



St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Orthodox Church

12104-129 Avenue, Edmonton T5L 3J1

Parish Hall, 12918-121 Street

Office (780) 454-8385

Email: stmichaeluoc@shaw.ca

October. November, December 2025 Parish Bulletin

No. 30

Clergy

Rt. Rev. Protopresbyter

Victor Lakusta

780-439-6289

1-204-333-7810 (cell)

vmlakusta@gmail.com

Parish President

Dorothy Stachniak

780-476-3646

UWAC Women's President

Mary Paltzat

780-472-2337

Hall Rental

Jim Kniazky

780-474-4394

Parish Website

uoc-stmichael.ca

“Good Christian Attributes”

Good Christian attributes, often called the "[fruit of the Spirit](#)," include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Other core Christian values are humility, compassion, forgiveness, integrity, and justice. These qualities are rooted in Christ's teachings and guide believers in living purposeful and fulfilling lives centered on God and others.

What are God's attributes? When we talk about the attributes of God, we are trying to answer questions like, *Who is God, What is God like, and What kind of God is he?* An attribute of God is something true about him, his characteristics. While fully comprehending who God is impossible for us as limited beings, God does make himself known in a variety of ways, and through what he reveals about himself in his Word and in his creation, we can begin to wrap our minds around our awesome Creator and God.

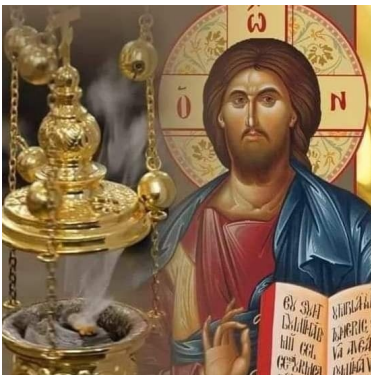
God is unlike anything or anyone we could ever know or imagine. He is one of a kind, unique and without comparison. Even describing him with mere words truly falls short of capturing who he is – our words simply cannot do justice to describe our holy God.

Still, God possesses attributes that we can know (even in part) and he's given us his Word as a means to understand himself.

The Triune God?

The Holy Trinity is the Christian doctrine that one God exists as three co-equal, co-eternal persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God, but they are distinct and not three different gods or three parts of God. This concept expresses God's divine nature as both one and three, with the Father as the Creator, the Son as the Savior, and the Holy Spirit as the active presence of God.

Join Us



Blessed Be Our
Lord God!

St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish

Fall / Winter Services 2025

15th Sunday After Pentecost, September 21st—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ♦ Epistle: 2 Cor. 4:6-15
- ♦ Gospel: Matt. 22:35-36

**16th Sunday after Pentecost, September 28th—
NO SERVICE—XPAM at St. Anthony's**

**17th Sunday After Pentecost, October 5th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.
“Our Thanksgiving Celebration”**

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

19th Sunday After Pentecost, October 19th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ♦ Epistle: 2 Cor. 11:31-12:9
- ♦ Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

**20th Sunday after Pentecost, October 26th
“Great Martyr Demetrius”**

**Western Eparchy Assembly of the UOCC at St. John's Cathedral
(Consistory Board members, along Metropolitan Ilarion and Bishop Andriy will be in attendance.)**

22nd Sunday After Pentecost, November 9th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

PARISH PATRON FEAST DAY—XHRAM

- ♦ Epistle: Gal. 6:11-18; Heb 2:2-10
- ♦ Gospel: Luke 16:19-36; Luke 10:16-21

The Nativity Fast—November 15 to December 24

24th Sunday After Pentecost, November 23rd—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ♦ Epistle: Eph. 2:14-22
- ♦ Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

26th Sunday After Pentecost, December 7th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ♦ Epistle: Eph. 5:8-19
- ♦ Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

Celebrating “St Nicholas the Wonderworker” (Feast Day: Dec. 6th)

28th Sunday Before the Nativity, December 21st—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ♦ Epistle: Heb. 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
- ♦ Gospel: Matt. 1:1-25

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Thursday, December 25th—Liturgy, 10 a.m.

- ♦ Epistle: Gal. 4:4-7
- ♦ Gospel: Matt. 2:1-12



Receiving Communion, also known as the Eucharist, is a central act of worship in many Christian traditions, symbolizing the body and blood of Jesus Christ. It's a moment of spiritual nourishment and unity with the



Please note that originally a service for St. Michael's had been scheduled for Sunday, September 28th, had been re-scheduled to the 21st of September (past Sunday). Reason: On the 28th St. Anthony's Parish asked for the 28th to celebrate their Patron Saint (St. Anthony) and whereas Metropolitan Ilarion, Bishop Andriy and members of the newly elected Consistory Board will be in attendance, for a full Consistory Board meeting in Edmonton. On behalf of St. Anthony's cordially our congregation to their celebratory service and dinner. Please confirm YOUR ATTENDANCE by calling Vicki @ 780-487-2167

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING.

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

ACTING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – DOROTHY STACHNIAK

We are so thankful to live in Canada! With so many atrocities happening in the world, we should be thankful for the peaceful environment in Canada. It is so important to be kind to one another and create a welcoming community, especially here at St. Michael's. We are trying to build a welcoming community. This does not happen over night but with the Lord's blessing, our community will grow.

My sincere condolences to the family of Stephan Mulyk who passed away on Sunday, September 14, 2025. Stephan was a member of St. Michael's Parish for many years. May his memory be eternal!

♦ **Thanksgiving Service, October 5, 2025**

This is a very special day where we thank the Lord for a bountiful harvest. It is traditional to bring a basket of vegetables to church for a blessing. Your basket could include: potato, tomato, cucumber, cauliflower, small cabbage, carrot, beets, onion, garlic, etc. The fellowship luncheon will be POT LUCK. Parish faithful are asked to bring a dish of food for the buffet table. Examples: your favorite casserole, cabbage rolls, salad, dessert, cold meat, etc. The parish will provide coffee/tea, buns and butter.



♦ **Western Eparchy Assembly, Saturday, October 25 & Sunday, October 26**

This is an annual assembly held at St. John's Cathedral, consisting of clergy and parish delegates from Western Canada parishes. St. Michael's will be represented by Father Victor and one parish member.

♦ **Harvest Supper & Dance (Puschenia) Saturday, November 1st**

More details for this parish fundraiser in a poster in this bulletin. The music will be the best and the food is exceptional. Dress in your finest and enjoy the evening!

♦ **Parish Xhram (Patron Saint Day) Sunday, November 9**

We pray to St. Michael, our patron saint at every service. On November 9th we celebrate him. This is our Xhram. Following the Divine Liturgy, there will be a banquet in the parish hall. There will be a charge of \$20.00/person at the door. Children 12 and under free. Special arrangements will be made for Ukrainians new to Canada.

♦ **Service on Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25**

We will celebrate the *Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*, on Thursday, December 25th.

♦ **Malanka, Saturday, January 17, 2026**

We will be ringing in the new year with a supper and dance, a Malanka. Two dance bands will provide the music. Our chef will provide excellent food. More details will come. . .

♦ **Parish Annual Meeting**

The parish annual meeting will be held in February. The date will be posted later. The nominating chairman for the new parish executive is Joe Bodnar. Share your views with him and allow your name to stand for a position on the executive.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Ukrainian Women's
Association of Canada
St. Michael's UWAC Branch

Mary Pafzat, Branch President



With the arrival of autumn, our usual obligations will commence. In August, our member assisted with the annual blanching of quantities of cabbage. Following that, our weekly food work bees resumed. The goal is to fill our freezers with popular Ukrainian foods for the next bake sale. Work bees will continue into October and November.

Our objective is to provide St. Michael's Parish with financial assistance.. We are grateful to Dorothy Stachniak and Jim Kniazky for organizing all the workshops.

Progressing into winter, our other duties are to honor long-standing members at the Parish's Annual Feast Day (Nov 9th) also help with planning for Nicholas Day celebration, (Dec. 7th).

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A Nativity Sermon

What Do We, Our Christ, Offer You?

With joy and happiness, the entire world prepares to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During this period, intense preparations keep our days full and long. Bright lights and festive decorations flood the landscape. We are all so busy preparing our gifts for the big celebration.

All of this is great and serves to complement our basic inner need to take a break from life's daily struggles and to sit at the festive table with our loved ones. However, all of this does not automatically help us prepare spiritually for the remarkable and extraordinary event that the salvation of humankind represents.

Let us pause for a moment and consider this: we are all exchanging gifts these days. But to Christ, Who freely bestows on us our salvation, what gift do we offer Him?

One of the most beautiful hymns during the festive period of the Nativity theologically provides us with a most complete and telling answer. The hymn asks: What gift can we offer You, our Christ and God? You who came to earth as a man to unite us eternally to You? All Your Creation, participating in the event of the Nativity of the King of Kings, offers You something. Your Angels praise You. The sky offers the star, the Magi rush to offer You gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The shepherds, in amazement and admiration, worship You. The earth offers You the cave and the desert the manger. What do we, our Christ, offer You? We offer the Virgin Mother for You to take human flesh.

We offer You the Virgin Mother to be born. You come, our Saviour, our Father, our Creator, to take human nature upon Yourself and to unite us with You. We renounced You in the person of the old Adam and lost the union, the communion with You. But You did not abandon us. You came into the world and took on human flesh. You became the new Adam. You took upon Yourself the sin of Adam, the denial, the arrogance of humankind, and You enabled us to share and partake of Your divinity.

Even our Virgin Mary, this most precious offering of humanity for our salvation, You gave it to us. You embrace us with Your infinite love. You, Who are the eternal God, have mercy on us, Your children. Help us celebrate Your Nativity in peace, love, and joy. **Christ is Born!**

HARVEST SUPPER & DANCE

Saturday, November 1st, 2025

Music by

THE SPARKLING TONES

St. Michael's Parish Hall

12918 – 121 Street NW, Edmonton

DOORS : 5:00 P.M.

SUPPER: 6:00 P.M.

Dance to follow

LATE LUNCH SERVED

Advance Tickets: \$60.00/person

Jim: 780-474-4394

Korneil: 780-475-3951

Gladys: 780-456-5272

Dwayne: 780-914-0843

Sponsored by
St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish 12104 – 129 Ave., Edmonton AB T5L 3J1
<https://uocc-stmichael.ca>

Youth Banquet

Once again, this year, at the Western Eparchy Assembly (October 25, 2024), The Western Eparchy will once again hold its Youth Appreciation Banquet. Youth of our Parish are encouraged to this special annual banquet as well as their parents.

This banquet, as it has in the past, is an opportunity for our youth to gather, and to realize that they are an integral part of the life of the Church now, and that the Church truly is the future of our youth. It is also an opportunity for the youth to interact with, and receive the blessing of our Archpastor, and father in the faith, His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion.

We want all of the youth to feel welcome to attend this special event. It is important for us to adequately prepare for this banquet, and therefore, it is necessary for all of the youth of our parish to register to attend. This can be done by contacting either Fr. Victor. (780.439.6289]

or emailing

Our Kitchen Bake Sale
Saturday, November 29th, 2025
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
@ St. Michael's (12104—128 Ave,)

For more information call Parish Office;
780-454-8385 or
Jim 780-474-4394 or
Dorothy 780-476-3646



Cabbage Rolls
(Sweet or Sour)

Pyrohy—Cheddar or Cottage CheesePlus baking

Thanksgiving Fellowship Sunday, October 5th

The fellowship luncheon will be **POT LUCK**. Parish faithful are asked to bring a dish of food for the buffet table. Examples: your favorite casserole, cabbage rolls, salad, dessert, cold meat, etc. The parish will provide coffee/tea, buns and butter.



Why fast before the Nativity?

I was wondering why we fast before Nativity. The Lenten fast seems more obvious. Also, from what foods do we normally fast from during the Nativity fa

We fast before the Great Feast of the Nativity in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Our Lord's birth. As in the case of Great Lent, the Nativity Fast is one of preparation, during which we focus on the coming of the Savior by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

By fasting, we “**shift our focus**” from ourselves to others, spending less time worrying about what to eat, when to eat, how much to eat, and so on in order to use our time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. We learn through fasting that we can gain control over things which we sometimes allow to control us—and for many people, food is a controlling factor. *[We live in the only society in which an entire TV network is devoted to food!]* While fasting from food, however, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

Just as we would refrain from eating a lot before going to an expensive restaurant for dinner—if we “**ruin our appetite**” we will enjoy the restaurant less—so too we fast before the Nativity in order to more fully feast and celebrate on the Nativity itself.

During the Nativity Fast, we are called upon to refrain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil. At the same time, we are challenged, within this framework, to fast to the best of our ability, and to do so consistently.

If we must modify the extent to which we fast within this framework, it is of course possible, but in every instance our fasting should be consistent and regular, for Christ does not see fasting as an option, but as a “must.”

In Matthew Christ says, “**WHEN you fast, do not be like the hypocrites,**” not “**IF you fast**” or “**IF YOU CHOOSE to fast.**”

Finally, it seems quite odd that in our society—a society in which people gladly and freely spend huge sums of money for diets, most of which recommend that one refrain from red meats and dairy products—fasting is not more widely embraced. How odd that a Jenny Craig consultant or diet guru or physician will tell us to refrain from eating meat or cheese or butter and we will gladly embrace—and pay large sums of money for—his or her advice, while when the Church offers the same advice [at “no cost”] we tend to balk, as if we were being asked to do the impossible.

Luke 9:23: "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take

**Special Donations to the Church
July, August, September, 2025**

**In Memory of Nadine Brow
Audrey Kotyk**

**In Memory of Eugene Hornofluk
Marian Kaczmar**

**In Memory of Joe Michalichyn
Marianne Chubocha Harrish**

**In Memory of Patricia Truchan
Audrey Kotyk**

**General Donations for Church Operations
Adrian Vicoi (Baptism Donation for the Church)
Kornel & Natalka Ozipko
Lucy & Harry Vanekamp
Tammy Wade**

*Your significant generosity is greatly appreciated,
Thank you!*

*If anyone was missed, please forgive us,
All donations are greatly appreciated to financially
support our parish operations,*

Gladys Marie Magega, Parish Treasurer

To St. Michael's Congregation

Glory be to Jesus Christ! His Glory be Forever!

**On behalf of St. Anthony's Ukrainian Orthodox
Parish we cordially invite you and your members
to our Divine Liturgy.**

**After the Divine Liturgy, we will be having a Cel-
ebratory dinner. We would really appreciate if
you could let us know how many from your re-
spective parishes would be attending this joy-
ous occasion and staying for dinner.**

**You could email us
at santhony@telusplanet.net or call Vicki @ 780-
487-2167.**

Please RSVP by September 23, 2025.



Becoming an Orthodox Christian

is a journey, not an event. It begins with a sincere desire to know God and to follow Jesus Christ. This desire leads to a process of learning and growth, as you explore the Orthodox faith and way of life.

The first step is to start attending services. This will give you the opportunity to learn more about the Orthodox faith and to meet other Orthodox Christians and share in fellowship. You may also want to read books and articles about Orthodoxy, or to talk with our Parish Priest.

As you learn more about Orthodoxy, you will begin to understand the beliefs and practices of the Church. You will also begin to develop a relationship with God and with the Orthodox community. If you feel called to become an Orthodox Christian, you will be Baptized and Chrismated.

This is a sacred and ancient ceremony that marks your full initiation into the Orthodox Church.

Becoming an Orthodox Christian is a lifelong journey. It is a journey of faith, love, and service. It is a journey that will lead you to a deeper understanding of God and of yourself.

Here are some additional things to keep in mind as you consider becoming an Orthodox Christian:

- Orthodoxy is a sacramental faith. This means that we believe that God's grace is communicated to us through the sacraments, such as Baptism, Chrismation, the Eucharist, and Holy Confession.
- Orthodoxy is a liturgical faith. This means that we believe that worship is central to our relationship with God. We worship God through the regular celebration of the Divine Liturgy, as well as through other services such as Vespers and Matins.

Orthodoxy is a Christocentric faith. This means that we believe that Jesus Christ is the center of our faith. We follow Jesus Christ by learning about his life, death, and resurrection, and by trying to live our lives in accordance with his teachings.

**Check out our Parish Website
uocc-stmichael.ca**



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

Jim Kniazky – 780-474-4394

Holy Confession

We confess our sins to God and the power of forgiveness is God's. However, the gift of God's forgiveness, although assured, is not magical. It does not automatically spare us from spiritual struggle - the continual vigilance against evil and the unceasing warfare against sin. Holy Confession will bear fruits in the Spirit only when the believer hates evil, utterly rejects sin and patiently cultivates positive habits of the life in Christ. "So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to Christ Jesus. Do not yield your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but yield yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life" (Rm 6:11, 13)

How can one prepare for Holy Confession? Preparation for Holy Confession is a prayerful examination of feelings, thoughts, words, acts, attitudes, habits, values, priorities, goals, direction and way of life. This prayerful self-examination includes not only the personal religious life, but also family relationships, social activities, job conduct, business dealings, political commitments and even recreational pursuits, because our entire existence should be lived in under the light of the Holy Spirit is not to condemn ourselves, but to affirm our true selves in Christ who has given us access to God's mercy and forgiveness and who has taught us to live for God's glory.

Pray and think and your confession over several days. Ask God to help you perceive your sins and to make a thorough confession of them. Sometime before the sacrament of Holy Confes-



Your Prayer Corner!