



St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Orthodox Church

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July, August, September, 2024

What was the meaning and importance of the transfiguration?

About a week after Jesus plainly told His disciples that He would suffer, be killed, and be raised to life ([Luke 9:22](#)), He took Peter, James, and John up a mountain to pray. While praying, His personal appearance was changed into a glorified form, and His clothing became dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Jesus about His death that would soon take place. Peter, not knowing what he was saying and being very fearful, offered to put up three shelters for them. This is undoubtedly a reference to the booths that were used to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, when the Israelites dwelt in booths for seven days ([Leviticus 23:34-42](#)). Peter was expressing a wish to stay in that place. Then a cloud enveloped them, and a voice spoke from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" ([Matthew 17:5](#)).

The cloud lifted, Moses and Elijah had disappeared, and Jesus was alone with His disciples, who were still very much afraid. Jesus warned them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after His resurrection. The three accounts of this event are found in [Matthew 17:1-8](#), [Mark 9:2-8](#), and [Luke 9:28-36](#).

Undoubtedly, the purpose of the transfiguration of Christ into at least a part of His heavenly glory was so that the "inner circle" of His disciples could gain a greater understanding of who Jesus was. Christ underwent a dramatic change in appearance in order that the disciples could behold Him in His glory. The disciples, who had only known Him in His human body, now had a greater realization of the deity of Christ, though they could not fully comprehend it. That gave them the reassurance they needed after hearing the shocking news of His coming death.

Symbolically, the appearance of Moses and Elijah represented the Law and the Prophets. But God's voice from heaven – "Listen to Him!" - clearly showed that the Law and the Prophets must give way to Jesus. The One who is the new and living way is replacing the old – He is the fulfillment of the Law and the countless prophecies in the Old Testament. Also, in His glorified form they saw a preview of His coming glorification and enthronement as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The disciples never forgot what happened that day on the mountain and no doubt this was intended. John wrote in his gospel, "We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only" ([John 1:14](#)). Peter also wrote of it, "We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain" ([2 Peter 1:16-18](#)). Those who witnessed the transfiguration bore witness to it to the other disciples and to countless millions down through the centuries.

No. 24

Clergy

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Check out our Parish
Website
uocc-stmichael.ca

Let Us
Worship



St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish

Our Summer Services 2024

Note Schedule changes!

2nd Sunday After Pentecost, July 7th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

There will not be a service on this Sunday as originally announced, as Fr. Victor will be celebrating the 85th Anniversary of St. Peter and Paul Parish in Andrew.



2nd Sunday After Pentecost, July 14th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ◆ Epistle: Rom. 5:1-10
- ◆ Gospel: Matt. 6:22-33

3rd Sunday After Pentecost, July 21st—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ◆ Epistle: Rom, 6:18-23
- ◆ Gospel: Matt, 8:5-13

“Dormition Fast—August 1st to 15th”

6th Sunday After Pentecost, August 4th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ◆ Epistle: Rom, 12:6-14
- ◆ Gospel: Matt. 9:1-8

8th Sunday After Pentecost, August 18th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ◆ Epistle: Acts 5:12-20
- ◆ Gospel: John 20:19-31

10th Sunday After Pentecost, September 1st—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Ecclesiastical New Year

- ◆ Epistle: 1 Cor, 4:9-16
- ◆ Gospel: Matt, 17:14-23

12th Sunday After Pentecost, September 15th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ◆ Epistle: 1 Cor, 15:1-11
- ◆ Gospel: Matt. 19:16-26

14th Sunday After Pentecost, September 29th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ◆ Epistle: 2 Cor, 1:21-24
- ◆ Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

16th Sunday After Pentecost, October 13th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

(PARISH THANKGIVING / POKROVA)

- ◆ Epistle: 2 Cor, 6:1-10
- ◆ Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

18th Sunday After Pentecost, October 27th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ◆ Epistle: 2 Cor, 9:6-11
- ◆ Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Do you know that in 2025 Orthodox Easter & Latin Easter will be celebrated on the same date: April 20th,



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

President's Message — Dorothy Stachniak

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

I trust that with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and with participation in the special services, we now have a renewed vision of life. May the power of prayer give us the courage to go forward.



Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 4th was a very special day for St. Michael's Parish. His Eminence, Metropolitan Ilarion presided at the Divine Liturgy on the first Sunday of Great Lent celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy. He was assisted by Rt. Rev. Protopresbyter Victor Lakusta, Rev. Fr. Protodeacon Anton Lakusta and Rev. Fr. Deacon Evan Panchuk and altar servers Jacob and Nicholas Lakusta.

For the first time in many years, the Holy Unction — Healing Service, was held in our church on the evening of Wednesday, May 1st. Seven clergy from the Edmonton area participated in the readings followed by anointing each congregant with Holy Oil. About 100 people were present.

The Blessing of Easter baskets on Saturday was also very well attended. About 100 people brought their baskets into the parish hall to be blessed. On Sunday morning a Paschal Divine Liturgy was held followed by a Blessing of Easter Baskets in the hall. Again, there were about 80 baskets.

People from other parishes came to these services. We thank them for their support, participation and encourage them and their friends to continue to attend our services and functions. It was so satisfying to see this beautiful building full of people all for the Glory of God.



The parish will be holding a Harvest Social, supper and dance on November 2, 2024. Dance music will be by *The Sparkling Tones*. See the poster in this Parish Bulletin for more information.

Our upgraded website has had many inquiries about our facility. There are pictures on the website of the facilities that could be rented for a social function accommodating from 50 to 150 people. The website also has information on what is happening at St. Michael's Parish. Check it out: www.uocc-stmichael.ca

This is also a reminder that Parish Membership fees of \$150 per person are due for 2024. Cheques may be made out to the parish and submitted to the address on the cover of this Bulletin.

Volunteers are very important to us. Whether these people are members of this parish or not, is not relevant as they are all committed to the overall success of this parish. May God grant them good health so that they may continue to be of service to us. Thank you.

The Tradition of Blessing Fruit on the Transfiguration



On the Holy Feast-Day of Transfiguration (Metamorphosis) on August 6th (19th) our tradition calls that the Orthodox Christian faithful bring fruits and even vegetables to be blessed on this day. The most common fruit to be blessed are grapes.

The blessing of fruits i.e., grapes, apples, etc., as well as vegetables on this day, is one very beautiful custom of our Holy Church. The practice signifies the final transfiguration of all things in Christ our Savior. *“It signifies the ultimate flowering and*

fruitfulness of all creation in the Paradise of God’s Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the Glory of the Lord”.

This is an early Christian tradition. The first week of August, on the sixth of August, the farmers used to gather the first fruits of their summer harvest (grapes, figs, etc.) and to offer thanks to God and offer them to the Church to be blessed and then to give them to the faithful present at the Divine Liturgy as a blessing to them. These fruits are called the “beginnings”.

In a text from the 7th century (“the laws of the kingdom”) by Emperor Constantine Porfirogenitos this tradition is described clearly: “The Emperor of Constantinople gathers the “beginnings” in Chalcedon, where there are many vines, and then he waits for the Patriarch of Constantinople to come on the Holy Day of the Transfiguration of Christ, to bless the fruits and to personally hand out the grapes to the faithful.

This tradition is adhered to in various parts of Greece where they grow grapes.

Saint John Chrysostom wrote: *“Plowman receives fruit from the earth not so much for his labor and diligence, as out of the goodness of God Who grows this fruit, because neither is he that plants anything, neither he that waters, but God that gives the increase”.*

Grapes are brought to church because they are directly connected to the Holy Eucharistic Mystery (Sacraments); that is why in the prayer for the blessing of grapes the priest says, *“Bless, Lord, this new fruit of the vine which reached ripeness because Thou kindly provided god weather, drops of rain and stillness. Let eating this fruit of vine makes us joyful. And give us the honor of offering this fruit to Thee, as the gift of purging of sins, altogether with the Holy Body of Thy Christ.*

In the first centuries of Christianity, the faithful brought forth to the church the fruit and crops of the new harvest: bread, wine, olive oil, incense, wax, honey, etc. Of all these offerings, only bread, wine, incense, olive oil, and wax were taken to the altar, while the rest was used for the needs of the clergy and the poor whom the church was caring for. These offerings were to express gratitude to God for all goods, but at the same time help servants of God and people in need. Until today, the consecration of bread and wine, eggs and milk and other food has been kept in the consecration of artos (bread) in the church and meals at home on Pascha. Consecration of flowers and tree branches is performed now on Palm Sunday, the days of the Holy Trinity and Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and on Sunday of the week of the Veneration of the Cross. Rice with raisins and honey are used as offering in services for the dead and remembrance repast. Prosphora is brought forth to church for proskomide (Credence) in order for the priest to perform the Offertory Service. Source: Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church)

Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada

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



Our women's organization gives the members a much-needed break for the summer months. We can enjoy nature by being outdoors as much as possible. Edmonton and area offers several delightful festivals for us to enjoy.
Pysanka Festival in Vegreville July 5-7 The grandstand show provides wonderful entertainment of song and dance.

Heritage Festival August 3-5 , the world's largest 3-day celebration of multiculturalism. Enjoy wonderful performances, food and culture at Borden Park. There are over 70 pavilions providing unique cultures for our viewing pleasure.

Ukrainian Day at the Ukrainian Village August 25 Explore the many buildings to learn the lifestyle of our pioneers. Stage performances.

Folk Music Festival August 8-11 at Gallagher Park

After a summer of fun in the sun, our internal batteries will be recharged. Then we can commence our usual UWAC and parish activities. See you at the next UWAC meeting on August 20 at 1:00.

Points to ponder:

- All you need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.
- Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.
- I like work. It fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours.



Special Donations to the Church March, April & May 2024

In Memory of Peter & Mary Feniuk

Andrew & Karen Feniuk

In Memory of Lloyd Holden

Marie Holden

In Memory of Nick Kutash

Fr. Victor & Marusia Lakusta

Ernest & Vivian Skakun

In Memory of George & Pearl Palahniuk

Cheryl Bolduc

Marlene Boyarchuk

Jean Chmilar

In Memory of Alex & Bessie Zadimersky

Judy Rausch

General Donations for Church Operations

Larry Andreychuk

Ed & Nina Barabash

Lesia Boychuk & Jars Balan

Club 88

Jerry Husar

Alex & Jennifer Jaros

Gail Matichuk

Sonia Matichuk

Tetyana & I. Popovych

Judy Rausch

Ernest & Vivian Skakun

St. Michael's UWAC

Dennis & Mary Tataryn

Ivanna Tataryn

Your generosity is greatly appreciated in financially supporting of our parish's ministry.

- Gladys Maris Magegs, Parish Treasurer

Thanksgiving In All Things

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” – [1 Thess. 5:16-18](#)

I have always loved Thanksgiving. The table laden with favorite foods that, for hours, have tempted your senses with the aroma of their delicacies. The warmth of home and hearth, the time devoted to family when every other concern takes second place.

Thanksgiving, as many have surely said, is a peculiarly “American” holiday that, in its truest form, is most “blessable” by the Orthodox Church. Setting aside a day to consider the blessings in one’s life – practicing that art of the glass being half “full” rather than half “empty”.... Thanksgiving gives us a day in which to practice what we preach, and to be uplifted by the effort.

Did you know that the word “thanksgiving” appears in the Bible in its various forms (thanksgiving, thanks, thankful, etc.) nearly 140 times? Likewise, that the Greek word for Thanksgiving, *Eucharistia*, contains within it the word meaning “Grace” or “Gift”, *Charis*? At its core, when we contemplate Thanksgiving, we’re contemplating graces or gifts in our lives, things/people/situations which we, as Christians, offer our gratitude to our Good and Loving Lord for.

And, truly, “it is meet and right to do so”.

As Christians, though, we don’t stop there. The amazing thing is that Christians thank God for everything!!!! In ALL circumstances, we glorify God, because we have the conviction that God is able to work for good through absolutely everything that happens to us! Not to suggest a blind naiveté, but rather, that we endeavor as Christians to thank God for all things, even for things like affliction or suffering, because we believe that God can work through all circumstances, and that some GRACE can be found even amidst our struggles. To fall short in this effort is to essentially tell God that we agree with Him on some things, but not on others: “We’ll thank you, God, for our health, but not for our sickness. We’ll thank You for our comfort, but not our affliction or poverty.” *“We’ll thank You when we get what WE receive, but NOT when we don’t get what WE want.”*

Living a life of Gratitude takes practice, prayer and inspiration!!! It’s not easily done, and ever a goal to be reaching toward. Fortunately, we are given the most wonderful example to imitate in the Life of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who:

“...on the night when He was betrayed, or rather when He gave Himself up for the life of the world, took bread in His holy, pure, and blameless hands, gave thanks, blessed, sanctified, broke, and gave it to His holy disciples and apostles, saying, “Take, eat, this is My Body which is broken for you...; Drink from this all of you, this is My Blood, of the New Covenant....”

On the very eve when our Lord anticipated His suffering, passion, and crucifixion, He gave thanks. Even though He prayed that God His Father might remove the cup of suffering from Him, He accepted it – “Not My will, but Thine, be done”.

Let us be encouraged today by the example of Our Lord Who “gave thanks in all circumstances”, and Whose sacrifice instituted “The Great Thanksgiving” – the *Eucharist itself* – which we celebrate every Sunday! Who knew that we, as Orthodox Christians, actually celebrate Thanksgiving every Sunday.

Fr. Thomas Hopko of blessed memory once said that an ungrateful person is Dead; they may be existing, but they are not LIVING!! And Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, who preached his very last sermon on Thanksgiving Day 1983, began it by stating, “Everyone capable of gratitude is capable of salvation and everlasting joy”!

Thanksgiving is *who we are as Christians*. It is the very content of our Christian Life! So, as we set our tables for the holiday, as we gather around them and offer our gratitude, let us also recall the sacrifice of Our Lord Who made our Thanksgiving even possible. And let us then beseech Him to give us the Grace to thankfully live out whatever circumstances Life presents to us, so we may truly imitate Him and become witnesses to His Love, Life and Joy throughout the world!..... *Presvyters Joy-Anna Corona*

Forthcoming Events

Sunday, July 7th

**85th Anniversary of St. Peter & Paul
Ukrainian Orthodox Parish in Andrew
Church Service at 10 a.m. followed by Dinner
and Program.**

Fr. Victor will be the celebrant.

**For further information / tickets contact Sonia
at 780-853-7585**



*After a long absence, the Ukrainian Bandurist of
North America (Detroit) returns to Alberta in Sep-
tember of 2024 with a new Program: "Ukraine
Lives"*

*This performance is a celebration of the cultural
heritage of Ukraine at the Winspear Center in Ed-
monton on Sunday, September 29th at 3:30 p.m.*

Tickets are now on sale.

Fellowship

When we hear "Fellowship" we may think eating donuts, drinking coffee or enjoying a luncheon of sort.

We may be asking: what does fellowship has to do with God.

Fellowship, first and foremost is the means that God has used to sustain our faith, keep us grounded and help us thrive in our relationship with Jesus and our fellow man,

By having "Fellowship" if helps us to interact with one another is a Christian manner.

May we continue hosting "Fellowship".

Volunteer in sponsoring our fellowships.

A special thank you to those who had already sponsored a "Fellowship".

*In Memory of
Dobrodiyka Jeannette Rauliuk
who eternally reposed on June 9th, 2024.
Her funeral was held in Winnipeg, MB
on June 13 / 14*



Eternal Be Her Memory!

HARVEST SOCIAL
Supper & Dance

St. Michael's Parish Hall
12918 - 121 Street

Saturday, November 2nd, 2024

Music by
Sparkling Tones

Refreshments: 5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Supper: 6:00 p.m.
DANCE TO FOLLOW
Lunch

Advance Tickets: \$60.00/person
Tickets: Jim 780-474-4394
Korneil: 780-475-3951
Shirley: 780-475-5875

Sponsored by:
St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish



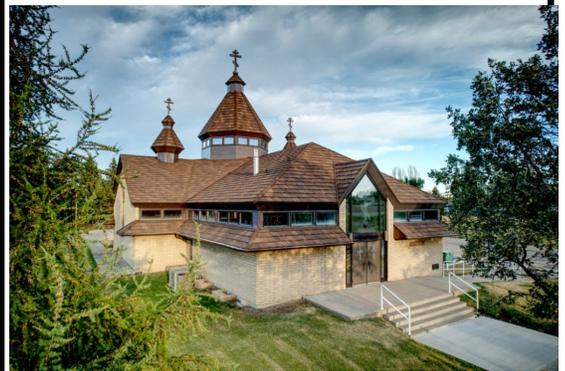
Hall For Rent

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 visit our website:
uocc-stmichael.ca.

For booking contact:
Jim Kniazky – 780-474-4394



Anthony's Parish will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary on Sunday, September 22nd, 9:30 a.m.

An Anniversary Banquet will follow at Chateau Louis Hotel at 1:00 p.m.

Banquet tickets may be reserved by calling: 780-487-2167.

Forthcoming Feast Days

With the transition to the New Julian Calendar, Feast dates have changed.

- ⇒ *Dormition Fast... Aug. 1—15*
- ⇒ *“Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ”- Aug. 6th*
- ⇒ *“The Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos” - Aug 15th*
- ⇒ *Ecclesiastical New Year - Sept. 1st*
- ⇒ *“Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos” - Sept. 8th*
- ⇒ *“The Exaltation of the Holy Cross” -Sept. 14th*
- ⇒ *Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (POKROVA) - Oct. 1st*

“Blessed be the Lord, because He has heard the voice of my supplication! The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”



Your Prayer Corner!