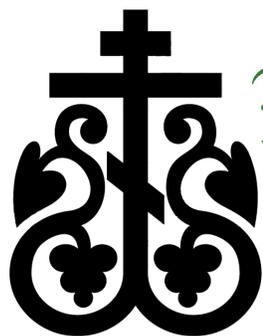


District Priest: Fr. Peter Haugen - 587-252-2715  
District President: Ron Rusnak - 780-826-2062  
Newsletter Contact: Dobr. Erin Haugen - 587-252-3410

January 2020  
Volume 6, Issue 10



# Bonnyville & District Parish News

## Sponsors!

Our fundraising committee has begun a new campaign - Newsletter Sponsorship!  
If you are interested in how you can sponsor a newsletter,  
please see Caroline Yewchin.

This month's Newsletter is sponsored

*By the Elaschuk Family*

*Family Greeting on page 5*

## PASTORAL MESSAGE

Submitted by Fr. Peter Haugen

### **Христос Народився! Christ is Born!**

**NATIVITY EPISTLE OF THE PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF  
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX HIERARCHS BEYOND THE BORDERS  
OF UKRAINE**

**2019 - 2020**

To the beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
beyond the Borders of Ukraine and on her native soil.

Today, the Holy Orthodox Church radiantly celebrates the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the hearts of all of us are filled with great and incomprehensible joy; God in the flesh appeared on earth. All humanity had anticipated this event since the time of Adam and Eve. As the prophets of the Old Testament proclaimed: "Behold the Virgin shall conceive and



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Ukrainian Orthodox  
Church of Canada

[www.uocc.ca](http://www.uocc.ca)

Western Eparchy

[www.uocc-we.ca](http://www.uocc-we.ca)

Bonnyville/St. Paul  
Parochial District

[www.bonnyvilleanddistrictuoc.ca/](http://www.bonnyvilleanddistrictuoc.ca/)

Ancient Faith Radio

[www.ancientfaith.com](http://www.ancientfaith.com)

*Pastoral continued from page 1.*

bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel” which is translated, “ God is with us”( Isaiah 7:14). The Lord sends redemption to His people (Psalm 110:9). The salvation of the human race cannot be achieved by human forces and for this reason it is necessary for God to come into the world.

Mankind, which had been dwelling in gloom and in the realm of sin, darkness and despair, has received good news and is filled with joy because the Savior of the human race is born - God is with us! The Son of God is on earth! He is born of the Virgin Mary as a little Baby! The Son of God becomes the Son of man and through the Incarnation takes on human flesh in the person of the newborn Christ. Divine and human nature are united unconfusedly, inconvertibly, indivisibly, inseparably. The Lord becomes like one of us, in everything like us, except He is without sin. God is humbled in the person of the newborn Christ the Saviour. As the Apostle Paul writes: “He made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of man.” (Philippians 2: 7)

Some people are born into riches, others are born in poverty; some people try to live with God and in holiness; other people live in sin and forget about God. Later, death takes away one and all. Since the creation of the world, everything in it is repeated and there is nothing new under the sun. But today we are celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the birth which St. John of Damascus spoke about “This is the only new occurrence under the sun. The Son of God is born of the Virgin Mary.” This Divine providence for us people and for the sake of our salvation is wonderful and incomprehensible because He is born. He, Who created all things and has no beginning or end, is born. The Son of God also becomes the Son of man. The immortal unites with the mortal, the uncreated with the created, to save men from their sins and to grant them salvation.

And how prepared was mankind to welcome and give gifts to the Newborn Savior? We hear the answer in the words of the Kondak on Christmas Day: “the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable one.” In the city of Bethlehem there was no room for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ; no hotel had taken in the Virgin Mary and the righteous Joseph for the night. The Little Jesus is born in a poor manger because He has no place among men. The King of the world is not born in royal palaces, not in rich houses, but in poverty and humility, in a cave where animals are kept. The Lord came into this world not just so we could serve Him, but so He could serve all of us. He was not interested in political power, nor wealth, nor glory; He remained untouched by all the temptations and benefits of this world; He did not come here to possess them. He came to conquer this world with all its corrupt values, to overcome sin and death. And He has conquered these, conquered them with the greatest power that no one, except the fullness of God, will ever have. This power is love. His love for us even overcame death. The Son of God descends to the earth because God so loved us all “that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

In our time, very often there is no place for the Lord in the lives of many people, in families, in society, in nations and states. Creation does not need its Creator; humans build paradise on earth without God, but in the end, without God, human life becomes hell, dominated only by sin, hopelessness, and death. But the Son of God is born to give us hope that we are not alone, we are not abandoned, we are not orphans, but that God is with us! The heart of every faithful believer is filled with great joy because the Savior is born. He



## Liturgical Scripture Readings

*January 2020*

**January 5, 2020**

*29th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 4  
Sunday before the Nativity of Christ,  
Epistle - Heb. 11:9-10,17-23,32-40;  
Gospel - Mt. 1:1-25*

**January 7, 2020**

*The Nativity of our Lord,  
Jesus Christ.  
Epistle - Gal. 4:4-7;  
Gospel - Lk. 13:10-17*

**January 12, 2020**

*30th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 5  
Epistle - Gal. 1:11-19;  
Gospel - Mt. 2:13-23*

**January 19, 2020**

*The Holy Theophany of our Lord  
Epistle - Titus 2:11-14-3:4-7;  
Gospel - Mt. 3:13-1*

**January 26, 2020**

*32nd Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 7  
Epistle - Eph. 4:7-13;  
Gospel - Mt. 4:12-17*

## Newsletter Submissions Needed!

Please keep the submissions for the newsletter coming! Announcements, reports, stories, photos... If you want to share it, we want to see it! Please feel free to submit to me anytime.

Dobr. Erin Haugen:  
ehaugen@hotmail.ca  
587-252-3410

### Fr. Peter's Contact Information:

5525-55 Ave.  
St. Paul, Alberta  
ToA 3A1

#### Phone:

587-252-2715

#### Email:

pmthaugen@hotmail.com

*If anyone you know is in the Hospital, or are at home ill and would like a visitation from me, please contact me and I will make immediate arrangements to meet with them.*

*Pastoral continued from page 2.*

came into the world to sacrifice Himself for us. He alone can bring salvation to all humanity and cleanse us from our sins and overcome death.

Today the heavens and the earth rejoice; the angels in heaven declare: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men." (Luke 2:14). The poor shepherds were the first to honor, to worship the Newborn Savior. We shall also send our hearts and prayers to the cave of Bethlehem, so that the little Christ will also bless us, fill us with His abundant graces and generosity, with peace and joy, and grant us spiritual and bodily powers to live with and for Him.

We sincerely greet the pious Ukrainian people in Ukraine and all those dispersed throughout all the corners of the earth - in the United States, Canada, Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand and South America - with a joyous Nativity Feast, and we prayerfully wish that the New Year, 2020, will be peaceful and blessed by the Lord.

With Archpastoral blessings,

- + **YURIJ** – Metropolitan Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
- + **ANTONY** – Metropolitan Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America and Diaspora
- + **JEREMIAH** – Archbishop Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America
- + **DANIEL** – Archbishop Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora
- + **ILARION** – Bishop Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
- + **ANDRIY** – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

## From the Presidents of the Bonnyville and District Parishes:

We extend our festal greetings to you all as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ! We pray the Lord's blessing upon us for a joyous, peaceful, and grace filled festive season and New Year.

**Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

## THE CHRISTMAS TREE—SUBMITTED BY MARGIE KROPINISKI

### The Christmas Tree Tradition

This Christmas season, as in those gone by, it is commonplace to hear Christians condemn trees adorned with ornaments as idolatrous. The following passage from Jeremiah is often cited as support for the condemnation:

This is what the LORD says:

"Do not learn the ways of the nations  
or be terrified by signs in the sky,  
though the nations are terrified by them.  
For the customs of the peoples are worthless;  
they cut a tree out of the forest,  
and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel.  
They adorn it with silver and gold;  
they fasten it with hammer and nails  
so that it will not totter" ( Jeremiah 10:2–4, emphasis added).

While this passage may sound to modern ears like an uncanny description of Christmas trees from the sixth century BC, the historical and biblical context precludes this anachronistic reading of the text. The very next verse precludes the pretext: "Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their *idols* cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk" ( Jeremiah 10:5, emphasis added). Jeremiah's description of a tree cut out of the forest and adorned with silver and gold and fastened with a hammer and nails so that it would not totter is, therefore, a reference to *wooden idols*, not *Christmas trees*.

In point of fact, Christmas trees originated in Christian Germany two thousand years after Jeremiah's condemnation of manmade idols. They evolved over time from two Christian traditions. One was a "paradise tree" hung with apples as a reminder of the tree of life in the Garden of Eden. The other was a triangular shelf holding Christmas figurines decorated by a star. In the sixteenth century, these two symbols merged into the present Christmas tree tradition.

As such, the Christmas tree began as a distinctively Christian symbol and can still be legitimately used by Christians today as part of their Christmas festivities. Christmas trees are not, however, essential to Christmas. Christian celebrations can certainly be complete without a tree adorned with ornaments. Like all symbolic objects that aid worshipful remembrance and celebration of Christ (e.g., the elements of communion, baptismal water, crosses, paintings, and so forth), we must never allow Christmas trees to take the place of that to which they point: namely, God's eternal redemptive purposes from the fall in Paradise to salvation in Christ.

It is my prayer that this Christmas season you will be reminded to use the symbolism of the Christmas tree in the home of an unbeliever as an opportunity to explain that the reason for the season is the Savior.

## ELASCHUK FAMILY—FAMILY PICTURE AND GREETING



Elaschuk Family Circa 1961

Back row: Melvina (Winnick), Katie & Steve Elaschuk, Marie Anna (Shysh)

Front row: Caroline (Yewchin) & Christine (Nichiporik)

From our family to your family:

Wishing you the spirit of Christmas, which is Peace; the Blessings of Christmas, which are Love, Kindness & Hope; from the Heart of Christmas, which is Christ.



## GREAT VESPERS

We will be holding Great Vespers on the Saturdays preceding the Divine Liturgies in St. Paul and Bonnyville. It is my hope that in time, as our parishioners become more comfortable with this service, that individuals will volunteer to assist in the readings when they arrive at the Church. No one will be forced to read, so please don't avoid these services in fear of being asked, but it really is a wonderful way of becoming more involved in our worship services.

### Schedule of Great Vespers:

Saturday - January 25<sup>th</sup> - St. Elias, Bonnyville - 5 pm

Saturday - February 22<sup>nd</sup> - St. Elias, Bonnyville - 5 pm

*“O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. Have mercy on me, a sinner .”  
-Jesus Prayer*

## WEBSITE

**Don't forget we have a website!**

It is under a bit of construction, but you can find updates, locations, and a long term schedule there. Photos will be coming soon as well. Check it out!

[www.bonnyvilleanddistrictuoc.ca/](http://www.bonnyvilleanddistrictuoc.ca/)

**We're also on Facebook!**

Look up:

Bonnyville District of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

*All Saints*  
**St. Paul, AB**  
Dwayne Ternovoy  
780-614-0858

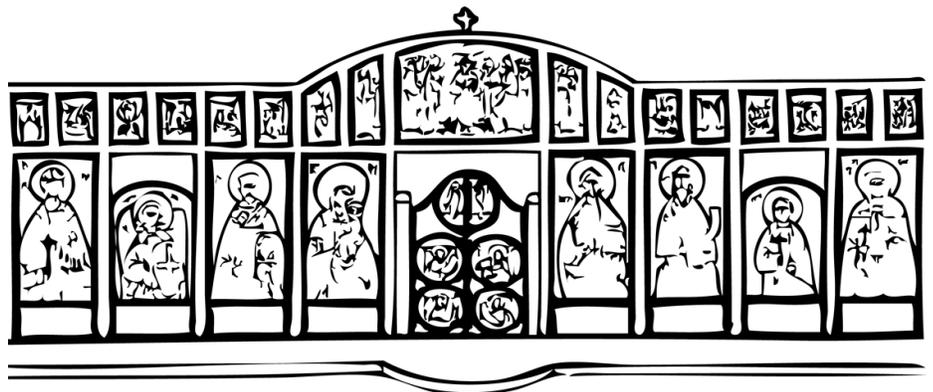
*St. Elias*  
**Bonnyville, AB**  
Janet Hutskal  
780-573-3470

*Sts. Peter & Paul*  
**Nowa Bukowina, AB**  
Sandra Yuschyshyn  
780-645-4815

*Holy Trinity*  
**Glendon, AB**  
Joyce Drapaka  
780-645-3760

*All Saints*  
**Sandy Rapids, AB**  
Ron Rusnak  
780-826-2062

*Descent of the Holy Spirit*  
**Sty, AB**  
Marion Chimko  
780-636-2870



WEEK of  
**PRAYER**  
for CHRISTIAN UNITY  
**2020**

January 17 - 25, 2020

"They showed us unusual kindness." (Acts 28:2)



The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is an event celebrated by millions of Christians around the world, uniting us in faith, prayer, song and fellowship.

***Please join us for the following services:***

- † Thursday, Jan. 16 Racette School - 11:30 a.m.
- † Friday, Jan. 17 St. Paul United Church - 7:00 p.m.
- † Sunday, Jan. 19 St. Michael's Church, Elk Point - 7:00 p.m.
- † Monday, Jan. 20 St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, St. Paul - 7:00 p.m.
- † **Tuesday, Jan. 21 All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church, St. Paul - 7:00 p.m.**
- † Wed., Jan. 22 Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. Paul, 7:00 p.m.
- † Thursday, Jan 23 St. Paul Cathedral - 7:00 p.m.
- † Friday, Jan. 24 Saddle Lake United Church - 7:00 p.m.
- † Saturday, Jan. 25 St. Jean de Brebeuf Church, Mallaig - 11:00 a.m.

~ A collection will be taken at each service in support of Seniors Programs at Extendicare. Please make cheques to: "St. Paul Extendicare Residents Council Association" ~

***Sponsored by St. Paul & Area Interchurch Group***

For more information contact:

Rev. Fr. Gerard Gauthier (780) 645-3033  
Rev. Fr. Andrij Nykyforuk (780) 918-7353  
Rev. Christopher Cook (888) 645-1959  
Rev. Peter Haugen (587) 252-2715  
Rev. Robert Wright (780) 636-2995  
Debbie Lafortune (780) 645-6568  
Rev. Fr. Jhack Diaz (780) 635-3830



***Looking forward to seeing you there!***



## Bonnyville & District Ukrainian Orthodox Parish Council Society - Schedule of Services - 2020

Note: Services may be cancelled due to inclement weather. If weather is a concern, please contact the President listed to learn service status.

JANUARY				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
5	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	29th Sunday after Pentecost
6	Monday	11:00 PM	St. Paul	<i>*Nativity of our Lord* Midnight Service</i>
12	Sunday	10:00 AM	Nowa Bukowina	Sunday After Nativity
18	Saturday	5:00 PM	Bonnyville	Eve of Theophany - Water Blessing
19	Sunday	10:00 AM	Kiev's-K-Hi	<i>*THEOPHANY* Great Water Blessing</i>
21	Tuesday	7:00 PM	St. Paul	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
25	Saturday	5:00 PM	Bonnyville	Great Vespers
26	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	32nd Sunday after Pentecost/ District AGM

FEBRUARY				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
2	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	Zacchaeus Sunday
9	Sunday	10:00 AM	Glendon	Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
15	Saturday	<i>*MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE*</i>		
16	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
22	Saturday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	ENTIRE DISTRICT MEMORIAL SATURDAY
22	Saturday	5:00 PM	Bonnyville	Great Vespers
23	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Meatfare Sunday