

**WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS & GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY!**



**ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER PARISH  
ПАРАФІЯ СВ. МИКОЛАЯ ЧУДОТВОРЦЯ**



**Pastor: Fr. Yuriy Vyshnevskyy**

Emergency: 250.891.4507

Church: 250.384.2292 Hall: 250.384.2255

Facebook: [facebook.com/stnicholasvictoria](https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasvictoria)

1112 Caledonia Avenue, Victoria, BC V8T 1G1

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**Tue-Sat DL - 9am; Sat Vespers-6pm; Sun DL - 10am**

*The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster  
Bishop: Most Rev. Ken Nowakowski  
[www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca)*

**SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY  
НЕДІЛЯ ПІСЛЯ БОГОЯВЛЕННЯ**

The Forerunner beheld our enlightenment, Who enlightens all men, draw near to be baptized. He rejoiced in soul while his hand trembled. He showed Him to the people, saying: Behold, the Redeemer of Israel, Who sets us free from corruption. Sinless One, Christ our God, glory to You!

When the Forerunner beheld You, Christ, drawing near to him to ask for baptism, he cried out in trembling: Why do You ask me for what is beyond my strength? How shall I touch You with my hand, all-powerful Lord, for You hold all things with Your hand? But instead baptize me, Your servant!

I am constrained on every side, said the Forerunner to the Creator, and cannot tell which way to go. Bountiful Lord, You are a stream flowing with nourishment: How then shall the flowing streams receive You, Word, Who come to pour forth salvation on all who honour Your holy Epiphany!

Light in the flesh and Forerunner of the Saviour, offspring of a barren mother. and friend of the One born of a Virgin, you have worshipped Him by leaping in the womb, and have baptized him in the waters of the Jordan. We entreat you to intercede with Him, prophet, that we may escape from the mighty tempests to come!

*Christ is Baptized - In the  
Jordan River by John!*

*Христос Хрещається -  
В ріці Йордані від Івана!*



*Synaxis (gathering, assembly)  
of the Holy and Glorious  
Prophet, Forerunner and  
Baptist John*

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP AFTER DIVINE LITURGY!**

| <b>SUNDAY HYMNS</b>   |  |   |                    |
|---|--|---|--------------------|
| OPENING HYMN  | Ти Йордане, Приготовися / At the Baptism of Our Lord pg. 130-132 |   |                    |
| COMMUNION HYMN  | По Всьому Світі Стала Новина / Spread The Good News pg. 88-89    |   |                    |
| CLOSING HYMN  | Бог Предвічний / God Eternal pg. 28-29                           |   |                    |
| <i>Please join us today in singing our Sunday hymns!</i>  |  |   |                    |
| <b>SUNDAY &amp; DAILY SCHEDULE</b>  |  |   |                    |
| SUNDAY, January 7   | Divine Liturgy - for the Parishioners of St Nicholas Parish      |   | 10:00 AM           |
| MONDAY, January 8   | NO SERVICES  |   |                    |
| TUESDAY, January 9  | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom                            |   | 9:00 AM            |
| WEDNESDAY, January 10   | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom                            |   | 9:00 AM            |
| THURSDAY, January 11  | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom                            |   | 9:00 AM            |
| FRIDAY, January 12  | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom                            |   | 9:00 AM            |
| SATURDAY, January 13  | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom<br>Vespers                 |   | 9:00 AM<br>6:00 PM |
| SUNDAY, January 14  | Divine Liturgy - for the Parishioners of St Nicholas Parish      |   | 10:00 AM           |
| <i>Please Note: to request a Divine Liturgy for a special intention, please see Fr. Yuriy to arrange for it!</i>  |  |   |                    |
| <b>SUNDAY EPISTLE READERS</b>   |  |   |                    |
| DATE  | READING  | UKRAINIAN   | ENGLISH            |
| SUNDAY, January 7   | Eph. 4:7-13  | Motria Koropecyky   | Caroline Smudy     |
| SUNDAY, January 14  | 1 Tim. 4:9-15  | Yuliya Pelekhata  | Rita Vanderven     |
| SUNDAY, January 21  | 2 Tim. 3:10-15   | Glikeria Iwanuck  | Marian Chalifoux   |
| SUNDAY, January 28  | 1 Cor. 6:12-20   | Andrij Pelekhatyi   | Robert Herchak     |
| <i>Thank you, Epistle readers, for your service in proclaiming God's Word!</i>  |  |   |                    |
| <b>PARISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE</b>   |  | <b>PASTORAL MINISTRY &amp; HOLY MYSTERIES</b>   |                    |
| CHAIRPERSON.....Alec Rossa - 250.472.3374   |  | CONFESSIONS.....1/2 hour before Liturgy   |                    |
| VICE-CHAIRPERSON.....VACANT   |  | EUCCHARIST.....for the sick - any time  |                    |
| SECRETARY.....Cindy Lazaruk - 778.677.9072  |  | BAPTISMS.....by appointment   |                    |
| TREASURER.....William Vanderven - 250.478.1458  |  | MARRIAGES.....six months notice should be given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made |                    |
| FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....David Newberry - 250.598.8197   |  | FUNERALS.....by appointment   |                    |
| FUNDRAISING/HALL RENTAL.....Robert Herchak - 250.386.7872   |  | ANOINTING.....any time  |                    |
| MAINTENANCE.....Murray Chapman - 250.658.4769   |  | HOSPITAL VISITS.....any time  |                    |
| LITURGICAL COMMITTEE...Motria Koropecyky - 250.658.3051   |  |   |                    |
| MEMBER AT LARGE.....Lilii Palyvoda - 250.857.1683   |  |   |                    |
| VIBRANT PARISH.....Darlene DeMerchant - 250.727.3837  |  |   |                    |
| <p><b>Bequests &amp; Wills:</b> Leaving a bequeath 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 St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Church in your bequeath and will. If anyone wishes to make such a bequeath in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Parish - 1112 Caledonia Avenue, Victoria BC, V8T 1G1, the sum of \$ _____ (or _____% of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the parish and it's pastoral activities."</p> |  |   |                    |

### Vibrant Parish Prayer

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!



#### THE VIBRANT PARISH

#### A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST

Through the word, the Holy Mysteries & Prayer,  
Serving One's Neighbor, Leadership  
Fostering & Serving Unity and Missionary Spirit  
(His Beatitude Sviatoslav)



### Молитва Живої Парафії

Господи Ісусе Христе, Пастирю Добрий, як колись Ти пригорнув заблуканих овечок, щоб вони пізнали Твій голос і були Твоїм стадом, так і сьогодні глянь ласкаво з небесних висот на нашу парафію та зішли на неї Твого Святого Духа, щоб вона була місцем пізнання радості Доброї Новини. Скріплюй нас Твоєю присутністю та єднай нас кожночасно в молитві. Даруй нам духа служіння ближньому, щоб у нашій парафії кожний міг зустріти Тебе, милостивого Бога. Благослови наш духовний провід Твоєю мудрістю і дай, щоб ніхто з нас не шкодував ні часу, ні талантів, ні матеріальних дібр для розбудови Твого царства. Єднай нас у мирі та злагоді, щоб ми були Твоєю спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світилом євангельського слова, молитви і добрих діл, що кличе кожного до участі в Божественному житті, щоб славилось, Спасе, Твоє Ім'я з безначальним Твоїм Отцем та пресвятим, благим і животворящим Твоїм Духом нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.

### DIVINE LITURGY PROPERS

*The Divine Liturgy - An Anthology for Worship: Liturgy - pg. 388-461; propers - pg. 796*

#### First Antiphon

*Verse:* When Israel came forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from an alien people.\* Judah became His sanctuary, Israel His dominion.

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Mother of God,\* O Saviour, save us.

*Verse:* The sea beheld this and fled,\* the Jordan turned back on its course.

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Mother of God,\* O Saviour, save us.

*Verse:* Why was it, O sea, that you fled,\* that you, O Jordan, turned back on your course?

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Mother of God,\* O Saviour, save us.

**Glory: Now: Only-Begotten Son:**

### Third Antiphon

*Verse:* Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Saviour.

**Refrain:** Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

*Verse:* Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms.

**Refrain:** Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

*Verse:* For God is the great Lord, and the great king over all the earth.

**Refrain:** Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

*Entrance Verse:* Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.

**Refrain:** Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

**Troparion, Tone 6:** Angelic powers were upon Your tomb\* and the guards became like dead men;\* Mary stood before Your tomb\* seeking Your most pure body.\* You captured Hades without being overcome by it.\* You met the Virgin and granted life.\* O Lord, risen from the dead,\* glory be to You!

**Troparion, Tone 1:** When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,\* worship of the Trinity was revealed;\* the voice of the Father bore witness to You,\* naming You the beloved Son,\* and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the word's certainty.\* Glory to You, O Christ God,\* who appeared and enlightened the world.

**Troparion, Tone 2:** The just man is remembered with praises,\* but for you the Lord's testimony suffices, O Forerunner,\* for you truly became more honourable than the prophets\* and were deemed worthy to baptize the One foretold.\* Then you suffered for the truth and joyfully announced to those in Hades\* that God appeared in the flesh taking away the sin of the world\* and offering us great mercy.

**Glory: Kontakion, Tone 3:** She who once was barren gives birth today to the Forerunner of Christ,\* who will fulfil every prophecy.\* In the Jordan he placed his hand upon the One Whom the prophets foretold,\* and thus was shown to be the prophet, the herald,\* and the Forerunner of the Word of God.

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**Now: Kontakion, Tone 4:** Today, You have appeared to the world\* and Your light, O Lord, has been signed on us,\* who with knowledge sing Your praises.\* You have come, You have appeared, O unapproachable Light.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 1:** Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us\* as we have hoped in you. *Verse:* rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous.

**Epistle - Eph. 4:7-13 - A Reading from the Letter of Saint Apostle Paul to Ephesians:** Brothers and sisters, each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.' (When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

**Alleluia, Tone 5:** *Verse:* Your mercies, O Lord, I will sing for ever; from generation to generation I will announce Your truth with my mouth. *Verse:* For You have said: Mercy shall be built up for ever; in the heavens Your truth shall be prepared.

**Gospel - Mathew 4:12-17 - At that time,** when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

*Instead of "It is truly..." we sing:* O my soul, magnify Christ the King, baptized in the Jordan.

**Irmos, Tone 2:** Every tongue is at a loss to praise you as is your due, O Mother of God. Even a spirit from above is filled with dizziness when seeking to sing your praises. But since you are good, accept our faith, for you know well our love inspired by God. For it is you who protect all Christians; therefore, we magnify you.

**Communion Hymn:** The grace of God has appeared\* bringing salvation to all.\* Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.

*Instead of "Blessed is He who comes..." we sing:* All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is baptized in the Jordan. *(Ix)*

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*Instead of “We have seen the true light...” we sing:* All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is baptized in the Jordan. *(1x)*

*Instead of “May our mouths...” and “Blessed be the Name...” we sing:* All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is baptized in the Jordan. *(3x)*



### Перший Антифон

*Стих:* Во ізході Ізраїлевім із Єгипту, дому Якова із людей варварів;\* Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.

**Приспів:** Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.

*Стих:* Море виділо і побігло, Йордан повернувся назад.

**Приспів:** Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.

*Стих:* Що з тобою, море, що ти побігло, і з тобою, Йордане, що ти повернувся назад?

**Приспів:** Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.

**Слава: І нині: Єдинородний Сину:**

### Третій Антифон

*Стих:* Прийдіте, радісно заспіваймо Господеві, воскликнім Богу, Спасителеві нашому.

**Приспів:** Спаси нас, Сину Божий, що хрестився в Йордані від Івана, співаємо Тобі: Аلیلія.

*Стих:* Прийдіть з похвалами перед обличчя Його, і псалмами воскликнім Йому.

**Приспів:** Спаси нас, Сину Божий, що хрестився в Йордані від Івана, співаємо Тобі: Аلیلія.

*Стих:* Бо Бог великий Господь і цар великий по всій землі.

**Приспів:** Спаси нас, Сину Божий, що хрестився в Йордані від Івана, співаємо Тобі: Аلیلія.

*Вхідний стих:* Прийдіте, поклонімся і припадім до Христа.

**Приспів:** Спаси нас, Сину Божий, що хрестився в Йордані від Івана, співаємо Тобі: Аلیلія.

**Тропар, глас 6:** Ангельські сили на гробі Твоім\* і сторожі омертвіли;\* Марія ж стояла при гробі,\* шукаючи пречистого тіла Твого.\* Полонив Ти ад і, не переможений від нього,\* зустрів Ти Діву, даруючи життя.\* Воскреслий з мертвих, Господи, слава Тобі!

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**Тропар, глас 1:** Коли в Йордані хрестився ти, Господи,\* Троїчне явилось поклоніння:\* бо Родителя голос свідчив тобі,\* возлюбленим Сином тебе називаючи,\* і Дух у виді голубиним засвідчив твердість слова.\* Явився ти, Христе Боже,\* і світ просвітив, слава тобі.

**Слава: І нині: Кондак, глас 4:** Явився еси днесь вселенній\* і світло твоє, Господи, знаменувалося на нас,\* що зі зрозумінням оспівуємо тебе:\* Прийшов еси і явився еси - Світло неприступне.

**Прокімен, глас 1:** Будь, Господи, милість твоя на нас,\* бо уповали ми на тебе. Стих: Радуйтеся, праведні, у Господі, правим належить похвала.

**Апостол - Еф. 4:7-13 - До Ефесян послання Святого Апостола Павла читання:** Браття і сестри, кожному з нас дана благодать за мірою Христових дарів. Тому й сказано: “Вийшов на висоту, забрав у полон бранців, дав дари людям.” А те “вийшов” що означає, як не те, що він був зійшов і в найнижчі частини землі? Той же, хто був зійшов на низ, це той самий, що вийшов найвище всіх небес, щоб усе наповнити. І він сам настановив одних апостолами, інших – пророками, ще інших – євангелистами і пастирями, і вчителями, для вдосконалення святих на діло служби, на будовання Христового тіла, аж поки ми всі не дійдемо до єдності в вірі й до повного спізнання Божого Сина, до звершености мужа, до міри повного зросту повноти Христа.

**Алилуя, глас 5:** Стих: Милості твої, Господи, повік оспівуватиму, сповіщу з роду в рід істину твою устами моїми. Стих: Бо сказав ти: Повік милість збудується, на небесах приготується істина твоя.

**Євангеліє - Матея 4:12-17 -** Як довідався Ісус, що Івана ув'язнено, перейшов у Галілею. І, покинувши Він Назарета, прийшов й оселився в Капернаумі приморським, на границі країн Завулонової й Нефталімової, щоб справдилось те, що сказав був Ісаїя пророк, промовляючи: Завулонова земле, і Нефталімова земле, за Йорданом при морській дорозі, Галілеє поганська! Народ, що в темноті сидів, світло велике побачив, а тим, хто сидів у країні смертельної тіні, засяяло світло. Із того часу Ісус розпочав проповідувати й промовляти: Покайтеся, бо наблизилось Царство Небесне!

Замість “Достойно...” співаємо: Величай, душе моя, Царя Христа, що хрестився в Йордані.

**Ірмос, глас 2:** Не зуміє ніякий язик достойно благохвалити, тривожиться й ум, і то надсвітній, коли оспівує тебе, Богородице; одначе ти, благая, прийми віру, бо любов нашу божественну знаєш, бо ти є християн заступниця, тебе величаємо.

**Причасний:** Явилася благодать Божа спасительна всім людям. Хваліте Господа з небес, хваліте Його на висотах. Алилуя, алилуя, алилуя.

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*Замість “Благословенни хто йде ...” ми співаємо:* Всесвіт днесь радістю сповняється, Христос хрестився в Йордані. *(1x)*

*Замість “Ми бачили світло істинне ...” ми співаємо:* Всесвіт днесь радістю сповняється, Христос хрестився в Йордані. *(1x)*

*Замість “Нехай сповняться уста ...” і “Нехай буде ім’я ...” ми співаємо:* Всесвіт днесь радістю сповняється, Христос хрестився в Йордані. *(3x)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **GREAT BLESSING OF WATER:** today right after Divine Liturgy we will be blessing water; followed by blessing with the Holy Oil and distribution of the blessed bread.
  - ◆ **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to TERRI CHYZOWSKI and all those who celebrated their birthdays this past week. May the Lord Our God continue to bless you abundantly and the Holy Mother of God protects you at all times. Многая Літа!
  - ◆ **MALANKA @ UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CENTRE:** Ukrainian New Year Celebrations. Banquet and Performance by Veselka Dancers & Luna Singers. Live Music by the Victoria Accordion Club. 3277 Douglas Street. Saturday, January 13, 2018. 5:30PM. Info & Tickets [250.475.2585](tel:250.475.2585). Tickets: Members \$55.00 per person. Non-Members \$65.00 per person.
  - ◆ **JORDAN HOME BLESSING:** If you would like Fr. Yuriy to visit your family & bless your home with Jordan water please fill out the Jordan Home Blessing sign-up sheet or contact him @ [stnicks@telus.net](mailto:stnicks@telus.net) or @ [250.384.2292](tel:250.384.2292)
  - ◆ **NEW 2018 PARISH CALENDARS:** please pick up your new 2018 calendar at the church entrance.
  - ◆ **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please keep in your prayers NADIYA KRAWCHENKO, ARTHUR BOBAY, who are recovering after their surgeries, CORNELL BABIE and other members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join actively in their community.
  - ◆ **ST. NICHOLAS BOOK STORE:** The Divine Liturgy An Anthology of Worship - **\$25**; “Christ Our Pascha” Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church/“Христос Наша Пасха” Катехизм Української Католицької Церкви - **\$25**; “Sing to Our God” hymn book - **\$15**; Молитовник “Прийдіте Поклонімся” - **\$10**.
  - ◆ **CHRISTMAS CANDLE EPARCHIAL APPEAL:** Since 2012 our Eparchy has been collecting funds to help underprivileged and orphaned children in Ukraine through our
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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 \$20,000 with support from our BC Parishes as well as Parishes in other Provinces and parts of the United States. **The appeal is once again taking place for the month of December 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. All donations over \$20 are eligible to receive a tax receipt if requested and cheques can be made out to your Parish with Christmas Candle Project in the Memo. We thank you for your past support and generosity and ask that you again consider supporting this ongoing appeal as part of your Christmas tradition. Caritas is an organization that is supported and approved by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk and His Excellency Bishop Ken Nowakowski. 100% of the proceeds go to Caritas Ukraine. For more information, please contact the coordinators Dana Koren Lupynis or Natalia Lupynis at [nweparchy.christmascandle@gmail.com](mailto:nweparchy.christmascandle@gmail.com)

- ◆ **TRAVELING ICON:** Anyone interested in gracing their home with Christ The Teacher Icon can call Darlene DeMerchant at [250.727.3837](tel:250.727.3837).
  
  - ◆ **PARISH CALENDAR OF BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:** If you would like to be included in our Parish Calendar of Birthday and Anniversary celebrations, please put date in our calendar located at the church vestibule. Each week, we will list the names in our parish bulletin so we can celebrate these happy occasions together!
  
  - ◆ **JOIN OUR CHOIR:** Do you enjoy singing? Please consider joining our St Nicholas Parish Choir and remember that we ALWAYS looking for new members! Contact Motria Koropecky for details at [250.658.3051](tel:250.658.3051).
  
  - ◆ **CATECHISM ANNOUNCEMENT:** *"And they were bringing to Him also the infants, in order that He may be touching them; but after the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, Let alone the little children to come to Me, and cease hindering them; for of such is the kingdom of God."* We are happy to welcome all children to our St. Nicholas The Wonderworker catechism program. Weekly classes are scheduled Sunday morning during Divine Liturgy. We want your children to learn more about their Catholic faith, sacred scripture, feast days, and religious practices and customs of the Ukrainian Catholic church. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Marian Chalifoux at [250.507.1005](tel:250.507.1005).
  
  - ◆ **THRIFTY'S PRE-PAID FOOD CARDS -** We all have to buy groceries. Why not have 6% of it returned back to the church at no extra charge! Cards are available in \$100, \$200, and \$500 denominations. Talk to Alec after today's liturgy to pre- order your cards. We need to sell A LOT of them! We encourage you to consider purchasing them for yourselves as gifts too.
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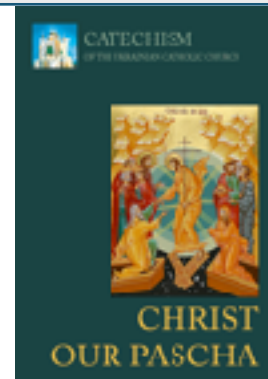
- ◆ **BE A STEWARD:** Have you ever wondered what more can you do to help our parish? Here are some suggestions: Steward of property security; Steward of grounds cleaning; Steward of cleaning church; Steward of church linen; Steward of outreach; Steward of caring; Steward of prayer; Steward of service. Quite often, our homebound or senior members, once active in their younger years, want to find purpose in their senior years. It's not only about doing but about "BEING" present to others. Contact Fr. Yuriy **OR** Darlene DeMerchant for more information. You will be amazed how "BEING" can make a difference.
  
- ◆ **PARISH LIBRARY:** please visit our parish library and browse through the books on spirituality, church history, iconography, history of the Ukrainians in Canada, children's books and more... The library is located in the church vestibule. Please use a library book sign out form when borrowing a book.
  
- ◆ **SUNDAY COFFEE VOLUNTEERS** act as hosts and serve light refreshments following the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, providing an opportunity for the faithful to socialize with friends and visitors following their shared worship experience. We thank all of our parishioners who kind volunteer to serve refreshments. Whether you are new to the Parish, or are a long-time members, please join us for coffee.
  
- ◆ **WE SHARE THE AIR:** Please keep it healthy and fragrant free. Someone in this area is scent-sitive. The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with fragrance sensitivities, asthma, allergies and other respiratory ailments. PLEASE DO NOT \*wear perfume, cologne, lotion, aftershave and other fragrances; \*USE unscented personal care products. Be Sensitive to Others. Thank you for your understanding. *St. Nicholas parish.*
  
- ◆ **DECEMBER 31, SUNDAY DONATIONS:** Coffee: \$54.90; Vigil lights: \$18.75; Loose collection: \$35.30; Envelope collection: \$985.64; Donation for church hall renovation: \$300.00; Pre-authorized donations Dec 25 to Dec 31: \$120.00; Dec 2 food fair net total: \$9,843.40

## READING THE CATECHISM "CHRIST - OUR PASCHA"



### c. Theophany

**#197** At the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan, the public ministry of the Saviour begins (see Mt 3; Mk 1). John the Baptist points to Christ in the Jordan and identifies Him as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29). During the baptism of Jesus, the Most Holy Trinity is made known: "Worship of the Trinity



was revealed; the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming you the beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the word's certainty." "The voice of the Father" is the voice of the Heavenly Father, and the "Spirit in the form of a dove" is the Holy Spirit, who descends upon Christ, revealing him to be the Son of God. For this reason, Church tradition refers to the Baptism of Jesus Christ as the Theophany (from the Greek, meaning divine appearance).

**#198** The Theophany at the Jordan is liturgically connected with the feast of the Nativity. In her celebration of both these events, Church tradition emphasizes that both the Incarnation and the Baptism of the Lord are when God appears (in Greek, theophania). In accordance with the text of the Great Blessing of Water at Theophany, "in the preceding feast we have seen you as a babe, and in this present feast as perfect human, appearing as our perfect God." At the Nativity, God the Word "was born," but now he "appears in the flesh to the human race." At the Nativity, the "Sun of Righteousness" rose, and now it "shines forth." In the liturgical tradition of the Church, the feast of Theophany is also called the feast of Illumination. The sticheras of the feast of Theophany elucidate the bond between the feasts of the Nativity and Theophany: What was announced by the angel is now announced to the people by the Baptist; the spilling of infant blood caused Bethlehem to become childless, but through the sanctified waters of baptism, the Jordan now has many children. What was announced by the star to the magi in Bethlehem is now revealed to the world by the Father himself.

**#199** The Son of God, "who covers himself with light as with a garment ... today is covered by the streams of the Jordan." Christ himself "has no need to be cleansed by them; but through the cleansing that he himself receives he bestows regeneration on us." "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness'" (Mt 3:13-15). The God-man enters into the Jordan waters: "As a man he came to be baptized, and the Jordan feared him as God and turned back. As a man he bared himself and entered the water, and the Father testified that he was God, saying: 'This is my beloved Son.'

**#200** Christ brings regeneration to humankind, and he chooses the waters of the Jordan to signify this. In Holy Scripture, water is a symbol of elemental forces and death, and simultaneously a symbol of cleansing, rebirth, life, and the grace of the Holy Spirit. By means of water, God "drowned sin ... in the days of Noah ... [and] at the hand of Moses he set free the Hebrew nation from the bondage of Pharaoh ... [and] by fire and water through Elijah brought back Israel from the error of Baal." By immersion into water (baptism), Christ washes away the record of Adam's sins. The waters of the Jordan regenerate all creation. In the Jordan, Christ "has renewed through water and the Spirit our nature grown old through sin."

**#201** "Transformed into waters of healing," the waters of the Jordan become "a source of incorruption." For by means of water, God offers to the world "a salvation of baptism." Upon receiving it, a human being and all creation are filled with "mysterious streams." With the

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sanctification of the human being begins the sanctification and eschatological (from the Greek, meaning final) transfiguring of creation.

**#202** In the Ukrainian Christian tradition, the symbolism of Jordan water is closely connected with the memory of the Baptism of Rus-Ukraine by Grand Prince Volodymyr. The river Dnipro, in which the people of Kyiv were baptized, is figuratively called the “Ukrainian Jordan.” On the feast of Theophany in Ukraine, an ice cross is erected as a sign and a memorial of baptism; during the Great Blessing of Water, three triple-branched candles are immersed into the waters. Bringing the holy water home, the faithful partake of it at the beginning of the Theophany Eve supper Shchedryi vechir (Ukrainian, meaning Abundantly Generous Eve). They bless their homes and farms, and keep the water throughout the year to partake of it, and to bless themselves in times of difficulty and illness.

*And having lived in this world, giving us saving commandments, and turning us from the error of idols, he brought us to the knowledge of you, the true God and Father, and acquired us for himself as a people all his own, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. And when he had cleansed us by water and sanctified us by the Holy Spirit, he gave himself as an exchange to death.*  
(Anaphora of the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great)

## BLESSING WITH JORDAN WATER

### Why We Bless Homes!

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

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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.



**Luna**  
**Ukrainian**  
**Christmas Concert**  
Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> - 4 pm  
Guest: Christine Chepyha  
Ukrainian Catholic Church Of  
St Nicholas The Wonderworker  
Corner of Cook and Caledonia Streets  
Admission by Charitable Donation