



BICHUK BULLETIN

HOLY TRINITY UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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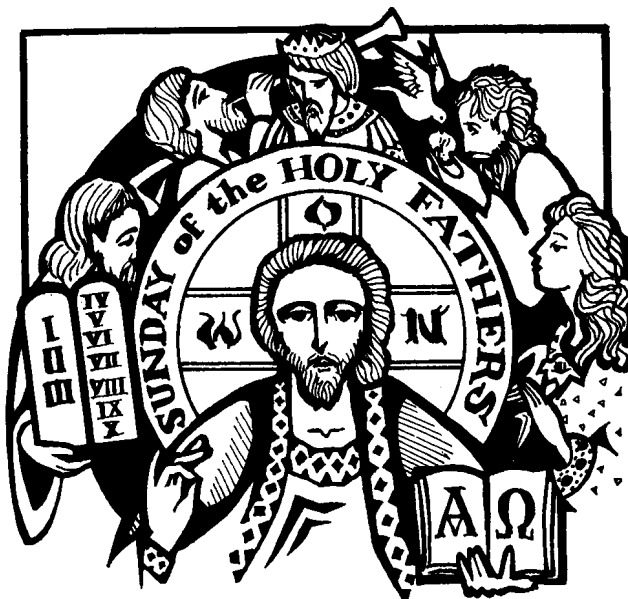
December 21, 2025

Vol. 58, No. 51

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ:

Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Matthew 1:1-25



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>HOLY TRINITY PARISH OFFICE HOURS (Monday – Friday) 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</p>

This Sunday, which we call Holy Fathers' Sunday, tells us that the Christmas star has already appeared in the sky. The wise men from the East, having seen it, are already on their way to worship the newborn Savior. Joseph and Mary have already set out on their journey to Bethlehem, looking for a place to stay where Christ will be born. Heaven and earth invite us to prepare ourselves, to open the doors of our hearts, our families, and our homes to God, who is knocking on our door.

We see that today, on the Sunday of the Fathers, God's word proclaims to us who Jesus Christ is, who is coming even now to be born among us in human flesh. This is our God, the Son of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity! The memory of the fathers we celebrate today, as well as the mothers and women whose names are mentioned in God's word, we now see as an icon of the fatherhood of our Heavenly Father.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Matthew tells us: "Man, you have your place in Bethlehem. And you too are a witness to the moment when human history met the history of salvation." God counts on each of us, He has a place for us, He knows us and calls each of us by name. Let us accept what God offers us, let us accept Jesus, who comes to find a place in the life of each of us and continue to write His story in it, as a continuation of this family tree, as the story of our salvation.

This word of God is meant to move us. For we now understand that celebrating Christmas does not mean having another nice secular party or performing some traditional ritual. Celebrating Christmas means becoming part of the generation of God's people. To celebrate Christmas is to be recorded in the family tree of Jesus Christ. The name of a person who believes and accepts the Son of God will be recorded in heaven (cf. Lk 10:20). This is our true heavenly joy!



Ця неділя, яку ми зємо неділею перед Різдом, або неділею Отців, каже нам, що різдяна зірка вже засяла на небі. Мудреці зі Сходу, побачивши її, вже йдуть, щоб поклонитися новонародженому Спасителеві. Йосиф і Марія вже пустилися в дорогу до Вифлеєму, шукають місця в заїзді, де б мав народитися Христос. Небо і земля запрошують нас готуватися, відчинити двері свого серця, своєї родини, свого дому для Бога, який стукає до нас.

Ми бачимо, що це Боже слово сьогодні, у неділю Отців, благовістує нам, ким є Ісус Христос, який іде й нині, щоб народитися між нами в людському тілі. Це наш Бог, Син Божий, друга Бога особа Пресвятої Тройці! Пам'ять отців, яких ми сьогодні святкуємо, а також матерів, жінок, імена яких згадує Боже слово, ми нині бачимо як ікону отцівства нашого Небесного Отця.

Натхненний Святим Духом єв. Матей говорить нам: «Людино, ти маєш своє місце у Вифлеємі. І ти теж є свідком тієї миті, коли зустрілися історія людства з історією спасіння». Бог розраховує на кожного з нас, у Нього є для нас місце, Він знає нас і зве кожного його іменем. Приймім те, що Бог нам пропонує, приймімо Ісуса, який приходить, щоб знайти місце у житті кожного з нас і продовжити в ньому творити свою історію, як продовження цього родоводу, як історію нашого спасіння.

Це Боже слово має на меті зворушити нас. Бо ми тепер розуміємо, що святкувати Різдво це не означає пережити ще одну гарну світську вечірку чи звершити якийсь традиційний обряд. Святкувати Різдво це стати частиною покоління Божих людей. Святкувати Різдво це бути записаним у родоводі Ісуса Христа. Ім'я людини, яка вірує і приймає Сина Божого, буде записане на небі (пор. Лк. 10, 20). Це наша справжня небесна радість!

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

Week 6: Sunday Before the Nativity – The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

Read:

(Remind your family that the authors of the passages lived at least 700 years before Jesus was born. The people of Israel waited for a very long time for the coming of Christ. Now, we are waiting for him to come again).

Micah 5: 2–4

Bethlehem Ephrath, you are one of the smallest towns in the nation of Judah. But the LORD will choose one of your people to rule the nation – someone whose family goes back to ancient times. The LORD will abandon Israel only until this ruler is born, and the rest of his family returns to Israel. Like a shepherd taking care of his sheep, this ruler will lead and care for his people by the power and glorious name of the LORD his God. His people will live securely, and the whole earth will know his true greatness.

Isaiah 9: 3–7

A child has been born for us. We have been given a son who will be our ruler. His names will be Wonderful Advisor and Mighty God, Eternal Father and Prince of Peace. His power will never end; peace will last forever. He will rule David's kingdom and make it grow strong. He will always rule with honesty and justice. The LORD All-Powerful will make certain that all of this is done.

Pray the Troparion of the Week:

By faith, you justified Your ancestors,
and through them you betrothed the Church taken from
the nations.

These 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!

Family Discussion:

- Does God love those who are the biggest and strongest better than others?
- In Isaiah 9 who will save the World?
- How will He rule and over what?
- How can we help the world get ready for the coming of Jesus at the Nativity and in the second coming?
- How do these passages give us hope?

Pray:

People in darkness have seen a great light, a great light!

Maranatha, Maranatha

Come, Lord Jesus.

Maranatha

Maranatha

Come Lord Come.

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The Closing of the Jubilee Year

“The Jubilee Year declared by the late Pope Francis, *Pilgrims of Hope – Hope Does Not Disappoint*, ends on January 6, 2026 with the closing of the Holy Door at Saint Peter’s Basilica, Rome. The date is the Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Doors at the other major basilicas in Rome will close a few days earlier, on Sunday, December 28, 2025.

“The Jubilee Year has been a year of grace, led by the Holy Spirit, focusing on conversion, forgiveness, abundance, and mercy. In the words of Pope Francis, ‘Hope is the light that brightens the future... The light is Jesus, who with the very Word, gathers every people and every nation. We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.’

The Eparchy of Edmonton’s celebration of the Jubilee Year was marked by several events: Sunday Divine Liturgy intentions for hope and conversion; Travelling Miraculous

Icon of the Mother of God from parish to parish; Pilgrimage of Hope to Blessed Vasyl Velychkowsky Shrine, Winnipeg; Annual Saints Peter and Paul Mundare Vidpust; and Worldwide Ukrainian Catholic Jubilee in Rome with Pope Francis.

“The Jubilee Year Closing Celebrations in the Eparchy of Edmonton will be led by Bishop David with the celebration of the 9:30 am Divine Liturgy, Sunday, December 28, at Saint Josaphat Cathedral. The clergy, religious, seminarians, and lay faithful from all parishes are welcomed to attend.”

Pope Francis’ Prayer for the Jubilee Year

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and
the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

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Children's Christmas Tree

The children's Christmas tree is now up in the church foyer. Children are invited to finish decorating the tree by placing the ornaments found on the white table onto the tree. Hopefully the tree will be fully decorated by the end of this weekend! Thanks so much for your help!

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.

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.

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Knights of Columbus Brunch:

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

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Parish Office Christmas Season Hours:

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

Parish Weekly Donations:

–	Sunday Offerings – December 07:	\$1,780.00
–	Sunday Offerings – December 14:	<u>\$1,590.00</u>
	December Total Donation:	\$3,370.00

PARISH EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, December 20th:

- 5:00 p.m. – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 21st:

- 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!

Wednesday, December 24th: CHRISTMAS EVE, «Holy Night» (Day of Abstinence from meat)

- 9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
- 8:15 p.m. – Great Compline («God With Us»), Lytia
- 9:00 p.m. – SOLEMN DIVINE LITURGY (bilingual) & Myrovannia

Thursday, December 25th: NATIVITY OF OUR LORD – Christmas Day (Holy Day of Obligation)

- 10:00 a.m. – DIVINE LITURGY (bilingual) & Myrovannia

Friday, December 26th: Synaxis of the Blessed Mother of God & St Joseph

- 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (bilingual)

Sat., December 27th: Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

- 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (bilingual)
- 5:00 p.m. – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 28th:

- 9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)
- 11:15 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (English)

Wednesday, December 31st: End of Year (New Year's Eve)

- 5:00 p.m. – Thanksgiving Divine Liturgy

Thursday, January 1st, 2026: Circumcision of Our Lord and Feast of Saint Basil the Great

- 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Saturday, January 3rd:

- 5:00 p.m. – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 4th:

- 9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)
- 11:15 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (English)



21 Грудня: Неділя перед Христовим Різдом – Неділя Святих Отців

Воскресний Тропар, Голос 3: Нехай веселяться небесні,
нехай радуються земляни, * бо показав владу рукою
Своєю Господь. * Він смертю смерть подолав, *
первістком з–поміж мертвих став, * визволив нас із
глибин аду, * і подав світові велику милість.

Тропар Отців, голос 2: Величні діла віри! * Три юнаки
посеред полум'я раділи, немов на водах відпочинку, *
а пророк Даниїл, ніби овечкам, появився пастир левам.
* Їхніми молитвами, Христе Боже, спаси душі наші.

**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
батьків наших, * і хвали достойний: ім'я твоє
преславне на всі віки.

Стих: Бо Ти праведний у всьому, що вчинив єси нам.

Прокімен, голос 4: Благословен єси, Господи, Боже
батьків наших, * і хвали достойний: ім'я твоє
преславне на всі віки.

**До ЄВРЕЇВ Послання Святого Апостола Павла Читання
(11:9–10, 17–23, 32–40)**

Хор: Алилуя! Алилуя! Алилуя!

Стих: Боже, на наші вуха ми чули, наші батьки нам
розповіли.

Хор: Алилуя! Алилуя! Алилуя!

Стих: Але Ти врятував нас від наших ворогів і засоромив
ненависників наших.

Хор: Алилуя! Алилуя! Алилуя!

Від МАТЕЯ Святої Євангелії Читання (1:1–25)

Причасний: Хваліте Господа з небес, * хваліте Його на висотах. * Радуйтеся праведні, в Господі, * правим належить похвала. * Алилуя! Алилуя! Алилуя!

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Sunday, December 21: Sunday before the Nativity of Christ: Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Troparion, Tone 3: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,* for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm.* He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead;* He saved us from the abyss of Hades* and granted great mercy to the world.

Troparion, Tone 2: 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.

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 Hebrews (11:9–10,17–23,32–40)

Faithful: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse: O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us the work You did in their days.

Faithful: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse: You saved us from our oppressors and put to shame those who hate us. (Psalm 43:2,8)

Faithful: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (1:1–25)

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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