



# BICHUK BULLETIN

## HOLY TRINITY UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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December 14, 2025

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### *Sunday of the Holy Forefathers*

*Luke 14:16-24*



#### ***Divine Liturgies:***

**Sundays:** 9:00 a.m. (Ukrainian) & 11:15 a.m. (English)

**Monday-Friday:** 8:00 a.m.

**Saturdays:** 5:00 p.m.

**Holy Days of Obligation:** 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

***Baptisms & Funerals:*** By arrangement.

***Marriages:*** By arrangement eight months in advance.

**NOTE:** Marriage preparation course required.

***Confessions:*** 20 minutes before Sunday Divine Liturgies, or by appointment.

***Pastor:*** Fr. Iryney Valyavka, OSBM

***Assistant Pastor:*** Fr. Yosafat Oliynyk, OSBM

***Parish Secretaries (part time):*** Lorraine Stoyko & Michelle Yakimetz

<p><b>HOLY TRINITY PARISH OFFICE HOURS (Monday - Friday)</b> <b>9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</b></p>
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## The Nativity Fast

The Nativity Fast is far more than a period of dietary restriction—it is a profound spiritual journey. It serves as both an invitation and a heartfelt response, helping us prepare our hearts for the incarnation of God in the world. Through fasting, we say “yes” to Christ, welcoming Him into our lives with open and ready hearts.

The fast is also a time of anticipation. Similar to the Wise Men who followed the star, we are also on a journey of seeking Christ. This journey involves more than physical preparation; it calls for an alignment of our hearts and minds with God. Through prayer, we deepen our communion with God, seeking His guidance and strength. Through almsgiving, we extend Christ’s love to those in need, remembering that He came into the world as a humble child.

Ultimately, the Nativity Fast is about hope. It reminds us that Christ’s birth was not just an event in history but a continual invitation for renewal and repentance. Each day of the fast brings us closer to the light of the Nativity, a light that dispels the darkness of sin and death. This hope is not just for ourselves but for the whole world, as we celebrate Emmanuel, “God with us.”

As we journey through Philip’s Fast, let us embrace the Fast with open hearts. May it be a time of spiritual growth, meaningful reflection, and joyful anticipation. In the stillness of this sacred preparation, we encounter the profound truth that God’s love is born anew in us, inviting us to live as bearers of His light in a world longing for redemption.

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*The Holy Father’s Prayer Intention for December 2025:*

**For Christians in areas of conflict:** Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

## ST. PHILIP'S FAST (NATIVITY FAST) FOR FAMILIES

### Week 5: Sunday of Our Holy Ancestors in Faith

Read: Daniel 6:11-24

The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." Then they responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day." .... Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!" A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel..... Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?" Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong." Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him because he had trusted in his God.



Pray the Troparion of the Week:

Great are the achievements of faith!  
In the fountain of flames,  
the Three Holy Youths rejoiced as by the water of rest,  
and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions  
like sheep.  
Through their intercession,  
O Christ God, save our souls!

Reflection for Adults – Parents:

- This week we are asked to learn courage. Am I courageous when it comes to my faith or is it hidden?
- Do I live my faith without fear of what others might think?

Family Discussion:

- Was there any time you needed the courage to be a believer in God?
- What would you like to do for God?
- Was there a time that you felt God helping you when you were scared?
- What do you think that would feel like?

Pray the Troparion of the Moleben for the Nativity Fast:

Prepare yourself O Bethlehem,  
for Eden, has been opened to all.  
Be ready; for the Tree of Life has blossomed forth from  
the Virgin in the Cave.  
Her womb has become a spiritual Paradise,  
in which the divine Fruit was planted.  
And if we eat of It, we shall live and not die like Adam.  
Christ is coming forth to bring back to life  
the likeness that had been lost in the beginning.

## **The Bishop Budka Charitable Society**

The Bishop Budka Charitable Society was established in 1984 to carry out projects and programs that offer national and international assistance, development, and emergency relief.

The Society is named after Bishop Nykyta Budka (1877–1949), who was consecrated bishop in October 1912 and in December that year became the first Ukrainian Catholic Bishop in Canada. Later, years after his return to western Ukraine, he was arrested by the Soviet authorities in 1945 and interned in a labour camp in Karaganda, Kazakh SSR, where he died. Bishop Budka died a martyr for his faith and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2001.

A few examples of the Bishop Budka Charitable Society's support over the years include the following:

- Helped equip a rehabilitation department in a regional hospital in Ukraine.
- Assisted in the building of a rehabilitation centre for a drug and alcohol facility in Brazil.
- Funded a Ukrainian children's camp in Bosnia.
- Delivered and erected a children's playground in Ukraine.
- Financially contributed to English language classes for newly arrived displaced persons from war-torn Ukraine.

We welcome any assistance to help us continue our charitable work. Any donation of \$20.00 receives a tax receipt. You may donate by cheque to:

BISHOP BUDKA CHARITABLE SOCIETY

C/o Serge Cipko

10433 – 86 Avenue NW

Edmonton, AB T6E 2M4

Tel.: 780-989-9986

Or you may also donate online via credit card by using the following link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-bishop-budka-charitable-society/>

*A reminder to please pick up your  
2025 Christmas Schedules.*

To save the Parish the expense of mailing out Christmas Schedules (\$1.24/schedule), please also consider picking them up for your family members, friends, & neighbors. Thank you!

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*A reminder to please pick up your 2026 Offering  
Envelopes.*

**Please note:** fewer envelopes have been ordered this year for 2026.

**If your envelope number in 2025 was between 121–140, your envelope number has been changed** in order to accommodate fewer envelopes.

To make it easier to find your envelopes with their new numbers, **all re-numbered envelopes are marked with orange highlighter** on the left side of the box.

Please also consider picking up envelopes for your family members, neighbors, and friends. Thank you!

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**Gift of Love Envelopes**

Enclosed in your annual boxed envelopes are envelopes labelled as “Gift of Love – Basilian Fathers and Bishop.” Please note that all donations given in this envelope will go to the Bishop and Basilian Fathers, **not** to the Parish. Please make cheques payable to the Basilian Fathers. **This is a free will offering; no income tax receipt will be issued.**

Beginning in 2024, these envelopes, which are distributed for Easter and Christmas, have been enclosed in your boxed envelopes.

**A huge thank you to everyone who supported  
Backpacks for Orphans in Ukraine!**

Through the efforts of our Parishioners, a total of 14 backpacks and one monetary gift were donated.

All donated items have been transported to Edmonton and will be shipped to Ukraine very soon. Your generosity will give much needed supplies and hope to orphans and poor children in Ukraine, especially during this time of great fear and uncertainty brought on by the war and unrest.

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**Perohy and Holoptsi for Sale:**

To order, please call the Parish Office at 780-632-3433, or email [ucveg@telusplanet.net](mailto:ucveg@telusplanet.net).

Please note that supplies sell out more quickly than usual in December. Due to the number of orders & freezer space limitations, items are sold at a first come, first serve basis.

- **Potato & cheddar perohy and potato & cottage perohy**– \$7.00/dozen, packaged in bags of 5–dozen.
- **Potato & saurkraut perohy** will be available for a limited time – \$10.00/dozen, packaged in bags of 2–dozen.
- **Both sweet & sour holoptsi** are now sold out.

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**Upcoming Catering Work Bees – Volunteers Needed!**

- **Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>: Making Holoptsi** for funeral dinners & Christmas Sales at **9:30 a.m.** in the Parish Hall. Volunteers needed!

**Volunteer Corner:** *The Parish would like to extend a huge thank you to all volunteers* who have recently contributed any amount of time towards the recent catering events, including the most recent Hospital Christmas Party lunch.

## PARISH EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>:**

- 5:00 p.m. – Divine Liturgy

### **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>:**

- 9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)
- 10:15 – 11:10 a.m.: **First Holy Communion Class** in the Parish Hall
- 11:15 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (English)

### **Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>:**

- 5:00 p.m. – Divine Liturgy

### **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>:**

- 9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)
- 11:15 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (English)
- **Knights of Columbus Brunch: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Admission: \$10. Everyone welcome!

***\* PLEASE PICK UP YOUR CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE FOR FULL SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS/THEOPHANY SERVICES \****

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### **Knights of Columbus Brunch:**

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
in the Parish Hall. Admission: \$10.00/person.  
Everyone welcome!

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### **Liturgy Service at Senior's Homes:**

**Thu., December 18<sup>th</sup>:** 10:00 a.m. at Vegreville Manor

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### **Parish Office Christmas Season Hours:**

The Parish Office will be open until 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, and closed for Christmas on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. It will also be closed on Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Year's Day.

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### **Parish Weekly Donations:**

- Sunday Offerings – December 07: \$1,780.00



## **14 Грудня: Неділя Святих Праотців**

**Воскресний Тропар, голос 2:** Коли зійшов Ти до смерти,  
Життя безсмертне, \* тоді ад умертвив Ти сіянням  
Божества; \* коли ж і померлих з глибин підземних Ти  
воскресив, \* всі сили небесні взивали: \* Життєдавче,  
Христе Боже наш, слава Тобі!

**Тропар праотців, Голос 2:** Праотців, задля їхньої віри,  
ти, Господи, визнав праведними\* і через них зібрав ти  
з усіх народів Церкву.\* Тепер вони сподобилися слави  
святих,\* бо їхнім потомком є преславний плід – та, що  
безсіменно Тебе породила.\* Їхніми молитвами, Христе  
Боже, помилуй нас.

**Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові, І нині і  
повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.**

**Кондак Праотців, Голос 6:** Рукотворному ідоліві не  
поклонившись,\* але озброївшись неохопним буттям,  
прехвальні,\* ви у змаганні з вогнем прославилися,\*  
Стоячи посеред полум'я нестерпного, ви благали  
Бога:\* Поспіши, о Щедрий, поспіши, Милосердний, нам  
на поміч,\* бо Ти можеш, якщо хочеш.

**Прокімен, Голос 4:** Благословен єси, Господи, Боже отців  
наших, і хвальне, і прославлене ім'я твоє на віки (Дан  
3:26).

**Стих:** Бо праведний єси в усьому, що сотворив ти нам  
(Дан 3:27).

**Прокімен, Голос 4:** Благословен єси, Господи, Боже отців  
наших, і хвальне, і прославлене ім'я твоє на віки (Дан  
3:26).

**До КОЛОСЯН послання Святого Апостола Павла  
читання (3:4–11)**

**Хор: Алилуя! Алилуя! Алилуя!**

**Стих:** Мойсей і Арон між єреями його і Самуїл між тими,  
що призивають ім'я його (Пс 98:6).

**Хор: Алилуя! Алилуя! Алилуя!**

**Стих:** Призивали Господа і він вислухав їх (Пс 98:6).

**Хор: Алилуя! Алилуя! Алилуя!**

**Від ЛУКИ Святої Євангелії Читання (14:16–24)**

**Причасний:** Хваліте Господа з небес, \* хваліте Його на висотах. (Пс 148:1) \* Радуйтеся, праведні, у Господі, правим належить похвала (Пс 32:1) Алилуя! Алилуя! Алилуя!

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## **Sunday, December 14: Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**

**Troparion, Tone 2:** When You went down to death, O Life Immortal,\* You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity.\* When You raised the dead from the nether world,\* all the powers of heaven cried out:\* “O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory be to You!”

**Troparion, Tone 2:** By faith You justified Your ancestors\* and through them in advance You betrothed the Church taken from the nations.\* The saints exult in glory;\* from their seed comes the blessed fruit, the one who bore You without seed.\* By their prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy on us.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Kontakion, Tone 6:** Armed by the Being that defies description,\* you defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth.\* In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God:\* “In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid,”\* for You can do whatever You will.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 4:** Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,\* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

**Verse:** For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us. (Daniel 3:26,27)

**Prokeimenon, Tone 4:** Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,\* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

**A reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Colossians (3:4–11)**

**Faithful: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Verse:** Moses and Aaron are among His priests and Samuel among those who call upon His name.

**Faithful: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Verse:** They called on the Lord and He heard them. (Psalm 98:6)

**Faithful: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke (14:16–24)**

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest (Psalm 148:1).\* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;\* praise befits the righteous (Psalm 32:1).\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.

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