

## **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**Ukrainian Catholic Parish** 

Үкраїнська Католицъка Парафія Воздвиження Чесного Хреста



F€N/HCIC-

### Sundays:

• 9:30 am Rosary

• 10 am Divine Liturgy

### Wednesdays:

• 9 am Divine Liturgy

### **Most Major Feasts\*:**

• 9 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, December 21, 2025

Sunday of the Holy Fathers; Tone 3; Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; The Holy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia.

8

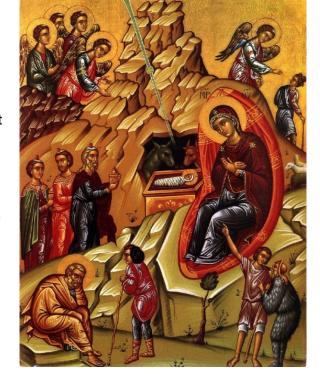
### Thursday, December 25, 2025

The Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ
- Christmas Feast of our Lord. A Holy Day of obligation.

## The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

Commemorated on December 25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Augustus (Octavian). Caesar Augustus decreed that a universal census be made throughout his Empire, which then also included Palestinian Israel. The Jews were accustomed to be counted in the city from where their family came. The Most Holy Virgin and the Righteous Joseph, since they were descended from the house and lineage of King David, had to go to Bethlehem to be counted and taxed.



In Bethlehem they found no room at any of the city's inns. Thus, the God-Man, the Savior of the world, was born in a cave that was used as a stable.

"I behold a strange and most glorious mystery," the Church sings with awe, "Heaven, a Cave; the Virgin the Throne of the Cherubim; the Manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain is laid." (Irmos of the 9th Ode of the Nativity Canon).

Having given birth to the divine Infant without travail, the Most Holy Virgin "wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger" (Luke 2:7). In...

Continued on the following page.

Pastoral Greetings from our Bishops and Patriarch

can be found on pages 5 & 6

**Hall Rentals:** 

call Lisa at: 780-222-9155 or email: hallrental@ehcucp Perohy 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 Borosuik & 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 or more in advance

### Weddings:

• Contact Fr. Bo 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
- First Sundays of the month with Fr. Myron before and during the Liturgy
- or anytime, just call Fr. Bo to arrange it.

## The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ continued...

...the stillness of midnight (Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15), the proclamation of the birth of the Savior of the world was heard by three shepherds watching their flocks by night.

An angel of the Lord (Saint Cyprian says this was Gabriel) came before them and 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, Who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). The humble shepherds were the first to offer worship to Him Who condescended to assume the form of a humble servant for the salvation of mankind. Besides the glad tidings to the Bethlehem shepherds, the Nativity of Christ was revealed to the Magi by a wondrous star. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Theophylactus, commenting on Saint Matthew's Gospel, say that this was no ordinary star. Rather, it was "a divine and angelic power that appeared in the form of a star." Saint Demetrius of Rostov says it was a "manifestation of divine energy" (Narrative of the Adoration of the Magi). Entering the house where the Infant lay, the Magi "fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11).

The present Feast, commemorating the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, was established by the Church. Its origin goes back to the time of the Apostles. In the Apostolic Constitutions (Section 3, 13) it says, "Brethren, observe the feastdays; and first of all the Birth of Christ, which you are to celebrate on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month." In another place it also says, "Celebrate the day of the Nativity of Christ, on which unseen grace is given man by the birth of the Word of God from the Virgin Mary for the salvation of the world."

In the second century Saint Clement of Alexandria also indicates that the day of the Nativity of Christ is December 25. In the third century Saint Hippolytus of Rome mentions the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, and appoints the Gospel readings for this day from the opening chapters of Saint Matthew.

In 302, during the persecution of Christians by Maximian, 20,000 Christians of Nicomedia (December 28) were burned in church on the very Feast of the Nativity of Christ. In that same century, after the persecution when the Church had received freedom of religion and had become the official religion in the Roman Empire, we find the Feast of the Nativity of Christ observed throughout the entire Church. There is evidence of this in the works of Saint Ephraim the Syrian, Saint Basil the...

continued on the following page...

### **Last Sunday's Donations:**

Collection \$2,599.50
Candles \$25.50
E-transfers \$195.00
Building Fund \$1,250.00

### **Income and Expenses for November:**

Income \$22,230.88 Expenses \$29,835.01 Net Loss \$7,604.13

# The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ continued...

...Great, Saint Gregory the Theologian, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, Saint Ambrose of Milan, Saint John Chrysostom and other Fathers of the Church of the fourth century.

The present order of services preserves the memory of the ancient joint celebration of the Feasts of the Nativity of Christ and Theophany. On the eve of both Feasts, there is a similar tradition that one should fast until the stars appear. The order of divine services on the eve of both feastdays and the feastdays themselves is the same.

The Nativity of Christ has long been counted as one of the Twelve Great Feasts. It is one of the greatest, most joyful and wondrous events in the history of the world. "The angel said to the shepherds, '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, Who is Christ the Lord. And this shall

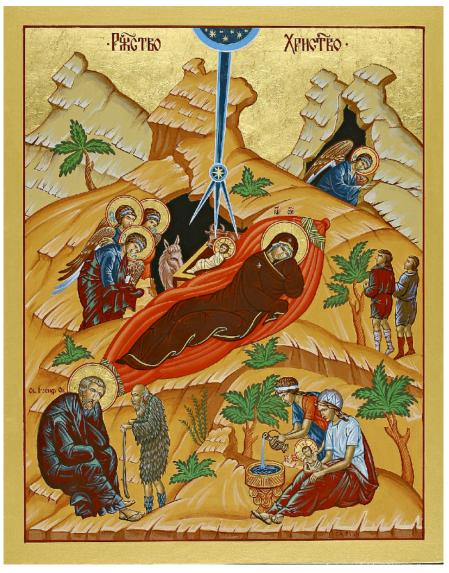
be a sign unto you: you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' Then suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts, glorifying God and saying: 'Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' Those who heard these things were astonished at what the shepherds told them concerning the Child. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen" (Luke 2:10-20).

Thus the Nativity of Christ, a most profound and extraordinary event, was accompanied by the wondrous tidings proclaimed to the shepherds and to the Magi. This is a cause of universal rejoicing for all mankind, "for the Savior is Born!"

Concurring with the witness of the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church, in their God-inspired writings, describe the Feast of the Nativity of Christ as most profound, and joyous, serving as the basis and foundation for all the other Feasts.

from OCA.org

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



## Explanation of the Icon of the Nativity of our Lord

In this icon our eye is drawn first to the Mother of God; the Theotokos. She is the largest figure indicating her importance in the event of the incarnation of our Lord. It was her humble and total "yes" to God that allowed for the salvation of humanity. She is the new Eve. The first Eve was the mother of all fallen humankind. The Theotokos is the mother of all redeemed humankind.

Our eye is drawn next to the colour black behind Jesus. Black is rarely seen in icons, therefore when we see it, it has great significance. Jesus is the light born into the darkness of the world caused by sin. He has come to conquer the darkness of sin and death and is ultimately victorious over the power of evil.

This cave also reminds us of the sacrifice that Jesus will offer. It resembles His tomb in which He will be laid after His crucifixion. But like this cave, His tomb will be one that brings life, not death. The baby is wrapped in strips of cloth reminiscent of the cloths that will wrap Him at his death. The crib itself appears as a coffin. All of this foreshadows His death and reminds us that He was born to die.

The shaft of light from a segment of a circle; the vault of Heaven, comes down upon the...

## Explanation of the Icon of the Nativity of our Lord continued...

... Child. At the point of the star (symbolizing the star of Bethlehem) the shaft of light breaks into three shafts signifying the Trinity.

Note the ox and donkey looking directly at the child recognizing Him as the Messiah, whereas we know from the Gospels, this will not be the case of many in Israel. We read in the prophesy of Isaiah 1:3 "The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people do not understand."

The angel appears to the lowly shepherds who are the first to hear the good news and to share it. This is a moment of unity between heaven and earth. The angels depict a "bursting in" of heaven to earth. In essence they are the bridge between the two. All creation both visible and invisible, is filled with rejoicing today!

In the bottom left corner St. Joseph sits in distress and confusion. The old man speaking to him is the great tempter, coming to increase his doubts about the miracle of Christ's birth.

Ultimately, of course, St. Joseph does not give in to this temptation. Many icons of the Nativity such as the one to the left show a tree near him. This is the tree of Jesse showing Jesus' noble ancestry. It refers to Isaiah 11:1 "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."

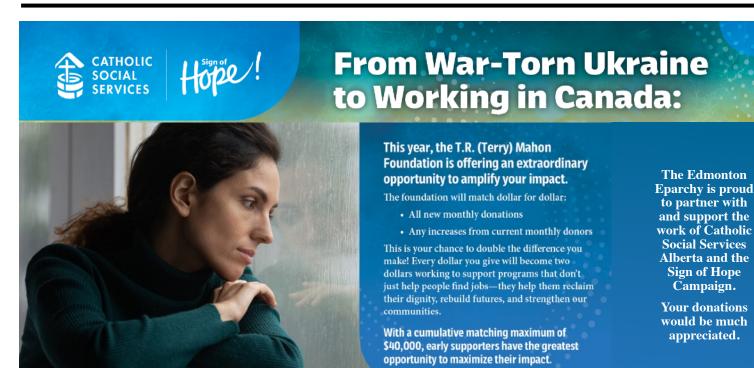
On the bottom right there are two midwives pictured washing the baby Jesus. We read in the Protoevangelium of James Chapters 17-25 that when a midwife realized that Mary was a virgin she exclaimed: "My soul is magnified this day, because mine eyes have seen marvellous things: for salvation is



born unto Israel." A second midwife doubts until she has examined Mary for herself. This detail of the midwives also reinforces for us that although Christ remains divine, in the incarnation, He is also truly human. Just like any other baby He needs to be washed after birth.

The joy of the colours, the participation of all creation, and the flurry of activity remind us of the enormous significance of the event of the incarnation; in this icon we sense the pure joy of humanity working together with the God of all creation to bring about the salvation of the world!

Compiled & created by the Religious Education Department of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton.



# 2025 PASTORAL GREETINGS OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA ON THE OCCASION OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

To the Very Reverend Clergy, Monastics and Religious Sisters and Brothers, Seminarians and Laity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada

### Christ is Born! Let us Glorify Him!

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. [Lk. 2:7]

### Dearly Beloved in Christ!

A mother hugs her infant child and sets him down to sleep. The child, filled with anxiety and fear, clings to his mother for comfort. This is not his usual bed; but rather it is a makeshift bundle of blankets on the Kyiv subway floor. The mother sings a soothing lullaby; but the child cannot hear it due to the exploding drones and missiles that fly overhead. The child looks for his father for security and support, but mother says he has been called to serve on the front lines of battle. She does not knowwhen if they will ever see him again. - This is Christmas in war-torn Ukraine!

It is not difficult for us to envision this scenario, be it in Kyiv or any other location in Ukraine. How fortunate we are in Canada that we do not have to fear such turmoil brought on by an unjust war and the "Herods" who promote such human anguish and destruction.

But there are other tragedies that we see on our Canadian streets and parks. This is the growing plight of homeless people. We see the tents and shacks in which they live, in the midst of our affluent communities. For the people of the street Christmas does not mean a warm bed, or a nourishing meal, and a visit with family and friends. Rather, Christmas for so many people is just another day of suffering from cold and hunger, poor health and addictions, loss of work and poverty, isolation and hopelessness.

And so, we come to our annual commemoration of the birth of Jesus our Saviour. And we ask the question: How do we celebrate this event in the midst of so much suffering in the world around us?

One of the traditional Ukrainian Carols provides a reflection on where Jesus was born:

Not in an imperial palace; but in the midst of cattle; in the wilderness, in a manger; this we all must know!

[Ne v tsar'kiy palati; a mezhy bydliaty; U pustyni, u yaskyni; a treba vsim znaty.] [Dyvnaya novyna – traditional]

The gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus present a story of turmoil, poverty, lack of housing, isolation and rejection. But as our carols like to proclaim, these same gospel accounts give us joy and hope with the message that the Son of God came to us in our human condition, to offer the

fullness of life both on earth and in heaven, that no human individual, political power, or fearsome army could even attempt to provide.

### **Dearly Beloved in Christ Jesus!**

There are so many ways that we can take to heart the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and to share the hope and joy that is offered to all humanity in the midst of pain and fear.

Firstly - when the media promotes which gifts we should buy this year for our beloved family and friends – let us offer gifts to those in need, who we do not know. There are many opportunities through organizations that collect and distribute anonymous gifts. We too can be a generous St. Nicholas.

Secondly - in the Ukrainian tradition we enjoy bountiful and tasty Christmas meals. Let us make contributions to food banks and agencies that prepare and distribute food hampers. When food so often for us is decorative and celebratory – for many others food is the bare necessity of life. Take another look at your neighbours in need and offer them some nourishing food. And at the same time avoid food wastage and eating to excess.

Thirdly - let us reflect on the true spiritual significance of the birth of Our Saviour by attending Church services, listening to the Word of God, and receiving the spiritual nourishment of the Holy Eucharist. Then we can go out into the world to proclaim, like the angels, "Glory to God in the Highest!" in the carols that we sing. We proclaim this message of hope when we pray for those in the bomb shelters of Ukraine and on our city streets. We do this when we help those, especially the elderly, who are isolated in their homes, unable to reconnect with their family and friends.

As Bishops and Shepherds of Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, we extend to all the blessings of the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! May His birth in Bethlehem help us to recognize the plight of those in need in our midst, so that we can share with them the Bethlehem message of hope, peace and joy in the Lord!

### Christ is Born! Let us Glorify Him!

Yours in Christ, source of joy and hope born in Bethlehem,

- + 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 of Saskatoon
- + Andriy Rabiy Auxiliary Bishop of Winnipeg
- + Michael Wiwchar, C.S.s.R. Bishop Emeritus of Saskatoon

Given on December 6, 2025 On the Feast of St. Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia



## CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

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

And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. (Luke 2:12).

### **Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

Beloved in Christ!

Today the whole universe welcomes the Savior born among us: angels sing, shepherds worship, kings travel with a star. The peace of God descends upon a confused and troubled humanity, which receives the light of hope that shines over the whole world from lowly Bethlehem! Christmas is the feast of God-Jesus the Creator, "through whom all things were made"—approaching man, his creation. What an incomprehensible mystery! The Word of God becomes incarnate in his own image: God becomes man, created in his image and likeness. He becomes one of us, lives next to us, shares all that we have, takes on human weaknesses and suffering, so that we can feel His unwavering closeness and live in the joyful awareness that at every moment "God is with us!"

In the Nativity of Christ, the infinite God limits Himself, the Almighty enters into the frailty of a newborn child "Though he was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:6-7). God the Father, through His Son in human flesh, offers Himself to humankind by the power of grace of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, it is this Divine selflimitation that opens the door for us to God's limitlessness in love and power. Through Him, man is granted access to the fullness of life in Christ: both to the fullness of human dignity and greatness, and to the fullness of communion with eternity. For, as the Apostle Paul teaches, our loving Father, in giving us Jesus, willed "that in Him all the fullness should dwell" (Col. 1:19).

Coming to us in the form of a servant, the Lord plunges into the darkness of human indifference and hatred, into each person's pain and suffering: the child and old man held captive under torture, the father and mother who weep over a lost child. As a Child, He weeps with the families who have lost loved ones from Russian missiles and wipes away the tears of those who have lost everything—their relatives, property, city, or village.

However, He plunges into our darkness to become our Light and, where evil sows death, to open up heaven, so that those who weep can, together with the shepherds, receive the tidings of joy from the angel who proclaims this Christmas night: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger" (Lk 2:10-12).

Celebrating Christmas means accepting the joy that comes not from men but from God; not from earth but from heaven; not from human success but from divine self-sacrifice for our salvation.

For us today, celebrating Christmas means also becoming capable of self-limitation, in order to open a place in our hearts (our homes and our parishes) for Jesus with Mary and Joseph. Self-sacrifice out of love for God and neighbor brings heavenly joy, because we create a place of life and salvation for those who are threatened with injury or death by the cruelty of war. Joy is born from our becoming participants in the protection and preservation of human life, especially of the weakest and least protected among us. If today you are looking for a sign, a signal and a direction marker to where to find joy, harken the angelic words: "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby..."

So that this joy does not pass us by, let us sacrifice something of ourselves for the sake of the weakness of our neighbor! Like shepherds, let us leave our "comfort zone", let us hurry to the Bethlehem of today, which may be not far from us: among the weak and vulnerable in our home, city, or village. Let us visit them, seeking that joy, and sharing what we ourselves have ...



### Patriarch's Letter continued

...already received. Then our caroling will become all-powerful, dispelling the darkness on earth and opening the heavens for God's light among us.

Today, celebrating Christmas in Ukraine is both a challenge and a Christian feat! The enemy of the human race is trying to plunge us into cold and darkness, not only physical darkness, depriving us of electricity and heat, but also into the darkness of despair, disbelief, manipulation, and trading away the fate of our people in vain attempts to appease the criminal.

What is happening every night in Ukrainian cities and villages goes far beyond the limits of war, as understood in the civilized world. Before us is not just a war, but a deliberate, systematic, calculated, and technologically sophisticated mass murder of innocents: women, the elderly, and children, whom the enemy burns alive in their own homes every night with missiles and drones. Today, Ukraine is like that weeping mother, about whom the prophet speaks: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more" (Jer. 31:15).

But amidst this darkness, the heavenly light of Christ breaks through. So let us celebrate boldly and joyfully, because celebrating Christmas in Ukraine is to be victorious! And abroad, it means standing, covering our sisters and brothers in Ukraine with prayer and sharing in the victory. Among us, in Ukraine and abroad, is born our Savior – Christ! They want to plunge us into darkness and cold, but we warm and illuminate each other with open hearts, in which so much room has been found for the Baby Jesus!

In self-limitation and self-sacrifice, even in the midst of exhaustion and fatigue, we have learned to restore strength and resilience by believing that "God is with us." His weakness strengthens us, His poverty enriches us! Our rich Christian experience of faith today can enrich and gladden the whole world:

Let us all rejoice together today: Christ was born in a poor cave! He became man in the last days, All of you be comforted on earth. ("Vozveselimsia vsi razom nyni")

But in order to celebrate Christmas every day, each one of us must make a personal choice. One of our combat commanders said to every Ukrainian: "The war will not end without you!" So also today – the self-sacrifice of Christmas requires the participation of everyone according to their calling and responsibility. The joy of Christmas will not come without you, son or daughter of our Church and our people, no matter where you live and what you do.

Everyone must make their choice for the sake of Life—the Baby Jesus, who was born among us in a poor cave, laid on a bed of hay in a manger!

On this bright day of Christmas, I greet each of you with the warmth of God's unwavering closeness. I embrace those who are far from their homeland, whom the war has separated from their closest relatives, wives who are waiting for their husbands to return from the front, and children who pray that their father will return home as soon as possible.

I especially greet our little children, who are already hurrying from home to home singing ancient carols to bring Christmas greetings! May these little heralds of Ukraine's victory not leave us emptyhanded!

With deep gratitude in my heart, I greet our military, volunteers, doctors, energy workers, and rescuers. You are the bearers of hope, tirelessly protecting, supporting, and preserving the lives of our long-suffering people.

I greet those who are at the front, in the occupied territories, in hospitals. I especially send Christmas greetings and best to those who have lost their homes, and to those who have given shelter – physical and spiritual – to those in need, in Ukraine or abroad. May you feel at least a little bit of home comfort and Christmas joy.

With Christ's Nativity I embrace those who mourn the loss of the dead and those missing in action, those who care for the wounded in hospitals, and those who work to return the captives and forcibly deported.

From the bottom of my heart, I extend my fatherly blessing to all of you and wish everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, the joy of God's children, a delicious kutia, a merry celebration of Christ's Nativity and a happy, victorious, peaceful, and blessed year ahead. Let us renew our ability to shine and warm one another with the light of Christmas, with carols, and prayer. Then no darkness or cold will ever overcome us!

### **Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Siven in Kyiv

at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the day of our father, St. Nicholas of Myra in Lycia, the Wonderworker, the 6<sup>th</sup> of December in the 2025<sup>th</sup> Year of our Lord **Important:** The year-end is approaching quickly. If you are interested in contributing to the legacy fund for a **2025 tax return**, please ensure that donations are made <u>during or before the Liturgy on Sunday</u>, <u>December 28</u>, 2025. For further information, please contact Dale Kluk.

NEW

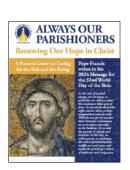
### **Parish Announcements**

Info for Volunteers + Volunteers Needed:

- Holy Cross will have it's next casino dates on January 5 & 6, 2026 (Monday & Tuesday) at Century Casino Edmonton, 13103 Fort Rd NW. Thanks to all who have volunteered to work at the casino. If you have volunteered to work this casino, please make sure you know your shift and arrival times. If you have volunteered and not received a work schedule, see Terry Yackimec."
  - •Please consider being part of our **Parish Pastoral Council in 2026**. This is the group that works with the clergy to run the parish. If you are interested please talk to Mark Helmack, or speak to the parish though the parish office on Wednesday mornings.
- Our parish is looking for a volunteer to be our Kitchen Coordinator. This person would be the primary person who would oversee a small group of volunteers who will assist them with purchasing of kitchen supplies & regular groceries (not special event groceries); Maintaining and occasionally organizing/cleaning the kitchen; and Ensuring kitchen appliances are in working order (with help from our maintenance team when needed). If you have some energy and can help this parish, please volunteer by contacting Dianne Kluk, either after liturgy, at the parish office on Wednesdays, or by email at office@ehcucp.ca
- Holy Cross Parish recently paid \$29,771.89 for the
  insurance coverage for the Church and Hall. We extend
  our heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who
  help with the bingo events at Kensington over the past
  years. The insurance was paid from the revenue
  generated by these bingo events.

### **General Parish Announcements:**

• Always Our Parishioners: You may have noticed in the entrance of the Church there is a trifold handout entitled "Always our Parishioners". Now in addition to the handout there are small sheets which you can fill out letting us as a parish know about people who are no longer able to physically come to the church...



Perhaps they are in a nursing home, hospital, or shut-in their own homes, it is important for us to go and be with them. But we can't be with them if we don't know who and where they are. So if you know of someone who would like pastoral visits, please fill out one of the forms for them, and then give it to a greeter or drop it into the collection plate. Please include contact information for them. Everyone is important in our parish. Let's not leave anyone out.

 At the last Perogy Supper, both sittings were sold out, so get them early.
 Perogy Supper tickets may suit someone as a perfect Christmas gift.



- Puschenya tickets also make great gifts: see the poster for details.
- Table for two: You are my valentine:
  This romantic candlelit dinner provides the ideal opportunity to focus only on each other and the faith you share. Each of the courses is served up with discussion starters which invite couples to explore and deepen their relationship with each other and with God. There will be a short presentation on a topic related to sacramental marriage. Register yourself or someone else as a gift!

For adults: dating or married. On Sunday, Feb 15, from 5:30 – 8:30 pm, at Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 9003 – 153 Ave, in Edmonton. The cost is \$95 per couple, but you get one heck of a great meal, fancier than in most restaurants for that price AND it includes the discussions. Please register by February 9th . Go to <a href="https://tinyurl.com/TableforTwo26">https://tinyurl.com/TableforTwo26</a> or contact Bernadette.mandrusiak@eeparchy.com

- 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.
- Are you having a 50th Wedding Anniversary? If so put your anniversary on the sheet on the table next to the parish office or talk to Diana Horyn 780-255-9926. Holy Cross Parish will honour you with a plaque at the end of a Divine Liturgy.
- Safer Environments: Please keep working on your "Safer Environments" paperwork. All volunteers in the parish, regardless of how small or big a

volunteer you are, are required to give us some information. Those who are "General Risk" volunteers, such as greeters, kitchen helpers, table and chair setter uppers, only need to fill out 2 simple forms. "Higher Risk" volunteers are those who work with children, seniors, the disabled, new immigrants and/or other vulnerable people, as well as those who have keys to the building or handle the parish's funds. These wonderful volunteers need to fill out a few forms and then also do a 45 minute online training, and a police information check. If you are a volunteer and you have not been asked to fill out forms yet, please see Fr. Bo.

If you have not gotten an email from the Eparchy so that you can do your training (for Higher Risk Volunteers), please be patient. Fr. Bo will work on this early in the new year.



### **Regular Programs & Events**

- · Every Sunday at 9:30 am: the Rosary
- Every Sunday at I0 am: Divine Liturgy, alternating English one week, and Bilingual English and Ukrainian the next week.
- Every Sunday after the Gospel Reading: Sunday School, for children up to grades 2.
- Every Sunday\* at II:15 (\*/-) am: Coffee Hour (\* unless otherwise stated in this bulletin, and during the summer months)
- First Sunday of each month\*: Fr. Myron comes to our parish to help hear confessions. This sacrament is very important in everyone's spiritual life, so please take advantage of it. (\* unless otherwise stated in this bulletin)
- Last Sunday of each month at 10 am: Children's
   Liturgy, on this last Sunday of the month we try to
   make the Divine Liturgy more welcoming for our
   children and youth. They get a special homily with
   Marilyn the Catechetical Puppet and children also
   are encouraged to participate in the service by
   singing, serving at the altar, reading the epistle,
   helping with the collection and/or other ways.
- First Monday of Every Month at 6 pm: Choir with Youth Meeting and Practice\* (\* unless otherwise stated in this bulletin, and during the summer months)
- Third Monday of Most Months at 6 pm: Youth Altar Serving. See bulletin announcements.\*
   (\* unless otherwise stated in this bulletin, and during the summer months)
- Almost Every Monday Evening: Some sort of
   Parish Meeting, including but not limited to: Ladies'
   Club (typically the 1st Monday at 7), Knights of
   Columbus (typically the 2nd Monday at 7:30), Men's
   Club (typically the 3rd Monday at 7), and Parish
   Pastoral Council (typically the last Monday at 7).

- Check this Bulletin below to confirm the date of the next meeting for your group(s)
- Many Mondays & Tuesdays & Wednesdays: Fr.
   Bo comes to the Church and tries to paint icons or do office work in the morning or afternoon...
   however you should always phone or text if you would like to come and see him, incase he has other plans.
- Every Other Tuesday at both 2 and 6 pm: "The Chosen": Watch and Discuss. Come during the day, or come in the evening.
- Every Other-Other Tuesday at 6 pm: The Alpha Program
- Every Wednesday at 9 am: Divine Liturgy, (unless otherwise stated in this bulletin, and not during the Great Fast)
- Most Wednesdays: Fr. Bo tries to start the bulletin, so
  if you wish to put something into that week's bulletin,
  please try to have it in by this day. (Yes, most of the
  time he is still working on it on Saturday... but he
  wants to get it done mid week.)
- Every Second Wednesday\* at 6 pm: Bible Study,
   Everyone Welcome (\* unless otherwise stated in this bulletin, and September through June)
- Every Thursday: is Fr. Bo's Day off... at least in theory. Please call him if you really need to, but don't if you don't.
- Winter First Solemn Communion Program Begins.
   More details to come.

### Announcements from our Eparchy

• The Jubilee Year declared by the late Pope Francis, Pilgrims of Hope - Hope Does Not Disappoint, ends on January 6, 2026 with the closing of the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica. Rome. The date is the Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Doors at the other major basilicas in Rome will close a few days earlier, on Sunday, December 28, 2025. The Jubilee Year has been a year of grace, led by the Holy Spirit, focusing on conversion, forgiveness, abundance, walk, and mercy. In the words of Pope Francis, 'Hope is the light that brightens the future... The light is Jesus, who with the very Word, gathers every people and every nation. We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.' The Eparchy of Edmonton's celebration of the Jubilee Year was marked by several events: Sunday Divine Liturgy intentions for hope and conversion; Travelling Miraculous Icon of the Mother of God from parish to parish; Pilgrimage of Hope to Blessed Vasyl Velychkowsky Shrine, Winnipeg; Annual Saints Peter and Paul Mundare Vidpust; and Worldwide Ukrainian Catholic Jubilee in Rome with Pope Francis.

The Jubilee Year Closing Celebrations in the Eparchy of Edmonton will be led by Bishop David with the celebration of the 9:30 am Divine Liturgy, Sunday, December 28, at Saint Josaphat Cathedral, The clergy, religious, seminarians, and lay faithful from all parishes are welcomed to attend.

· What is the "Bishop Budka Charitable **Society"?** It was established in 1984 to carry out projects and programs that offer NEV national and international assistance, development, and emergency relief. The Society is named after Bishop Nykyta Budka (1877-1949), who was consecrated bishop in October 1912 and in December that year became the first Ukrainian Catholic Bishop in Canada. Later, years after his return to western Ukraine, he was arrested by the Soviet authorities in 1945 and interned in a labour camp in Karaganda, Kazakh SSR, where he died. Bishop Budka died a martyr for his faith and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2001. A few examples of the Bishop Budka Charitable Society's support over the years include the following: Helped equip a rehabilitation department in a regional hospital in Ukraine; Assisted in the building of a rehabilitation centre for a drug and alcohol facility in Brazil; Funded a Ukrainian children's camp in Bosnia; Delivered and erected a children's playground in Ukraine; Financially contributed to English language classes for newly arrived displaced persons from war-torn Ukraine.

The Bishop Budka Charitable Society welcomes any assistance to help them continue our charitable work. Any donation of \$20.00 receives a tax receipt. You may donate by cheque to:

BISHOP BUDKA CHARITABLE SOCIETY c/o Serge Cipko 10433 - 86 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T6E 2M4

Tel. 780-989-9986

Or you may also donate online via credit card by using the following link: https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/ the-bishop-budka-charitable-society/

 Bishop David has asked Fr. Bo to start an Iconography School... so I am (I did make a vow of obedience after all). Theosis School of Iconography teaches beginners and intermediates how to write (paint) icons with traditional mediums such as egg tempra and real gold, with abundant prayer, and with loads of theological explanations. For more information about this please see the website: theosis.ca

BIG

BIG

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24 at 9 pm: The Eve of the **Nativity of Christ Bilingual Complines and** Divine Liturgy. No 9 AM service, due to the evening service.
- Christmas Day, Thursday, December

25 at 10 am: Festal Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ.

- Thursday, December 25: Hall Rental
- Friday, December 26 through Sunday, January 4: Fr. Bo will be taking some holidays to be with his family. Fr. Greg Faryna will take care of the Sunday Divine Liturgies during this time. If there are emergencies during this time you can still call Fr. Bo on his cell phone. however please don't call unless it is an emergency so that he can spend some NEV uninterrupted quality time with his family.
- Sunday, December 28 during the 10 am Liturgy: This is the last chance to make a donation to the parish and get a 2025 tax receipt.
- Tuesday, December 30 at 10:30 am St. Nicholas' Clergy Liturgy and Gathering. The clergy (deacons, priests and bishop) will meet to pray and have fellowship during the Christmas season.
- Theophany Eve, Monday, January 5 at 6 pm: Festal Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water.
- Monday January 5 & Tuesday January 6: Our parish's Casino Fundraiser. This is a very important and significant fundraiser for our parish. Talk to Terry Yackimec for more information.
- Theophany Day, Tuesday, January 6: No service as the main service is the evening before. Please also note that no Ukrainian Churches are celebrating Christmas on the "Old" Julian Calendar anymore.
- Tuesday, January 6 at 6 pm-ish: Fr. Bo begins to teach the "Way of Beauty: Sacred Fine Arts 2" at Newman Theological College. This continues every Tuesday evening during the Winter semester.
- · Thursday, January 8 at 10:30 am: A Parish Bingo.
- Thursday & Friday, January 8 & 9... and probably many other days: Malanka Prep.
- Saturday, January 10: Our Parish Malanka! See poster for more details, and get your tickets NOW!

 Tuesday, January 13 at 6 pm: ALPHA Program resumes.

- Wednesday, January I4 at 6:30: Parish Pastoral Council meets for special meeting about parish bylaws.
- Friday, January 16 at 7 pm: Holy Cross Parish's Karaoke Night! Let's have some fun.
- Monday, January 19 at 7 pm: Men's Club Meeting

continued on next page...





NEW

- Tuesday, January 20 at 2 and 6 pm: Chosen Program resumes.
- January 23: The Roman Catholic Archbishop-Designate's (Bishop Stephen A Hero) installation in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Basilica. (yes, I know I wrote "RC" three times. It's because I don't want any confusion... Bishop David remains our Ukrainian Catholic Bishop.)
- Monday, January 26 at 7 pm: Parish Pastoral Council Meeting.
- Tuesday, January 27: Deacon John's anniversary of Ordination
- Saturday, January 31: ALPHA Saturday Retreat.
- Saturday, January 31: St. Josaphat's Cathedral is having a "Winter Zabava". See the poster for more details.
- Saturday, February I4: Parish Perogy Supper. Talk to Terry Y if you can help. Also... get your tickets now!
- Sunday, February 15: Eparchial "Tables for Two" retreat dinner for married couples. This annual

evening meal is served with reflections on holy marriages. See parish events section for more details. Get your tickets



- Saturday, February 2I & Saturday, March 2I: Eparchial Marriage Prep Parts 1 & 2.
   Contact Fr. Bo if you plan to get married and you have not yet started your marriage preparations.
- Sunday, March 22 after Liturgy: The Parish Annual General Meeting will take place for all parishioners to discuss and approve parish business and elect members of the Parish Pastoral Council.
- Saturday, March 28: Easter Bake Sale
- March 28 April 4: Holy Week
- Sunday April 5: Pascha! Easter! The Resurrection of Christ!
- Saturday, May 2: "Escape from Granny's" Live Action Roleplay Game for charity, put together by our Young Adults Group.

## Discover Our 2026 Program Guide

NEV



### Faith, Family, and Learning for Everyone!





January 31, 2026

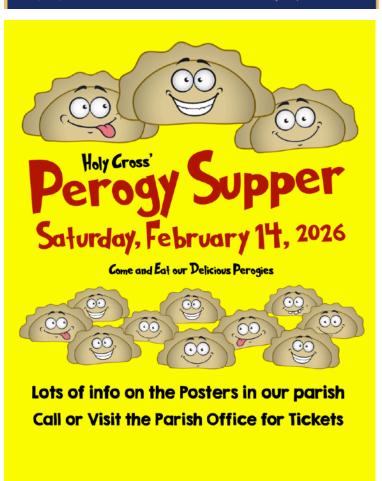
Verkhovyna Hall 9637 - 108 avenue

Enjoy a delicious supper, listen to toe-tapping music, win a door prize, and dance the night away.

> Cocktails: 5:30 Supper: 6:30 Music by the Playboys Band

CONTACT FOR TICKETS

WEBSITE stjosaphat.ab.ca





### **Annual Membership** Renewal/Drive

### **Every Sunday after the Liturgy**

November 2, 2025, through January 11, 2026

Membership Fee: \$40.00

On April 1, renewal fee will be increased to \$45.00.

Methods of payment accepted:

- Cash
- Cheque payable to: "Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish"
- E-transfer- office@ehcucp.ca

For more information on becoming a member or any other membership inquiries please contact Lorna Chiasson at membership@ehcucp.ca.





Holy Cross Parish Invites You to



### Malanka

Saturday, January 10, 2026

Location 9003 - 153 Avenue, Edmonton

Cocktails at 5:00 PM

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Music by The Sparkling Tones

For Tickets Call Rose Marie (780-217-8217)

Adults \$80.00

Youth \$45.00 (13 and under)

**Entertainment and Door Prizes** 



The Next Couple Weeks at Holy Cross						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday before the Nativity of Christ: Sunday of the Holy Fathers; Tone 3; Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ: The Holy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia. Nativity Fast. Resurrection Gospel 6. Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40; Matthew 1:1-25.  9:30 am Rosary 10 am Divine Liturgy (English) with Bishop David Yes Sunday School, Yes Coffee.	Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; The Holy Great-Martyr Anastasia. Nativity Fast. Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19; Luke 20:27-44.	Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; The Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete. Nativity Fast. Hebrews 4:1-13; Luke 21:12-19.	24	25  ⊕ The Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Feast of our Lord. Holy Day of obligation. Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:1-12.  IO am Festal Divine Liturgy Fr. Bo Begins his holidays	26  Exynaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God; The Holy Hieromartyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis. Great Doxology. Hebrews 2:11-18; Matthew 2:13-23.  No 5:30 pm Appointment	27 Saturday after the Nativity of Christ; & The Holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen; Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore the Branded One, Composer of Canons. Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ. Saint with Six Stichera. 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Acts 6:8-7:5,47-60; Matthew 12:15-21; Matthew 21:33-42.
	29	30	31 🐟	January I	2 🐟	3
Sunday after the Nativity of Christ: Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, Brother of the Lord, Tone 4; The Two Thousand Martyrs who were burned in Nicomedia; Blessed Hieromartyr Hryhoriy (Gregory) Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanyslaviv. Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ. Resurrection Gospel 7. Galatians 1:11-19; Matthew 2:13-23.  9:30 am Rosary  10 am Divine Liturgy  (Bilingual) with Fr. Greg  (Not a "Children's Liturgy")  Yes Sunday School, Yes Coffee.	The Holy Children who were killed for Christ in Bethlehem, Our Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Monastery of the Sleepless Ones. Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ. Hebrews 8:7-13; Mark 8:11-21.	The Holy Martyr Anysia;. The Venerable Zoticus, Presbyter abd Protector of Orphans. Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ. Hebrews 9:8-10,15-23; Mark 8:22-26.  IO:30 am St. Nicholas' Annual Clergy Liturgy and Lunch.	Our Venerable Mother Melania the Roman. Leave-taking of the Nativity of Christ. Hebrews 10:1-18; Mark 8:30-34.  No 9 am Divine Liturgy	The Circumcision of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, Our Father Among the Saints Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia.; Feast of our Lord.Luke 2:20-21, 40-52; Luke 6:17-23; Colossians 2:8-12; Hebrews 7:26-8:2.  No Divine Liturgy  No 5:30 pm  Appointment	Our Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome.; Pre-feast of Theophany. Mark 9:33-41; Hebrews 11:8,11-16. 5:30 pm Appointment?	Saturday before Theophany; The Holy Prophet Malachi; The Holy Martyr Gordius.; Matthew 3:1-11; 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5.
4	5 🕸	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday before Theophany; Tone 5; Synaxis of the Seventy Holy Apostles; Our Venerable Father Theoctistus, Hegumen of the Cucomo Monastery in Sicily; Resurrectional Gospel 8. Mark 1:1-8; 2 Timothy 4:5-8.  9:30 am Rosary IO am Divine Liturgy (English) with Fr. Greg Yes Sunday School, Yes Coffee. Fr. Bo Concludes his holidays	Eve of Theophany; The Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas; The Venerable Syncletica.; Aliturgical – The Divine Liturgy is not served today. Abstention from meat and eggs (and, traditionally, dairy) and foods that contain these ingredients. Theosis Studios  6 pm Complines, Festal Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Water	The Holy Theophany of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ.; Feast of our Lord. Holy Day of obligation. Matthew 3:13-17; Titus 2:11-15; 3:4-7.  No Service at Holy Cross 10:30 am Venta Care Centre Divine Liturgy 6 pm Fr. Bo teaches Iconography at NTC	g: Synaxis of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John.; Post- feast of Theophany. Great Doxology. John 1:29-34; Acts 19:1-8.  9 am Divine Liturgy 7 pm Appointment	Our Venerable Father George the Chosebite; Holy Emilian the Confessor. Our Venerable Mother Dominica.; Post- feast of Theophany. Mark 10:17-27; James 1:19-27.  Malanka Prep 5:30 pm Appointment	The Holy Martyr Polyeuctus.; Post-feast of Theophany. Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat. Mark 10:23-32; James 2:1-13.  Malanka Prep 5:30 pm Appointment	Saturday after Theophany; Our Holy Father Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa; The Venerable Dometian, Bishop of Miletene; The Venerable Marcian, Presbyter and Econome of the Great Church.; Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:10-17.  Malanka
li .	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday after Theophany; Octoechos Tone 6; + Our Venerable Father Theodosius, Founder of the Cenoebitic Monastic Life.; Polyeleos Feast. Resurrectional Gospel 9. Ephesians 4:7-13; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Matthew 4:12-17; Matthew 11:27-30.  9:30 am Rosary  10 am Divine Liturgy	The Holy Martyr Tatiana.; Post-feast of Theophany. Mark 10:46-52; James 2:14-26. <b>7:30 pm</b> Knights of Columbus Meeting	The Holy Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus.; Post-feast of Theophany. Mark 11:11-23; James 3:1-10. 9 am Blessing of water at BCR 6 pm Alpha 6 pm Fr. Bo	Our Venerable Fathers Massacred in Sinai and Rhaithu; Repose of the Holy Equal-to-the Apostles Nina, Enlightener of Georgia; Leave-taking of Theophany. Mark 11:23-26; James 3:11-4:6. <b>9 am Divine</b> Liturgy	& Our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John the Hut-Dweller; Saint with Six Stichera. Mark 11:27-33; James 4:7-5:9. 5:30 pm Appointment	& The Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-praiseworthy Apostle Peter; Saint with Six Stichera. Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat. Mark 12:1-12; 1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12; 2:6-10.  7 pm Karaoke Night	Our Venerable     and God-bearing     Father Anthony the     Great; Polyeleos Feast.     Luke 6: 17-23; Hebrews     13: 17-21.
(Bilingual) Yes Sunday School, Yes Coffee.		teaches Iconography	6:30 Parish Pastoral Council's		9	13