



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Парафія Успіння Пресв. Богородиці

A PARISH OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF EDMONTON

Address:

15608 -104 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB
T5P 4G5

Services:

Sundays at 10:00 am

Most Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
(see calendar)

Parish Website:

[http://
dormition.eeparchy.com](http://dormition.eeparchy.com)

Eparchial Website:

www.eeparchy.com

Pastor:

Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

Fr. Bo's cell phone:

780-340-FR.BO (3726)

Fr. Bo's Email:

[fr.bo.nahachewsky
@gmail.com](mailto:fr.bo.nahachewsky@gmail.com)

December 9, 2018

Twenty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 4; Conception of Saint Anna when she conceived the Most Holy Mother of God; The Prophetess Hannah



Today: The Feast of the Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Mother of God

Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race. The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem.

(the above was taken from OCA.org.)

The story of the Conception of Anna can be read in the Proto-gospel of James. This book, even though it was very well respected in the early church before the New Testament Canon (order of books) was assembled, remains as an important part of sources of Church's Tradition. It is in this "Proto-Gospel" that we find the life of Mary and the course of many of our feasts.

The Book "Christ Our Pascha: the Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church" talks about her conception by St. Anna in the following way:

§188 The Liturgical tradition of the Church magnifies the most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady and God-bearing One as being "more honourable than the...

continued on next page

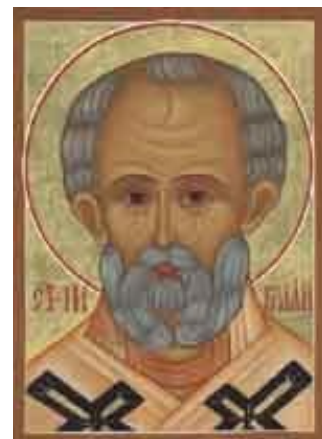
St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

Commemorated on December 6

Today in our little parish we will be visited by this great saint!

The Children of our parish lead by the "Little Friends of Jesus" group will be putting on a play featuring angels explaining the story of the Birth of Christ for all the parishioners after the Divine Liturgy.

Look on the next page for the whole life of this awesome man.



Feast of the Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Mother of God... continued.

...cherubim and more glorious than the seraphim.” The cherubim are the highest angelic order. The Church extols her “holy birth ... and her immaculate conception.”¹⁵⁴ By her purity and her being immaculate the Theotokos surpasses all visible and invisible creation. Nonetheless, at the same time, she belongs to the human race spread forth from Adam and gathers in the Son of God.¹⁵⁵ By conception without seed within the womb of the most holy Mother of God, the Son of God “receives into his bosom the old creation”¹⁵⁶ and “manifests an new birth.”¹⁵⁷ All of this accomplished by the goodwill of God and the assent of the Virgin Mary.

By the term “Immaculate Conception” the Church says that Mary is conceived without any sin. Both Orthodox East and Catholic West fully agree that the Mother of God is sinless. Any historical arguments between East and West were about the nature of “Original Sin” and the way the teaching of the Immaculate Conception was instituted by the Pope in the West.

If you would like to see the entire text of “Christ Our Pascha: the Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church” you can go to our website dormition.eeparchy.com and click on the link on the main page.



Saints of the Day: (texts from the OCA website)



Prophetess Hannah the mother of the Prophet Samuel

The Holy Prophetess Hannah dwelt in marriage with Elkanah, but she was childless. Elkanah took to himself another wife, Phennena, who bore him children. Hannah grieved strongly over her misfortune, and every day she prayed for an end to her barrenness, and vowed to dedicate her child to God.

Once, as she prayed fervently in the Temple, the priest Heli thought that she was drunk, and he began to reproach her. But the saint poured out her grief, and after she received a blessing, she returned home. After this Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, whom she named Samuel (which means “Asked from God”).

When the child reached the age of boyhood, the mother herself presented him to the priest Heli, and Samuel remained with him to serve before the Tabernacle (1 Kings/1 Samuel 2: 1-21).

Saint of a couple days ago... Dec 6: (texts from the OCA website)

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

[A note from Fr. Bo: St. Nicholas’ story sometimes is criticized for being too awesome to be real. Well, perhaps parts of it are a little too awesome... for example his fasting as an infant is hard to swallow. However, the point of these stories is not merely to tell the story of the saint, but also to teach the faith and encourage others to do works of charity, asceticism, and such. Enjoy and be inspired.]

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet for three hours, without support from anyone, thereby



St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia... Continued

honouring the Most Holy Trinity. Saint Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom Saint Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honourable marriage for his daughter. Saint Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, Saint Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to Saint Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. Saint Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain

sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured, was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, Saint Nicholas gave thanks to the Saviour. He went to all the holy places, worshiping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, Saint Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia,

and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop.

He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine (May 21) as emperor,



St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia... Continued

Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, Saint Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Saints Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by Saint Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put



down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of Saint Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to Saint Constantine in a dream, Saint Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers.

He worked many other miracles, and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now (See May 9).

The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch and wonderworker Nicholas, a speedy helper and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed in every corner of the earth, in many lands and among many peoples.

Saint Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortunes. He has promised to help those who remember his parents, Theophanes and Nonna.

Saint Nicholas is also commemorated on May 9 (The transfer of his relics) and on July 29 (his nativity).

We offer our prayers, best wishes and congratulations to Fr. Issa and our brothers and sister in
St. Nicholas Melkite Greek Catholic Parish
on the feast of their parish (their "Praznyk")

Melkites are Eastern Catholic Canadians just like us, but instead of having their Church's background being from the peoples of Ukraine like us, their Church's background is from the Arabic speaking cultures in and around the Middle East. We are two parishes of the Same Church, and we happen to share our church building with them.

Tips for Bringing Your Little One(s) to Church

Attending Liturgy with young children can be challenging. Here are some ideas for how to navigate this part of parenthood.

The Noise & Wiggle Factor

Kids can be noisy, and bringing them to church can make them even more so. The echoes and acoustics are great, after all! They get hungry, they cry, they drop the kneelers with a bang, they don't keep their hands to themselves, and sometimes they try to run down the aisle.

It might make us self-conscious when our kids do these things, but **God doesn't mind any of that**. After all, Jesus did say, "Let the little children come to me and do not stop them" (Matthew 19:14). If others are giving you dirty looks, they probably have forgotten Jesus' words. Pope Francis doesn't mind either. He called the sound of children "the most beautiful choir of all," even when they are crying!

Jesus was the same age as your child once, and His parents had to teach Him to behave properly in their synagogue services too. If you want your children to learn to behave in Church, you'll need to help by giving them regular practice.

Some Options

Babies and small children aren't expected to sit still for an hour at mass. It's perfectly fine to bring along items to **keep them occupied**:

- Set aside books specifically for bringing to church, such as a children's Bible, books about saints, etc.
- Quiet toys or a stuffed animal (nothing electronic or noisy, please) are fine for young children in the pews.
- Bring crayons and have your kids colour icons (available in our parish on the bulletin board). Then post the colouring for all the parish to see!

Just because your child is making normal child-like noises doesn't mean you to need whisk him or her out of the main sanctuary immediately. However, if it starts to be too distracting for too long, you have other options:

- Feel free to take your child to the back of the church or a "cry room" to help him/her settle.
- Point out the icons, stained glass, holy water font, etc.
- Bless yourself and your child, kiss the Gospel Book,, the Icons and the Cross, hold candles during the Gospel reading with them, ring the bells at the Hymn to the Mother of God, help them to learn the sign of the cross.

Your Prayer Experience

To be honest, it may not be an especially prayerful experience for you as a parent to attend Liturgy with wiggly children. It will



most certainly be different from what you were used to before parenthood. A key may be shifting your expectations.

- Even if you can't concentrate on the homily, maybe **one line of a song** will be what you needed to hear to give you comfort.
- Or perhaps you won't remember anything from the readings except **one verse** that stood out because it gave you strength to face an upcoming challenge.
- Maybe what you take away in a given week is a **blessed minute of silence** kneeling after communion.

If you attend Liturgy regularly, you will come to relish the sweet family time of doing something all together, in close quarters, every week without anything else vying for your attention. Liturgy can become a time in which you don't have to do anything else in the world except hold, rock, soothe, sing, pray, and simply be together with your children in God's presence.

Pope Francis on Breastfeeding

During a baptism ceremony at the Sistine Chapel, Pope Francis surprised some by encouraging mothers to breastfeed their babies during the service if they were hungry.



"Some will cry because they are uncomfortable or because they are hungry," he said. "If they are hungry, mothers, let them eat, no worries, because here, they are the main focus."

For more tips about building a household of faith, visit us at:



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...with some "byzantinizing" changes by Fr. Bo

Dormition News

- We **pray for the health and well-being** of all the servants and handmaidens of God who need our prayers: **Sarah Komar, Marge Woitas, Katie Bunio, Stella Dronyk, John Puto, Ann Horsman, Annie Polack, Louis Pewar & Rosa Maria Santos.** (If you know any other people who should be on this list: please email me.)
- We wish God's blessings and a **happy birthday** to our parishioners: **Andrij Genyk, Steve Dasher, Emily Kowal, Brittany Kwas & Alexandra Hapak** who all celebrate their birthdays this week. God grant you many years!

If we don't have your birthday, or if we have your birthday info wrong... please send an email (or at least a piece of paper) with the corrected birthdate and your name.
- **Want to Altar Serve?** I'd love to have anyone in Grade 2 or higher participate in the Liturgy with me at the Altar. Come and see me before Liturgy. Training is "on the job". Both boys and girls are welcome.
- **Want to read the Epistle?** Young and old are invited to participate in this ministry. If you would like to help please talk to Martha Dashkewych.
- **Want to help with the collections?** You can help pass the collection basket at liturgy. Just talk to the Sacristans. Kids with their parents are perfect for this job too.
- **Confessions:** Fr. Bo is always around before services, so please do not hesitate to ask him to hear your confession. If you are planning to make a "longer" confession, he is always available by appointment too.
- **Working Together for Safer Environments:** If you are a volunteer and you submitted your basic forms. Thank-you. If you are in a "High Risk Ministry Position" and you submitted your forms: Thank-you, and your letter is on the desk in the office. If you are a volunteer and you did not get any forms.... TALK TO FR. BO! (or send him an email).

Lots of Special Collections

- This time of year is one of both generosity and also of tight budgets. Whatever you can do is very appreciated.
- **Church Flowers for the Christmas Season:** Our Ladies of the UCWLC are asking for funds for flowers to decorate our Church for the Christmas Season. The Church just wouldn't look right without at least a few poinsettias.
- **School Supplies for Our Lady of Peace (OLOP) School:** This neighbourhood school is full of kids, unfortunately not all of them can afford the necessary school supplies. Our Children's program is collecting pencils, paper, crayons, glue, etc. to help them out. Your gift of new school supplies or money will certainly help them out.
- **Food for the OLOP School:** You guessed it. Many of the same students at OLOP school who don't have school supplies also don't get breakfasts, lunches, etc. The school collects whatever foods they can from various courses to feed them. If you are able to help, please give some "moola" to our UCWLC who buys groceries for them.
- **The Annual Bishop's Appeal Collection** "What Gift Have I, Worthy of a King?" takes place on Sunday, **December 2 and 9th.** The Appeal coincides with the Feast of Saint Nicholas. Help Bishop David in spreading the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by supporting our Eparchial ministries and offices, including: Youth Ministry, Family Life Ministries, Religious Education, Liturgy Office, Vocations, Ecumenism, Social Outreach, and Marriage Tribunal. Thank you for your generosity! May God bless you and your families!
- **The September "Seminary" Collection** happened a few months ago... and many of you gave generously. We raised about half of our parish's \$1000 "levy". This amount is calculated on \$25 per family per parish. If we don't collect enough from this special collection then the funds need to come out of our general operation account (which is used to pay the bills). If you have not given, but you are able to, please give towards this important collection. The money goes to support our young men who are in formation to become priests, monks, and young women who are becoming nuns.

Bible / Faith Study:





with an Eastern Slant

No session this week due to Fr. Bo's Icon Workshop. Our next session is on **Dec. 19** with the theme of "God with Us". We will then resume in the new year with our regular Bible Study on **January 9th.** The theme for that class will be "Egypt & Exodus" part 1.

Everyone is very welcome. Come when you can. You do not have to attend all the classes. Free tea!



December 2018 - January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9 ♂</p> <p>Feast of the Conception by St. Anne</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy with Little Friends of Jesus Program AND...</p> <p>A Visit from St. Nicholas of Myra!</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p> 	<p>10 ♂</p> <p>Fr. Bo teaches an Icon workshop to the Propaedeutic Seminarians at St. Joseph's Seminary</p> <p>Andrij Genyk's Birthday</p>	<p>11 ♂</p> <p>Fr. Bo teaches an Icon workshop to the Propaedeutic Seminarians at St. Joseph's Seminary</p> <p>Steve Dasher's Birthday</p>	<p>12 ♂</p> <p>Fr. Bo teaches an Icon workshop to the Propaedeutic Seminarians at St. Joseph's Seminary</p> <p>Emily Kowal's Birthday</p> <p>NO Prayers or Bible Study</p>	<p>13 ♂</p> <p>Fr. Bo teaches an Icon workshop to the Propaedeutic Seminarians at St. Joseph's Seminary</p>	<p>14 ♂</p> <p>Fr. Bo teaches an Icon workshop to the Propaedeutic Seminarians at St. Joseph's Seminary</p> <p>St. Nicholas Melkite Parish's Bible Study in our Parish Hall</p>	<p>15 ♂</p> <p>Brittany Kwas' & Alexandra Hapak's Birthdays</p> <p>First Solemn Communion Class</p>
<p>16 ♂</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy with Little Friends of Jesus Program</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p>	<p>17 ♂</p>	<p>18 ♂</p> <p>5pm Private Baptismal Prep Class</p>	<p>19 ♂</p> <p>6pm Prayer Service</p> <p>7pm Bible / Faith Study: "God With Us"</p> <p>John Vizza's & Sonja Sashkewytch's Birthdays</p>	<p>20 ♂</p> <p>Elena Sotnikova-Artymkov's Birthday</p>	<p>21 ♂</p>	<p>22 ♂</p> <p>Luba Dasher's Birthday</p>
<p>23 ♂</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p>	<p>24 ♂</p> <p>Eve of the Nativity of Christ - Christmas Eve</p> <p>10 pm Complines followed by Festal Divine Liturgy</p>  <p>10 am Festal Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Jesus Christ's Birthday</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Feast of the Nativity of Christ - Christmas</p> <p>10 am Festal Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Jesus Christ's Birthday</p>	<p>26</p> <p>NO Prayers or Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Fr. Bo & Young Adult pilgrims head out to Mt. Tabor...</p>	<p>28 FAST FREE</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p>
<p>30</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p> 	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p> <p>10 am Liturgy for the Feast of St. Basil with Sacraments of Initiation for the Vizza girls (with Fr. Danylo)</p> <p>2 pm Melkite Liturgy</p> <p>Irene Pryma's Birthday</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p> <p>NO Prayers or Bible Study</p> <p>Joanna Vizza's Birthday</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Pilgrimage</p> <p>Greg Ostapowich's Birthday</p>	<p>4 ♂</p> <p>...Fr. Bo & Young Adult pilgrims return from Mt. Tabor</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Eve of Theophany</p> <p>7 pm Complines followed by Festal Divine Liturgy</p> 

The other day, my wife asked me to pass her lipstick but I accidentally passed her a glue stick. She still isn't talking to me.

Dormition Parish's 2018-19 Christmas Season Schedule:

Feast	Date	Service	Time
Christmas Eve	Monday, Dec. 24	Complines & Liturgy	10 pm
Christmas Day	Tuesday, Dec. 25	Festal Divine Liturgy	10 am
		Melkite service	2 pm
Sunday after the Nativity: St. Joseph, St. King David & St. James	Sunday, Dec 30	Sunday Divine Liturgy (with Fr. ___)	10 am
		Melkite service	2 pm
St. Basil's / Circumsision / New Year's	Tuesday, Jan. 1	Liturgy with Baptism of Baby Vizza & Chrismations of Joanna & Katharine Vizza (with Fr. Danylo)	10 am
		Melkite service	2 pm
Theophany Eve	Saturday, Jan. 5	Complines & Liturgy	7pm
Theophany Day	Sunday Jan. 6	Great Blessing of Water	9:15 am
		Festal Divine Liturgy with Baptism of Shiela (with Bishop, Fr. Stephen & Fr. Bo)	10 am
		Melkite service	2 pm
Parish "Kutia"	Sunday, Jan. 13	Regular Sunday Liturgy with the traditional Parish Meal: "Kutia"	10 am
		Melkite service	2 pm



Please invite your friends, neighbours and family members to the services. Let's tell the whole world about how God loves us so much that he comes to dwell with us.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 - DIVINE LITURGY CHANGEABLE PARTS

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion, Tone 4: When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel* the glorious news of the resurrection* and cast off the ancestral condemnation,* they proudly told the apostles:* “Death has been plundered!* Christ our God is risen,* granting to the world great mercy.”

Troparion, Tone 4: Today the chains of barrenness are shattered,* for having heard the prayer of Joachim and Anna,* against all hope God has openly promised the birth of the Maiden of God,* from whom the very infinite One will be born as a man,* the One who commanded the angels to cry to her:* rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion, Tone 4: My Saviour and Deliverer from the grave* as God raised out of bondage the children of the earth* and shattered the gates of Hades;* and as Master, He rose on the third day.

Now and forever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 4: Today the whole world celebrates* the conception by Anna,* which was brought about by God Himself,* for she has ineffably borne the one who will bear the Word.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4

How great are Your works, O Lord* You have made all things in wisdom.

verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul: O Lord my God, You are exceedingly great. (Psalm 103:24,1)

God is wonderful in His saints,* the God of Israel. (Psalm 67:36)

Epistle Colossians 1:12-18

Brothers and Sisters: give thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

Alleluia, Tone 4

verse: Poise yourself and advance in triumph and reign in the cause of truth, and meekness, and justice. (Psalm 44:5)

verse: You have loved justice and hated iniquity. (Psalm 44:8)

verse: The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their protector in time of trouble. (Psalm 36:39)

verse: The Lord will help them and rescue them; He will deliver them from sinners and save them, for they hoped in Him. (Psalm 36:40)

Gospel Luke 17:12-19

At that time; Jesus entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”



Hymn to the Mother of God and the Irmos, Tone 1:

O my soul, magnify the glorious conception of the Mother of God.

Let us the faithful magnify the Mother of God,* wellspring ever-flowing and life-receiving,* the light-bearing lamp of grace,* the living temple and tabernacle all pure,* even more spacious than heaven and earth.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest. (Psalm 148:1)

Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;* praise befits the righteous.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. (Psalm 32:1)