



ST. ELIA'S NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ!
СЛАВА НАВІКИ!

GLORY BE TO JESUS CHRIST!
GLORY FOREVER!



SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS:

9:30 am Confessions
10:00 am Divine Liturgy

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **ST. ELIA COUNCIL MEETING**
Sunday, February 18, 2024
after Divine Liturgy

* Fellowship

Everyone is invited to join us after our Divine Liturgies for a light snack and informal question and answer time with Fr. Vasyl. We look forward to seeing you all there.

* **Potluck Fellowship Lunch**
Sunday, February 25th, 2024

Everyone is invited to a potluck social after Divine Liturgy. Bring whatever you like - no pressure! - to break the fast. Detailed info will be posted in the church entrance in the near future.

CONTACTS

• UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. ELIA

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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 Phone: 780-471-2288
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Fr. Georg Podtepa (*attached*)
Cell: 780-984-6290

DEACON:

Fr. Dcn. Evan Panchuk Cell: 825-474-5252

• COUNCIL

President: Tammy Ewanec 780-660-6108
1st Vice-President: Betty Corlett 780-932-9727
Secretary: Fr. Deacon Evan Panchuk 825-474-5252
Assistant Secretary: Dobr. Sofiya Maskal 204-990-3097
Treasurer: Tanya Popovych 780-690-0542
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Directors: Bill Ewanec 780-474-4867
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Mission Outreach: Myrna Kostash 780-433-0710

• Newsletter Contact:

Dobr. Barbara Panchuk 780-710-5052

MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST, FATHER VASYL

Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!



It is with immense joy and gratitude that we extend our heartfelt greetings to you as we begin this sacred journey together. Dobroslava Sofiya and I are truly blessed and honored to be welcomed into this loving Orthodox community of St. Elia here in Edmonton.

From the moment we set foot among you 2 years ago when His Eminence Ilarion attached us to the parish, we have felt the warmth of your hospitality and the genuine embrace of the Orthodox family. We express our deepest gratitude for your kindness, and we are eager to share in the richness of our faith and traditions with each and every one of you as we transition to me being assigned as your parish priest.

Sofiya's and my prayer is that, together, we will deepen our connection to Christ and strengthen the bonds of fellowship within our parish. The Orthodox Church teaches us the importance of community, and we look forward to walking this path of faith, love, and service alongside you.

As we embark on this journey, we are excited about the prospect of meeting and getting to know each member of our parish family. Feel free to reach out to us with your thoughts, concerns, or simply to share in the joys of life. Our commitment is to be a source of support and encouragement for all.

In the coming months, we plan to organize events that promote spiritual growth, community building, and a deeper understanding of our Orthodox faith. We hope to see many of you at our weekly coffee and snack after Sunday Liturgies, where we can come together in fellowship.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all as we journey together in faith.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Vasyl and Dobroslava Sofiya Maskal

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS

February 2: The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple Commemorated

The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is described in the third Gospel (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the Divine Child was brought to the Temple at Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple for forty days. At the end of the time of her purification, the mother went to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb, two turtledoves, or pigeons to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. Out of humility, however, she fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he beheld the promised Messiah. By divine inspiration, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law.

Saint Simeon received the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel (February 3), "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day." She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the Divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons by the holy bishops Methodios of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilokhios of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the VI century.

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. Giving thanks to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

February 18: Sunday of Zacchaeus Commemorated

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays

before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God’s mercy and compassion by Christ’s words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house” (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology and Trisagion at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is in Tone 1, 3, 5, or 7) we sing the Troparion of the Resurrection: “Today salvation is come to the world, let us sing praises to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He has given us the victory and great mercy.”

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

February 25:

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee Beginning of the Lenten Triodion Commemorated

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the Triodion (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee’s religious piety, nor the Publican’s repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ’s teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

Two weeks before the beginning of the Fast, as part of our preparation for Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha, the Church prescribes the reading of Saint Mark’s Gospel. From Monday to Friday the focus is on the end times, and the Savior’s death and burial.

News & Stories in St. Elia Parish Community



January 5th - Eve of Theophany - Blessing of Water and Holy Supper with an evening of caroling with Razom Orchestra and ladies from our parish.

Upcoming news/events in the Ukrainian Community

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

***BUTTER LAMB FAMILY WORKSHOP**

FEB 18, 2024 TO FEB 18, 2024 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Registration Fee Members: \$15 Non-Members: \$20 per Family (Register by: February 14, 2024)
Learn to sculpt your very own Butter Lamb for your Easter Basket! Using a pound of butter, we will transform your butter into a lamb to be used in your Easter basket that is blessed at Easter.

*** MOMENTS FROM THE BATTLEGROUND - The photographs of Maxim Dondyuk**

Online Exhibition - Opening February 24, 2024 (FEB 23, 2024 TO FEB 23, 2024)

Pre Opening Reception at ACUA / February 23, 2024 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Paul Swanson curated this online exhibit and worked closely with Maxim to tell the story of both the destruction in Ukraine and the resistance of a community. There are three themes that have emerged from Maxim's photographs – the destruction of land and buildings, the celebration of life, and the human toll the conflict in Ukraine has taken. This exhibit seeks to foster empathy and understanding by allowing viewers to connect with the crisis in Ukraine. Through the lens of compassion, we hope to inspire a deeper awareness of the human cost of war and the urgent need for solidarity.

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST.ELIA

ORDER OF SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2024.

- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST @ 5:00 P.M. - GREAT VESPERS**
FOREFEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD
(BLESSING OF CANDLES)
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND @ 10:00 A.M. - DIVINE LITURGY**
THE MEETING OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST (BLESSING OF CANDLES)
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH @ 10:00 A.M. - DIVINE LITURGY**
35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH @ 10:00 A.M. - DIVINE LITURGY**
36TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH @ 10:00 A.M. - DIVINE LITURGY**
37TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH @ 10:00 A.M. - DIVINE LITURGY**
SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

РОЗКЛАД БОГОСЛУЖЕННЯ - ЛЮТОГО

- ЧЕТВЕР, 1 ЛЮТОГО – 17:00 – ВЕЧІРНЯ**
СТРІТЕННЯ ГОСПОДА БОГА І СПАСА НАШОГО ІСУСА ХРИСТА
- П'ЯТНИЦЯ, 2 ЛЮТОГО – 10:00 – СВЯТА ЛІТУРГІЯ**
СТРІТЕННЯ ГОСПОДА БОГА І СПАСА НАШОГО ІСУСА ХРИСТА
- НЕДІЛЯ, 4 ЛЮТОГО – 10:00 – СВЯТА ЛІТУРГІЯ**
35 НЕДІЛЯ ПО П'ЯТИДЕСЯТНИЦІ
- НЕДІЛЯ, 11 ЛЮТОГО – 10:00 – СВЯТА ЛІТУРГІЯ**
36 НЕДІЛЯ ПО П'ЯТИДЕСЯТНИЦІ
- НЕДІЛЯ, 18 ЛЮТОГО – 10:00 – СВЯТА ЛІТУРГІЯ**
37 НЕДІЛЯ ПО П'ЯТИДЕСЯТНИЦІ
- НЕДІЛЯ, 25 ЛЮТОГО – 10:00 – СВЯТА ЛІТУРГІЯ**
НЕДІЛЯ МИТАРЯ І ФАРИСЕЯ