



# ST. ELIA'S NEWSLETTER

JULY - AUGUST 2022

СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ!  
СЛАВА НАВІКИ!

GLORY BE TO JESUS CHRIST!  
GLORY FOREVER!

## SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS:

July & August (Summer Schedule)  
Divine Liturgy starts at 9:30 am  
\* *Confessions are available  
in the board room before Liturgy starts.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### • COUNCIL MEETING

**Sunday, July 17th, 2022**  
after Divine Liturgy

### • Ordination of Subdeacon

**Evan Panchuk to the Diaconate**

Liturgy with His Grace Bishop Ilarion  
**Saturday, July 16th, 2022 9:00am**

## SOBOR 2022

The delegates Al Hayduk, Betty Corlett and our parish priest Fr. Georg Podtepa attended the Sobor.

Should anyone be interested in reading the resolutions passed at Sobor, please check our website [www.uocc-stelia.ca](http://www.uocc-stelia.ca) (Homepage - Bulletin Section)

## 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](http://www.uocc-stelia.ca)  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada: [www.uocc.ca](http://www.uocc.ca)  
Western Eparchy: [www.uocc-we.ca](http://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 Popovych 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

## JULY & AUGUST SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS

### **JULY 7: Birth of St John the Baptist and Forerunner**



He that was greater than all who are born of women, the Prophet who received God's testimony that he surpassed all the Prophets, was born of the aged and barren Elizabeth (Luke 1:7) and filled all his kinsmen, and those that lived round about, with gladness and wonder. But even more wondrous was that which followed on the eighth day when he was circumcised, that is, the day on which a male child receives his name. Those present called him Zacharias, the name of his father. But the mother said, "Not so, but he shall be called John." Since the child's father was unable to speak, he was asked, by means of a sign, to indicate the child's name. He then asked for a tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And immediately Zacharias' mouth was opened, his tongue was loosed from its silence of

nine months, and filled with the Holy Spirit, he blessed the God of Israel, Who had fulfilled the promises made to their fathers, and had visited them that were sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, and had sent to them the light of salvation.

Zacharias prophesied concerning the child also, saying that he would be a Prophet of the Most High and Forerunner of Jesus Christ. And the child John, who was filled with grace, grew and waxed strong in the Spirit; and he was in the wilderness until the day of his showing to Israel (Luke 1:57-80). His name is a variation of the Hebrew "Johanan," which means "Yahweh is gracious."

On this day, the Orthodox Church also commemorates the mother of Saint John the Baptist, Elizabeth.

### **JULY 12: The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**



The divinely-blessed **Peter** was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)" (John 1:42). After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Epistles to the Church of Christ.

**Paul**, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, an expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee, and a disciple of Gamaliel, a Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem. For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4).

In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And he asked, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and he was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias (see Oct. 1), he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness.

With his heart aflame, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place - all these things are related incident by incident in the Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles. He likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.

### **JULY 28: St Volodomyr the Great**



The holy and right-believing Vladimir (Svyatoslavich), Baptizer of Kievan Rus' (958-1015) was the Grand Prince of Kyivan Rus when Orthodoxy was introduced into present day Ukraine. He is also the grandson of St. Olga, and the father of Sts. Boris and Gleb the Passion-Bearers (and the first saints of the lands of Rus).

St. Vladimir (Volodomyr) was a devout pagan in his early life. He was a great conqueror who had many wives and erected many pagan statues in the lands that he ruled over. Upon finding out that other faiths existed beyond his own paganism, he decided to send his envoys out into the world to find out what was true faith on earth. His envoys met with Muslims, but felt that there was no joy among them, and that their faith was very mechanical. The envoys also met with Jews and Catholics, but were still unimpressed.

Everything changed, however, when the envoys arrived in Constantinople. Upon attending Divine Liturgy in Hagia Sophia, the envoys said, "We no longer knew whether we were in heaven or on earth." Taking the word of his envoys, St. Vladimir had himself and his nation baptized into the Orthodox Church. St. Vladimir changed completely after his baptism. He destroyed all the pagan statues that stood in Kyivan Rus', and replaced them with churches. He also attempted to live in peace as much as possible with his neighbors and had only one wife.

### **Tropar**

*Holy Prince Vladimir,*

*you were like a merchant in search of fine pearls.*

*By sending servants to Constantinople for the Orthodox Faith, you found Christ, the priceless pearl.*

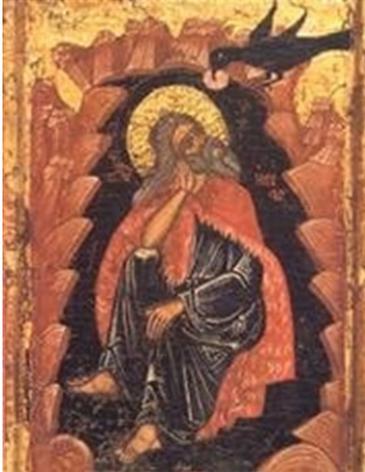
*He appointed you to be another Paul,*

*washing away in baptism your physical and spiritual blindness.*

*We celebrate your memory,*

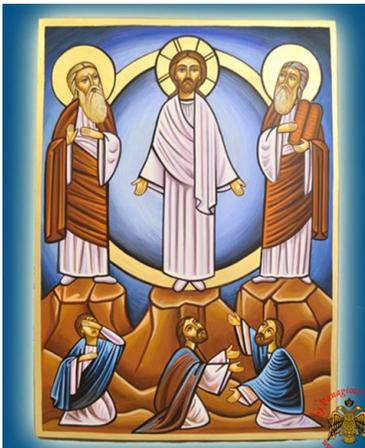
*asking you to pray for all Orthodox Christians and for us, your spiritual children.*

## AUGUST 2: Feast of Prophet Elias



Elias was of priestly lineage, a man of a solitary and ascetical character. His name is interpreted as “Yah is my God.” His zeal for the glory of God was compared to fire, and his speech for teaching and rebuke was likened unto a burning lamp. From this too he received the name Zealot. He multiplied the little flour and oil of the poor widow of Sarephtha of Sidon, who had given him hospitality in her home, and when her son died, he raised him up. He brought down fire from Heaven upon Mount Carmel, and it burned up the sacrifice offered to God before all the people of Israel, that they might know the truth.. He received food wondrously at the hand of an Angel, and being strengthened by this food he walked for forty days and forty nights. He beheld God on Mount Horeb, as far as this is possible for human nature.. He divided the flow of the Jordan, and he and his disciple Elisseus passed through as it were on dry land; and finally, while speaking with him, Elias was suddenly snatched away by a fiery chariot in the year 895 B.C., and he ascended as though into heaven.

## AUGUST 19: Feast of the Transfiguration



Jesus had gone with his disciples Peter, James, and John to Mount Tabor. Christ's appearance was changed while they watched into a glorious radiant figure. There appeared Elijah and Moses, speaking with Jesus. The disciples were amazed and terribly afraid.

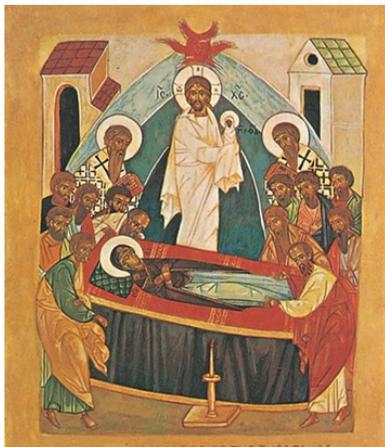
This event shows forth the divinity of Christ, so that the disciples would understand after his Ascension that He was truly the radiant splendor of the Father, and that his Passion was voluntary (Mark 9:2-9). It also shows the possibility of our own theosis.

This event was the subject of some debates between Gregory Palamas and Barlaam of Calabria. Barlaam believed that the light shining from Jesus was created light, while Gregory maintained the disciples were given grace to perceive the uncreated light of God. This supported Gregory's larger argument that although we cannot know God in His essence, we can know Him in his energies, as He reveals Himself.

It is believed that Christ's transfiguration took place at the time of the Jewish Festival of Booths, and that the celebration of the event in the Christian Church became the New Testament fulfillment of the Old Testament feast. Now it is celebrated forty days before the feast, Elevation of the Holy Cross. Just as Peter, James, and John saw the transfiguration before the crucifixion so that they might know who it is who will suffer for them, the Church connects these two feasts to help the faithful understand the mission of Christ and that his suffering was voluntary.

The feast of the Transfiguration of Christ once belonged to the season of Great Lent, but may have been considered too joyous for that time.

## AUGUST 28: Feast of the Dormition of the Bohorodytsi



The **Dormition** (Falling Asleep/Uspinnia) of the Theotokos is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church. Sometimes called the Assumption, it commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

According to Orthodox Tradition, Mary died like all humanity, "falling asleep," so to speak, as the name of the feast indicates. She died as all people die, not "voluntarily" as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Apostles were miraculously summoned to this event, and all were present except Thomas when Mary passed from this life. She was then buried. Thomas arrived a few days later, and desiring to see her one more time, convinced the others to open her tomb. Upon doing so, the Apostles discovered that her body was no longer present. This event is seen as a firstfruits of the resurrection of the faithful that will occur at the Second Coming of Christ. The event is normally called the Dormition. In Greek, Dormition is Koimisis—falling asleep in death—from which the word cemetery derives.

As with the nativity of the Virgin and the feast of her entrance to the temple, there are no biblical or historical sources for this feast. The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins as well that Mary truly needed to be saved by Christ as all human persons are saved from the trials, sufferings, and death of this world. She truly died and was raised up by her Son as the Mother of Life and participates already in the eternal life of paradise.

### Be the bee, not the fly

Some people tell me that they are scandalized because they see many things wrong in the Church. I tell them that if you ask a fly, "Are there any flowers in this area?" it will say, "I don't know about flowers, but over there in that heap of rubbish you can find all the filth you want." And it will go on to list all the unclean things it has been to. Now, if you ask a honeybee, "Have you seen any unclean things in this area?" it will reply, "Unclean things? No, I have not seen any; the place here is full of the most fragrant flowers." And it will go on to name all the flowers of the garden or the meadow. You see, the fly only knows where the unclean things are, while the honeybee knows where the beautiful iris or hyacinth is. As I have come to understand, some people resemble the honeybee and some resemble the fly. Those who resemble the fly seek to find evil in every circumstance and are preoccupied with it; they see no good anywhere. But those who resemble the honeybee only see the good in everything they see. The stupid person thinks stupidly and takes everything in the wrong way, whereas the person who has good thoughts, no matter what he sees, no matter what you tell him, maintains a positive and good thought.

+ *St. Paisios of Mt. Athos, "Good and Evil Thoughts,"*

## News and Events at St. Elia Parish and the Ukrainian Community

**UWAC Lesia Ukrainka at St. Elia** Edmonton contributed to *UOC camps Bar-V-Nok and Kiev's K Hi* and made a donation of \$25,000 to *Canada Ukraine Foundation* for humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

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### **Youth Event at St Elia - June 18th, 2022**

“With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Ilarion and the help from Fr. Vasyl and Dobr. Sofiya teamed up with the Canadian Society of Ukrainians from Former Yugoslavia (CSUFY).

We have already been able to have two sessions at the church (June 18th and June 28th), where displaced Ukrainian youth who have recently fled Ukraine have been able to connect and partner/buddy up with Canadian youth.

The program is designed to help the Ukrainian youth to adjust to Canadian society and the education system. Some activities that we have already been able to do are scavenger hunts, bobbing for apples and dance parties. With the financial help from the Ukrainian Women’s Association of Canada, Lesia Ukrainka Branch at St. Elia we were able to provide pizza, drinks and ice cream for the program.

In September, the youth will be gathering at St. Elia for tutoring sessions and excursions.

If you have any questions or you would like to help or donate, please contact either **Fr. Vasyl** or **Dobr. Sofiya**.  
**vsmaskal@gmail.com** or **306-229-7743**



## Alex Werstiuk's 90th Birthday Celebration

Parish president Alex Werstiuk invited everyone to celebrate his 90th birthday. We all enjoyed the fellowship lunch provided and joyfully celebrated the occasion. Alex thanked everyone present for attending and celebrating with him.

God grant our dear brother and president Alex many blessed years!



\* 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 JULY 2022.**

3. - SUNDAY..... 3-rd.SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST..... 9:30 A.M.  
10. - SUNDAY..... 4-th.SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST..... 9:30 A.M.  
17. - SUNDAY..... 5-th. SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST..... 9:30 A.M.  
24. - SUNDAY..... 6-th.SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ..... 9:30 A.M.  
31. - SUNDAY.....7-th.SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ..... 9:30 A.M.

**ORDER OF SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2022.**

7. - SUNDAY..... 8-th.SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST..... 9:30 A.M.  
14. - SUNDAY..... 9-th.SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ..... 9:30 A.M.  
21. - SUNDAY..... 10-th.SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ..... 9:30 A.M.  
28. - SUNDAY..... 11-th.SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ..... 9:30 A.M.

