



St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Orthodox Church

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January, February, March, 2024

No. 22

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Parish Website

uoc-stmichael.ca

Let Us
Worship



Blessed Be Our
Lord God!

For the Orthodox Christian, worship is the highest calling of mankind, to fall down at the feet of the Almighty God, the Holy Trinity, and to give ourselves totally to God, becoming united mystically with Him in the holy mysteries (the “sacraments”). To worship God is to fulfil the purpose for which we were created.

Orthodox worship is liturgical. That means that it follows specific ritual patterns and cycles, with music and prayer and symbolic actions. Liturgical worship is conducted in reverent dignity and embraces the whole of the human person – all five senses! Worship has to be done with reverence and awe, because we are entering into the very throne room of the Creator.

But does *liturgical* mean repetitive and boring? Anything can get boring if done wrongly, but the rich tradition of Orthodox worship is a whole world to explore, one that cannot be exhausted even over a lifetime.

Orthodox worship is transformative, bringing us more deeply into communion with God and through cooperation with God gradually changing us into holy people – saints. The pattern of Orthodox worship is based on the worship in Heaven as seen in the Bible, which includes an altar, incense, chanting, and so on (Is. 6 & 7; Heb. 8:1-6; Rev. 4, 5).

Worship is different from veneration. While worship is about totally giving ourselves to God to be united with Him, veneration is the genuine respect that we show for holy people and things. So while these acts have some things in common – such as bowing in reverence – they’re not the same and shouldn’t be mixed up.

A secondary but essential part of worship in Orthodoxy is to teach the faith, forming the Christian in the doctrines of the Church, which are not mere rational propositions to be agreed with but are the guide to the Christian life.

The center of Orthodox Christian liturgical life is the Divine Liturgy, the church service where believers who are prepared by prayer, fasting and confession, receive the Holy Eucharist, bread and wine which have been mystically changed by God into the Body and Blood of Christ (John 6:47-58). Other major church services include Vespers (which is evening prayer) and Matins (morning prayer), which follows in the footsteps of the Apostles, who the Bible says worshiped according to the traditional hours of prayer (Acts 3:1, 10:9, 10:30).



St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish

Worship Services into the New Year, 2024

EVE OF THEOPHANY—January 5th.

Great Blessing of Water & Epiphany Supper, 5:30 p.m.

FEAST OF THEOPHANY—January 6th—Liturgy & Blessing of Water, 10 a.m.

Baptism of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

- ♦ Epistle: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7
- ♦ Gospel: Matt. 3:13-17

32nd Sunday After Pentecost, January 14th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Circumcision of Our Lord

- ♦ Epistle: Col. 2:8-12
- ♦ Gospel: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

34th Sunday After Pentecost, January 28th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ♦ Epistle: Col. 3:12-16
- ♦ Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

36th Sunday After Pentecost, February 11th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ♦ Epistle: 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1
- ♦ Gospel: Matt. 15:21-28

THE BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN TRIODION

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, February 25th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ♦ Epistle: 2 Tim. 3:10-15
- ♦ Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Sunday of the Dread Judgement (Meatfare). March 10th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ♦ Epistle: 1 Cor. 8:8-9:2
- ♦ Gospel: Matt. 25:31-46

THE BEGINNING OF HOLY AND GREAT LENT

First Sunday of Lent: Triumph of Orthodoxy, March 24th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ♦ Epistle: Heb. 11:24-26, 32-12:2
- ♦ Gospel: John 1:43-51

Third Sunday of Lent: Veneration of the Precious Cross, April 7th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

“The Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos”

- ♦ Epistle: Heb. 2:11-18; Heb. 4:14-5:6
- ♦ Gospel: Luke 1:24-28; Mark 8:34-9:1

Fifth Sunday of Lent: Venerable Mary of Egypt, April 21st—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ♦ Epistle: Heb. 2:11-18; Heb. 4:14-5:6
- ♦ Gospel: Luke 1:24-28; Mark 8:34-9:1

Palm Sunday: “Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem”, April 28th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Blessing of pussy willows

- ♦ Epistle: Phil. 4:4-9
- ♦ Gospel: John 12:1-18

Epiphany

Epiphany ([/əˈpɪfəni/ ə-PIF-ə-nee](#)), also known as "[Theophany](#)" in [Eastern Christian](#) tradition,^[1] is a Christian [feast day](#) commemorating the [visit of the Magi](#), the [baptism of Jesus](#), and the [wedding at Cana](#).^[2]

Eastern Christians commemorate the [baptism of Jesus](#) in the [Jordan River](#), seen as his manifestation to the world as the [Son of God](#).^[2] The spot marked by [Al-Maghtas](#) in [Jordan](#), adjacent to [Qasr al-Yahud](#) in the [West Bank](#), is considered to be the original site of the baptism of Jesus and the ministry of [John the Baptist](#).^{[8][9]}

**St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Orthodox Parish
President's Message—Shirley Wozimirsky**

Chrystos Rozhdaetsia! (Christ is Born) Slavimo Yoho! (Glorify Him)

On behalf of the Parish Board, I wish to extend sincere best wishes for a joyful and peaceful Christmas season and the very best in the new year 2024. May the spirit of peace gently fill your hearts and homes with love and good will.

As of December 20, 2023 the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada has switched from the current **Julian Calendar to a New Julian Calendar with the exception of Easter which will still be determined and celebrated according to the Old Julian Calendar. Watch the schedule for the worship service changes through out the year.**

Christmas this year is celebrated on Monday, December 25, 2023. Epiphany (blessing of the water) and supper will be held on Friday, January 5, 2024. Easter for the Ukrainian Orthodox is scheduled on May 5, 2024 (Sunday) and the regular (latin) Easter is scheduled for March 31, 2024. Great Lent will begin on March 18, 2024. **Please note changes and scheduling accordingly.**

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us and supported our parish throughout 2023. The time and effort you gave to help us was greatly appreciated. An appreciation supper was held on Sunday, December 10, 2023. I hope to see you all again in 2024. **Note to the younger people, please get involved in the church or traditions like St. Nicholas Day will be discontinued.**

In Memoriam:

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Mary Myschuk. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of mourning. May her memory be eternal. Vichnaya Pamyat!

Parish Annual General Meeting

Our annual general meeting for the parish is scheduled for Sunday, **February 25, 2024.** Please plan to attend and participate. We need to hear from you and share ideas. Our membership is declining and our volunteer numbers are very low. We have become very dependent **on help from the community.**

“Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, and leave the rest to God.”

Христос Рождається! Хвалімо Його!

Sincerest greetings with the Great Feast of Christ's Nativity & New Year to our Parishioners and the families who pray with us, and our children, and our dear volunteers and donors; our much suffering brothers and sisters in Ukraine and throughout the world, and to everyone of Good will—may the new-born God-infant send upon you, all, His bounties & blessings for great success in your good works in the New Year.

Rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior. May the blessings of Christ be upon you and your loved ones this season and into the New Year. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14.

Christ Is Born! Let Us Glorify Him!

Fr. Victor & Marusia



Pioneer Churches on the Prairies!

Sunday, November 26th our Parish celebrated its Patron Saint. Our Guest speaker was Russell Sawchuk, who spoke on his project: “Pioneer Churches on the Prairies”. His presentation was accompanied by a slide showing and a display of photo of various historic churches throughout northeastern Alberta

His project may be viewed on: PioneerChurches.ca



Stand Up Straight!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today as always our Lord looks down from heaven upon us and sees all human weakness. He is ready to come to our assistance, but in turn, we have to trust Him and ask for His help. His willingness to help people became apparent when He sent into the world his only Son for our salvation.

One of the best examples of that His readiness to help us is in the Gospel of Saint Luke 13, 10-17.

On Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath." The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?" When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

In this Gospel reading, Saint Luke tells us that the woman was bent over for eighteen years and was unable to stand up straight. Can we imagine her pain? Jesus is merciful, because when He saw her, He laid his hands on her, she stood up straight again and began praising God.

Our life gets bent over by the weight and strain of all the difficulties that we carry. We get bent over emotionally by the pressures of work and the strain of financial problems, by the worries of caring for our families, loved ones, and friends. Every day in our life we face weakness, and we must turn to Jesus for help and strength. He is always waiting for us. Although, sometimes it feels that He is not listening to our prayers, and we don't get what we want, but God knows what we need and when we need it. We just need to keep praying and trusting God.

It is very important that we gather every Divine Liturgy in the Church to worship God, to receive forgiveness from Him in the Sacrament of Holy Confession. After that, with our souls cleaned, we unite with Him in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Our Savior will always help us through our weaknesses, will lift heavy weight from our shoulders. We should always be grateful to God and praise Him. When we are faced with difficulties and fall into sin, we need to turn to God for help over and over again. God's forgiveness has no limits as long as we pray for help, confessing our sins, and believe. Every time when we have troubles, we must remember that God is with us. God is Merciful. He heals us, as long as we believe and turn to Him for help.

Again, we see the miracle that Christ did on a Sabbath day. He healed a woman who had suffered for a long time. Our Savior saw the unfortunate circumstances of her life, came to her, and raised her up. He said to the woman: "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity." (Lk. 13,12) When people are physically bent over they are isolated from everybody. The visual world for them is very small. They can see the ground but not the sky; they can see people's feet but not their faces. This is not a pleasant position to be in because the body is in constant pain. When our bodies are in pain, it is very easy to fall and ask God, why me? Why do I have to suffer like that? It is very easy to become distant from God, stop praying and stop asking for help. We also became distant when we sin and do not confess. Our weaknesses take over our life and we drift away from our Lord Jesus Christ.

My beloved in Jesus Christ, always remember that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ loves us. It doesn't matter what was in the past in our lives: we can leave the past behind. We always can change for the better using all of the knowledge that God has given for us. Remember, God is waiting for us and we have to go to Him and be with Him. My beloved, stand up, think, let's change for the better because we are God's creation. We are children of God.

Amen.

Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada

St. Michael's UWAC Branch = Mary Paltzat ,President

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After a serious health setback in November, I was not able to help with various UWAC activities. I plan to resume my former duties in January.

Our annual Christmas bake sale on December 2 was successful once again. It was well-attended. The public appreciates the variety of high-quality Ukrainian foods and baking offered by our parish. We are grateful to Dorothy Stachniak and Jim Kniazky for co-ordinating numerous food work bees, preparing for the bake sale. The UWAC Annual General Meeting, originally scheduled for December 3, has been postponed until January 28, 2024, following fellowship lunch. Members and prospective members, please plan to attend. A quorum is required to pass any motion. There will be elections for UWAC officers, all positions. Food work bees will resume in February. Please come to assist if you are able.

On the lighter side:

God created the world. Everything else is made in China.
I finally found a machine at the gym that I like---the vending machine.

Shopping for Jesus: Nothing Wrong with Re-gifting!



While many 'celebrate' Christmas, is Christ Himself at the forefront of the festivities? Is His coming into the world—with all of its magnificent consequences—pondered, bringing joy into the hearts of those who confess Him as Lord? The period can easily devolve into an annual excuse for lavish get-togethers and opulent gift exchanges—basically, celebrations of hollow excess. When we confess, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life," (John 3:16) we understand that any gift-giving during the season should be in the spirit of God's never-ending philanthropy. Anything we 'give' was first given to us from God. Therefore, we are simply re-gifting the blessings we've received! Like the Magi, we are also to offer gifts to the Savior in ways particular to our capabilities—remembering the family member, the friend, the stranger, and—especially—the least of our brethren through loving gestures of prayer, goodwill, and material generosity. Christ tells us, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," (Acts 20:35) and in reflecting His love at Christmas, we give back to His Church, His people, and His creation, offering ourselves as loyal subjects of Him—the newborn King! :

Together, make a list of all the things that God has blessed your family with. Consider how you can use these gifts to give back to Him this Christmas season. This can involve using your time, talents, and treasures as loving, humble offerings on behalf of Christ the Lord. So what will you give?

Epiphany Supper

St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish

12104—129 Avenue, Edmonton, AB



*Christ is Baptized!
In the River Jordan!*

invites you to celebrate

Feast of Jordan

**Eve of Theophany and the
Blessing of Water**

Friday, January 5, 2024

5:30 p.m.

After the service the faithful partake of the Blessed Holy Water and are encouraged to take some home to partake of as needed throughout the year. The Holy Blessed water is considered to have healing properties. Bring your own container.

Following the service you are invited to our

Epiphany Eve Supper

6:30 p.m.

Kutia (Cooked wheat sweetened with honey)

Borsch

Pyrohy

Baked Salmon

and more...

Tickets: Adults—\$20.00/person

Youth—12 years & younger —free

Alberta Museum of Canada—Alberta Branch

On June 9, 2023, the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Alberta Branch after two years of closure, reopened with a new exhibition *Change and Continuity: Keeping Culture Alive*. The exhibition features embroidery, weavings, woodwork, ceramics, religious items and artworks that connect the past with the present. The displayed works illustrate traditional stylistic features in different regions in Ukraine and their adaptation in modern times, showcasing changes in Ukrainian material culture through the ages. Some of the designs belong to the 18th and 19th centuries but still have connections with our time. Art and photographs of Ukrainian historical events provide context to the artifacts on display. As the traditional finds its place in our lives, that culture becomes a living part of our present life.

Hours of operation: Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment. 780=441-1062

**Special Donations to the Church
September, October, November , 2023**

**In Memory of Mother Halyna
Olena**

**In Memory of Sophie & Nykola (Nick) Lychak
Cindy Lychak
Judy Lychak**

**In Memory of Louise MacDonald
Bruce & Gloria MacDonald**

**In Memory of Marie Magega
Michelle Bentt
Gladys Marie Magega
Ivan & Vera Tkaczuk**

**In Memory of Mary Myschuk
Olga Genovey
Fred Myschuk
Frances Tarnowetz
Natalka Taylor
Robert Trithart
Sonya Wojtiw**

**In Memory of Daisy Senyk
Audrey Kotyk**

**In Memory of Boleslaw & Olga Stelmaschuk
Russell & Sandy Sawchuk**

**General Donations for Church Operations
Robert Andreychuk
Gus Freiha
Judy Rausch**

**If anyone was missed forgive us.
Gladys Magega, Treasurer
St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish**

*All donations are greatly appreciated.
Thank you,*

OLDTIMERS

Great advice from Liam Neeson!

"They say the hardest thing in the world is losing someone you love. Someone you grew old with and watched grow everyday. Someone who showed you how to love. It's the worst thing to ever happen to anyone. My wife died unexpectedly. She brought me so much joy. She was my everything. Those 16 years of being her husband taught me how to love unconditionally. We have to stop and be thankful for our spouses. Because, life is very short. Spend time with your spouses. Treat them well. Because, one day, when you look up from your I-phone, they won't be there anymore.. What I truly learned most of all is, live and love everyday like it's your last. Because, one day, it will be. Take chances and go live life. Tell the one you love, that you love them everyday. Don't take any moment for granted. Life is worth living."

***The Revised Julian
Calendar***

As announced on December 1, 2023, and effective December 20th, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (UOCC) adopted a Revised Julian Calendar as the calendar by which we will set the Liturgical Life of our Church. Therefore, the Schedule of Services in celebrating the "Nativity of Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" and services thereafter will be posted in the near future. Please refer to page 2 of the Bulletin.



the Koliva. It is then eaten as a memorial by all present.

Soul Saturday will celebrated in our Church on Saturday, April 13th.

Saturday of Souls (or **Soul Saturday**) is a day set aside for the commemoration of the dead within the liturgical year of the Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches. Saturday is a traditional day of prayer for the dead, because Christ lay dead in the Tomb on Saturday.

These days are devoted to prayer for departed relatives and others among the faithful who would not be commemorated specifically as saints. The Divine Services on these days have special hymns added to them to commemorate the departed. There is often a Panikhida (Memorial Service) either after the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning or after Vespers on Friday evening, for which Koliva (a dish made of boiled wheatberries or rice and honey) is prepared and placed on the Panikhida table. After the Service, the priest blesses



Hall For Rent

**St. Michael's Parish Hall
12918—121 Street**

Wheel Chair Accessible
Air Conditioned
Seats 180 for Banquet
Plenty of Parking
In house catering & bar service available.
\$500.00 rent plus damage deposit
For more information & booking contact

Korneil Ozipko 780-475-3951

**St. Nicholas
visited our
Parish on
Sunday,
December
17th.
Children
joyously
received
Gifts.**



*Our Volunteer Appreciation Night was
truly enjoyed.
Once again, a special thank you to all
volunteers.*



Your Prayer Corner!