



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 or 7 pm 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: Dcn. John Lukey

johndebbielukey@yahoo.ca

Pastoral Care (visiting shut-ins):

Debbie Lukey

780-478-4337

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

Toll Free: 1-866-886-3946

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, September 7, 2025

**Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross; Octoechos Tone 4;
& Forefeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God;
The Holy Martyr Sozon the Shepherd**



**Come on Monday, September 8th at 9
am for Liturgy as we celebrate the
Nativity of the Mother of God**

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on...

go to page 3

Baptisms, Chrismations, Eucharists and Confessions

It's been a lovely and busy summer of preparing people to receive Sacraments and now many of these Sacraments are upon us.



Yesterday we baptized, chrismated, and gave Eucharist to Isla Bow, the child of Landon & Bailey Bow (ne: Sadowsky)

Today we baptize, chrismate and give Eucharist to Charles Huang, the child of Charles & Megan Huang (ne: Maslanko) and his siblings Danielle, Annabeth, and Brian will be doing their first confessions and also receiving the Eucharist.

In addition to these, one day soon Solomia Knyazevich, child of Iryna Knyazevich will also receive her F.S.C. too. Perhaps even today.

Programming for every age in this new Liturgical Year from Preschoolers to Seniors

Nobody should be left out when it comes to learning about God. This academic (and Church) year we have plans for every age, so that each of them can expand their relationship with God and their understanding of their faith.

You can read all about our plans on page 4 through 23452 which include helping everyone to participate in the Divine Liturgy more. Please see how you can participate and maybe even help out.

Hall Rentals:

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

Perochy Off Sales: 780-478-4275

Membership:

email: membership@ehcucp

Funeral Dinners:

Call Cheryl: 780-456-2828

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 a dependant or under the age of 18.

For reasons of food safety and liability our policy regarding food in the hall is A> No outside food is permitted, B> All food is to be consumed in the hall, C> No leftovers are given out, D> No take-out food.

Parish Pastoral Council:

Parish Priest – Fr. Bo Nahachewsky
Deacon - Dcn. John Lukey
President – Mark Helmak
Past President – Peter Fedorak
1st Vice-President – Mark Ramsankar
2nd Vice-President – Deacon John Lukey
Secretary – Mariya Mahalyas
Treasurer – Dale Kluk
Archivist – Diana Horyn
Cultural – Ken Kozak
Fundraising – Terry Yackimec
Hall Rental – Lisa Borosuk & Gladys Woitas
Ladies' Club – Dianne Kluk
Knights of Columbus – Darrell Uchach
Men's Club President – Marc Chiasson
Youth Coordinator – Emmette Lysak
Maintenance – Larry Waye
Membership – Lorna Chiasson
Social – Edd Horyn
Spiritual – Debbie Lukey

Baptism, Chrismation & Eucharist:

- Contact Fr. Bo a month in advance

Weddings:

- Contact Fr. Bo a year in advance

Funerals:

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

Confessions:

- Sundays from 9 till 9:30 with Fr. Bo
- First Sundays of the month with Fr. Myron before and during the Liturgy
- or anytime, just call Fr. Bo to arrange it.

Coffee Hour is Back!

After our Sunday Divine Liturgies we invite everyone to come to the hall and have a cup of coffee or a glass of juice and maybe something sweet to eat. Here we can get to know each other better and build our community.



Sunday School



Kids aged 5-8* are welcome to join Sunday School during the homily of Sunday Divine Liturgies for all "Non-Children's Liturgies". Here they will learn about the Gospel message of the day, make a craft and even have a snack! The plan is to have shorter sessions so that the children can participate physically in the Divine Liturgy more.

*Children must be potty trained to participate in Sunday School.



Called to Serve

Lay Leadership & Diaconal Formation Programs

Do you feel called to grow deeper in your faith and serve your parish in a more intentional way?

"Each of us is given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift." (Eph 4:7)

LAY LEADERSHIP

A two-year formation for those discerning ministry in parish life: catechesis, outreach, sacramental preparation, and more.

- Six 5-week online courses each year
- In-person sessions for reflection, prayer, and community
- Certificate in Catholic Studies awarded annually
- Bilingual option: Ukrainian and English

DIACONAL FORMATION



A spiritual and academic path of discernment for those exploring a vocation to the diaconate.

- Two-year certificate in Eastern Christian Theology
- Undergraduate courses and in-person formation weekends
- Designed for active parishioners called to serve

Programs begin in September 2025
Apply by August 31, 2025

Initiative of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton
in collaboration with Newman Theological College

LEARN MORE
AND
APPLY



andrea.leader@eeparchy.com

www.eeparchy.com

780-424-5496

Is God calling you to leadership?
Don't wait. Classes begin soon.

Donations Collected at Holy Cross this past week:

Last Sunday's Collection: \$3840.00

Last Week's Candles: \$25.00

Support for Ukraine: \$100.00

September's Eparchial Vocations Collection: \$275.00

August's Income: \$16,301.59 July's Expenses: \$20,947.44

That is a monthly loss of: -\$4,645.85. Please be generous so that we can pay all the bills and not worry about fundraising as much.

The Nativity of the Mother of God continued from page 1

...human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when

she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.



Parish Programs for Everyone

Everyone needs an opportunity to grow spiritually. Because of this we are trying to do several new projects and programs to reach out to all age groups and abilities.

What do we have going on for Preschoolers and our youngest children?

Like last year we are continuing with our **Children's Liturgies** on the last Sunday of every month during the school year. These liturgies used to focus primarily on the homily with Marilyn the Catechetical Puppet. This year we will continue to do so, but we will add ways for children to participate more such as walking in the Small and Great Entrances, which are those two processions with the Gospel book and with the Bread and Wine that will be offered to God at the Altar. Also we will encourage all children to hold candles (some electric for safety's sake) during the reading of the Gospel.

Also we plan to put together scriptural and liturgical activities in the church, so that children can pray in their play, and play in their prayer. One of these will likely be a felt board with various figures from the gospels and feasts. The children can use this **"flannelgraph"** to act out these important stories and events in their own way. It's quiet, it's biblical, it's easy to clean up, and it can be done right in the church itself next to where the parents can supervise but also continue to pray with the rest of the congregation.

Also eventually we hope to create a **"play church"** where the children can imitate what they see. They can vest in child sized vestments, carry child sized plastic Gospel Books, swing child sized plastic Kadylos (incense) and distribute pretend communion with child sized plastic chalices. This liturgical play helps the children feel a part of what is going on and find meaning in coming to church.

Finally if the parents of these little ones wish, we would be very happy to accommodate **a parents and children play time** (like Mom's and Tots). This way young families can bond together and grow as a community.

What do children who are in K-3 have going on in our parish?

Well, our plan is to continue with our **Sunday School** where the children get a lesson about the Gospel reading at their level which may even include a craft and/or snack. However we hope to change things a little bit from years past so as to help the children can

be present and participate more in the Liturgy. The children would go after venerating the Gospel after the Gospel reading and return after a not overly long class so that they can witness the consecration (changing of the bread and wine into the Eucharist).

Like mentioned in the first paragraph of the youngest children's category, these children will be also be invited **to be liturgically active** by joining in processions with the Gospel and the Gifts, hold candles at the reading of the Gospel and such on a regular basis at all liturgies. These entrances would be expanded to their earlier form which encompasses the whole church from the front to the back and up the main aisle, perhaps eventually carrying processional banners, and not just a token walk from one door of the iconostasis and back through another.

Fr. Bo also regularly **visits various schools** teaching and sharing about our Catholic faith from an Eastern perspective. Your child's teachers should be reminded (by you the parents) that Fr. Bo is happy to work with them. Teachers simply need to call or text Fr. Bo and invite him in.

What is the plan for First Solemn Communion this year? and what ages does this normally happen for?

First Solemn Communion (FSC) is when children graduate from receiving the Eucharist in the arms of their parents and grandparents, to the point where the children learn about and participate in their own reception of the Eucharist with proper preparation including receiving the Sacrament of Penance (Confession).

This normally takes place during the year of their 2nd or 3rd grade. However some children who are mature may participate in this early, and others delay till they are more ready to do it.

This year we have not yet had a chance to talk together as FSC teachers to figure out what exactly this program will look like. We might stick with our weekly Saturday classes as we have for the past several years, or perhaps we will do something more like a FSC Camp during one of the School breaks where children will be able to learn everything within a more intensive, but fun, week.

Stay tuned. This still needs some discussion. Likely this will begin very late in 2025 or maybe take place in 2026.

How about the Division 2 Elementary students (grades 4-6), Junior High students (grades 7-9) and High Schoolers (grades 10-12)?

There is a huge difference between Div 1, and Div 2, and again between Div 2 and Junior High, and between Junior High and Senior High. So we will not try to simply lump them all together.

As the **Div 2 students** have normally already taken their FSC classes, and understand that the Liturgy is important for them and profound, therefore, we are trying to put together a youth program that does not simply entertain youth with games and activities, but also challenge them to take their faith forward.

These younger students will be encouraged to serve at the Altar behind the Iconostas as **Altar**

Servers, to do service projects such as helping less fortunate kids in the community, and to go on **pilgrimages** to other churches and local holy places. But this does not mean we will never play games. Indeed last year our youth bowling nights and other activities were popular. So we will try to have a healthy mix of both.

Jr. High Students will have the opportunity not only to serve, but to develop their leadership skills and to learn to respond to the Liturgy by **singing** and studying what Liturgical prayers actually mean. In addition to singing and learning, these youth will also do more challenging **service projects**, and going to more exotic **pilgrimages** and **retreats** that will form their faith and practices even more. They will also be given the opportunity to create works of **religious art**. And they too will have fun going bowling, doing improv, playing games and other such fun events.

Sr. High students once again will take things further by doing more intensive activities, participating in the Liturgy with not only singing but also **Palamaring**, proclaiming the **Epistle**, being stewards in the parish by taking the **collection** and contributing to various efforts in and around the parish, greeting occasionally at the doors (with and like the Coffee Teams) and more. They too will go on **pilgrimages** and **retreats** but to further and more profound places, perhaps with youth from other parishes too. And, yes, sports and fun will always part of the program.

This year we will try to have these youth events take place at 6 pm on Mondays, as Wednesdays last year did not seem to work for many.

Young Adults will not be ignored.

Our Young Adults last year bonded quite nicely, but there is much room for growth in this age group as well. It is our hope that in addition to doing things like we did last year, we will also progress in our faith and lives through both formal and informal

education (like Lay Formation and Bible Study) and to explore their purpose and spirituality through the Alpha Program with the “regular” adults. There will occasions where Young Adults will be stretched through outreach, retreats and various ministries alongside our new but passionate **Outreach Group**. The Young Adults will not gather weekly (at least not likely at first) but will gather perhaps on a monthly basis. However they are also strongly encouraged to participate in some of our Adult programs as well.

Road Trip? Yes, going on journeys is a profound way to grow in your faith, so we hope to organize a **Young Adult Pilgrimage** too.

Young Adults along with the oldest of the youth are encouraged to check out and participate in our growing **Parish Choir**. Our choir is not a 4 part professional ensemble, but we want to be a sincere group of singers who give glory to our God to the best of their ability. To accomplish this we will try to have regular practices, standardize the parts of bilingual Liturgies that are done in Ukrainian and those done in English, to learn new hymns and generally to lead the parish in meaningful prayer. We also hope become more familiar with other services such as vespers, akathists, baptisms, weddings and funerals. The Choir practices will likely take place on Mondays at 6 pm and will include more than just singing, yet they will endeavour to be short, so that people can still participate in the various meetings that often take place on Monday nights.

As they say, “all work and no play... is no good”. Yes of course we will do fun things to grow and bond together also.

Adult Programs will be expanded.

Lay Formation is a certificate program where students would study at Newman Theological College over the course of two years. They do 5 classes a year and learn about Theology, Liturgy, Ministry and more. This is a great way to develop strong leaders in the Church, which are passionate and knowledgeable. Young Adults who are interested can even ask to have the fees paid for by

the parish. A university level education about the faith!

Bible Study will continue in two forms this year. **The “Bible Timeline” program** that was begun last year will continue till it is completed. You can come even if you have not been part of the program’s earlier sessions. This is an overview of all the stories of salvation history from the creation to the second coming. This will continue on Wednesday evenings.

The other form of Scripture and Faith Study will begin in October and will use the popular series “The Chosen” to spark the conversation to follow.

“Chosen: Watch and Talk” happens in the evening on every other Tuesday, so that people can join in the conversation after work. Chosen: the profound retelling of the life of Christ in a professional TV series has been very popular and has brought a lot of people into a deeper relationship with Christ. Following the show, we will discuss what we are inspired to discuss in an honest and respectful environment, sometimes as a large group and other times in small groups.

The **“Alpha program”** is something that we are beginning this October. Alpha is a program to reach out to those around the church but not necessarily those within the church. It is basically a way of reaching those who are curious about the meaning and purpose of life, Who God is, and how we are called to live but who don’t have a spiritual life style. The program begins with a free meal, then a presentation followed by honest and open discussion with a group of peers. People are not pressured to attend anything, do anything, or give anything. They are just there to explore and discover the answers to the big questions of life in a safe environment.

Choir. Its not just for young people but it’s for all people. Everyone is invited to join in praising God with us.

Social occasions? Cultural events? Yeah, bowling and cards and being goofy and listening to music is not just for the youngins! It’s for everyone. We will try to do regular events that are simply... fun.

Men’s Club. Ladies’ Club. Knights of Columbus. There are many things for our adults to get involved in.

What about Seniors?

We recognize that not everyone can come to the church late in the day, especially when it gets dark early in the winter. So we are planning to do a special **“Chosen: Watch and Talk”** session for Seniors at 2 pm on every other Tuesday.

Coffee Hour will continue as usual which is a popular place to hang out for many of our parishioners also. The **Fall Dance, Perogy Suppers, Praznyk**, and many more programs keep people of all ages including a fair number of seniors happy and busy throughout the year.

Also Ukrainian Food making seems to be a huge social occasion for all ages including seniors.

Should we start a senior’s bowling league?

What about the Shut Ins who can’t come? Or those who simply don’t come?

Currently we **broadcast Sunday Divine Liturgies** for those who are not able to get to Church. These videos are put on live, but also can be watched at any time. They are all found on Youtube, and links to them can easily be found on our parish website. The intention is to make prayers available for those who can not come due to age, sickness or mobility reasons.

We finally found someone who is excited to help our parish have a bigger presence on **Social Media**. Okay, almost anything would be bigger than what we had before. You can now find us on Instagram and Facebook, Youtube and more.

Did you know that our **Bulletins are emailed** weekly to 173 people? You can request to be emailed also simply by contacting Fr. Bo and giving him your email address.

Explaining our **faith via videos**. There are not enough nights in the week for us to do everything so we are making videos which people can watch at any time. These videos will explain the meaning of the Divine Liturgy, the lives of various saints, the traditions of our Church, the sacraments, various vocations, what Icons are and much more. Our goal is to produce many short videos and a few more in depth ones. For example, people often wonder how do I get my child baptized? or how do I arrange my parent’s funeral? These and many other topics can be put online so that people can find them when the question arises.

There are many other things that our parish does. Get involved. Grow. Challenge yourself. Our goal is not to sit quietly, but rather to actively give glory to our God with every one.



Let Us Unite in Catechetical Ministry in Canada

A CATECHIST IS:

a **vocation** | a **mission** of the heart | a **way of life** and **service**



Monthly Bilingual Online Gatherings
For Catechists and Those Who Aspire to Become One

These gatherings aim to:

- unite in catechetical ministry and build community;
- develop and discover the beauty of the catechist's vocation;
- pray together;
- share experiences and support one another in ministry;
- grow both spiritually and professionally.

The first gathering will take place in October 2025.

Registration: <https://forms.gle/UKwo0Kd9umL55y1c8>

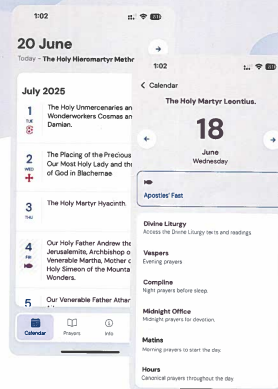
For additional information, please contact: catechistugcc@gmail.com (Viktoriia)



iPraises App

Your Daily Prayer
Companion

Created by the Ukrainian Catholic
Eparchy of Edmonton



What's Inside?



Full Byzantine
Liturgical Calendar



Morning, Evening,
and Personal Prayers



Clean and simple design

Download and Pray



GET IT ON
Google Play



Download on the
App Store

Make sure to update to the latest version
for new features and improved experience.

You are Invited to the Holy Cross Parish

Harvest Dance

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Doors Open at 5:00 PM

Dinner at 6:00 PM



Music by The New Lumberjacks

Tickets available from Rose Marie

Call 780-217-8217

Adults \$55.00

Youth \$30.00 (12 and under)

DOOR PRIZES!

* Casual Wear *



SEPT
18
7:00 PM

Meet cartoonist and author
MICHAEL CHERKAS
as he discusses his
graphic novel **RED HARVEST**

Hosted by the Ukrainian Catholic Women's
League of Canada Museum

A GRAPHIC NOVEL OF THE TERROR FAMINE
IN 1930s SOVIET UKRAINE

**RED
HARVEST**
MICHAEL CHERKAS



"HARROWING"
BOOKLIST

"AN EMOTIONALLY
GRIPPING HUMAN STORY"
PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

"RENDERED WITH WIT,
TACT AND GREAT RESERVE"
NOW READ THIS!

A JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD
GOLD STANDARD SELECTION

**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 18
7:00 PM**
Doors open at 6:30 PM
Presentation in English

UCWLC Museum
St. Josaphat Cathedral, Lower Level
10825 - 97 Street
Edmonton, Alberta

Books will be available for purchase.

Only 1 week till our **Praznyk**

So get your tickets for the Praznyk Lunch which will happen after the 10 am Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, September 14, 2025.**

They are available in the Anex (Triangular Room between the church and the hall) after each Liturgy or via the office on Wednesday mornings.

Don't delay any more. We need to know how many people to cook for.

The word "Praznyk" is a Ukrainian word that means the celebration of our patron saint or feast. Since we are named after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and since September 14th is the actual day of the feast, this day therefore becomes our day!

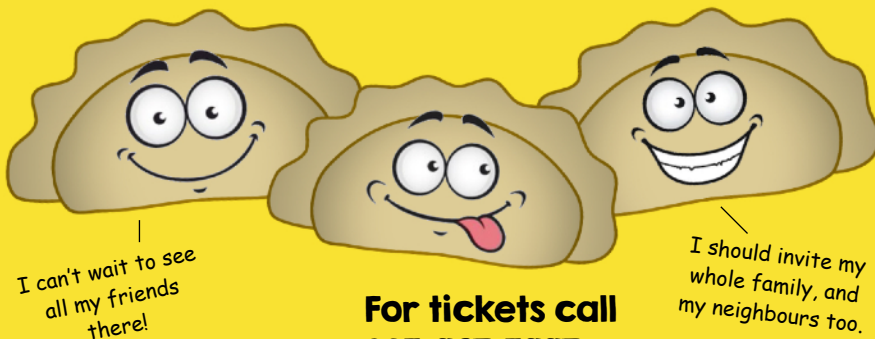
Come and join Bishop David Motiuk, and all of us as we celebrate the power and glory of the Holy Cross, and the many successes that our parish has had over the past 49 years.

and Oops! When we printed the Praznyk tickets we accidentally put in the wrong date. Our Praznyk will take place on Sunday, September 14 (not the 12th) after the Divine Liturgy. So... if you already got your ticket and it has the wrong date on it, please take a pen and write the correct date on it.

Perogy Supper September 27, 2025 Get your tickets now

Menu:

- Three types of Perogies
- Meatballs & Gravy
- Sweet Cabbage rolls
- Cornmeal
- Mushrooms & Dill Cream Sauce
- Fried Onions
- Marinated Vegetable Salad
- Assorted Preserves
- Desserts



**For tickets call
825-967-5997**

**or get them after any Sunday
Divine Liturgy... but don't wait
because these go fast.**

Advanced tickets only

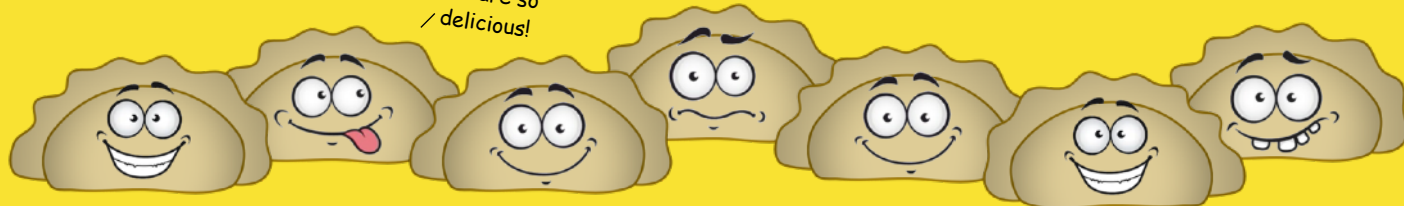
Adults (13+) \$25

Youth (7-12 years) \$15

Children 6 and under are Free

Do I really want to
be boiled and
eaten?

We are so
delicious!





UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH
SVIATOSLAV SHEVCHUK
MAJOR ARCHBISHOP OF KYIV-HALYCH

“PERSEVERING IN HOPE, STRONG IN LOVE” (cf. Rom. 12: 12): THE UKRAINIAN FAMILY IN TIME OF WAR

Pastoral Letter of the 2025 Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church

To the Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of the
UGCC, To Families in Ukraine and Abroad, To
all People of Good Will

*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and
beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility,
meekness, and patience, bearing with one another...
and forgiving each other... And above all these put
on love, which binds everything together in perfect
harmony.*

(Col. 3:12-14)

Beloved in Christ!

Having gathered as pilgrims of hope at this year's Synod of Bishops of the UGCC in Rome, we devoted special attention to the theme “Pastoral Care of Families in Conditions of War.” It is no coincidence that the issue of the family was considered in the context of the Year of Hope, as the Christian family is called to be a privileged place of growth in faith, holiness and love, that is, a “domestic Church” where in an atmosphere of faith, prayer, and family warmth, a father and mother with their children nurture Christian hope – for a happy and God-pleasing life here on earth, and for receiving the promise of future blessings. “For

to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe” (I Tim. 4:10).

It is not easy to speak of hope in the current conditions of war. Every family faces serious challenges today – both in Ukraine and abroad. We live in a world that not only fails to protect and duly appreciate the special calling of the family but also creates numerous obstacles to its full development. Meanwhile, the missiles of the insidious enemy are deliberately aimed at the Ukrainian family – attacking cities and villages, ruining civilian infrastructure, destroying hospitals, schools, kindergartens, and residential buildings. Among the challenges that you certainly have noticed or perhaps experienced in your own life: separation, alienation, loss of a loved one, financial instability, a constant sense of danger, physical health problems, as well as various kinds of psychological trauma caused by the war. All these pains and sufferings of the Ukrainian people, and above all, of our families, we raise up in daily prayer to the throne of the Almighty in firm hope for His certain help, salvation, protection, and salvation.

All of us – bishops, priests, consecrated persons, and laity – care deeply about the state of families whose members are fighting in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the families of veterans, of those killed, wounded, or missing-in-action, as well as those who remain in the occupied territories or in areas of intense fighting. Each of us opens our heart to those who were forced to leave their homes – displaced persons both within the territory of Ukraine and beyond its borders. We seek to extend a helping hand in some way to families in need. Many of us have gratefully accepted such support from others.

Over the past three years of war, we have gained significant practical pastoral experience in ministering to families. This experience also includes fruitful collaboration with mental health professionals who are active members of our Church, work in the sphere of human formation in our educational institutions and understand the need for both spiritual

accompaniment and professional therapy. Our monasteries have become oases of spiritual healing for many, supporting and strengthening familial and interpersonal relationships. We especially appreciate the dedicated ministry of our pastors who, often experiencing their own traumas and family difficulties, do not abandon their daily work to faithfully support their flock as “wounded healers,” able to sympathize in Christ Jesus with the pains of others, because they themselves experience them in their own lives (cf. Heb. 4:15; 5:2).

We strive for parishes to be places of healing, of spiritual and humanitarian support for families – through participation in common prayer and the Holy Mysteries (sacraments) of the Church, as well as through initiatives such as peer-support groups, where people with similar experiences can share with each other and feel human compassion and understanding. Such assistance is directed, first of all, towards those who have lost loved ones and whose pain no one is able to understand unless they themselves have experienced a similar loss.

We encourage each parish community to become an environment that forms young people and betrothed couples for family life and supports Christian families in their vocation to create a “domestic Church.” We strive to continue journeying in pilgrimage together with our families, in unity and solidarity, with a shared sense of hope and mission.

Our righteous Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky in his pastoral letter, “On the Christian Family” (1900), emphasized that the Christian understanding of family is a teaching “on which the future of all humanity depends and on which it is based.” Confessor of faith, Patriarch Joseph, in his “Testament” wrote: “Parents! The Christian family is the foundation of a healthy society, a people, and a nation. It is the key to their growth and strength! And, therefore, I entreat you: preserve, and where it has been shaken, restore in the Ukrainian people the true Christian family, as an unquenchable hearth of life and health of the Church and the People!”

We recall these words of our luminaries of the Christian faith, in order to once again draw attention to the fundamental truth that you yourselves understand and sense: the Christian family is the first school of faith, of prayer, and of service to one’s neighbour, it is the first community where children discover “the hope to which the Lord calls us,” it is the first “place of encounter with the living Christ.” Parents are the first icons of God’s love and goodness for their children. What an immense and worthy calling this is, what a sacred responsibility: that our Lord God chooses parents to reveal Himself to His children! And His Holiness Pope Leo XIV calls upon parents to fulfil this responsibility: “I encourage you, then, to be examples of integrity to your children, acting as you want them to act, educating them in freedom through obedience, always seeing the good in them and finding ways to nurture it. And you, dear children, show gratitude to your parents. To say ‘thank you’ each day for the gift of life and for all that comes with it is the first way to honour your father and your mother (cf. Ex 20:12). Finally, dear grandparents and elderly people, I recommend that you watch over your loved ones with wisdom and compassion, and with the humility and patience that come with age.”

Dear parents, allow us to thank you in a special way for all your efforts, and to say: “Do not be afraid!” We thank you for your love for your children, for your sleepless nights, for your great sacrifice, for your patience, for your living testimony of faith and hope, for your common prayer in the family, for your participation in the life of the Church together with your children. Therefore, do not be afraid to give birth to and raise God’s children, which is a living testimony of the hope you place in the Lord of heaven and earth, and seeds for the growth and constant renewal of His Church and our people. Having received the gift of natural life through your parents and the gift of supernatural life into which you were born from water and the Spirit in the Holy Mysteries of the Church of Christ, do not be afraid to pass these gifts on to the next generation.

The world today is in great need of what Pope Francis called the “Gospel of the Family” –

communities where challenges are met in an atmosphere of joy and mutual support in love, where the Gospel of love is preached to the world not with words but with deeds of love and mercy, where the human soul rises in prayer to its Lord with uplifted hands and an open heart. Do not be afraid, for everything you need for this sacred task has already been placed within you – by the action of the Holy Spirit and the blessing you received on the day of your wedding. Then your mother-Church gave you the gift of this Spirit of love, summoning Him to descend upon you with the words: “So too come here and bless this marriage with Your unseen presence, and give these servants of Yours a peaceful life, length of days, chastity, love for one another in a bond of peace, long-lived descendants, delight in their children and an unfading crown of glory. Let them see their children’s children, keep their bed unassailed, give to them of the dew of the heavens above and of the fertility of the earth. Fill their homes with wheat, wine and oil, and with every good thing, so that they may share with those in need” (Order of Crowning). What the Lord said to His apostles before His ascension also applies to every Christian family: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Dear Fathers – pastors, you are our closest collaborators in Christ’s vineyard, and you often carry out your ministry with the support of your wives and children. May the parishes in which you serve be a true family home, a community of communities, a place where every family unit can find support, where every person – from the child to the elder – will be enveloped in God’s love and human care. May God’s love be revealed in your every word and blessed deed and may your parish become a space where every family can draw living water from the well of God’s grace and Gospel teaching to fulfil all to which it is called from the Lord. Promote family movements in our Church, providing them with appropriate spiritual accompaniment and instructing them to walk “the path of the Church.” Be blessed with the grace of your laying-on of hands and, if

you are married, with the grace of the Holy Mystery of Matrimony that you have received. Thank you for your dedication, your spirit of selfless sacrifice and zealous service.

Beloved in Christ! Among the most precious gifts that the Lord gives us is time – a non-renewable resource that comes in an instant and is gone forever. It cannot be returned or replaced. And yet, how often family members lack time for each other! Wishing to further develop family ministry in our Church, we call upon our fathers-pastors to pay greater attention to this important aspect of service. We remind our faithful of the need for common prayer, which restores, purifies and strengthens relationships with God and of family members among themselves. It is also important to appreciate time spent in tender communication between husband and wife, in the caring love of parents for their children, in attentiveness to the elderly and to those who have special needs in our families – in particular the wounded, the suffering, and those traumatized by war.

Let us use this priceless gift of time to be close to God and to each other, creating a community of pilgrims of hope: parents – among themselves and with their children, families – with families, clergy and laity – in parish communities, parishes – in eparchial unity, consecrated communities – in service to the Church, and all of us together – as one spiritual family, the Church of Christ. In this community of God’s children may each family sense our understanding, our support, our gratitude and closeness: your Church is always with you!

May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, descend upon our people, upon each of our families, and abide with us all forever!!

On behalf of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church

† SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv, at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the day of Holy Venerable-Martyr Dometius, on the 7th day of August in the 2025th year of our Lord



Bridge of Hope Annual Christmas Shoebox Campaign

Bridge of Hope is an organization within the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton whose mission is to provide support services through sponsorship and ministering to underprivileged children in Ukraine that live at home or in orphanages.

We are excited to announce that Bridge of Hope is once again organizing our annual Christmas Shoebox campaign! This year, we aim to bring joy to orphans and underprivileged children cared for by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Western Ukraine. Shoeboxes filled with all kinds of surprises from caring Canadians, will be delivered by the sisters to underprivileged children throughout western Ukraine in time for St. Nicholas day!

How You Can Help:

- **Prepare a Shoebox:** Shoeboxes are easy to assemble and a wonderful way to bring families and parishioners together in a meaningful way.
- **How to Pack a Shoebox:** Use either a shoebox, or backpack. Choose either a boy or girl, within the following age ranges 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. Make sure to label your shoebox with this information. Some ideas for items to pack are personal care items, school supplies, treats, clothing or toys. Please do not include liquids, loose candy, battery

operated toys, or very heavy items. We also ask that you include a \$7 donation to cover the shipping costs. There is a detailed list of the most needed items on our website. ourbridgeofhope.com

- Deliver your shoebox to your parish contact, or contact Wanda Kowalchuk directly to confirm drop-off location.
- **Make a Donation:** If you prefer, you can also donate funds to help us fill shoeboxes for the children. Which can also be done through the website. Or contact Wanda. See below.

Important Information:

- **Website:** For more details about the campaign and ideas for shoebox contents, please visit our website: ourbridgeofhope.com and look under "Programs"
- **Contact Us:** If you need assistance or more information, feel free to reach out to Wanda Kowalchuk at wandamay@telus.net or call 780-993-0216. We are also looking for volunteers at each parish to help coordinate at the parish level. If you would like to help, please contact Wanda.
- **Deadline:** Our goal is to have all the boxes ready to go by October 5, 2025 so that they will arrive in time for the Feast of St. Nicholas.

Together, We Can Make a Difference!

With many children in need this year, your support is crucial. Thank you for joining us in spreading hope and joy this Christmas season!

Monday, Sept 8th 400lbs of cabbage will be prepared for souring. 150 lbs of cabbage will be prepared for sauerkraut. 9am start. Willing and able people please come help out as we harvest in preparation for off-sales!

Tuesday, Sept 9th ...cabbage roll bee @9am
Tuesday, Sept 23rd...cabbage roll bee @9am

During the month of September, the Eparchy of Edmonton conducts its annual **Vocations and Seminary Collection**

“It takes a whole village to raise a child.” It likewise takes the support of the whole Church to form a deacon, priest, religious, monastic and lay member for ministry in the Church. It also takes our support to offer on-going education and formation for those already in sacred orders or involved in lay ministry.

The faithful can acknowledge the role they play in nurturing vocations by offering their financial support to help defray such expenses as formation programs, retreats, conferences, seminars, tuition, books, and room and board.

Studying for the diaconate and the priesthood this year, on behalf of the Eparchy Edmonton are:

- **Volodymyr Babiak** (Bachelor of Theology, Neman Theological College, Edmonton);
- **Michael Chichak** (Master of Divinity, Newman Theological College, Edmonton);
- **Jacob Kociuba** (Master of Divinity, Newman Theological College, Edmonton);
- **Brian O'Neill** (Diaconate Formation, Saint Stephen Parish, Calgary);
- **Peter Pitchko** (Pastoral Internship, Saint Josaphat Cathedral/Pastoral Centre, Edmonton);
- **Julian Savaryn** (Pastoral Internship, Saint George Parish, Edmonton);
- **Patrick Siedlecki** (Diaconate Formation, Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Lethbridge);
- **Ryan Tarnava** (Diaconate Formation, Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Lethbridge); and
- **Adam Yurkow** (Bachelor of Theology, Newman Theological College, Edmonton).

Thank you for your generosity! May God bless you and your families!

The suggested donation amount is \$30.00 per family, and all the parishes are going to send \$30 for each of their families to the Eparchy whether or not the families themselves will donate it. And, as you can see, there are quite a few potential vocations for our Eparchy which means that even the \$30 suggested donation per family is not likely to cover all the expenses. **So, if you are in a position that you can give more than \$30 to this wonderful cause... please do so.**

You can use the special envelopes that are in your box of envelopes and drop it into the Sunday Collection basket.

WHAT?!?! You don't have a box of envelopes from this parish?!?!?

That must mean that you are not registered as a member of our parish yet. You can do so by talking to Lorna Chiasson, or contacting the parish office (which is open on Wednesday mornings). Not only will you get a free box of donation envelopes, but you also get reduced rates for hall rentals and help us keep our records up to date. So join us today!

Other Announcements

- **Lay Leadership & Diaconal Formation – A Journey of Faith and Service** The Eparchy of Edmonton invites you to go deeper into your faith and answer God's call to serve. In partnership with Newman Theological College, we offer two formation paths beginning September 2025:
 - **Lay Leadership Program** – for parishioners discerning a call to serve their parish community
 - **Diaconal Formation Program** – for men discerning a vocation to the diaconate.Grow in understanding, prayer, and purpose. **Apply by yesterday, or as soon as possible.**

Learn More: eeparchy.com/formation/
Contact: andrea.leader@eeparchy.com | 780-424-5496

- **Our Question Box:** In our Church's entry there is a "Question Box". If you have a question about our Faith, Church or Traditions, simply write it down and drop it into the box. Fr. Bo will try to answer your question in one of the next bulletins.
- We would love to have someone **volunteer** to help our parish create a **Photo Directory** for next year. If you can volunteer for this project please speak to Dianne Kluk or Fr. Bo.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

- **Sunday, September 7 at 10 am Liturgy:** Baptism (CH) & First Solemn Communions (A,B&DH)(S)
- **Sunday, September 7 at 10 am Liturgy:** Fr. Myron will be at our parish to hear confessions. He normally does this on the first Sunday of each month.
- **Early in this week, but the date and time has not yet been decided:** The funeral for the handmaid of God + **Halyna (Mother of Yaroslav)** will take place at Park Memorial. Vichnaya Pamyat.
- **Monday, September 8:** The Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God. Liturgy at 9 am.
- **Monday, September 8 at 6 pm:** Choir Meeting.
- **Monday, September 8, at 7:30 pm:** The **Knights of Columbus**, a group of men from within and around the parish, are meeting. All men are invited to come and talk to any member about joining this fraternal group.
- **Tuesday, September 9 at 1 pm:** The funeral for the servant of God + **John Orchowski** will take place at Park Memorial. Vichnaya Pamyat.
- **Tuesday, September 9 at 9 am:** Cabbage Roll Bee. Volunteers each get a FREE hairnet!
- **Sunday, September 14:** The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This is our parish's "Praznyk" (Feast Day). On this day bishop David will join us and we will have a fitting celebration. Get your tickets now.
- **Saturday, September 20, at 10 pm:** KC District #16 Executive Meeting in the Boardroom
- **Saturday, September 20, at 1 pm:** Baptism (TB)
- **Tuesday, September 9 at 9 am:** Cabbage Roll Bee. Volunteers each get a FREE hairnet!
- **Wednesday September 24:** Wedding (W&K)
- **Saturday September 27:** Perogy Supper - tickets now available. The last time Holy Cross held a Perogy Supper in September both sittings were sold out. To purchase tickets, call 825-967-5997.
- **Saturday September 27 at 9 am:** The Sub-deaconal ordination of Peter Pitchko at St. Josaphat's Cathedral
- **Monday September 29:** PPC Meeting
- **October 1:** The Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God.
- **October:** Bible Study will resume. All are welcome to join us. Dates should be in next week's Bulletin.
- **Saturday, October 11 at 10 am:** The Deaconal ordination of Peter Pitchko at St. Josaphat's Cathedral
- **October 18-24:** Catholic Education Week. Catholic Education Week is a time to give thanks for the gift of Catholic education, celebrate its constitutional and spiritual foundations, and renew our shared mission. This week is a moment for Catholic schools to stand visible in the public square—anchored in Christ, radiant in hope. Through prayer, celebration, and witness, we affirm the mission entrusted to us.

In unity, the Catholic Bishops of Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Yukon—together with GrACE and the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA)—have issued a [Pastoral Letter](#) affirming our mission, encouraging courageous witness, and expressing gratitude for all who serve in Catholic education. If you are reading this bulletin in a digital format you can click on the link to read this.
- **October 20-23:** Annual Clergy Study Days. Theme: Catechesis and Synodality.
- **Saturday, October 25:** Harvest Dance: Doors open at 5 pm, Dinner is at 6 pm. Live music by the "New Lumberjacks". You can get tickets from Rose Marie at 780-217-8217
- **December 7:** St. Nicholas Visits us! Yahoo!

I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug.

The Next Couple Weeks at Holy Cross						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>7</p> <p>Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross; Octoechos Tone 4; ☩ Forefeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God; The Holy Martyr Sozon the Shepherd. Saint with Six Stichera. Resurrection Gospel 2. 1 Corinthians 16:13-24; Matthew 21:33-42.</p> <p>Fr. Myron is in to help with Confessions</p> <p>9:30 am Pre-Baptismal Rites</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy with a Baptism and 3 First Solemn Communicants* (ABC& DH) (Bilingual)</p> <p>Sunday School is Back! So is coffee hour!</p> <p>Yes Sunday School, Yes Coffee</p> <p>11:30 am Marriage Prep (S&F)</p> <p>* we might be a 4th FSC this Sunday too. (S)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>☩ The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary.</p> <p>Feast of the Mother of God. Holy Day of obligation. Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.</p> <p>9 am Festal Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Possible Funeral at Funeral Home</p> <p>6 pm Choir Meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>☩ The Holy and Righteous Forebears of God Joachim and Anna; The Holy Martyr Severian. Post-feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God. Galatians 4:22-31; Luke 8:16-21.</p> <p>9 am Cabbage Roll Bee</p> <p>Possible Funeral at Funeral Home</p> <p>Confirmed: another... 1 pm Funeral at Funeral Home</p>	<p>10</p> <p>The Holy Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora. Post-feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God. 2 Corinthians 13:3-13; Mark 4:35-41.</p> <p>9 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Possible Funeral at Funeral Home</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Our Venerable Mother Theodora of Alexandria. Post-feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God. Galatians 1:1-10; 1:20-2:5; Mark 5:1-20.</p> <p>Fr. Bo's Day Off</p> <p>5:30 pm Appointment</p>	<p>12 🐟</p> <p>The Holy Hieromartyr Autonomus. Leave-taking of the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Galatians 2:6-10; Mark 5:22-24; 5:35-6:1.</p> <p>10 am Vocations Meeting</p> <p>5:30 pm Appointment</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Saturday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross; ☩ Commemoration of the Dedication of the Holy Church of the Resurrection of Christ our God; The Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross; The Holy Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion. Great Doxology. 1 Corinthians 2:6-9; Matthew 10:37-11:1.</p>
<p>14 🐟</p> <p>☩ The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross. Day of strict fast. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35.</p> <p>9:30 am Rosary</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy (English)</p> <p>Bishop David Preaches</p> <p>Yes Sunday School, but no coffee as it is our Praznyk</p> <p>Parish Praznyk</p>	<p>15</p> <p>☩ The Holy Great-Martyr Nicetas. Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Saint with Six Stichera. Galatians 2:11-16; Mark 5:24-34.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>☩ The Holy Great-Martyr Euphemia, the All-Famed. Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Saint with Six Stichera. Galatians 2:21-3:7; Mark 6:1-7.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Holy Martyr Sophia, and Her Three Daughters Faith, Hope, and Love. Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Galatians 3:15-22; Mark 6:7-13.</p> <p>9 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>6 pm Bible Study?</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Our Venerable Father Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna, Wonderworker. Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Galatians 3:23-4:5; Mark 6:30-45.</p> <p>Fr. Bo's Day Off</p> <p>5:30 pm Appointment</p> <p>7 pm "Red Harvest" at Cathedral Basement Museum</p>	<p>19 🐟</p> <p>The Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius, and Dorymedontus. Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. Galatians 4:8-21; Mark 6:45-53.</p> <p>5:30 pm Appointment</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Saturday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross; ☩ The Holy Martyrs and Confessors for the Faith, the Grand Prince Michael and His Nobleman Theodore, Wonderworkers of Chernihiv; ?? The Holy Great-Martyr Eustathius and those with him. Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Saint with Six Stichera. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; John 8:21-30.</p> <p>10 am Knights Exec Meeting</p> <p>1 pm Baptism & Hall Rental</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross; Octoechos Tone 6; The Holy Apostle Codratus of Magnesia. Leave-taking of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Resurrection Gospel 4. Galatians 2:16-20; Mark 8:34-9:1.</p> <p>9:30 am Pre-Baptismal Rites</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy with 3 Baptisms (O,L&MB) (Bilingual)</p> <p>Yes Sunday School, but no coffee as it is our Praznyk</p> <p>12 noon Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p> <p>The Holy Hieromartyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope; The Holy Prophet Jonah; The Venerable Jonah the Presbyter. Galatians 4:28-5:10; Mark 6:54-7:8.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>☩ The Conception of the Honourable and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John. Great Doxology. Galatians 4:22-31; Luke 1:5-25.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>☩ The Holy First-Martyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thekla. Saint sith Six Stichera. Galatians 6:2-10; Mark 7:14-24.</p> <p>9 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Wedding (W&K)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Our Venerable Mother Euphrosyne. Ephesians 1:1-9; Mark 7:24-30.</p> <p>9 am Retreat for St. Martin's School</p> <p>Perogy Supper Prep</p> <p>5:30 pm Appointment</p>	<p>26</p> <p>☩ The Falling Asleep of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian. All-Night Vigil Feast. A day when the faithful are highly encouraged to participate in the Divine Liturgy. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. 1 John 4:12-19; John 19:25-27; 21:24-25.</p> <p>Perogy Supper Prep</p> <p>5:30 pm Appointment</p>	<p>27</p> <p>The Holy Martyr Callistratus and those with him; Our Venerable Father Nilus, Founder and Hegumen of the Grottaferrata Monastery. 1 Corinthians 10:23-28; Matthew 24:34-44.</p> <p>9 am Subdiaconal Ordination of Peter Pitchko at the Cathedral</p> <p>Wedding (W&K)</p> <p>Perogy Supper</p> <p>15</p>

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross; Octoechos Tone 4;

⌄ Forefeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God; The Holy Martyr Sozon the Shepherd.

Troparion, Tone 4: When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel* the glorious news of the resurrection* and cast off the ancestral condemnation,* they proudly told the apostles:* “Death has been plundered!* Christ our God is risen,* granting to the world great mercy.”

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

Kontakion, Tone 4: My Saviour and Deliverer from the grave* as God raised out of bondage the children of the earth* and shattered the gates of Hades;* and as Master, He rose on the third day.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 3: Today Mary, the Virgin and Theotokos,* the boundless chamber of the heavenly Bridegroom, is born! * From a barren woman, by the counsel of God, * the chariot of the Word is rightly adorned;* for she was foretold as the divine portal and the Mother of Life.

Prokeimenon, Tone 6

Save Your people, O Lord, * and bless Your inheritance.

verse: Unto You I will cry, O Lord, my God, lest You turn from me in silence.

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 (NRSV)

Brothers and Sisters, see what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they

want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Alleluia verses, Tone 1:

I have exalted one chosen from the people and with my holy oil anointed him.

My hand shall always be with him and my arm shall make him strong.

Gospel: John 3:13-17 (NRSV)

The Lord said, No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Communion Hymn

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



Welcome to Holy Cross Parish!

We are very glad to have you with us today. It is our hope that everyone who is with us can experience the Living God here through the prayers of the Divine Liturgy, the warmth of the community and through the profound Eucharist of our Lord.

Please introduce yourself and if we can do anything to help you or if you have any questions about our community, please let us know.