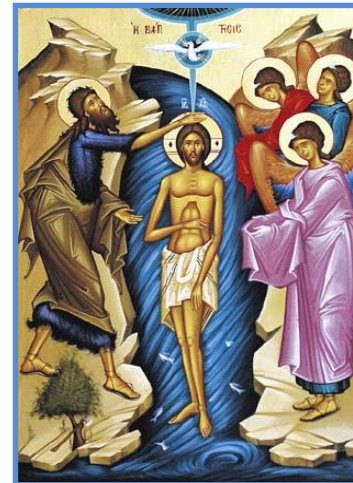


EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS PARISH UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

13753 - 108TH AVENUE, SURREY, BC V3T 2K6
PARISH ADMINISTERED BY: REV. ANDRII CHORNENKYI

УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА ПАРАФІЯ ВОЗДВИЖЕННЯ ЧЕСНОГО ХРЕСТА

PARISH BULLETIN № 1. JANUARY 03, 2016 A.D.



SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

THE HOLY PROPHET MALACHI & THE HOLY MARTYR GORDIUS

The Feast of Theophany is the culmination of the Christmas Season, which starts on December 25 and ends on January 6. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the baptism of Christ the Holy Trinity appeared clearly to mankind for the first time. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father's testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son. Christ's baptism in the Jordan was also "theophany," a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord's public ministry. The theme of "manifestation" or "revelation" is also expressed in Scripture with the symbolism of light. In the hymn of the Feast we sing, "Christ has appeared and enlightened the world." Thus, January 6 is also known as the Feast of Lights. The Church celebrates on this day the illumination of the world by the light of Christ.

Saint Cosmas, Bishop of Maiuma tells us that our Lord, Who clothed material flesh with the immaterial fire of His divinity, formed Adam anew, who fell into corruption, in the streams of the Jordan. David prophesied, Draw near to him, and be enlightened: and your faces shall not by any means be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord hearkened to him, and delivered him out of all his afflictions [Ps. 33:5,6]. Saint Cosmas the Melodist chants, *Fallen Adam, the poor man, cried, and the Lord heard him: He has come and in the streams of Jordan He has made him new again, who was sunk in corruption.*"

In mystic commemoration of this event, the Great Blessing of Water is performed on this day. The holy water is given to the faithful to consume and to use in blessing their homes. In the weeks following the Feast, clergy visit the homes of parishioners and conduct a service of blessing using the holy water that was blessed on the Feast of Theophany.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY
COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP ARE IN OUR PARISH HALL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY

Troparion, Tone 7: By Your cross You destroyed death;* You opened Paradise to the thief;* You changed the lamentation of the myrrhbearers to joy,* and charged the apostles to proclaim* that You are risen, O Christ our God,* offering great mercy to the world.

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

Kontakion, Tone 7: No longer shall the dominion of death be able to hold humanity,* for Christ went down shattering and destroying it s powers.* Hades is bound.* The prophets exult with one voice.* The Saviour has come for those with faith, saying:* “Come forth, O faithful, to the resurrection!”

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 7: O all-praised treasury of our resurrection, we hope in you,* bring us up from the pit and depth of sin,* for you have saved those subject to sin* by giving birth to our Salvation,* O Virgin before childbirth, and Virgin in childbirth,* and still a Virgin after childbirth.

Prokeimenon, Tone 6: Save Your people, O Lord,* and bless Your inheritance.

verse: Unto You I will cry, O Lord my God, lest You turn from me in silence. (Psalm 27:9,1)

A Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy (4:5-8): Timothy, my son, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Alleluia (Tone 8): Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

verse: God, be merciful to us and bless us (Ps 66:2).

verse: Make the light of Your face shine upon us and have mercy on us (Ps 66:2)

Gospel: (Mark 1:1-8): The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”’, John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

Communion Verse:

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest (Ps 148:1). Alleluia! (3x).

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, please return all hymnbooks to their proper place. Thank you.

Тропар (глас 7): Знищив Ти хрестом Твоїм смерть,* відчинив розбійникові рай,* мироносицям плач на радість перемінив* і апостолам звелів проповідувати,* що воскрес Ти, Христе Боже,* даючи світові велику милість.

Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові.

Кондак (глас 7): Вже більше влада смерти не зможе людей держати,* зійшов бо Христос, знищивши і знівечивши сили її,* зв’язується ад,* пророки ж однодушно радіють.* З’явився Спас тим, що вірують, промовляючи:* Виходьте, вірні, до воскресіння.

І нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

Богородичний (глас 7): Як на скарбницю нашого воскресіння,* надіємось на Тебе, Всехвальна,* тож виведи нас з ями й безодні прогріхів,* бо Ти спасла підлеглих гріхам, породивши наш Спасіння.* Як перед народ-женням ти була Діва,* так і в родженні і по народженні, Ти залишилась Дівою.

Прокімен (глас 6): Спаси, Господи, людей твоїх і благослови насліддя твоє (Пс 27,9).

Стих: До тебе, Господи, взиватиму, Боже мій, щоб не відвертався ти мовчки від мене.

До Тимотея послання Св. Апостола Павла читання: (4, 5-8): Сину Тимотею, будь тверезим у всьому, знось напасті, виконуй працю євангелиста, виконуй твою службу. Бо я вже готовий на ливну жертву, і час мого відходу настав. Я боровся доброю борнею, скінчив біг – віру зберіг. Тепер же приготований мені вінок справедливості, що його дасть мені того дня Господь, справедливий Суддя; та не лише мені, але всім тим, що з любов’ю чекали на його появу.

Алилуя (глас 8):

Стих: Боже, ущедри нас і благослови нас (Пс 66,2).

Стих: Просвіти лице твоє на нас і помилуй нас (Пс 66,2).

Євангеліє (Мр 1,1-8):

Початок Євангелії Ісуса Христа, Сина Божого. Як написано в пророка Ісаї: “Ось я посилаю мого посланця перед тобою, який приготує тобі дорогу. Голос вопіючого в пустині: Готуйте Господеві дорогу, вирівняйте стежки його”, – так виступив Йоан, хрестивши у пустині та проповідувавши хрищення покаяння на прощення гріхів. І виходили до нього – вся країна Юдейська та всі ерусалимляни, хрестились від нього в ріці Йордані й визнавали гріхи свої. Йоан одягнений був в одержу з верблюжого волосу й носив ремінний пояс на своїх бедрах, а їв сарану й мед дикий. І проповідував, кажучи: “Слідом за мною іде сильніший від мене, що йому я недостойний, нахилившись, розв’язати ремінця його сандалів. Я вас хрестив водою, а він хреститиме Святим Духом.”

Причасний:

Хваліте Господа з небес, хваліте Його на висотах (Пс 148,1). Алилуя (х3).

По завершенні Служби Божої просимо повернути співаники на їх відповідне місце. Дякуємо.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

✿ **JORDAN BLESSING OF WATER.** Next Sunday, January 10, the Jordan blessing of Water will follow the Divine Liturgies. Please don't forget to bring your own jar.

✿ **BLESSING OF THE CARS.** According to our annual tradition on Sunday, January 17, after the Divine Liturgies Fr. Andrii will bless your cars with the Holy Water. Please plan to come.

✿ **ZAHALNYTSIA** – Due to the festive Christmas season, the Fridays between Christmas and Theophany are *not* fasting days. Let us feast and rejoice!

✿ **SUNDAYS DONATION:** December 20th and Christmas 2015 - \$ 1240

✿ **THANK YOU** to all those parishioners who contributed so generously to the “Christmas gift” - “Дар Любви”. May God bless you and your family, and reward your generosity!

“Christmas gift” is a free will offering taken up during the Christmas season which is shared equally between the Bishop and the Parish Priest. Please note that Revenue Canada does not allow Income Tax receipts for gifts to clergy.

✿ **BIG THANK YOU.** On behalf of the Eparchial Ukrainian School Fr. Andrii would like to *Thank You* our parishioners for their kindness and generosity. Because of your big hearts the children collected \$433,85 (CAD) and \$10 (USA). May God reward you with many blessings and numares heavenly and earthly gifts.

✿ **HOUSE BLESSING.** Our Ukrainian Catholic Church has a beautiful tradition of visiting people's homes in the New Year with blessed Jordan waters. Spiritually, it is meant to cleanse the home of any evil or strife that has built up over the past year, so that we can start the New Year on a positive note. In our parish the house blessing will begin on **Sunday, January 10th**. Everyone who would like their homes blessed, please fill out the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

✿ **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – will take place on **Thursday, JANUARY 21th, 2016**, at 7:00pm

✿ **ANNUAL PARISH GENERAL MEETING** will take place on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21TH, 2016**. The meeting will follow the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. **On that Sunday we will celebrate only one Divine Liturgy (Bilingual). PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING.**

✿ **UCWLC - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will take place on **Tuesday, January 12th, 2016**. The meeting will follow the Divine Liturgy which starts at 10:00 a.m.

✿ **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY MEETING** – will take place on TUESDAY, JANUARY 12th, at the parish hall at 7:00 p.m.

✿ **ROSARY SUNDAY WITH THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – JANUARY 31, 2016.** To help bring parishioners together in a spiritual activity and promote devotion to Mary, the Knights of Columbus Supreme council has announced a new church activity, the 5th Sunday Rosary Program. Knights, their families and other parishioners are encouraged to pray the rosary every time a 5th Sunday occurs during a month.

In our parish we will host the Rosary Sunday Program **on January 31, 2016**. All parishioners are invited to stay after the Divine Liturgy and pray the Rosary with the Knights of Columbus.



✿ **PLEASE REMEMBER** the sick and infirmed of our Parish in your prayers: JANETTE OUCHARECK, JO OSTROWERCHA, LANCE DE SILVA, HENRY MARTIN, MARY SHEMLEY, MIKE HAWKEN, VICTORIA HITCHIN, MARY LITWIN, ERNEST PYLYPOW and those who have asked us pray for them. Let us also remember our sisters and brothers in Ukraine, those throughout the world in our prayers and those who are celebrating birthdays in the month of January!

✿ **SPECIAL PETITION DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY:** We also pray to be blessed with generous hearts to contribute to our Bishop's initiatives and programmes, such as: the support of parishes, the education of parishioners, and the formation of seminarians, Lord hear us and have mercy.

✿ **REMINDER FOR FAMILIES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.** If you or family member is admitted to hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call the rectory to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation restricts the information that can be given to him by the hospital.

✿ **CONGRATULATION!** May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in Many Happy and Blessed Years of Life to those who celebrated their birthday (anniversaries) and all whose who celebrated their heavenly patron's feast-day St. Basil the Great. Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!

✿ **EPARCHIAL CHRISTMAS CANDLE PROJECT.** Since 2012 our Eparchy of New Westminster



has been collecting funds to help disadvantaged and orphaned children in Ukraine through our Christmas Candle appeal. Our fundraising program is part of a larger global appeal sponsored by Caritas Ukraine. We have had great momentum over the last few years raising over \$19,000 with support from our BC Parishes as well as Parishes in other Provinces and parts of the United States.

This appeal will again take place in December 2015 and we encourage everyone to remember these Children during our Christmas season with a voluntary donation. Please place your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Candle, with your name and address and include it with the Sunday Collection at any Ukrainian Catholic Church in BC or mail it to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster. All donations over \$20.00 will receive a tax receipt and cheques can be made out to Eparchy of New Westminster with Christmas Candle Project in the memo. Candles will also be available for purchase at all the Ukrainian Catholic Parishes in BC for a minimum donation of \$5.00 per candle. We Thank You for your past support and ask that you again consider supporting this ongoing Eparchial appeal and lighting these candles as part of your Christmas Eve celebrations.

For more information, please contact Dana Koren Lupynis at nweparchy.christmascandle@gmail.com



✿ **HOLY CROSS SOCIAL CLINIC** invites: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TAX FREE SAVING ACCOUNT *by Emil Ouchareck*. On **Tuesday, January 12, 2016** at Holy Cross Parish at **7:00pm till 8:00pm**. Everyone is invited. Just bring your question(-s). Refreshment available.

✿ **BEQUESTS AND WILLS:** Leaving a bequest is a process of giving a donation through your will. It is simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization through your last will and testament. It can be as small or as large a donation as you wish. It is important that you talk to your lawyer about the process. In your kindness please remember the Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in your bequests and wills. If anyone wishes to make such a bequest in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to the Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Parish - 13753 108 Ave, Surrey, BC., the sum of \$_ (or _% of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the parish and its pastoral activities."

☞ THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATER ☞



Water—what an amazing gift! Something that we often take for granted—we use it lavishly—we use it for bathing, laundry, dishwashing, watering our plants and so on—but we only need about two litres a day for drinking to survive. So, what is the significance of the symbolism of water during Theophany and the Feast of Jordan? Why do we use water as a means of grace?

Water is the most beautiful of the four elements of the cosmos. We rise from the waters of baptism into a new life, born again of water and the Spirit. Water has been used as symbol for Jesus, "whoever drinks of the water I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14) Once our physical needs are met, our spiritual

thirst remains. We thirst for knowledge, we thirst for meaning, we thirst to know who we are. We thirst to know God. If we cannot answer these questions, our inner thirst grows painful.

Introduced in the fourth century, the Great Blessing of Water, in Ukrainian called *Vodokhreshcha*, is a magnificent ritual that is carried out twice: first on the vigil of the Feast (the eve of Theophany) and then on the feast day itself (today, it is usually done once.) A container of water, which stands for the beautiful world of God's original creation and ultimate glorification by Christ in the Kingdom of God, is placed on a low table in front of the Tetrapod surrounded by candles and flowers. It begins with the singing of special hymns and the incensing of the water, and then follows a ceremony which includes: the immersion of the lighted trident candle, breathing on the waters, the immersion of the priest's right hand.

At the conclusion of this ceremony, the priest immerses the hand cross into the water during the singing of the Troparion of the Feast. He then sprinkles the people and the church with the newly-blessed water. Following the celebration, the faithful are invited to approach and drink some of the holy water and then fill their containers. They take the water home for various purposes such as; to bless the sick, to bless people on special occasions (anniversaries, etc), to avert calamities such as fire and inclement weather.

At the traditional Supper on the Eve of Theophany (*Shchedryj Vechir*), the faithful drink this water. After the ceremonies in church and the following weeks, the priest visits the homes of the faithful to bless them with holy water.

We should value the efficacy of this holy water, for if we have faith and devotion, the holy water confers actual graces, restrains the power of the devil and remits venial sins. You can partake of the blessed water whenever you feel you have a need for the Lord's presence as it represents the Lord's healing and loving presence always.

Keep the unused holy water in your home for future use: times of adversity, before starting a new venture or trip, to give thanks, or when someone is ill. You may drink it or anoint yourself when you feel spiritually afflicted.

☞ WHY BLESS HOMES WITH HOLY WATER OF THEOPHANY? ☞



The blessing of homes constitutes an *invocative blessing*, meaning that by his prayer and by the sprinkling of Holy Water the priest *invokes* God's blessings and protection upon the home and those living in it. We bless homes for many reasons:

- † to reveal the home as what God had created it to be, a way to Heaven
- † to rid the home of every evil
- † to show that the family is a small Church unit in Christ
- † to consecrate the home and all activity in it to God
- † to fill the home and all who live in it with the fullness of God

Traditionally, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our homes we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings.

Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants. As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective.

What should we do during a home blessing?

As we welcome our priest during the holy season of Theophany to bless our home, let us be mindful that he is bringing to us the "blessing of the Jordan," and that unless God protects and blesses our home, we "labour in vain." (Ps. 12 7:1)

Each family is considered a small church and the family table is the home altar. When the priest comes, have as many family members there as possible. If you do not have an icon corner, ensure that you set up a place for prayer either at the kitchen or dining table. On the table include an icon and a lit candle. You may also include anything that you may want to have blessed (i.e. icon, cross, personal item, etc.) Make sure that the lights are on in every room. The priest will begin the blessing at the icon corner or table. If you have children, they may lead the priest, while holding a candle, to each room in the house. This is also a wonderful time for you and your priest to visit and to get to know each other better. (Source: goarch.org)

PRAYER FOR THE VIBRANT PARISH

O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth! Because of your indescribable love for us, you sent your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ - The Way, The Truth, and The Life - and our Salvation. In His name, we turn to You. Strengthen our hearts and minds in Christian love and in unity of purpose as we strive to build a Vibrant Parish. Give us the grace to model our lives according to the Word of God. Instill in us the desire to pray and to celebrate the Holy Mysteries as one Christian Family in our Parish Community. Inspire us to follow Your great command to be a servant to the less fortunate among us! Grant this, O Lord, through the mercies and love for mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Life-Giving Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen!

HOLY MYSTERIES (SACRAMENTS)

CONFESSION: on Sundays and Holy Days: 30 min before Liturgy
other days, by appointment
HOLY COMMUNION: for the sick, by appointment, any time
BAPTISM: by appointment
MARRIAGES: by appointment
FUNERALS: by appointment

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK JANUARY 05 - JANUARY 10

TUE.	JAN 05	05:30 PM	THEOPHANY EVE (GREAT COMPLINE WITH DIVINE LITURGY) GREAT BLESSING OF WATER (BILINGUAL)
WED.	JAN 06	10:00 AM	THEOPHANY
THR.	JAN 07	10:00 AM	DIVINE LITURGY
FRI.	JAN 08	09:00 AM	DIVINE LITURGY
SUN.	JAN 10	08:30 AM	ROSERY (ENG)
		09:00 AM	DIVINE LITURGY (ENG) GREAT BLESSING OF WATER
		10:30 AM	JESUS PRAYER (UKR)
		11:00 AM	DIVINE LITURGY (UKR) GREAT BLESSING OF WATER

Please note: parish members requesting the celebration of a Divine Liturgy for a special intention (such as: Thanksgiving, the Infirm, General Intentions, the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, etc.), please see Fr. Andrii to arrange for it.

**Big thanks to all our parishioners, guests, visitors and all people of the good will who by their kindness, time, generous donations, look after and support our parish.
May God bless you and your dear ones always!**

CONTACT US

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