



ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST

DECEMBER 4 - 2016

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Great-Martyr Barbara (286-305); Our Venerable Father John of Damascus (749)

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion: 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."

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

Kontakion: 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 for ever and ever. Amen.

Theotokion: By your birth, O immaculate one,* Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness,* and Adam and Eve* from the corruption of death.* And your people, redeemed from the guilt of their sins,* celebrate as they cry out to you:* "The barren one gives birth to the Mother of God* and nourisher of our life."

Prokeimenon

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.

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

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.

At the end of the Epistle parents may send their children to the back of the church to get candles for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

verse: Poise yourself and advance in triumph and reign in the cause of truth, and meekness, and justice.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

verse: You have loved justice and hated iniquity.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 17:12-19

At that time as Jesus was entering a certain village, there met him ten lepers, who stood far off and lifted up their voice, crying, "Jesus, master, have pity on us!" And when he saw them he said, "Go and show yourselves to priests." And it happened as they were on their way, that they were made clean. But one of them, seeing that he was made clean, returned, with a loud voice glorifying God, and he fell on his face at his feet, giving thanks; and he was a Samaritan. But Jesus spoke to him and said, "Were not the ten made clean? But where are the nine? Has no one been found to return and give glory to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Arise, go on your way, for your faith has saved you."

Address

4903 – 45th Street S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
Canada T3E 3W5

Office Hours

M-F: 8:30am - 12:00pm
12:30pm - 4:00pm
Closed Statutory Holidays

Telephone:

403-249-4818, press 0

Facsimile:

403 685-9001

For Pastoral Emergencies:

403-249-4818, press 9

Email:

Office@Protomartyr.ca

Parish Website:

www.saintstephencalgary.ca

Eparchy Website:

www.edmontoneparchy.com

DIVINE LITURGIES

Sundays:

8:30am – Ukrainian [chanted]
10:30am – English [choir]
1:00pm – Arabic / English [Melkite]
5:00pm – English [recited & incense free]

Mon/Tues/Thurs/Sat

9:00am – English

Fridays:

10:00am at Westview—English

Feast Days: (subject to change)

9:00am – English
7:00pm – English

HOLY MYSTERIES

Confession:

Saturdays at 4pm, occasionally on
Sundays from 10—11am, and by
appointment.

Marriage: Arrangements with Fr. Bo.

Baptism-Chrismation-Eucharist:
Arrangements with Fr. Bo.

Anointing of the Sick: For emergencies
call 403-249-4818, press 9.

Funeral: Arrangements with Fr. Bo.

CLERGY and RELIGIOUS

Priest and Administrator:

Fr. Bo (Bohdan) Nahachewsky
403-249-4818, ext. 202
<FatherBo@Protomartyr.ca>

Deacon and Intern:

Dcn. Andrij Nykyforuk
403-249-4818, ext 203
<DeaconAndrij@Protomartyr.ca>

Pastor, St. Basil's Melkite Catholic Church

Fr. Ephrem Kardouh
1-514-223-1664
403-249-4818, ext. 302
<emkardouh@gmail.com>
<www.facebook.com/St-Basils-Melkite-Greek-Catholic-Church-Calgary-1567658193459037/>

Pastor (on sabbatical):

Fr. Mark A. Bayrock
403-249-4818, ext. 201
<frmarkbayrock@mac.com>
<www.sviaschenik.com>

PARISH OFFICE

Parish Interim Office Administrator
Linda Buck
403-249-4818, ext. 0
<office@Protomartyr.ca>

MAINTENANCE

John Kowal
403-249-4818, ext. 207
<maintenance@Protomartyr.ca>

HALL RENTAL INQUIRIES

Brett Bernakevitch
Director, Parish Centre Management
403-615-9561
<blebernak@gmail.com>

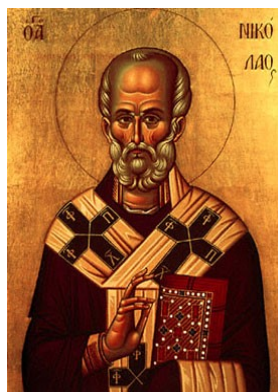
HALL KITCHEN

403-249-4818, ext. 204

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him
in the highest.*

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.



Saint Nicholas the Wonder-Worker

THE REAL SAINT NICHOLAS

HOLY BISHOP AND WONDERWORKER OF MYRA

At this time of year we see and hear a lot about St. Nick,

but who is he really? According to Church tradition, St. Nicholas was born near the end of the 3rd century to well-off Christian parents in what is today Turkey. Nicholas' parents taught their son to be God-centered and generous, encouraging him to read the scriptures from a very young age. When Nicholas was still young his parents died leaving him a comfortable fortune. Nicholas vowed to use his wealth to help others.

His most famous act of generosity occurred when he happened upon a poor man who could not provide dowries for his three daughters. Without dowries his daughters would have had to resort to prostitution to survive. To save them from this dissolute life, St. Nicholas took a bag of gold and threw it into the home of the man. After the first daughter was married, Nicholas again threw a bag of gold coins through the window. The second daughter was married and the poor man desperately wanted to find out who was the generous benefactor. To avoid being found out, tradition has it that Nicholas delivered the third bag of gold through the chimney and it fell among the stockings and other laundry that was hanging there. Today we still keep his memory by hanging stockings upon our fireplaces and then filling them with good things when the recipients aren't looking.

At the urging of his uncle, who happened to be the local bishop, Nicholas gave away the rest of his fortune to families with young children, and became a monk. One day when he was traveling in the area of Myra, the local clergy

and faithful were looking for a new bishop. Upon seeing Nicholas, and knowing him as a generous and faith-filled man they presented him to the Church to be ordained as their bishop.

As a young bishop loved by his people, Nicholas was imprisoned by the anti-Christian governments of the time. Enduring many hardships in prison, he still prayed and did many charitable deeds including saving three wrongly accused men from their executioners. Finally with the dawn of a pro-Christian government, Nicholas was freed from prison and returned to the service of the Church in Myra.

With Christianity now acceptable in the Roman Empire, great theological debates began. Emperor Constantine called forth all the bishops, including St. Nicholas, to settle the issues. As a passionate defender of the faith, Nicholas helped to show that Jesus Christ was both fully God and fully human, and not some super creature.

Nicholas also saved children from those who would do them harm, rescued sailors from drowning during a storm, and did many other miraculous things. Nicholas' reputation for charitable works, guiding people towards God and defending the true faith grew during his lifetime and even more after his death on December 6th, 343. The Church celebrates his memory on the anniversary of that day, with the people imitating his good works and asking him to help the community grow closer to God. It is quite common for Eastern Christians, such as Ukrainian Catholics to celebrate his feast day, and often the saint makes an appearance to the delight of the children.

Written by Fr. Bo

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS... Parishioners thoughts ...

"Oh Lord My God! How great You are! You gave our Cantor (choir director) and the members of our choir such amazing voices!

I recently purchased the Choir's new CD. Unbelievable! I sat in my prayer area and listened to the entire 2 disc collection. I felt such peace and closeness to our Lord and the Blessed Mother that I have never felt before while in prayer. These CD's are prayer itself.

We, at St. Stephen's do not appreciate our choir like we should. My husband and I moved here 6 years ago and were delighted and amazed at the voices and music coming from the choir ...Truly a piece of heaven.

I was the choir leader in our home parish before joining St. Stephen's. We sang on a scale of 2/10. St. Stephen's choir rates 15/10 or even higher. The music and song from our choirs in the Byzantine Rite can be beyond this world with a talented choir director and talented choir members. Linda's ability to grab hold of her choir and have them sing to the best of their ability is absolutely phenomenal. We are so blessed!

We have purchased 2 CD's and will be purchasing more. For those looking for that special spiritual gift for family, friends or shut ins, this CD is perfect. If you don't have one yet, you are truly missing out. Go and purchase yours, what a beautiful way to spend our days this Advent and beyond.

I encourage you to take a moment to thank Linda and all the members of the choir for their beautiful gift of voice and music.

I look forward to more CD's in the future. I would love to see a Christmas CD and one dedicated to the Blessed Mother.
THANK YOU!"

Yours in Christ, Mary-Jane Tysowski

SNOWFLAKE BAZAAR

On Sunday November 27, 2016 Stacey Bobyn and her fabulous team of UCWLC members pulled off another very successful Snowflake Bazaar! The Church Hall upstairs was jam packed with vendors, yummy food and raffles to be won. The pre-orders for perogies, cabbage rolls, borscht etc. were HUGE! Many THANKS to all the volunteers who helped to make all of the food that was sold by the UCWLC. **CONGRATULATIONS LADIES FOR A FABULOUS EVENT!!!**



Laurie Kindrachuk, Editor Contact me: email
laurie.kindrachuk@shaw.ca or cell 403-614-5581

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE:



"If you never learn the language of gratitude, you will never be on speaking terms with happiness."
Author Unknown

**ST. STEPHEN CHARITABLE
COMMITTEES, ACTIVITIES &
ORGANIZATIONS**

Charity Subcommittee: Coordinate and market the efforts of all parish charitable activity.

Contact: Eugene Woychysyn
587-891-9898;

<eugene.woychysyn@gmail.com>

Pass It On: Donates clothing to needy families in Calgary.

Contact: Theresa Lewchuk
403-208-0850;
<lewchukt@hotmail.com>

Men's Dinner: Annual major church fundraiser for capital expenses plus Inn From the Cold endeavours.

Contact: Greg Bobyn
403-271-0011; <greg.bobyn@mnpc.ca>

The Helping Others Network:

Distributes used furnishings and clothing to the needy.

Contact: Des Peplinski
403-238-0804; <dlp238@shaw.ca>

Art Committee: discusses religious artwork for parish.

Contact: Jim Ochitwa
<jim.ochitwa@maryngroup.com>

UCWLC: Responds to parish and community needs through volunteerism, pastoral works, Ukrainian culture & aid.

Contact: Stacey Bobyn
403-860-2185
<sbobyn1@telusplanet.net>

Knights of Columbus: Provide financial aid & support for members and their families, and help the sick, needy and disabled in our parish, city and abroad.

Contact: Earle Kowalewich at
403-831-5503, <earlekoko@shaw.ca>

Plus 50 Club: Provides social interaction for parish seniors, promotes Ukrainian cultural events, and raises funds for the parish.

Contact: Ed Tysowski
403-547-3226; <tysow@shaw.ca>


NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Saints: The Holy Martyr James of Persia			
4 TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr. 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy 3:00pm Ukrainian Carol Festival—Bella Centre (Mount Royal) 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng. ST. NICHOLAS EVENT 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Festal DLiturgy 10:00 am Open Iconography Studio 6:00 pm Certificate of Eastern Christian Traditions 	6 FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Certificate of Eastern Christian Traditions 6:30 & 7:45 pm Ukrainian Language Class 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none">
11 FOREFATHERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr. 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng. With Sunday School 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng. 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Open Iconography Studio 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:30 & 7:45 pm Ukrainian Language Class 7:00 Parish Council Meeting 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">
18 SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr. 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng. With Sunday School 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng. SANDWICHES FOR THE DROP-IN CENTRE 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Open Iconography Studio 7:00 pm Bible Study 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 Art Committee Meeting 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none">
25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: Ukr. 10:30 am Divine Liturgy: Eng. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 1:00 pm Melkite Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy: Eng. 	26 SYNAXIS of THEOTOKOS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Divine Liturgy 	27 FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Divine Liturgy 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none">
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← PARISH ADVENT MISSION with Fr. Mihail

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WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>No Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Ukrainian Language Class 7:00 pm Choir practice?</p> <p>o Planchak →</p>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm UCWLC AGM 	<p>9 CONCEPTION BY ANNE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 am Divine Liturgy at West View Lodge 6:00 pm FAITH FRIDAY and POTLUCK DINNER 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 4:00 pm Confessions 5:00 pm Vespers
<p>No Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Ukrainian Language Class 7:00 pm Property Management Meeting Choir Practice?</p>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Men's Dinner Meeting 	<p>16 (DAY OF FASTING)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 am Divine Liturgy at West View Lodge 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 4:00 pm Confessions 5:00 pm Vespers
<p>No Divine Liturgy Choir Practice?</p>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 	<p>23 (DAY OF FASTING)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 am Divine Liturgy at West View Lodge 	<p>24 EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Festal Liturgy 4:30 pm Festal Liturgy 10:00 pm Festal Liturgy
<p>No Divine Liturgy</p> <p>FR. BO AWAY</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Divine Liturgy 	<p>30 (DAY OF FASTING)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 am Divine Liturgy at West View Lodge 	<p>31 NEW YEARS EVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 4:00 pm Confessions 5:00 pm Vespers
			

St. Stephen's Choir: Provides music ministry to the parish for liturgical services and other events.
Contact: Linda Dudar
403-238-0461; <linda.dudar@stmu.ca>

Prayer & Support Group: Accepts prayer requests for the confidential needs and intentions of parishioners.
Contact: Marilyn Comchi
403-220-9624;
<marilyncomchi@shaw.ca>

Support Network: Provides support, encouragement & help for parishioners facing various difficulties/situations with referrals to services or help they need.
Contact: Marilyn Comchi
403-220-9624
<marilyncomchi@shaw.ca>

International Trust Fund: Solicits & invests donations and disburses earned income to international charities in 2nd and 3rd world countries.
Contact: Steve Groch
403-239-4699; <swgctc@aol.com>

Family Support Trust Fund: provides temporary financial support to parishioners in need. Donations to this fund are always welcome.
Contact: Eugene Woychysyn
587-891-9898;
<eugene.woychyshyn@gmail.com>

Calgary Pro-Life Association: Raises funds for educational awareness programs.
Contact: John Siroishka
403-271-2128;
<johnsiroishka@shaw.ca>

Parish Library: A great place to borrow great books about our faith.
Contact: Olga Kizlyk Scarpari
<ststephens.library@gmail.com>

ARK Store: Looking for the perfect religious item? Check it out at the entrance to our hall. Open most Sunday mornings after Liturgy.
Contact: Donna Chelack
403-764-0811; <dchelack@shaw.ca>



Mothers and Fathers in Action

(M.A.F.I.A.): A group for parents and little ones from 'in utero' to Grade 6.

Contact: Zenon Berg

<zenonberg@gmail.com>

Sunday School: A program run on most Sundays during the 10:30am Divine Liturgy for preschoolers age 4 through grade 2 children.

Contact: Lynsey Lowey

<lklwey@hotmail.com>

First Solemn Communion (FSC):

Sacramental Classes for children around GRADE 2 who are ready to approach for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist on their own.

Contact: Karen McMillan

<s.david.mcmillan@gmail.com>

Children of Mary & Altar Servers:

Elementary school children who have completed their FSC, are encouraged to get involved by serving at the Altar, learning, playing and growing together.

Contact: Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

<fr.bo.nahachewsky@gmail.com>

Junior Youth & Senior Youth: This is an active group of Jr. & Sr. High School students who work, play and grow together in Christ.

Contact: Philip Bird

<philipbird@gmail.com>

Young Adults: Those aged 18 - 35 are encouraged to gather as a community and learn, embrace and celebrate their faith.

Contact: Philip Bird

<philipbird@gmail.com>

Adult Catechism (RCIA): This program is open to Adults and Teens who want to receive the sacraments or just understand the faith.

Contact: Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

<fr.bo.nahachewsky@gmail.com>

Bible Study: On many Mondays we study our faith through Sacred Scripture. Join us.

Contact: Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

<fr.bo.nahachewsky@gmail.com>

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

LITURGICAL HELP

EPISTLE READERS

8:30am - Knights of Columbus

10:30am - Knights of Columbus

5:00pm - Knights of Columbus

HOSTS/USHERS

8:30am - Knights of Columbus

10:30am - Knights of Columbus

ROSARY (10:00am): Knights of Columbus

ARK STORE— Siroishka Family

PRAYERS & CATECHESIS

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY, December 4th

BIBLE STUDY: tomorrow, Nov. 28 at 7:00pm in the hall.

NATIVITY FAST continues (Winter Pascha, Week 4) See back page of bulletin for more description.

NATIVITY FAST MISSION: with Fr. Mihajlo Planchak will run from Monday, Dec. 5 through Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7:00pm.

CONFESSIONS at 4:00pm every Saturday.

GREAT VESPERS at 5:00pm every Saturday. Please join us in this lovely hour of prayer.

FIRST SOLEMN COMMUNION CLASSES: Begin Sunday, January 15 at 9:30am. Please contact teacher Barb Carpay at bcarpay@shaw.ca or Karen McMillan at 403-257-6910 or s.david.mcmillan@gmail.com for more details or to register. Registration forms are also available in the Atrium or on our website at www.saintstephencalgary.ca

CARDS AND DIVINE LITURGIES: If you know of someone in our Parish Family who the committee should be attending to, please contact Anne Lozinski at 403-241-8905.

PARISH MEETINGS & EVENTS

ST. NICHOLAS VISITING: TODAY after all Divine Liturgies. Please see additional notice.

UCC EVENT: 20th Anniversary of our Ukrainian Carol Festival TODAY at 3 pm - this

year at the Bella Concert Hall Mount Royal University, call Halya 403-276-1835 or ucc.update@shaw.ca. Please note that there are no signs up and it is in the Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts. Directions sheets to the event can be found in the atrium.

M.A.F.I.A. Meeting: Today at noon in the Knights room.

UCWLC AGM: Thursday, Dec. 8th at 6:00pm in the hall. PLEASE NOTE the date change from Dec. 1st as originally scheduled.

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH 50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING: on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 12:15pm in the boardroom.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday, Dec. 12 at 7:00pm in the boardroom.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 7:00pm in the Knights room.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT MEETING: on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7:00pm in the Knights room.

MEN'S DINNER MEETING: on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7:30pm in the boardroom.

SANDWICHES FOR THE DROP-IN CENTRE: will be collected on Sunday, Dec. 18.

ART COMMITTEE MEETING: on Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 7:00pm in the boardroom.

FAITH FRIDAY

POTLUCK AND EVENT

THIS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 at 6:00pm

Please join us as we learn all about the **meaning of Christmas...**

The incarnation of God to man. It will be an informative and fun-filled few hours as we explore this topic.

**** NOTICE ****

2017 donation envelopes and / or special envelope packages for PAD (Pre-Authorized Debit) users are ready for pickup in the atrium. If you are a new parishioner in need of an envelope number or would like to switch to the PAD system, please contact the office.



ST. NICHOLAS IS COMING!

In honor of the upcoming feast day for St. Nicholas this Wednesday Dec. 6th - St. Nicholas will be visiting today at both the St. Stephen's Ukrainian and St. Basil's Melkite Catholic parish at the end of each liturgy. As the patron Saint for children, and known for his charity, all children are encouraged to come and visit with St. Nicholas and see what he is able to share! The St. Nicholas Knights of Columbus council representing both parishes are pleased to have arranged the visit and hope that all the children enjoyed it just the same.



UCWLC ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 2016

Please note we will start our evening at 6:00 P.M. with refreshments and catered dinner followed by meeting. Join us as we bring the year to a close and discuss the coming new year.

Please RSVP via e-vite or to Donna Chelack @ 403-764-0811.



NATIVITY FAST MISSION

"How to Pray"
December 5—7,
(Mon—Wed)
7:00pm

Please join us as we welcome Fr. Mihajlo (Michael) Planchak to lead us through this year's Parish Nativity Fast Mission. The topic is "How to Pray" and we are certain it will be educational and rewarding. We look forward to this spiritual journey together. Please join us so that we may grow together!

CHRISTMAS CHARITY

Food Drive for St. Vincent de Paul Society

During the Nativity Fast (and possibly afterwards), we will be collecting food for St. Vincent de Paul Society. Please bring in your donation of non-perishable food items (not past expiry date!) and place them in the boxes provided in the atrium. These items will be picked up for distribution to many hungry families in Calgary. **If your family is in need of items for yourselves, please help yourselves to what you need!**

Your generosity is appreciated in helping those less fortunate. Thank you!



ST. STEPHEN'S

MALANKA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

COCKTAILS 6:00 PM
DINNER 7:00 PM

TICKETS \$65.00/person

Reservations only for tables of 8 or 10 - \$520.00/\$650.00

St. Stephen Cultural Centre
4903 - 45 Street, S. W.

Music by **ABSOLUTE**

Entertainment - featuring
ABSOLUTE UNPLUGGED
SUZIRYA (Ukrainian Dance Ensemble)

For tickets or information contact
Ambrose Comchi 403-862-3269
Ed Demchuk 403-239-0871
Ed Tysowski 403-547-3226



Sponsored by St. Stephen's Plus 50

Liturgy Intentions for this week:

Sunday, December 4 – TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

8:30am – in memory of the repose of the souls +John and +Elsie Wawruch

10:30am- in memory of the repose of the soul of +Nick Franko

5:00pm – for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

Monday, December 5:

9:00am – for blessings for good health and happiness for Ann

Tuesday, December 6: Feast of St. Nicholas

9:00am – in memory of the repose of the soul +Robbie John Thomas

Wednesday, December 7:

No Divine Liturgy

Thursday, December 8:

9:00am – for health and healing for Carolyn Taillon and the wellbeing of the Sakundiak family

Friday, December 9: Feast of the Conception of Theotokos by Anna

9:30am (Westview) – for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

Saturday, December 10:

9:00am – in memory of the repose of the soul of +Al Hober

Sunday, December 11 – SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

8:30am – in memory of the repose of the souls +John and +Elsie Wawruch

10:30am- in memory of the repose of the soul of +Bill Pashulka

5:00pm – for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

At St. Stephen Protomartyr we know that we are not perfect, but we strive to grow closer to God in all that we do.

Our faith is Christ-Centered, saturated with sacred scripture, holy Tradition, authentic, profound, and ancient - yet completely relevant.

As a community we understand that we must know, love and serve God and all people in order to become balanced and complete. This call to profound personal intimacy is beautiful and real; both solemn and joyful at the same time.

What's a Byzantine - Ukrainian Catholic Church?

Byzantine Christians are those whose traditions, theology and spirituality flow from the early Church in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Most Eastern Christians are commonly called Orthodox.

Byzantine Catholics are those who proudly maintain their rich Eastern (Orthodox) liturgical, spiritual and theological ways, and yet are in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. We recognize the leadership of the Pope of Rome, but are not ourselves Roman Catholic.

Our liturgical life is rich with meaning and actions, that speak to our whole beings. Much of our worship remains unchanged from that of our Fathers and Mothers of the early centuries of Christianity.

At St. Stephen Protomartyr, ALL PEOPLE ARE WELCOME who wish to live a Christian and Catholic way of life, regardless of their ethnic, economic, history or any other backgrounds. We are part of God's Holy Church, here to joyfully lead the life taught by the Risen Christ, reaching out with love and proclaiming His word to all people for the glory of God.

If you are spiritually hungry, and if you are looking for a vibrant community to grow with, we welcome you to check us out at <www.saintstephencalgary.ca> or visit us in person. We look forward to getting to know you.



The Nativity Fast

(The Winter Pascha—Week 4)

To Christ our God, who is the only-begotten Son of the Father from before all ages, and in these latter times has become flesh of the Virgin without seed, let us cry aloud: You are our strength; glory to You, O Lord!

Nativity Canon Ode 3

Offerings to Christ

The great mystery of the Nativity is that the God who created all things becomes a creature. The giver of life and all things stands in need of gifts to live himself. The one beyond time and existence appears at a certain time and place. Creation responds to God's appearance in human flesh.

Angels, the highest order of creation, bow down and worship a lowly creature. Tradition tells us that the thought of this worship drove some angels out of the presence of God. Just as some people cannot accept God's appearance in the world, and into their lives, some angels could not bear the plan of God. But those that remained faithful, offer their gift of praise.

The heavens created by God were a sign of royal majesty throughout the ancient world. People looked to the stars for signs and wonders of what was to come. God's creation in the heavens offers the gift of a star, a special sign to show forth the royal power of God. The Magi accept this sign of the star and follow the lead to God in the flesh. Knowing the meaning of the star they bring gifts fit for royalty.

The shepherds represent the everyday people. They are the lowly and the outcast. Shepherds have the reputation that gypsies have today. They live on the fringes of society and are seen as liars and cheats. Yet these are the first to behold the Christ child. All they can offer is their awe and wonder.

The earth gives safe haven from the elements, a cave. The cave is symbolic of the womb. Mother earth holds and protects the Holy Family from the harm of the world. The dangerous and desolate desert gives the gift of a manger. Food for the animals but a safe resting place for the Christ child. From the desert the people of Israel come closer to God than ever before. In the desert we encounter the living God.

But the greatest gift to God at the Nativity is from humanity, the mother of the child gives the flesh of her own flesh. The mystical union of Divinity and humanity take place in the gift of human flesh from Mary. All creation contributes to the event, but Mary's is the perfect gift for the occasion.

"O Christ, what shall we offer You for our for your coming on earth in our humanity for our sake? Every creature that has its being from You gives thanks to You: the angels offer hymns of praise, the heavens give a star; the Magi present their gifts and the shepherds, their wonder. The earth, provides a cave. The desert, a manger. As for us, we offer a Virgin Mother. O God who are from all eternity, have mercy on us!"

Vespers on the Eve of the Nativity

Excerpt taken from: <http://puluka.com/home/assets/documents/WinterPascha4.pdf>