



ST. ELIA'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

**ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ!
СЛАВІМО ЙОГО!**

**CHRIST IS BORN!
LET US GLORIFY HIM!**

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS:

9:30 am Confessions

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

** Due to Covid protocol, confessions are available in the board room. Please contact Fr. Georg to plan the confession schedule.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **EVE OF THEOPHANY at St Elia**
January 19, Wednesday at 10:00 am
Holy Theophany
Blessing of water
- **UWAC January 30th meeting is postponed**

The incorporeal and incorruptible and immaterial Word of God entered our world.

In one sense, indeed, He was not far from it before, for no part of creation had ever been without Him Who, while ever abiding in union with the Father, yet fills all things that are.

But now He entered the world in a new way, stooping to our level in His love and Self-revealing to us.

St. Athanasius - On the Incarnation

CONTACTS

• **UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. ELIA**

11833 – 66 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5B 1J2

Office: 780-471-2288 / Kitchen: 780-479-8824

Kitchen Contact: Hilda Ewanec 780-474-4867

• **WEBSITES**

St. Elia: www.uocc-stelia.ca

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada: www.uocc.ca

Western Eparchy: www.uocc-we.ca

• **CLERGY**

PRIEST: Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Fr. Georg Podtepa

Home: 780-477-2583 / Cell: 780-984-6290

• **COUNCIL**

President: Alex Werstiuk 780-462-6468/780-222-8050

1st Vice-President: Tammy Ewanec 780-660-6108

2nd Vice-President: Betty Corlett 780-932-9727

Secretary: Sub Dcn. Evan Panchuk 780-203-3439

Assistant Secretary: Mary Ann Tymchuk 780-479-7972

Treasurer: Tanya Popovich 780-690-0542

Assistant Treasurer: Ivan Sawchuk 780-988-5862

Hospodar: Al Hayduk 780-476-1115

Directors: Bill Ewanec 780-474-4867

Orest Macyk 780-417-5294

Hilda Ewanec 780-474-4867

Igor Stebli 780-850-5656

Club Trident President: Ivan Sawchuk 780-988-5862

UWAC President: Betty Corlett 780-932-9727

Mission Outreach: Myrna Kostash 780-433-0710

• **Sunday Bulletin and Newsletter Contacts:**

Barbara Panchuk 780-710-5052

PATRIARCHAL PROCLAMATION FOR CHRISTMAS

+ B A R T H O L O M E W

BY GOD'S MERCY ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
TO THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH

GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE

FROM THE SAVIOR CHRIST BORN IN BETHLEHEM

* * *

Brother concelebrants and blessed children,

Having once again arrived at the splendid feast of the Nativity in the flesh of our Savior Christ, who visited us from the heights, we glorify with psalms and hymns His all-heavenly name. The Incarnation of the pre-eternal Word of God is "the crowning of our salvation," the "eternal mystery" of divine-human communion that transcends all reason. As St. Maximus the Confessor says so eloquently, "as a loving God, He truly became human assuming the essence of humankind, although the manner in which He became human will always remain ineffable; He became human in a manner that transcends humanity." [1]

The divine Incarnation, along with the manifestation of the truth about God also reveals the truth and ultimate destination of man, our deification by grace. St. Nicholas Cabasilas proclaims so theologically that Christ "is the first and only One to show us the true and perfect man." [2] Since that time, anyone who honors God must also honor man, and whoever undermines man also dishonors God, who assumed our nature. In Christ, speaking theologically about God we speak at the same time about man. The incarnate Divine Economy definitively abolishes the image of God as tyrannical, punitive, and adversary to man. Christ is everywhere, always and in all things the denial of the denial of man and the defender of human freedom. The life of the Church, as the flesh assumed by the incarnate Son and Word of God,[3] represents, expresses and serves this all-saving mystery of divine-humanity.

With this "other fashioning" of man and renewal of all creation in Christ as its banner, the Church today offers the good witness before every development that threatens the sacredness of the human person and the integrity of creation. It lives and preaches the truth of authentic spiritual life and the culture of love and solidarity. Offering testimony "about the hope that lies within us" (1 Pet 3.15), the Church does not in any way regard contemporary civilization as another sinful Nineveh by invoking like Jonah the divine wrath on it and its abolition, but rather the Church struggles for the culture's transformation in Christ. In our age we need pastoral imagination, dialogue and not argumentation, participation and not abstention, specific deeds and not abstract theory, creative reception and not general rejection. All these do not function at the expense of our spirituality and liturgical life, but reveal the inviolable unity of what we call the "vertical" and "horizontal" dimensions of the Church's presence and witness. Faithfulness to the tradition of the Church is not entrapment to the past, but employment of the experience of the past in a creative way for the present.

In this past year, too, the pandemic of the Covid-19 coronavirus has troubled humankind. We give glory to the God of mercy, who strengthened the specialists and scientists to develop effective vaccines and other medications in order to confront this crisis, and we encourage all faithful who have yet to be vaccinated to do so and everyone to adhere to the protective measures by the health authorities. Science, to the extent that operates as a minister of man, is a priceless gift by God. We must gratefully accept this gift and not be misled by irresponsible voices of ignorant and self-proclaimed as representatives of God and of the authentic faith "spiritual advisors," who, nevertheless, lamentably invalidate themselves through the absence of love for their brethren, whose lives they expose to grave danger.

Most honorable brothers and dearly beloved children,

With unshakable conviction that the life of each of us and the journey of all humanity is directed by the God of wisdom and love, we look forward to a happy 2022, which despite external factors and developments will be for everyone a year of salvation, inasmuch as during its course as well, the movement of history is guided by Christ, who loves mankind and cares for all things, “who desires that all people will be saved and come to the knowledge of truth.” (1 Tm 2.4)

With God’s will, during the upcoming Holy and Great Week, we shall hold the service of the Blessing of the Holy Chrism in our venerable Center. We regard it as a uniquely divine gift to our Modesty that we shall be deemed worthy to preside over this festive and moving rite for the fourth time in our humble Patriarchal ministry. Glory to God for all things!

With these sentiments, respectfully worshipping the child Jesus born in Bethlehem, we orient our thought to our Christian brothers there and we pray for the peaceful and harmonious coexistence of all those residing in the Holy Land.

In this spirit, we wish to all of you, those near and afar, a blessed Twelvetide, as well as a healthy, fruitful in good deeds and filled with divine gifts new year in the Lord’s favor, to Whom belong the glory and might to the endless ages. Amen.

+ BARTHOLOMEW of Constantinople

Fervent supplicant of all before God

Message from Parish Priest, Father Georg Podtepa

January, 2022.

CHRIST IS BORN! ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЕТСЯ!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It’s a holy festival that gives the Orthodox Christian message of spreading peace, love and harmony. It’s time to revive our traditional customs and greet each other with love and rejoice in the joy of the birth of the Son of God. Let’s wish our near and dear ones with Orthodox merry Christmas wishes. Let’s have Christmas prayers for the well-being of every beautiful creation of the Lord and sing carols. Christmas is the time for prayers, and reading the holy Bible. It’s time to recollect and walk on the righteous path. Let’s read the Orthodox Christmas quotes which are written in the Bible and follow the divine path of our Lord.

May the Lord bless you with peace, love and joy! May He give you the wisdom to see the light of truth!

Merry Christmas!!

LET US GLORIFY HIM! СЛАВИМО ЙОГО!

Please stay safe.

Very Rev. Archpriest Fr. Georg Podtepa

Message from Parish President

Christ is Born! Let us Glorify Him!

As the president of St. Elia Church I would like to express my warm wishes for a joyous celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. We've come a long way already during this COVID-19 time. Now we are into the new year, and we must continue to be careful and uphold the COVID protocols. I am glad to see everyone respectfully following the safety measures we have in place; signing in when we arrive, wearing a mask, hand sanitizing, our spaced seating and the patience needed to conduct ourselves in an orderly manner. I would also like to personally welcome Tanya Popovich to our church board as our new treasurer. I hope that we all have a safe, healthy and happy new year.

St. Elia's President , Alex Werstiuk

Message from UWAC

Христос Раждається! Славимо Його! Christ is Born! Let us Glorify Him!

After a two-year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, the Lesia Ukrainka Branch will once again resume its obligation as a service group dedicated to the well being of our parish, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Elia, the Ukrainian diaspora and the community in which we live. At our Annual General Meeting held on November 21, 2021, a new executive was elected with its term beginning on January 1, 2022. We offer a huge debt of gratitude to Mary Holyk, who has been our dedicated treasurer since 1994!! Thank you, Mary, for all your hard work over the past seventeen years and we know we can count on your support in the future. Thank you also to Anne Horn and Laretta Saik.

The new executive intends to help our UWAC branch become a broader, more inclusive group of Orthodox women who are eager to uphold the Constitution of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada, 2011 (currently under review for presentation at the USRL Convention in the summer of 2022). Please encourage participation by inviting new church members and adherents to join us.

The Constitution is lengthy – please just note the following:

Article II.I Purpose

Support and execute all manner of deeds and acts that contribute to the continual growth of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, and to encourage its members to practice and live by the Christian principles as enunciated by the said UOCC..... and,

Actively promote the principle of cultural cooperation with all other Canadian ethnic groups

Of course, none of us know what may be in store as far as pandemic restrictions in the future, but I would like to offer the following dates to mark in your calendars. I think we can function with thoughtful brainstorming, and making decisions and motions every two to three months. Let us meet after Sunday Liturgy on:

January 30, 2022 (postponed), March 27, 2022, May 29, 2022, September 25, 2022 and November 27, 2022. Mark these dates on your calendar. The Executive Committee will meet during other months to handle any urgent matters.

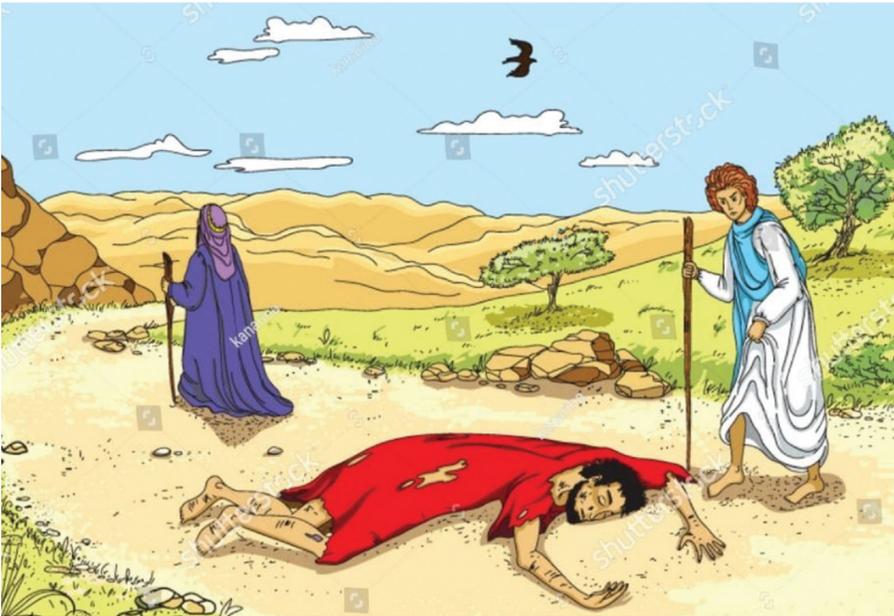
With best wishes for a happy, safe and healthy New Year,

Your sister-in-Christ,
UWAC President, Betty Corlett

Report from the Outreach Mission Committee

On Sunday November 28 Fr. Podtepa read from the Gospel of Luke the familiar Parable of the Good Samaritan: how a traveler falls into the hands of thieves and is left for dead by the side of the road. A Jewish Priest and a Levite cross to the other side of the road and it is the stranger from Samaria who finally comes to his assistance. Jesus asks: "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."



As the Outreach Mission of our parish, we have tried over several years, until Covid-19 struck, to act as neighbours and "do likewise." We collected your donations to the Food Basket and to the collection basket we passed around at our mid-month fellowships; we donated mittens and playroom furniture to Lauderdale elementary school and to the hot food program at Highlands School as a community partner; for several months we delivered groceries and grocery gift cards to our Eritrean neighbours; and we've made donations to the Bishop's Ukrainian Orphanage fund. It all came to a halt, of course, at the beginning of 2020 when schools closed and we had to stop fellowship at our church.

But the committee is still active, in the sense that we are still willing volunteers for whatever project we can safely launch and soon, we hope; and in the sense that we still have several hundred dollars in our Food Basket account (part of the church's general account). We continue to be mindful of our spiritual obligation to be good neighbours, not just good parishioners; and we pray that we will continue to be supported by the generosity of our brothers and sisters of the parish of St Elia when we once again reach out for it.

Myrna Kostash

The Nativity Fast begins on November 28 and finishes on January 6. It is also referred to as the Pylypivka Fast.

Fasting is not a punishment for our sins. When we fast, we fast as best we can, without comparing ourselves to those around us. Fasting prepares ourselves for important events and or Feasts. Most importantly we prepare for the eternal heavenly banquet to which Christ invites us into His Kingdom. During fasting, try to participate more often in Liturgy, church services, hear God's word, pray in the church and at home. The study of the holy fathers-during the pilipivki should fast not only tilesno, [bodily] but also spiritually.

Increase your prayer life, spend some time reading the scriptures on a daily basis, look to the teaching of the saints. Perhaps less time on your cell phone or watching television. try not to get angry, or gossip.

Save and save Lord us sinners Save and protect us sinners O Lord

** Items are from the newsletter of St Mary Protectress parish in Parksville BC*
Nativity Fast and Holy Fathers on Prayer



St. Seraphim

When at prayer in church, it is profitable to stand with closed eyes in internal mindfulness, and to open your eyes only when you become downcast, or when sleep should weigh you down and incline you to doze; then you should fix your eyes upon an icon and the candle burning before it.

Bishop Theophan the Recluse (1815-94)

Prayer is the test of everything. If prayer is right, everything is right

St. Ignatius of Antioch (69-107)

I hear from within me, as from a spring of living water, the murmur: Come to the Father.

News and Stories in St. Elia Parish Community



At our AGM 2021, we presented a certificate of recognition to Walter Marcenuik for his 22 years of being a treasurer for St. Elia's church. Fr. Georg expressed his appreciation of Walter's diligent work, ability and care for the financial stability of our church.



Mary Ann Tymchuk donated this beautifully hand-crafted bead embroidery piece to St. Elia's church for the glory of God and all to enjoy during our services.

* If you like to share your news or stories with St. Elia's members, please email me the information.
 * If you know any Church members who can't attend a service but want to receive our monthly newsletter to their home, please let me know. *Barbara Panchuk (bpanchuk52@gmail.com)*

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST.ELIA.

ORDER OF SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2022.

2. - SUNDAY..... BEFORE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 10:00 A.M.
6. - THURSDAY..... EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST 4:30 P.M.
7. - FRIDAY..... THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 10:00 A.M.
9. - SUNDAY..... FIRST MARTYR STEPHEN 10:00 A.M.
- 16 - SUNDAY..... SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY..... 10:00 A.M
- 19 - WEDNESDAY..... HOLY THEOPHANY. BLESSING WATER 10:00 A.M.
- 23 - SUNDAY..... ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA 10:00 A.M.
- 30 - SUNDAY..... ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT 10:00 A.M.

