

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE

DOR MITION

OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Парафіта Успінна Пресв. Богороднці A PARISH OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF EDMONTON

Address:

15608 -104 Avenue. **Edmonton, AB T5P 4G5**

Services:

Sunday Divine Liturgy (Ukr & Eng) at 10 am & Melkite (Arabic) D.L. at 2 pm

Akathist or Molebyn Most Wednesdays at 6 pm (see calendar)

Parish Website:

http://dormition.eeparchy.com

Twitter:

@dormitionparish

https://twitter.com/ dormitionparish

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

Sunday, August 25

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Octoechos Tone 2; The Return of the Relics of the Holy Apostle Bartholomew (829-42); Holy Apostle Titus

Welcome to our parish as we celebrate our

(celebration of our Patron Feast)







Making Our Parish Bloom (even more) A Day of Pastoral Visioning



On Saturday, September 7th, from 10 am till 4 pm

we will be spending the day reflecting on the nature, mission and vision of our parish.

- COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS: How Are We Already Fulfilling our Mission as Church?
- DARING TO DREAM: Imagine What Might Be Possible or Necessary to Better Fulfill our Mission as Church.
- EVALUATING / PRIORITIZING: What Can Be Done and What Will Have the Greatest Impact on our Parish Mission?
- **DESIGNING / COMMITTING:** Concrete Plan of Action Fulfilling our Mission as Church



More info inside this bulletin.

Got Kids?

Your family's input is super valuable! Bring your little ones for at least the morning, share your ideas, eat some pizza, and we shall try to have a couple people watch and play with your kids so that you can participate at least a little. Your input as a family is necessary to make our parish truly vibrant.

Today's Saint of the Day

(from the oca.org website)

The **Transfer of the Relics of the Apostle Bartholomew** took place at the end of the sixth century. His apostolic activity and martyr's end are remembered by the Church on June 11. The Apostle Bartholomew suffered for Christ in Armenian Albanus (now Baku) in the year 71, where his holy relics were. Numerous miracles occurred from the relics of the holy Apostle, and many of the unbelieving were converted to Christ. Under the emperor Anastasius (491-518) the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew were transferred into the newly constructed city of Anastasiopolis (or Dura) and remained there until the end of the sixth century.

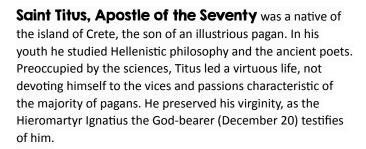
When the city of Anastasiopolis was captured by the Persian emperor Chozroes, Christians took up the chest with the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew and fled with it to the shores of the Black Sea. Having overtaken them, pagan priests threw the chest with the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew into the sea. Four other chests containing the relics of the holy Martyrs Papian, Lucian, Gregory and Acacius were also thrown into the sea.

By the power of God the chests did not sink into the depths of the sea, but miraculously floated upon the waves and reached Italy. The chest with the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew came to land at the island of Lipari, and the remaining chests continued their journey and came to land at various places in Italy. The chest with the relics of the

Martyr Papian halted at Sicily, the Martyr Lucian at Messina, the Martyr Gregory at Calabria, and the Martyr Acacius at Askalon.

The arrival of the relics of the holy Apostle Bartholomew was revealed to Bishop Agathon of the island of Lipari, who went with clergy to the shores of the sea, took the chest from the waters and solemnly transferred it to church.

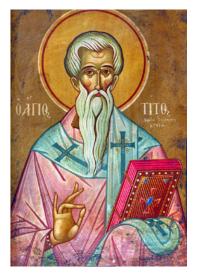
Myrrh flowed from the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew, healing people of various illnesses. The holy relics remained in the church of the island of Lipari until the middle of the ninth century when the island was captured by pagans. Christian merchants took up the holy relics of the Apostle Bartholomew and transferred them to the city of Beneventum, near Naples, where they were received with great veneration and placed in the main church of the city.



For such a manner of life the Lord did not leave him without His help. At age twenty Saint Titus heard a voice in a dream, suggesting that he abandon Hellenistic wisdom, which could not provide salvation for his soul, but rather to seek that which would save him. After this dream, Saint Titus waited yet another year, since it was not actually a command, but it did guide him to familiarize himself with the teachings of the prophets of God. The first that he happened to read was the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Having opened it to the 47th Chapter, he was struck by the words, speaking as it were about his own spiritual condition.

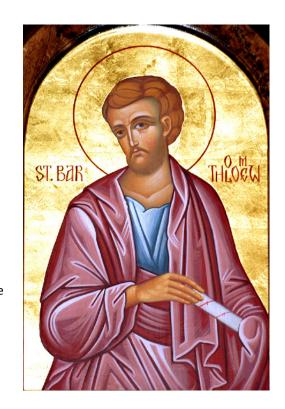
When news reached Crete about the appearance of a Great Prophet in Palestine, and about the great miracles He worked, the governor of the island of Crete (an uncle of Titus) sent him there. This Prophet was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, incarnate of the Most Holy Virgin Mary Who came into the world for the redemption of the race of mankind from the oppression of ancestral sin.

At Jerusalem, Saint Titus saw the Lord. He heard His preaching and believed in Him. He witnessed the suffering and death of the



Savior on the Cross, His glorious Resurrection and Ascension to Heaven. On the day of Pentecost the future apostle heard how the Twelve Apostles, after the descent of the Holy Spirit, spoke in various languages, among which was the Cretan language (Acts 2: 11).

Saint Titus accepted Baptism from the Apostle Paul and became his closest disciple. He accompanied Saint Paul...



Saint Titus, Apostle of the Seventy, continued...

...on his missionary journeys, fulfilling the tasks entrusted to him. He was involved in establishing new churches, and was with Paul in Jerusalem.

Saint Titus was numbered among the Seventy Apostles and was made Bishop of Crete by the Apostle Paul. Around the year 65, not long before his second imprisonment, the Apostle Paul sent a pastoral epistle to his son in the Faith (Tit. 1: 4).

When the Apostle Paul was taken like a criminal to Rome to stand trial before Caesar, Saint Titus left his flock in Crete for a time and went to Rome to be of service to his spiritual Father. After Saint Paul's death by martyrdom, Titus returned to Gortyna, the chief city of Crete.

Saint Titus peacefully guided his flock and toiled at enlightening the pagans with the light of faith in Christ. He was granted the gift of wonder-working by the Lord. During one of the pagan feasts in honor of the goddess Diana, Titus preached to a crowd of pagans.

When he saw that they would not listen to him, he prayed to the Lord, so that the Lord Himself would show to the mistaken people the falseness of idols. By the prayer of Saint Titus, the idol of Diana fell down and shattered before the eyes of all. Another time Saint Titus prayed that the Lord would not permit the completion of a temple of Zeus, and it collapsed.

By such miracles Saint Titus brought many to faith in Christ. After bringing the light of faith to the surrounding regions, Saint Titus died peacefully at the age of 97. At the time of his death, his face shone like the sun.

2019 Women's Retreat

Crossing Over through Change and Transition

Women of all ages, you are invited to a quiet, 24 hour "Away Retreat".

Friday Oct. IIth, 2019 6:30pm - Saturday Oct I2th, 2019 6:30pm

Retreat facilitator: Denise Laverdure-Sych

LOCATION: Camp Oselia, 53230 Range Rd 53, Fallis, AB.

COST: Before Sept 1, \$65. After Sept 1, \$75, all meals and snacks are included.

- Private rooms are available on a first come first serve basis, so register early to reserve yours!
- A Shuttle to and from camp will be available at a cost of \$15.00. Indicate this on your registration.

Questions? – Call 780-424-5496 or email education@edmontoneparchy.com

Register online at the Eparchy Website: www.edmontoneparchy.com
Registration deadline is Sept 30.

All Men! You are invited to attend the 4th annual:

Called to be Holy

Men's Retreat/Conference: "MAN ON A MISSION"

Nov. I, 6:30 pm - Nov. 2, 4:30 pm, 2019

Presenters and themes for this year's conference:

- Mike Sheptak, Damein Zakordonski Testimony and Witness: Living Our Mission in the World.
- **Bishop David Motiuk** Mission Accomplished: Saints, and Martyrs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.
- Fr. Terry Cherwick Equipped for Mission: The Spiritual Preparation required for Mission.
- **Dr. Theresa Zolner** The Eagle has Landed: Dealing with the psychological challenge of a Mission.
- Darryl Tymchuk Mission 101: The "how to" of reaching others through Christ.

LOCATION: Providence Renewal Centre 3005 - 119 St NW, Edmonton

COST: Before Oct 5 - \$60.00 - commute, \$110.00 - live in.

After Oct 5 - \$70.00 - commute, \$120.00 - live in.

Includes Saturday breakfast, lunch and all snacks.

Optional Friday supper - \$20.00

REGISTER ONLINE on the Eparchy of Edmonton Website.

MORE INFORMATION: call: 780-424-5496 or email: education@edmontoneparchy.com.

Deadline for registrations is Oct 25, 2019. No late registrations will be accepted.

- We pray for the health and well-being of all the servants and handmaidens of God who need our prayers: Mary Orysiuk, Jean Miskiw, 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 happy birthday to our parishioners: McKinley Sharek, Zorianna Gerace, Mary Orysiuk, Nicholya Lirette & Daryl Ostopowich who 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 your corrected birthdate and name.
- WE ARE ALLOTTED 3 SPOTS for our PPC, plus the usual UCWLC delegates for the 39th Biannual Conference of the Ukrainian Catholic Council (Centralia) - Eparchy of Edmonton which will take place October 18-20, 2019, at Saint Josaphat Cathedral/Chateau Louis Conference Centre, Edmonton. This year's special guest is Bishop Ken Nowakowski, Eparchy of New Westminster, who will speak to the convention theme of "The Vibrant Parish..... the Next Steps – My Response." The Ukrainian Catholic Council comprises the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada, the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada, the Ukrainian Catholic Youth of Canada, and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy Chapter Knights of Columbus. Given that the Convention celebrates the contribution of our lay organizations in the life of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Alberta, for the very first time, representatives of our Parish Pastoral Councils throughout the Eparchy of Edmonton will be invited to participate.

- Cantoring, Cantoring, Cantoring... Here are three cantering related announcements:
 - The Eparchy of Edmonton invites you to participate in a Cantoring Course to be held at St. Josaphat Cathedral on Friday, October 25 (6:00-9:00 pm) and Saturday, October 26 (9:00 am- 4:00 pm, concluding with Vespers). Topics include: the Divine Liturgy, 8 Resurrectional Tones, and various changeable parts for major feasts. More information will soon be available on the Eparchy of Edmonton website. Questions can be emailed to: Melanie.turgeon@kingsu.ca
 - The St. Paul District and Lloydminster District have organized and will be running a Ukrainian Catholic cantoring school for children, youth and young adults on the 3rd Saturday of each month in Mundare. For more info go to <u>st-romanos-cantoring-school.jimdosite.com</u>
- SingCon is a gathering of church singers of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) in North America to promote contact with one another (networking), to learn from experienced cantors and singers in our church, to share experience and solutions to current issues in church singing, and to pray together. SingCon is organized by the Patriarchal Liturgical Commission of the UGCC and in 2019 will be sponsored by the UGCC Eparchy of Stamford CT. Singers and faithful of other Churches are welcome! Registration is open to everyone regardless of ability. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in this exciting conference. Sept. 26-29, 2019.
- To help us get to know our brothers and sisters, on Sunday, September 15 we anticipate doing a joint liturgy with St. Nicholas (Melkite) Community. More details will be forthcoming.

Update on the New / Old Tabernacle:

This week I put in 20+ hours... and... it is close... but not yet ready. Maybe next weekend, maybe the following one. I have been working on rebuilding the Tabernacle that was donated to the parish by the Ostopowich family years ago, to make it smaller so that it will again fit on the Holy Table. I have made much progress, the stencilling is all done, texture has been applied, now it's time for paint, new windows and final assembly. I hope (but don't promise) to have it done by the Sunday after next Sunday. At some point when it is done, we will invite bishop David to come and bless it. For now, you can see these pictures.



The Domes are original but the base is all rebuilt. The windows too will be replaced as the old ones were constantly loosing trim pieces.

It will all be gold, but the images you see here show the primer and the texture that I have stencilled on. This is done so that patterns will be visible in the gold.



Woven: A Retreat for Teen Girls (13-18), Sept 20-22, 2019

Girls aged 13-18 are invited to explore what it means to be a young woman living according to the Eastern Christian faith in the modern world. We will discuss self-identity, emotions, social media, relationships, and more! There will also be socializing, crafts, outdoor activities & fantastic food!

Where? Camp Oselia (53230 Range Rd 53, Fallis, AB on Wabamun Lake)

How much? Before Sept. 1 - \$50, after Sept. 1 - \$60. Remainder of cost will be subsidized.

Ride? Yes! Call us and we can make arrangements 780-424-5496

Other Questions? Call 780-424-5496

Register online at www.eeparchy.com.

For more information on *Woven*, check out https://www.woveninhislove.org.



Catechist Workshop

Oct I, 2019 5:30 - 9:00 pm.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? All those who are working throughout the Edmonton Eparchy, teaching children or adults, or those who might like to begin teaching.

This will be an evening of professional development, spiritual growth and networking with other catechists.

Theme for the workshop:

- "Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World" is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the Extraordinary Mission Month October 2019. We will look at ways of reinvigorating our own sense of responsibility for proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm and passing that enthusiasm to others.

LOCATION: 9645-108 Ave, Edmonton

Those at a distance are welcome to join us online. Please contact us and we can set it up either by phone 780-424-5496 or email: education@edmontoneparchy.com.

Register by Sept. 27 at Eventbrite:

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/catechist-workshop-tickets-67093806381 or find the link on the Edmonton Eparchy website.

COST: \$10.00 - will be charged to your parish after your attendance at the workshop.





Making Our Parish Bloom (even more)

A Day of Pastoral Visioning

On Saturday, September 7th, from 10 am till 4 pm



After being in our parish for a year I have had the opportunity to get to know many of the parishioners, their needs and desires. I have also gotten a general feel for the parish and how it works. Obviously I do not know everything, nor everyone, but I believe it is time for us to gather together, discuss our parish, and make plans for our future.

Before anyone can decide the directions for our parish to go forward in, we need to understand who we are and our purpose. Last year our PPC came up with the following Proposed Parish Mission Statement:

"To joyfully bring all people into the knowledge, love and service of the Holy Trinity, Who dwells within us."

Knowing this, and with the direction of our Bishop and Synod of Bishops as they have laid out in the "Vision 2020: Vibrant Parish" Program, it is time for us to move forward. We know that to become a more Vibrant Parish we need to continue and expand in our efforts in:

- The Word of God and Catechesis (Kerygma)
- · Liturgy and Prayer
- Service to our Neighbour (Diakonia)
- Leadership Stewardship
- Communion Unity (Koinonia)
- Missionary Spirit

While keeping true to our Characteristics as a Ukrainian Catholic Church which include:

- · Eastern Christian Heritage,
- Focus on the Person,
- Spirit of Self-Emptying for Christ's sake (Kenosis)
- Witnessing and serving unity with the successor of St. Peter,
- and Accessibility and Openness
 (all of these are described in the Vision 2020 Program)

Let's Get Excited!

Our parish is awesome. Let's make it even awesome-er!

What would you like to focus on? What do you need to see to make it a better parish for you and your family? What flavour(s), direction(s), niche(s) will our parish choose to put it's efforts into?

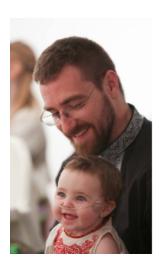
Let's invite everyone to join us in dreaming and making this parish bloom (more). There is tonnes of potential all around us and God has called us to go forth. These are exciting times, perhaps a little intimidating even, but together we can lift up Dormition Parish to even greater service of our Lord.

How will this day be structured?

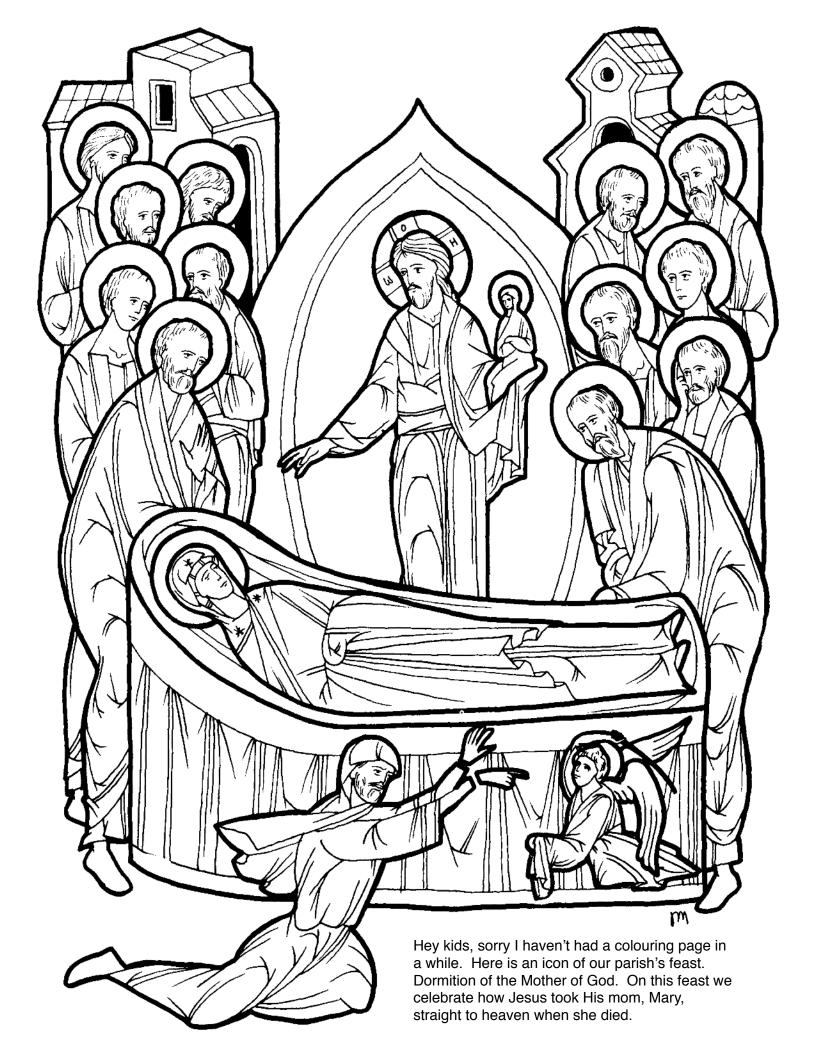
This day will be based on the "Handbook for Pastoral Planning" which is a book put together by the Ukrainian Catholic Synod of Bishops to help us make a plan and carry it out. You can grab a copy of it in the entrance of the church or find the whole document online on our website: http://dormition.eeparchy.com (see the button on the front page)

Yes, lunch will be provided... we are thinking pizza.

I have invited Fr. Mike Bomback a young and dynamic priest of our Eparchy to lead this program in our parish. The reasons that I invited him to lead is that he is a prayerful man, quite capable and organized, and he does not have any current involvement in our parish, therefore he can look at things from a outside perspective.



"Dormition Parish is MY parish, and it is certainly OUR parish, and certainly and perhaps most importantly it is GOD'S parish. Let's all listen to each other and the promptings of the Holy Spirit to make it the most vibrant parish in the world!"



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 © Our Parish Praznyk Io am Divine Liturgy with Bishop David 2 pm Melkite	26 Fr. Bo preaching a retreat (in Edm) McKinley Sharek's Birthday	Fr. Bo preaching a retreat (in Edm) Internet wires being installed in the church Zorianna Gerace's Birthday	28 Fr. Bo preaching a retreat (in Edm) Mary Orysiuk's Birthday	29 (**) Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist Fr. Bo preaching a retreat (in Edm) Nicholya Lirette & Daryl Ostopowich's Birthdays	30 🖎 Fr. Bo preaching a retreat (in Edm)	31
Liturgy I 🍎 * Liturgical New Year IO am Divine Liturgy 2 pm Melkite Liturgy	2 🏈 🏈 Labour Day	3 First Day of School	ц	5 Olga Wasarab's Birthday	6 ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠	7
Major Feast: The Nativity of the Mother of God IO am Divine Liturgy 2 pm Melkite Liturgy	q	IO	II 7 pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	12 Roman Workun's Birthday	13 🖎 🏈	Najor Feast: Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Possible Joint Divine Liturgy with St. Nicholas Melkite Community stay tuned.	16	17	18	I9 5pm Eparchial Religious Education Commission Meeting	Woven: Teen Girls retreat at Camp Oselia Thomas Sokolowski's, Sera Nahachewsky's & Rebecca Vizza's (Please confirm date) Birthdays	21 🏈 🏈 Woven: Teen Girls retreat at Camp Oselia

Changeable Parts for this Sunday's Divine Liturgy*

* and also for the Feast of Dormition. Both Epistles and Both Gospels are shown.

Troparion (Sunday): When You went down to death, O Life Immortal,* You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity.* When You raised the dead from the nether world,* all the powers of heaven cried out:* "O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory be to You!"

Troparion (Feast): In giving birth you retained your virginity,* in falling asleep you did not abandon the world, O Mother of God.* You passed into life, for you are the Mother of Life,* and by your prayers* you deliver our souls from death.

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

Kontakion (Sunday): You rose from the tomb, O almighty Saviour;* and Hades, seeing this wonder, was stricken with fear; and the dead arose.* Creation saw and rejoices with You, and Adam exults.* And the world, my Saviour, sings Your praises for ever.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Theotokion (Feast): The tomb and death could not hold the Mother of God,* unceasing in her intercession and an unfailing hope of patronage,* for as the Mother of Life she was transferred to life* by Him Who had dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.

Prokeimenon (Feast):

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Verse: Because he has regarded the humility of His handmaid; for behold, all generations shall call me blessed.

Epistle (Sunday): I Corinthians 9:2-12

Brothers and Sisters: If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who at any time pays the expenses for doing military service? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not get any of its milk?

Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law also say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Or does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was indeed written for our sake, for whoever plows should plow in hope and whoever threshes should thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too

much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we still more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

Epistle (Feast): Philippians 2:5-II

Brothers and Sisters: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Alleluia:

Verse: Rise up, O Lord, to the place of Your rest, You and the ark of Your holiness.

Verse: The Lord swore an oath to David, and will not go back on His word.

Gospel (Sunday): Matthew 18:23-35

The Lord said: For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Changeable Parts continued...

Gospel (Feast): Luke 10:38-42, II:27-28

At that time; they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"

Hymn to the Mother of God (Feast):

Seeing the pure one's falling asleep, angels marvelled in wonder how the Virgin could ascend from earth to heaven.

And the Irmos:

O pure Virgin, in you are conquered the bounds of nature,* for childbirth remains virginal and death is betrothed to life.* V

Communion Hymn (Feast):

I will take the cup of salvation;* and I will call upon the name of the Lord.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

Back to School for our Seminarians



The opening of the 2019-2020 Seminary year on August 22, 2019 started with the celebration of Vespers. Pictured above are: Alex Pankiw, Matthew Lashyn, Ivan Simko, Bishop Bryan Bayda, Fr. Michael Winn, Bishop David Motiuk, Orion Wiebe, Julian Savaryn, Jonathan Lashyn, Ivas Babick.



VIBRANT PARISH PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, as you once gathered lost sheep that they might hear Your voice and be your flock, so also today graciously look down from heaven upon our parish community, and send down on it your Holy Spirit, that it might be a place to receive the joy of Your Good News. Strengthen us with your presence, and always gather us together in prayer. Grant us the spirit of serving others, so that in our parish all might encounter You, the merciful God. Bless our spiritual leaders with Your wisdom, and inspire us to generously give of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of Your Kingdom. Unite us in peace and harmony, as befits Your community of love. Instil in us a missionary spirit, and let our parish community shine with the light of the Gospel, with prayer and good works, inviting all to share in the divine life, so that Your Name, O Saviour, may be praised, together with Your eternal Father, and your most-holy, good and lifegiving Spirit. Amen.