



ST. ELIA'S NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

**ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ!
СЛАВІМО ЙОГО!**

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS:

9:30 am Confessions
10:00 am Divine Liturgy

UPCOMING EVENTS

**EVE OF THEOPHANY at St Elia
Blessing of water**

January 5, Friday at 5:00 pm

Followed by our Blessed Jordan Supper

Ticket Prices:

- Adults: \$20.00
- Youth (7~16): \$10.00
- Children (6 and under): Free

** Tickets will be available
in the church office*

The soul that loves God has its rest in God and in God alone. In all the paths that men walk in in the world, they do not attain peace until they draw nigh to hope in God.

(St. Isaac the Syrian, Homily 56, 89)

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:

Rev. Fr. Vasyl Maskal Cell: 780-471-2288
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Fr. Georg Podtepa (*attached*)
Cell: 780-984-6290
Fr.Dcn. Evan Panchuk Cell: 825-474-5252

• **COUNCIL**

President: Tammy Ewanec 780-660-6108
1st Vice-President: Betty Corlett 780-932-9727
2nd Vice-President: Dobr. Barbara Panchuk 780-710-5052
Secretary: Fr. Deacon Evan Panchuk 825-474-5252
Assistant Secretary: Dobr. Sofiya Maskal 204-990-3097
Treasurer: Tanya Popovych 780-690-0542
Assistant Treasurer: Ivan Sawchuk 780-988-5862
Hospodar: Al Hayduk 780-235-4751
Directors: Bill Ewanec 780-474-4867
Orest Macyk 780-417-5294
Hilda Ewanec 780-474-4867
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:**

Dobr. Barbara Panchuk 780-710-5052

MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST, FATHER VASYL

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

As we joyfully prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, let us reflect on the profound significance of this miraculous event. In the humble setting of Bethlehem, God's infinite love took on human form, bringing salvation and hope to the world. The birth of Christ marks the beginning of a divine journey that touches the hearts of believers across time and space. May the spirit of this Holy Season fill our homes with love, joy, and a deep sense of gratitude for the gift of God's presence in our lives.

In the spirit of embracing new beginnings, I am excited to share an important development with you. Our parish is making a significant change by transitioning from the Julian Calendar to the Revised Julian Calendar for our liturgical celebrations. This decision aligns us more closely with the broader Orthodox Christian community, fostering unity and collaboration with sister parishes. While rooted in tradition, this adjustment represents a step forward in our collective journey, and I am confident that it will strengthen our connection with the wider Orthodox family.

I would also like to take a moment to honor and extend gratitude for the long and dedicated service of our former priest, Fr. Georg Podtepa. His love and care have shaped the spiritual landscape of our parish, leaving an indelible mark on our hearts. As we move forward, let us carry the legacy of his service, cherishing the lessons of compassion, unity, and faith that he imparted to our community.

In the spirit of Christ's teachings, let us open our hearts and doors to newcomers seeking solace and spiritual fulfillment. Our parish is a family, and it is our shared responsibility to extend a warm embrace to those seeking a home in Christ. This Christmas, let us renew our commitment to missioning out, reaching out with love and hospitality to those who may be seeking the light of Christ in their lives.

As we navigate these changes and celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us remember that our faith is a journey—a journey of love, hope, and unwavering commitment to Christ.

May the joy of Christ's birth fill your hearts and homes with warmth and light. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

***With love and prayers,
Fr. VasyI***

Christmas Greeting from Parish President

Христос Родився! Славимо Його! Christ is born! Let us glorify Him! As the Nativity season of the church is now in full swing and we celebrate our lord Jesus Christ's birth, let us continue to pray for one another and do good works. Also let us continue to reflect on our spiritual journeys and strengthen our faith through prayer, fasting, repentance and forgiveness.

I would also like to take this time to thank all of you for your support since my election as president for another year. I would also like to thank all of those who work so tirelessly to help keep our parish running and of course our beloved clergy. May they continue to guide us in our spiritual growth and we pray for their continued health.

May Jesus Christ shower his love and blessings on each of you, your families and your loved ones. May your Christmas season be full of happiness, harmony and peace. May you have a blessed Christmas!

***Your Sister-in Christ,
President,
Tammy Ewanec***

REPORT FROM MISSION OUTREACH COMMITTEE

“The work of love,” St. Maximus writes, “is the deliberate doing of good to one’s neighbour.”

Over this past calendar year, 2023, St Elia's Mission Outreach has made donations of \$5579.54; recipients ranged from Ukrainian Canadian Social Services, Ukrainian Free Store, WIN House women's shelter, Buffalo Keeper NehiYaw Centre, Edmonton Food Bank, Balwin School hot food program and Boyle Street community services.

We have decided to distribute most of the remainder of our account (the “Food Basket”), \$4000.00 three ways:

\$1500.00 : Ukrainian Free Store
 \$1500.00: Edmonton Food Bank
 \$1000.00 Camp Bar V Nok

That leaves \$420.00 in the account.

Inspired by Fr Vasyl's out-missioning vision for our parish, we are looking forward to rethinking what that could mean for the work of our little committee. It needn't always be financial donations, given that the Lesia Ukrainka branch of UWAC at St Elia's does a good job of that. We welcome suggestions!

Sister in Christ Myrna Kostash,
 for Betty Corlett, Dobr Barbara Panchuk and Tanya Popovich

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS

Feast of St. Andrew the first-called Apostle



On December 13 Christians living according to the Julian Calendar honour the memory of St. Andrew the First-called Apostle. Ukrainians honor Apostle Andrew in a special way as he is considered to be the one who brought Christianity to the “Hills of Kyiv.”

According to the tradition, St. Andrew preached in the Greek colony-cities near the Black Sea coast, the ruins of which still exist in the south of Ukraine, particularly, Chersonese. As for preaching of the apostle on the “Hills of Kyiv,” references are made to Nestor the Chronicler, who in his “Tale of Bygone Years” allegedly quoted the words of Apostle Andrew who said to his disciples after they spent a night on the bank of the Dnipro: “Do you see these hills? God’s Grace will shine on these hills, there will be a great city here and God will build many Churches.”

According to the report, he blessed the hills, climbed them and installed a cross there.

According to the chronicler, it took place exactly at the site of modern Kyiv. And the hill on which St. Andrew’s Church is built is allegedly the hill where he installed his cross. Therefore, the church was built exactly there despite the difficult landscape.

Tropar

As the first-called of the Apostles and brother of the foremost disciple, Andrew, entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world and to our souls great mercy.



December 22: The Conception by Anna

The righteous Joachim and Anna had lived together in marriage for fifty years, and yet had remained barren. They lived devoutly and quietly, and of all their income they spent one third on themselves, distributed one third to the poor and gave the other third to the Temple. In their old age the Archangel Gabriel appeared to each one of them separately, telling them that God had heard their prayers and that they would give birth to a daughter, Mary. Then St. Anna conceived by her husband and after nine months bore a daughter blessed by God and by all generations, the Most-holy Virgin Mary, the Theotokos.

Teaching Mary to Read

In the 14th century England saw an effusion of images in which Anne teaches her daughter to read. This image type soon became popular in northern Europe, and it continued to be a favorite into modern time, first introduced to show how Mary came to be literate and thus could have been studying the scriptures when the angel arrived at the Annunciation. In many examples of this image type, Anne points to a specific passage in the text that Mary is reading, suggesting that she was not simply teaching Mary her ABCs but was helping her learn to interpret scripture.

December 31: Martyr Sebastian



This Saint, who was from the city of Milan, was a member of the Senate as well as a zealot for the Faith of Christ, and had converted many to the knowledge of God. When Diocletian and Maximian began a Persecution against the Christians, Saint Sebastian was arrested and pierced with sharp arrows, and the bones of his body were shattered with clubs; and being cut into pieces, he gave up his spirit to God in the year 288. Together with him there were others also who died while enduring various tortures. Their names are Marcellinus and Mark the brethren, Tranquillinus their father, Nicostratus and his spouse Zoe, Tiburtius, Claudius, Castulus, and Castor.

Kondak:

Since you were great in zeal for godly religion, you did assemble an alliance of Martyrs, and in their midst, you shone like a flashing star. With the arrows that did pierce your much-suffering body, you did slay the enemy, O Great Martyr Sebastian; and you yourself did fly as from a bow into the Heavens, where Christ has received your soul.

The Purpose of the Incarnation of the Son of God

The parable of the lost sheep speaks graphically and vividly of the purpose of the coming of the Son of God into the world. The good shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep, by which is meant the angelic world, and sets out for the mountains in order to seek out his lost sheep - the human race perishing in sins. The shepherd's great love for the perishing sheep is evident not only in the fact that he solicitously seeks it, but especially in the fact that after finding it, he takes it upon his shoulders and carries it back. In other words, God, by His power, returns to humanity the innocence, holiness and blessedness that we lost; having united Himself with our human nature, the Son of God, according to the word of the Prophet, hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows (Isaiah, Ch. 53).

Delving deeply into the mystery of the incarnation of the Son of God, we see that it is closely bound up with the mystery of Holy Communion and with the Church, which, according to apostolic teaching, is the mystical Body of Christ. In the Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, we are joined to the divine-human nature of Christ; we unite with Him and in this union are wholly transfigured. At the same time, in Holy Communion, a Christian unites also with other members of the Church - and thus the mystical Body of Christ grows.

The purpose of the incarnation of the Son of God lies in the spiritual and physical regeneration of man. Spiritual renewal is accomplished throughout the course of a Christian's whole life. But the renewal of our physical nature is completed on the day of the general resurrection of the dead, when the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father (Matt. 13:43).

News & Stories in St. Elia Parish Community

2023 St. Elia Parish's AGM



2023 AMG was held at the church basement followed by a nice fellowship lunch prepared by Donna and Justina. Fr. Georg and Fr. Vasyl gave their reports. The meeting was chaired by parish president Tammy, Secretary notes taken by Fr. Deacon Evan. Thanks everyone who attended the annual meeting. Looking forward to another good year. God bless!



Updated 7-branch candelabra and tabernacle are placed in St. Elia church's altar. The old ones are now placed in our museum. Thanks to everyone's initiative and donations. To the Glory of God!

Upcoming news/events in the Ukrainian Community



Irina Grobman



Inna Nagaytseva

*ACUA(Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts) Events & Workshops

780-488-8558 / info@acuarts.ca

10554 110 St NW Unit 100 Edmonton, AB T5H 3C

ACUA Regular Hours:

Tue-Thu 10am-4pm / Friday 2pm-7pm / Saturday 11am-3pm

Signature Artists Series **[RINA GROBMAN & INNA NAGAYTSEVA]**

DEC 08, 2023 TO DEC 23, 2023

Opening Reception Friday December 8, 2023 6pm-8pm

Exhibition will be on view at ACUA December 8 – December 23 during regular hours.

* Chamber Orchestra of Edmonton

SPIRIT OF UKRAINE

Sunday, January 14, 2024

3:00 PM 5:00 PM

St. Andrew's United Church

9915 - 148 Street Edmonton, AB, T5H 2A4 Canada ([map](#))

Skoryk - Diptych / Rodin - Violin Concerto / Anna Kozak - violin
/ Silvestrov - Silent Music / Kolodub - Sinfonietta

SOLOIST

Anna Kozak is a violinist with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and the Alberta Baroque Ensemble. She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Toronto and a Master of Music Degree from the University of Calgary.



POET

Veronika Ivanytska, a poet from Chernihiv now studying full time at the U of A is being sponsored by the Myrna Kostash Fund at the Edmonton Community Foundation.

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST.ELIA

ORDER OF SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023.

3. - SUNDAY.....	26-th.SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	10:00 A.M.
10. - SUNDAY.....	27-th.SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	10:00 A.M.
17. - SUNDAY.....	28-th.SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	10:00 A.M.
24. - SUNDAY.....	SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY OF CHRIST	10:00 A.M.
	GREAT COMPLINE	4:00 P.M.
25. - MONDAY.....	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR	10:00 A.M.
31. - SUNDAY.....	SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY	10:00 A.M.

ORDER OF SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2024.

1 - MONDAY	CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR	10:00 A.M
	(ST. BASIL THE GREAT)	
5 - FRIDAY	EVE OF THEOPHANY. BLESSING WATER	5:00 P.M.
6 - SATURDAY.....	HOLY THEOPHANY. BLESSING WATER	10:00 A.M.
7 - SUNDAY.....	31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	10:00 A.M.
14 - SUNDAY.....	32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	10:00 A.M.
21 - SUNDAY.....	33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	10:00 A.M.
28 - SUNDAY.....	34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	10:00 A.M.

