

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Pastoral Message

Христос посеред нас! Christ is amongst us!

The Nativity Fast

During this month we are in the midst of the Nativity fast which leads us on a journey to the *Nativity of our Lord*, then to the *Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan*, and concludes with the *Meeting of our Lord in the Temple*. These Feasts of our Lord are of great importance to the church because not only do we celebrate the birth of our Lord, we also are given the building blocks and an understanding of how a Christian should begin their lives. When we look at these feasts closely we can see that they are out of order in that Christ was baptized as an adult. Our Church fathers have specifically placed the feasts in this order on our church calendar because we as a church baptize infants and at the conclusion of the baptism the newly baptized child is *churched* thus imitating the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple.

The Nativity fast that begins this journey is also called *Philips fast* as it begins just after the day commemorating St. Philip. This fast is a 40 day period prior to the celebration of the *Nativity of our Lord* and is patterned after the Great Lenten Fast period prior to *Pascha (Easter)*. The major differences are that we do not celebrate Pre-Sanctified Liturgies as there is no restriction on serving the Eucharist during the week, and there are less strict fast days throughout the fast, however it is still considered as important as the Lenten Fast. By saying this, we understand that as being good Christians we should be trying to fast from dairy and meat to the best of our abilities. After the fast starts (for us on the 29th of November) the first Major Feast we see is the *Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple* which brings us into the Nativity season because starting with this Feast we begin to sing the Canon of Christ's Nativity and begins the singing of the liturgical hymns of the Nativity. The next important day celebrated is the day which the church commemorates *Holy Apostle Andrew the First Called*. This is seen as an important part of our fast because Andrew being the first called of Christ calls us to meet the Messiah just as he called his brother Apostle Peter to meet the Messiah whom we are all seeking.

A pivotal figure within our current society as well as within our church community is the celebration of St. Nicholas and his arrival to our churches. This commemoration reminds us as Christians how we are to live and as St. Nicholas imitating and lived a life of Christ; we too must try to imitate St. Nicholas and give not just our lives to Christ, but give our material possessions, monies, and food to those who have none. We are always very blessed that at this time of year St. Nicholas visits our parishes to help spread Christ's message to our children.

This period of Fasting that we go through prior to the Nativity of our Lord sometimes takes a back seat the Great Lenten fast and we at times do even see this period as being nowhere near as important. It is proper for us to try to the best of our abilities not just to fast but to take this Fast as well as all of the Fast periods or Fast Days of our church just as we would fast within the Great Lenten period. If you have any questions or need assistance with how to safely fast during these times I am available to give assistance. May God bless all of us and give us the strength to partake in this journey with a level of sincerity and honesty that will bring us closer to Him as we partake in this Nativity fast.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Peter Haugen

Many thanks to
Marie Loch
for sponsoring the December
Newsletter in memory of our departed
brother in Christ, *Conrad Loch*.

Marie wishes everyone a blessed and
wonderful holiday Season!

Enthronement of the New Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

(Winnipeg, 19 November 2022) Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral was the setting, once again, for the most recent and significant historical event in the life of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, presently in the fourth year of her second century of sojourn on God-protected Canadian soil. His Eminence Ilarion, formerly Bishop of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy of the UOCC, was enthroned as Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada – the tenth chief archpastor of the Canadian Ukrainian Orthodox flock, seventh primate of the Church since her formation into a metropolia in 1951, and fourth since the reception of the UOCC into the Mother Church of Constantinople in 1990. The enthronement marks the final act in a process that began with His Eminence's first-instance election at the Church's XXIV Sobor (in June 2022) as one of three candidates for the Office of Metropolitan of the UOCC, and subsequent final-instance election in July by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.



Nearly three hundred people attended the Saturday morning Divine Liturgy, which included UOCC faithful from all three eparchies of the Church, Orthodox faithful and clergy of other jurisdictions in Canada, leaders and representatives of local Christian communities, representatives of municipal, provincial, and federal levels of government, and representatives of organizations within the Ukrainian Canadian community.

His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion – joined by the Exarch of Canada, His Eminence Archbishop Sotirios (representing His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew), and His Grace Bishop Andriy of Toronto and the Eastern Eparchy – was greeted at the entrance to the cathedral by representatives of the parish's youth and the President of the Parish Council, Keith Swinton. Greeting Metropolitan Ilarion on behalf of the concelebrating clergy (twenty-eight presbyters and four deacons), Archpriest Gene Maximiuk (Cathedral Dean) beseeched His Eminence to enter his cathedral and preside over the celebration of the historic Divine Liturgy, initiating a new era not only for the cathedral community, but for the entirety of the UOCC as well. His Eminence Yuriy, Metropolitan Emeritus of the UOCC awaited Metropolitan Ilarion and the hierarchs in the Holy Altar of the cathedral.

The Divine Liturgy was particularly moving, sung beautifully by the cathedral choir, under the confident and talented direction of Dr. Jeff Saranchuk. The solemn moment of the enthronement, witnessed by all present, occurred during the singing of the *Trisagion*. His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion was seated three times upon the throne on the High Place by His Grace Bishop Andriy and His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, greeted each time with the joyous exclamation of "Axios!" by the hierarchs, clergy, and people. At the apex of the liturgical celebration, in addition to the concelebrating clergy, many faithful approached and were united in Christ, receiving His Most Precious and Pure Body and Blood, participating in the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Ilarion was greeted by His Eminence Archbishop Sotirios, Patriarchal Exarch of Canada, who shared His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew's proclamation of Metropolitan Ilarion's canonical election by the Holy and Sacred Synod. Archbishop Sotirios concluded his greeting by presenting Metropolitan Ilarion with the Archpastoral Staff. Following Archbishop Sotirios, His Grace Bishop Andriy and His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy expressed their warm greetings and congratulatory remarks to Metropolitan Ilarion. The



liturgical celebration ended with a triumphant singing of the *Polychronion* (“Many Years!”).

Following the Divine Liturgy, participants gathered together in the cathedral hall for the sold-out celebratory banquet, sponsored entirely by the Western Eparchy. A delicious luncheon was followed by an interesting and entertaining programme that included greetings from the Patriarchal Exarch and our hierarchs, the Chancellor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, Archpriest Charles Baxter, the Dean of the Faculty of Theology of St. Andrew’s College in Winnipeg, Fr. Dr. Roman Bozyk, and various church, government, and community representatives. Highlighting the greetings was a moving letter of congratulations

from His Beatitude Metropolitan Epifanij of Kyiv and All Ukraine. Interspersed between these presentations were beautiful and melodious offerings from the choir of St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor (Winnipeg), conducted by Olena Hissa-Kharchenko and Serhij Kharchenko, and the lovely *Dali* singing group.

To conclude, it must be noted, here, that the day’s events were superbly organized by the Enthronement Committee, composed of clergy and faithful of all three eparchies of the UOCC, chaired most skilfully by Protopresbyter Nicholas Orest Rauliuk, assisted by Dobr. Jeanette Rauliuk and local volunteers – to whom the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada extends deepest gratitude for their hard work and dedication of many volunteer hours to this historic event!

The plenitude of Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada – her hierarchs, Consistory (and Presidium), clergy and faithful – greet our new Primate, His Eminence Ilarion, Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, with the momentous and historic act of his enthronement upon the primatial throne of our



Church. With prayerful and humble thanksgiving to God Most-High and Almighty, we rejoice that the Holy Spirit considered it right and good for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada “to be fathered and shepherded by a wise and loving archpastor who will inspire us to continue to toil in Christ’s Vineyard to His glory and for the good estate of our beloved Church” (Salutory Resolution 6 of the XXIV Sobor). May we continue to offer ourselves as supportive co-workers with His Eminence, as we continue our sojourn of struggle in these Canadian lands for our salvation and eternal life in the Heavenly Kingdom, helping His Eminence to transmit the salvific Good News of the Gospel of Christ, through our loving words and by our good deeds, to all who need it!

Eis polla eti Despota!

Orthodoxy Study

Our first two study sessions have been well attended and I thank everyone for taking the time attend and participate!

We have two weeks left:

- Wednesday, Dec. 14th @ 7:00pm
- Wednesday, Dec. 21st @ 7:00pm

Link: <https://meet.google.com/jfd-qhqb-yfp>

Please let Fr. Peter know if you have any questions!



Cantor Classes

I have only heard of interest from 2 of our faithful, so I am adding this again.

Fr. Peter is preparing a series of cantor classes for those that would like to learn how to be a cantor in the Church. These will not be choir rehearsals, these classes will be for those that wish to learn how to chant, sing the tones of the various services, understand the difference between resurrectional and lenten tones, etc. Everyone is welcome, but to learn to be a cantor, in time you will be asked in class to chant or sing on your own as well as with the group.

If you are interested, please let Fr. Peter know, if there is enough interest, Fr. Peter will work directly with those individuals to determine the dates and times for classes.



Cantor Stand in St. George's Greek Orthodox Church - Explanations from their website:

"To the right of the main altar space is the cantor's seat. The cantor, who is responsible for singing the text in Ancient Greek and prompting the full choir, sits in this seat for the duration of the service. The full choir, made up of congregation members, sits in the upper loft in the back of the chapel space. The sung text is inserted sporadically throughout the service and occurs frequently."

-<https://stgeorgessitevisit.wordpress.com/photo-portfolio/>

Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal Recipient

Congratulations to our very own John Yewchin!

Well deserved!

May God grant you many years!



*Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee
Medal Recipients*

*Colin Atkinson
Vicki Brooker
Pauline Cardinal Mawer
Penny Fox
Gregory Hamel
Shirley Hordal
Larry Lambert
Pastor Dwayne Mitchell
Herman Poulin
Darren Robson
Vic Sadowski
Margaret Schienbein
Dr. Alex Sheppard
Ted Skiba
Elsie Smith
John Trefanenko
Eva Urlacher
Irene VanBrabant
Belvia Wrobel
John Yewchin*



MAY THE
birth of Christ RENEW YOU IN
God's love
*and may you,
your families & your loved ones*
WALK ALWAYS IN THE *light* OF THE *Lord.*