if it's your anniversary or if you know if a parishioner here is having one.
- Our **Sunday School** is awesome! All kids up to First Solemn Communion are welcome. You will get the blessing to go from Fr. Bo at the start of the Liturgy. Don't be shy, join us!
- Boys and Girls who have already done their First Solemn Communion are invited to become an **Altar Server!** Just say hi to Fr. Bo before Liturgy and we will train you on the job.
- We are **recording our Liturgies** for those who are not able to come in person to church. Please note that the **recorded Liturgies** are not intended to be an option for those who simply want to stay at home.
- Fr. Bo will be starting to work on a **Catholic Scouts Group** (again) for our city, which will take place in our parish, soon after the Christmas "break". If you are interested in being a part of this youth initiative, send me a note. fr.nahachewsky@eeparchy.com



I'm planning 2 different Long Weekend Icon Writing Workshops

Are you interested in the process of painting / writing a traditional Byzantine Icon?

Since this prayerful process requires about 30+ hours, I'm planning to do one on February's Family Day Weekend (16-19) and the other on March's Commonwealth day Weekend (8-11). The cost of each workshop is \$400 per person, and includes all materials and simple lunches. Space is limited.

If you are interested in either weekend, send me an email. - Fr. Bo fr.nahachewsky@eeparchy.com



MALANKA

**It's Coming Soon: Saturday, January 13, 2024
5 pm Cocktails and 6 pm Supper. Music after by the Sparkling Tones.**

That's less than a month away.

Tickets for our parish's Malanka are going fast!

Over 183 tickets have been sold already.

Malanka is a New Year's celebration, with great food, great music and great people. It takes place this year on Saturday, January the 13th. Get tickets for yourself and your friends and family before they are gone!

Tickets are \$75 for Adults and \$35 for those 16 and younger. For tickets call Rose Marie at (780) 217-8217

To All Holy Cross Parishioners:

We are looking for donations for our annual Malanka fundraiser which will be held on January 13, 2024. We are looking for any type of donation for door prizes. In return, you will get recognition for yourself or business at the Malanka Celebration as a supporter to our parish. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Because this is a fundraiser we are looking at new items rather than used for our door prizes such as gift cards or certificates, gift baskets, or items that may advertise your business.

If you have anything to donate or know someone who would love to support our parish, please get in contact with Dianne Kluk at (780) 242-1534 or at drdmkluk@gmail.com.

Thank you again for your generosity!

Please Help!

We are looking for volunteers for our Jan 13th Malanka Fundraiser, to help with the prepping of the food in the kitchen. Sign up sheets with Dates and Times are on the table next to the General Office. Please call Rose Marie Sumka at (780) 475-8825 or Elizabeth Letwin at (780) 476-1839 for more details.

Our Christmas Season Schedule:

Sunday, Dec 24	Sunday Before the Nativity & the Eve of the Nativity	10 am	Sunday Liturgy (Bilingual)
		2 pm	St. Michael's Extended Care Liturgy (Bilingual)
		8 pm	Christmas Eve Complines & Liturgy (English)
		10 pm	Christmas Eve Liturgy (Bilingual)
Monday, Dec 25	Nativity of our Lord	10 am	Christmas Day Liturgy (English)
Tuesday, Dec 26	Synaxis of the Mother of God	-	No service at Holy Cross
Wednesday, Dec 27	St. Stephen the Protomartyr	9 am	Regular Wednesday Liturgy (Bilingual)
Sunday, Dec 31	Sunday After the Nativity: St. Joseph, King David and St. James	10 am	Sunday Liturgy (English)
Monday, Jan 1	St. Basil's & Circumcision of our Lord (New Year's Day)	10 am	Liturgy of St. Basil (English)
Tuesday, Jan 2		10:30 am	Venta Care Centre Liturgy (English)
Wednesday, Jan 3		9 am	Regular Wednesday Liturgy (Bilingual)
Friday, Jan 5	Theophany Eve	7 pm	Complines, Divine Liturgy and the Great Blessing of Waters
Saturday, Jan 6	Theophany	10 am	Divine Liturgy

Upcoming (Not Regularly Scheduled) Events

- **Wednesday & Thursday Dec. 27th & 28th: Funeral**
- **Friday, Dec. 29th - Bingo**
- **Friday, Jan 5th - Perishke and Cabbage Roll Bee at 9 am**
- **Wednesday, Jan 10th - Deacon Cyril visits for Liturgy and more**
- **Thursday, Jan. 11th - Bingo**
- **Saturday, Jan 13th - First Solemn Communion Classes resume**
- **Saturday, Jan 13th - Our Parish's Malanka**
- **Tuesday, Jan 16th - Floor and Chair Cleaning at 8 am**
- **Saturday, Jan 19th - 21st - Bishop Michael Smolinski's Nomination, Consecration, and Installation with Patriarch Sviatoslav in Saskatoon**
- **Sunday, Jan 21st - Ukrainian Carol Concert** at St. Josaphat Cathedral, 2:00 pm. Donations to Bridge of Hope orphanages in Ukraine.
- **Monday, Jan. 22nd - Bylaws Committee Meeting** at 10 am
- **Tuesday, Jan. 23rd - Bingo**
- **Friday, Jan. 26th - Setup for Ordination**
- **Saturday, Jan 27th - Ordination of John Lukey to the Diaconate**, followed by a lunch.
- **Saturday, Feb 3rd - Prayers for the deceased of 2023**
- **Saturday, Feb 10th - Ukrainian Bilingual Program's 50th Anniversary Celebration**
- **Monday, Feb. 12th - Bingo**

Fr. Bo is *not* the most organized person. If I am missing or have something wrong in this list of events... or the calendar... or anywhere in this bulletin... please do drop me a line. And if you did send something and I didn't get it in, please don't be mad, just send it to me again.

Kid's Bulletin Page

Kids: you are important and we love you. This page is for you.

Fr. Bo would love to see your colouring on the bulletin board near his office.... Or you can take it home.

The Birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ



Christ is Born! Let us Glorify Him!



The wise men gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. With these they recognized that Jesus is a king, God, and the one who will die for us all. If you could give Jesus a gift, what would it be, and why?



Next Couple of Weeks at Holy Cross Parish

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>24 </p> <p>Sunday before the Nativity of Christ - Sunday of the Holy Fathers, Octoechos</p> <p>Tone 5; Eve of the Nativity of Christ;</p> <p>The Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40; Matthew 1:1-25.</p> <p>9:30 am Rosary</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy for the Sunday (Bilingual)</p> <p>No Sunday School or Coffee Hour</p> <p>2 pm Divine Liturgy at St. Michael's Extended Care</p> <p>8 pm Complines and Divine Liturgy for Christmas Eve (English)</p> <p>10 pm Divine Liturgy for Christmas Eve (Bilingual)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>The Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ - Christmas Feast of our Lord. Holy Day of obligation. Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:1-12.</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy for the Nativity (Bilingual)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ; Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God; The Holy Priest-Martyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis (824) Hebrews 2:11-18; Matthew 2:13-23.</p> <p>no liturgy</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ; the Holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen; Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore the ?Branded One? (844) A day when the faithful are highly encouraged to participate in the Divine Liturgy. Acts 6:8-7:5,47-60; Matthew 21:33-42.</p> <p>9 am Divine Liturgy at Holy Cross as usual</p> <p>10:30 am Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral followed by the Clergy St. Nicholas Gathering</p> <p>6 pm Funeral Prayers</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ; the Two Thousand Martyrs Who Were Burned in Nicomedia (303); Passing into eternal life (1945) of Blessed Hryhorii (Gregory) Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanyslaviv (Ivano-Frankivsk) and martyr James 1:19-27; Mark 10:17-27.</p> <p>10 am Funeral Liturgy</p>	<p>29</p> <p>The Holy Children who were murdered by Herod in Bethlehem; Our Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Monastery of the Sleepless Ones (c. 470) James 2:1-13; Mark 10:23-32.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Saturday after the Nativity of Christ; the Holy Martyr Anyisia (286-305); Holy Martyr and Presbyter, Zoticus, Protector of Orphans (4th c.) 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Matthew 12:15-21.</p> <p>No First Solemn Communion Class</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Sunday after the Nativity of Christ Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, Brother of the Lord. Octoechos Tone 6; Our Venerable Mother Melania the Roman (439) Galatians 1:11-19; Matthew 2:13-23.</p> <p>9:30 am Rosary</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)</p> <p>No Sunday School or Coffee Hour</p> <p>2 pm Divine Liturgy at St. Michael's Extended Care</p>	<p>Jan. 1, 2024</p> <p>Circumcision of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Our Father Among the Saints Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (379). Feast of our Lord. All-Night Vigil Feast. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated today. A day when the faithful are highly encouraged to participate in the Divine Liturgy. Colossians 2:8-12. Hebrews 7:26-8:2. Luke 2:20-21, 40-52. Luke 6:17-23.</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pre-feast of Theophany. Our Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome (335). Hebrews 12:25-26. 13:22-25. Mark 10:2-12.</p> <p>10:30 am Divine Liturgy at Venta Care Centre</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Pre-feast of Theophany. Holy Prophet Malachi (5th c. BC). Holy Martyr Gordius (313-24). James 1:1-18. Mark 10:11-16.</p> <p>9 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pre-feast of Theophany. Synaxis of the Seventy Holy Apostles. Our Venerable Father Theoctistus, Hegumen of the Cucomo Monastery in Sicily. James 1:19-27. Mark 10:17-27.</p> <p>5:30 Meeting</p>	<p>5 </p> <p>Theophany Eve. Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas (284-305). Venerable Synclitica. It is a day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain these meat. 1 Corinthians 10:1-4. Luke 3:1-18.</p> <p>7 pm Complines, Divine Liturgy and the Great Blessing of Waters</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Holy Theophany of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Feast of our Lord. Holy Day of Obligation. Titus 2:11-15. 3:4-7. Matthew 3:13-17.</p> <p>No First Solemn Communion Class</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Sunday after Theophany. Octoechos Tone 7. Synaxis of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. Ephesians 4:7-13. Acts 19:1-8. Matthew 4:12-17. John 1:29-34.</p> <p>9:30 am Rosary</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy (English)</p> <p>Sunday School & Coffee Hour</p> <p>2 pm Divine Liturgy at St. Michael's Extended Care</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Post-feast of Theophany. Our Venerable Father George the Chosebite (610-41). Our Venerable Mother Dominica (474-91). Emilian the Confessor. 33 WAP James 2:14-26. Mark 10:46-52.</p> <p>10 am Bible Study</p> <p>7:30 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Post-feast of Theophany. Martyr Polyeuctus (249-51). James 3:1-10. Mark 11:11-23.</p> <p>1 pm Ann F. School Visit</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great (356). Polyeleos Feast. Hebrews 13: 17-21. Luke 6: 17-23.</p> <p>9 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Post-feast of Theophany. Our Venerable Father Theodosius, Founder of the Cenobitic Monastic Life (529). Polyeleos Feast. 2 Corinthians 4:6-15. Matthew 11:27-30.</p> <p>8:30 am St. Matthew School Visit</p> <p>Parish Bingo Fundraiser</p> <p>5:30 Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Post-feast of Theophany. Martyr Tatiana. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. 1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12. 2:6-10. Mark 12:1-12.</p> <p>Preparations for Malanka</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Saturday after Theophany. Holy Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus (313-24). Ephesians 6:10-17. Matthew 4:1-11.</p> <p>2 pm First Solemn Communion Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holy Cross' MALANKA</p>

Changeable Parts for December 24 in the MORNING

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ - Sunday of the Holy Fathers, Octoechos Tone 5; Eve of the Nativity of Christ; The Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia

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.

Troparion, Tone 2: Great are the achievements of faith!* In the fountain of flames, the three holy youths rejoiced as by the water of rest,* and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep.* Through their intercession, O Christ God,* save our souls.

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

Kontakion, Tone 6: Armed by the Being that defies description* You defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth.* In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God:* “In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid,”* for You can do whatever You will.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4

Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

verse: For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us.

Epistle: Hebrews II:9-10,17-23,32-40 (NRSV)

Brothers and Sisters, by faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom he had been told, “It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you.” He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, “bowing in worship over the top of his staff.” By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial. By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,

quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Alleluia verses: Tone 4

O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us the work You did in their days.

You saved us from our oppressors and put to shame those who hate us.

Gospel Matthew I:1-25 (NRSV)

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob

Changeable Parts for December 24 in the MORNING

the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are

to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Communion Hymn

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

Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;* praise befits the righteous.

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia

Changeable Parts for December 24 in the EVENING, and Christmas Day in the MORNING

Dec 25 - The Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ

Complines has it's own booklet.

First Antiphon:

I will confess You, Lord, with all my heart,* I will declare all Your wondrous deeds.

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

In the council of the just and the congregation,* great are the works of the Lord, conforming to His will in every way.

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

His work is filled with praise and majesty,* and His righteousness endures forever.

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

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

Third Antiphon:

The Lord said to my lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet."

Troparion: Your Nativity, O Christ our God,* made the light of knowledge dawn on the world:* through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star* to worship You, the

Sun of Righteousness,* and to know that You, the Dawn from on the high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

The Lord will send you a sceptre of power out of Sion; reign in the midst of your enemies.

Troparion: Your Nativity, O Christ our God,* made the light of knowledge...

Yours is the dominion on the day you are given power in the splendour of your holy ones.

Troparion: Your Nativity, O Christ our God,* made the light of knowledge...

At the Entrance:

From the womb before the daystar I begot you, the Lord has sworn an oath and will not go back on His word: You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Troparion: Your Nativity, O Christ our God,* made the light of knowledge dawn on the world:* through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star* to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness,* and to know that You, the Dawn from on the high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

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

Changeable Parts for December 24 in the EVENING, and Christmas Day in the MORNING

Dec 25 - The Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ

Kontakion, Tone 3: The Virgin today gives birth to Him who is above all being;* the earth offers the cave to Him whom no one can approach;* Angel with shepherds give Him glory,* while Magi make their way with a star,* for to us is born a little Child – the pre-eternal God.

Instead of Holy God:

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia! (3)

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

...you have put on Christ! Alleluia!

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia!

Prokeimenon, Tone 8:

Let all the earth worship You and sing to You; let it sing to Your Name, O Most High.

verse: Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing now to His name, give glory to His praise.

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7 (NRSV)

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Alleluia verses, Tone I:

The heavens tell the glory of God, and the firmament declares the work of His hands.

Day announces its message unto day and night proclaims its knowledge unto night.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn to the Mother of God

In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angelic ranks and all the human race. Sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, virgins' pride and boast, from whom God is made flesh and became a little Child; and He who is our God before all ages, He made your womb a throne, and He made it wider than all the heavens. In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

Communion Hymn:

The Lord has sent deliverance* to His people.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Instead of "Blessed is He who comes..." and "We have seen the true light..." we sing:

All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is born of a Virgin.

Instead of "May our mouths..." and "Blessed be the Name..." we sing:

All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is born of a Virgin. (3)

**Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!**

**Христос Родѡтся!
Славте Його!**