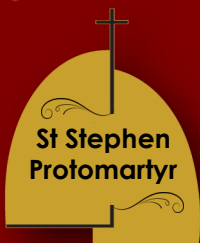


ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHRISTMAS BULLETIN

**Address:**

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

Office Hours:

Mon-Thursday: 8:30am - 4:00pm
Friday- Sunday - Closed
Closed Statutory Holidays

Telephone:

403-249-4818, press 0

Pastoral Emergencies:

403-249-4818, press 9

Email:

Office@Protomartyr.ca
Coordinator@Protomartyr.ca

Parish Website:

www.saintstephencalgary.ca

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/protomartyr.ca>

Eparchy Website:

www.edmontoneparchy.com

DIVINE LITURGIES**Sunday Services:**

8:30am - Ukrainian
10:30am - English
1:00pm - Arabic / English [Melkite]
5:00pm - English

Weekday Services:

Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday
English @ 9:00 am
Friday at Westview Lodge-

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

**Most Reverend Archbishops and Metropolitans,
God-loving Bishops, Very Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics,
Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters,
in Ukraine and throughout the world**

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy! Lk 2:10

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Beloved in Christ!

Today the angels in heaven sing and celebrate, all creation is filled with joy, for the Saviour and Lord is born this day in Bethlehem of Judea. This joy, which we especially experience with today's illustrious feast, is an integral part of being for every believing Christian, a visible sign and fruit of God's unceasing presence. The joy of the Saviour's coming on earth dissipates all the fears and uncertainties of human life, for "God is with us," once and for all!

In the Gospel narrative the light of God's presence initially causes fear, as a human being by nature is afraid of the unknown, the unexpected or the uncertain: "And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear" (Lk 2:8-9). But the word spoken by the angel "Fear not!" and the good news about the birth of the Saviour takes away that fear: "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger" (2:12). The shepherds readily go to the place indicated by the angel, there they bow before the newborn Saviour, and in turn, themselves become proclaimers of joy.

The Newborn Saviour is the incarnate Love of God, who as the only and eternal source of joy dispels fear. Authentic love is not a temporary or passing human emotion, but a life-giving power, the expanse of life, given and guaranteed by God Himself. Only in the space of Divine love and joy can human beings fully live, develop, and be themselves. God does not desire for His creation to be afraid, and thus in the Nativity, He comes to us as a vulnerable child. The Son of God allows Himself to be laid on hay in a manger, He allows Himself to be embraced by human hands, to be fed at the human breast of the Mother of God. The Almighty God, who needs nothing, makes Himself needy, helpless, and dependent on the warmth and tenderness of human love! Today He makes us capable of opening our embrace to God and neighbour without fear.

So, where does this fear come from? Above all, humans are fearful because, being separated from God through sin, they feel abandoned and lonely: confronting the unknown world alone and unprotected before its hostility. When people are closed to the love of their Creator, they are fearful of Him, erroneously perceiving God as a hostile and foreign power, which seemingly might threaten them, and so they seek to build their life without Him. They hide before their God and Lord, as once did Adam in paradise following his sinful fall. We read in the book of Genesis: "But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?' And he said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid...'" (3:9-10). The life of a person without God's love is transformed into "a space of anxiety and restlessness." A human being, having distanced himself or herself from the face of God, falls into a place of constant fear for their life in the face of death. It is this fear that is the tool of evil, which inevitably takes over and paralyzes a person, takes away his or her freedom, deprives them of joy and hope. A person without God is also afraid of his or her neighbour, the foreigner, the emigrant, as subconsciously they see them as competitors for their illusory space of security and plenty. In the end, such persons fear themselves, their weaknesses and limitations. They are afraid of failing to fulfil the expectations of others, they are afraid of being a failure in learning and work in the context of increasingly aggressive competition in the world. And so today the voice of the heavenly angel resounds in our present night of fear and insecurity: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy!" (Lk 2:10).

The Son of God was born in a human body in order to overcome the very reason for a person's alarm, fear, and uncertainty. This day, in His Nativity, with His liberating divine love He enters into the cold and dark cave of human existence, into our world, increasingly filled with anxiety, into our personal expanse of life. He is born in our midst in order to remove the paralyzing power of our



HOLY MYSTERIES

CONFESSION:

Weekdays: Before or after
Liturgies or by appointment.
Sundays: Before Liturgy

MARRIAGE, BAPTISM-CHRISMATION- EUCCHARIST, FUNERALS :

Arrangements with the Pastor

ANOIDTING OF THE SICK:

For emergencies call
403-249-4818, ext. 9

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS :

Arrangements with the office

CLERGY & RELIGIOUS

Pastor :

Fr. Greg Faryna
Office:403-249-4818, ext. 2
Cell: 403-700-0882
FatherGreg@Protomartyr.ca

Pastor, St. Basil's Melkite Greek Catholic Church

403-249-4818, ext. 3
stbasilmelkitecalgary@gmail.com
Facebook: St Basils Melkite Greek
Catholic Church Calgary

PARISH OFFICE

Office Administrator: Linda Buck
403-249-4818, ext. 0
office@Protomartyr.ca

Sacramental Coordinator:
coordinator@Protomartyr.ca

HALL RENTAL INQUIRIES & MAINTENANCE

John Kowal
403-249-4818, ext. 4
Cell:403-880-0577
maintenance@Protomartyr.ca

HALL & KITCHEN

403-249-4818, ext. 6

contemporary fears and anxieties, and to say to the person of the XXI century, to say to each one of us: "Fear not!" We read of this in the Epistle to the Hebrews: "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery." (2:14-15).

Christmas is the source of victory over today's fears: fear of the future and the unknown, fear of others, fear of death. In celebrating the birth of our Saviour, His joyful entrance into the horizons of humanity today, let us not allow anyone to frighten us. The word of angels spoken today "Fear not!" is also directed to the Ukrainian people in the midst of the challenges we face in this historical period of our nation's existence. If "God is with us" then who can frighten us, take away or imprison our will to defend our country and people, our desire for true justice, dignity, and liberty? St. John writes: "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us" (1 Jn 4:18-19).

Christmas in the unification of God with humankind: God Himself enters into human living space and begins living as a human being, accepting all discomforts, challenges, and threats. Let us rejoice, therefore, for we are the ones whom Christ in His Nativity has liberated from fear, granting us joy in love. He will also renew our capacity to love God and neighbour. In Him are the foundations of our national, state, and ecclesial existence.

Dear Brother and Sisters. With Christ's birth, I sincerely greet you all: those in Ukraine and abroad, those who celebrate together with loved ones and those who are far from family, the young and the old, children and parents, the healthy and the infirm, the wealthy and the poor. Today we are all rich in the joy and love of the newborn Saviour. In thought and heart, I am with those who suffer bodily and spiritual wounds. Those who have doubts and are searching in the midst of the dangers and anxieties of today's world, who thirst for true peace and joy – receive my Christmas greeting and my loving embrace. Today, in a special way I unite myself in prayer with those who fearlessly stand on the frontlines and defend our country. On the occasion of this feast, I express my gratitude and impart my blessings on our battle-worn veterans. May the words of our carol-koliadka speak to the heart of each of you:

Let us imitate the shepherds,
Let us bow to the One Born
That He deign to grant us peace
Transform sorrows into joy,
For those who believe, who believe in Him (Vselennaya Veselysia)
From the bottom of my heart, I wish all of you the authentic joy of the children of God, a tasty kutia, a cheerful celebration of Christ's Nativity, and a happy, peaceful, and blessed New Year!

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

† SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the day of the all-praiseworthy Apostle Andrew the First-called the 13th of December (30th of November) in the 2019th Year of our Lord

"Because the Lord Jesus was born of the holy Virgin, all creation is enlightened.

*Behold! The shepherds keep watch and the Magi are adoring;
the angels are singing hymns of praise and Herod is trembling;
for the Saviour of our souls has revealed Himself in the flesh"*
(Vespers, Christmas Eve)

Христос Раждається! Славте Його!

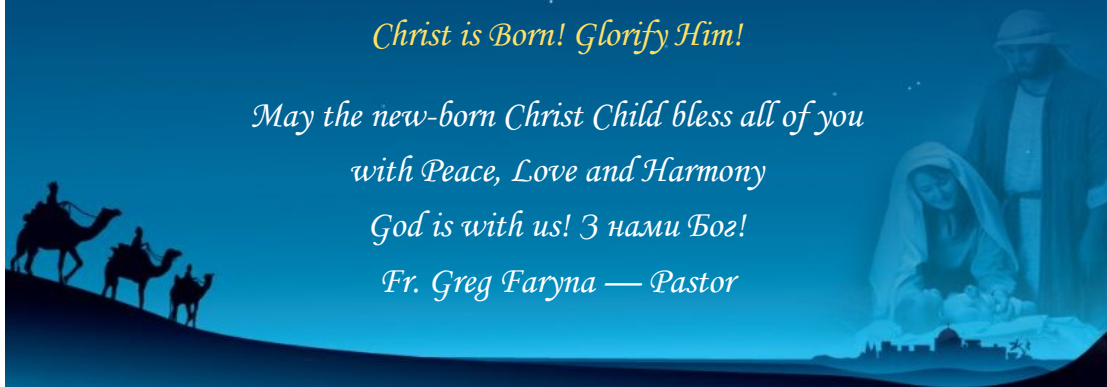
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

May the new-born Christ Child bless all of you

with Peace, Love and Harmony

God is with us! З нами Бог!

Fr. Greg Faryna — Pastor



Славте Його!

PASTORAL LETTER OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2019/2020

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)

To the Reverend Clergy, Monastics, Seminarians and Laity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada: **Christ is born! Let Us Glorify Him!**

"God is With Us, Understand This All You Nations! And Be Humbled, For God Is With Us!"

This is a glorious and wonderful refrain sung at our liturgical services during this season. We have to admit it is very memorable and we might find ourselves singing this truth throughout the year, particularly when spirits are low and we need to remind ourselves of God's presence in our personal lives and the life of our church.

In fact it points to a mystery about the human person – presence. Why is "presence" so important to us? How is it that "presence" can change our disposition? When a person is present to us it changes how we think and feel and act. Even more so is the case when we are present to those who are present to us.

For instance, when a parent gives a child a warning not to sneak a snack just before a meal, it makes a big difference if the parent stays in the room or leaves the room. Or if a parent is there to calm the pain of a child who fell and hurt themselves. Likewise, if you are driving and, say, you're late for an appointment. The temptation to speed is more under control if you see a police car in your rear view mirror. Yet how comforting is the presence of a police officer to assist in roadside trouble. Or if you are overwhelmed by those you love at a surprise party in your honour. The presence of so many you care for completely changes your heart.

The same is so true of our awareness of Jesus in our lives. Hopelessness and despair can be dealt with much more easily when we are aware of God's presence. This is especially true for those who find themselves in armed conflict while they defend human dignity against unjust aggressors. It is true for those fighting addictions, fighting loneliness, struggling with gender or sexual identity or battling against any unfair treatment by others because of someone's prejudice. Any challenge a person faces is most difficult if they are alone and what is worse, it is more difficult when they are not alone but they certainly feel alone. This can lead to depression, and in our opinion, is one of the worst lies about any person's reality.

The good news that God is with us is central to this Christmas season. May the Holy Spirit give you the grace to encounter Christ so that your awareness of His presence is undeniable all through your day. Our Church services and family traditions speak of his presence when we encounter each other, for indeed we encounter Christ in each other, especially those who face mental or physical distress. In turn, may your awareness of His presence be a light to those who struggle to dwell on this important truth. He is the one who loves us and gives us hope in the midst of all we experience.

May your celebration of this profound truth this Christmas be a time to encounter Jesus Christ in your spouse, in your family members, in your parish that is Vibrant because you are part of it. May you be aware of the presence of the Jesus, Mary and Joseph that give us the gift of the Holy Family present in your personal and parish family. And may this awareness bear fruit in your life throughout 2020.

God is with us! Christ is Born!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Lawrence Huculak, OSBM Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg

+Michael Wiwchar, CSsR Eparch Emeritus of Saskatoon

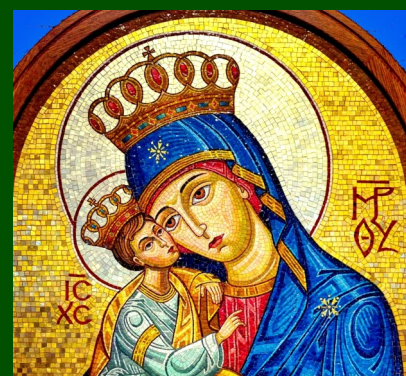
+Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM Eparch Emeritus of New Westminster

+David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton

+Stephen Chmilar, Eparch Emeritus of Toronto

+Ken Nowakowski, Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster

+Bryan Bayda, CSsR Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon and Administrator of Eparchy of Toronto



Christ is born!

Христос раждається!

المسيح ولد!

Ο Χριστός γεννιέται!

Le Christ est né!

ישו נולד!

Christus ist geboren!

Cristo è Nato!

Kristus se rodí!

基督誕生了!

Krist je rođen!

Христос народився!

Si Cristo ay isinilang!

Kristus on syntynyt!

मसीह का जन्म होता है!

Krisztus megszületik!

キリストが生まれる!

Chrystus się rodzi!

Kristus är född!

Chúa Kitô được sinh ra!

Mae Crist yn cael ei eni!

Cristo nasce!

Kristus er født!

Kristus yra gimęs!

ST STEPHEN'S PROTOMARTYR
PRE-MARRIAGE COURSE

Friday, January 31, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm Opening sessions with wine & cheese reception
Saturday, February 01, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Presentations and Couple Communication

Course cost \$125 per couple (payable on arrival)
Includes evening reception, Saturday morning coffee
& muffins, Saturday hot lunch, snacks, course supplies

Contact Fr. Greg for more information. Email : fathergreg@protomartyr.ca Text : 403-700-0882



All That Glitters
presents... **A GRAND AFFAIRE**

Hosted by St. Stephen's & exclusively for women
on

Friday, May 8th, 2020

6:00 pm Cocktails
7:00 pm Dinner Catering by De Minico's
8:30—11:30 pm Entertainment *Dueling Piano Kings*

Tickets are NOW available

and just in time for Christmas - \$125/ticket

Consider giving your wife, your mom or your daughter a ticket to this exciting and fun filled evening.

Please contact Linda at 403-249-4818
or office@protomartyr.ca for tickets.
The office accepts e-transfer, VISA, MC, cash or cheque.

**Coming Together in Friendship
to Enrich the Lives of Women!**

**BIBLE STUDY
JAMES**

Pearls for Wise Living



JEFF CAVINS

James is one of the most practical books of the Bible. Like the book of Proverbs, it is a book of wisdom, a collection of teachings on issues faced by ordinary Christians in everyday life.

These teachings speak loudly to all those who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and their faith.

This study offers "pearls for wise living" by applying the wisdom of James to the present. For anyone who has struggled to live a truly Christian life, James offers a wealth of practical solutions for handling and even sanctifying everyday circumstances.

Thursdays at 10:00am starting January 16, 2020.



St. Stephen's choir will be

**Christmas
CAROLING**

on **SUNDAY, December 29th** from 1—7 pm

Please call Choir Director, Linda Dudar
on 587-998-8566 for more information
and/or to schedule them to come to your home.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020



St. Stephen's offers a First Communion program to teach children and their families about God, His Church and the Sacraments. It prepares children to celebrate their first Confession and their First Solemn Communion, teaching them what Life with Christ is about, and to encourage them to take more responsibility for their own spiritual wellbeing.

Classes are set to begin on Sunday, January 19, 2020. Lessons will take place on Sunday mornings with the 10:30 Divine Liturgy to follow. There are a total of 10 Lessons ending with First Reconciliation on May 2 and First Solemn Communion on May 3, 2020.

For more information please contact Kathy Livesey at kalivesey@shaw.ca.
For registration, please visit our website at
www.saintstephencalgary.ca/first-solemn-communion.html

MALANKA

**Friday, January 10, 2020
at St. Stephen Protomartyr**

Cocktails : 6:00 pm

Buffet 7:00 pm

Dance 8:30 pm

Entertainment: Absolute Unplugged & Tryzub

Tickets: \$65 / person (Dinner and Dance)
Tables of 8 or 10 \$520/\$650)
\$15 / person (Dance Only)

Ticket sellers :

David Franko: 403-400-0307 d_franko@telus.net
Harry Kozicki: 403-808-6523 kozickis@shaw.ca
Ed Demchuk : 403-239-0871 josiened@shaw.ca
Ambrose Comchi : 403-862-3269 awc@shaw.ca
Linda Buck: 403-249-4818 (ext 0 : Parish Office)

The office accepts MC/Visa and e-transfers



YYC LITURGY

Young adults - Youth - Children

A Special Liturgy focusing on our young parishioners

3rd Sunday of every month at 10:30 am

(No Sunday School on this day)