



28th Sunday after Pentecost

Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Sabbas the Sanctified – He was born in Cappadocia in 439. He founded many monasteries in Palestine. He died on Dec 25, 540. **** *Nativity Fast.*

**** Sunday, December 5th, 2021****

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This Week's Parish Liturgical Services

Sunday, Dec. 5 * 9:30 a.m.** Rosary/Sacrament of Repentance (Confession) *** **10:00 a.m. *** Div. Lit.** (Eng./Ukr.): God's blessings for all parishioners

Monday, Dec. 6 ** Feast of St. Nicholas ** 9:30 a.m. Div. Lit.: *SSVP - God's blessings to all members, volunteers & their families*

Tuesday, Dec. 7 ** 9:30 a.m. Div. Lit.: *God's blessings to David & Shey*

Wednesday, Dec. 8 * 4:30 p.m. "Moleben to Emanuel"

Thursday Dec. 9 ** Feast of the Conception of St. Ann, When She Conceived the Most Holy Mother of God * 9:30 a.m. Div. Lit.:** *God's blessings & good health to Bishop Stephan Chmilar*

Friday Dec. 10 9:30 a.m. Div. Lit.:** *God's blessings to Cheryl Shinkeruk her family*

Sunday, December 12 * 9:30 a.m.**
Rosary/Sacrament of Repentance (Confession) ***
10:00 a.m. * Div. Lit. (Eng./Ukr.): God's blessings**
to all parishioners



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 8: With the streams of your tears you cultivated
the barren desert, * with deep sighs your toils bore fruit a
hundredfold. * You became a beacon, shining throughout the
world by your wonders, * our venerable Father, Sabbas. * Pray to
Christ God that our souls may be saved.

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

Kontakion, Tone 3: You rose from the tomb, O compassionate
Lord, * and led us out from the gates of death. * Today Adam
exults and Eve rejoices, * and the prophets together with the
patriarchs * unceasingly acclaim the divine might of Your power.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 8: In your virtue, * O blessed Sabbas, * you
offered yourself to God from childhood * as an unblemished
sacrifice, becoming a gardener * in the garden of godliness. *
Thus you became the adornment of monastics, * a praiseworthy
citizen of the desert. * And so we cry to you: * Rejoice, most
wealthy Sabbas.

Prokeimenon, Tone 3 - Sing to our God, sing; sing to our King,
sing.

verse: Clap your hands, all you nations; shout unto God with the
voice of joy. (*Psalm 46:7,2*)

Prokeimenon, Tone 7 - Precious in the sight of the Lord* is the death of His venerable ones.



Epistle - Colossians 1:12-18

A reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and Sisters, give thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

Alleluia, Tone 3 - In You, O Lord, have I hoped that I may not be put to shame for ever.

verse: Be a protector unto me, O God, and a house of refuge to save me. (*Psalm 30:2,3*)

verse: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; he shall delight exceedingly in His commandments. (*Psalm 111:1*)

Gospel - Luke 14:16-24

The Lord told this parable: “Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner, he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I

cannot come.’ So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’”

Communion Hymn - Praise the Lord from the heavens; * praise Him in the highest. (*Psalm 148:1*)* The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance; * of evil hearsay he shall have no fear. * Alleluia, alleluia, * alleluia. (*Psalm 111:6-7*)



** ANNOUNCEMENTS **



A warm welcome - to all parishioners who join us today in our church for the Divine Liturgy and those who continue to pray at home. We wish you a healthy & blessed week!

Please Pray for health of ... All those affected by the coronavirus, and: Dan P., Bishop Stephan Ch., Zbigniew K., Pat B., Bishop Kenneth, Anne D., Rob E., Margaret M., Jayne & Ernie P., Ambrose S., Robert M., Dave & Betty C., Matt D., Mirosław G., John N., Fr. John N., T.W., Bill P., Thomas H., Lawrence & Ping B., Peter O., Gladys O., Alex S., Jessica N., Zonia K., Brian K., Ray O., Mary & Dave E., Sharon & Al L., Joe S., Jeanne R., Lisa M., Michael L., Greg H., Melynda S., Suzanne C., Clay B., Maria W., all sick brothers and sisters in our families and parish community. Please let Fr. Andrzej know if you would like to add names to the prayer list and also notify him about any sick and/or hospitalized parishioners and family members.



Thank you to all our Supporters – Дякуємо – Our



gratitude to everyone for your prayers & ongoing financial support of our parish and for all other ways in which you assist our church community. Many thanks to Mr. Orest Hrycewich & John Chaplin for setting up Christmas lights on the parish residence. God bless you all!

Food Bank Collection – as in previous years during St. Philip's Fast, we are collecting non-perishable food for the Kamloops Food Bank. A box is provided at the church entrance. Thank you for your support.

Pre-Christmas Church decorating – will take place today, **Sunday, Dec. 5th** after the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Advent Penitential Services - Fr. Andrzej will be assisting in the Sacrament of Confession at OLPH parish on Wednesday, Dec. 15th starting at 6:30 p.m.



Reconciliation Service during St Philip's Fast—although our parish will not have an official Advent Mission this year, as spiritual preparation for Christ's Nativity, parishioners are invited & encouraged to participate in the Sacrament

of Reconciliation. Father Andrzej will be available for confession each Sunday before & after the Divine Liturgy (9:00 & after 11:00) There is also opportunity for confession before daily Divine Liturgy. For your information - the **Sacrament of Reconciliation is available** at OLPH on: Wednesday 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. & Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 am.

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Zoom Monthly Meeting – will take place on Thursday, Dec. 16th at 7:00 p.m.



Monthly Parish Council Meeting – will take place on **Tuesday, Dec. 21st** at 11:00 a.m. in the parish hall.

New Westminster Eparchy Clergy - Zoom meeting will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 29 at 7: 00 p.m.

2021 “Christmas Candle/Різдвяна свічка” Campaign - Since 2012, the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster has been collecting funds to help underprivileged and orphaned children in Ukraine through our Christmas Candle appeal. Our fundraising program, “**Christmas Candle/Різдвяна свічка**” is part of a larger global appeal sponsored by Caritas Ukraine. The appeal is once again taking place during the month of

December, and we encourage everyone to remember these children during our Christmas season with a donation. Donations can be made at any Ukrainian Catholic Parish in BC, or mailed and made payable to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster clearly marked with “Christmas Candle Project” on the envelope and cheque. For more information, please contact Dana Koren Lupynis, Natalia Lupynis or Emelia Lupynis at nweparchy.christmascandle@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook at Caritas “Christmas Candle/Різдва́на свічка” Campaign, sponsored by NWEparchy.



Video series “Journey through Advent 2021” - Each week, beginning on Sunday, 21 November 2021, the Solemnity of Christ the King, the CCCB will release a video recording of a Bishop reflecting on the Gospel Reading for each Sunday of Advent. This year’s reflections were inspired by the Indigenous Delegation travelling to Rome to meet with Pope Francis from 17-20 December 2021. Each reflection is based on one of the five essential stages of reconciliation: examen, confession, repentance, reparation (making amends), and reconciliation. It is likewise hoped these reflections will assist the faithful, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike, in preparing for Pope Francis’ eventual apostolic journey to Canada. The videos were developed under the auspices of the Bishops Working Group on Coordinating Indigenous Initiatives, with the script being approved by the same, as agreed to by the Executive Committee at its Special Meeting on 12 November 2021.

The videos can be now accessed on the CCCB website at the following link:

<https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/>



December 9th at 7:00 p.m. - join Roman Catholic Sacred Heart Cathedral for a Festival of Lessons and Carols: This event will be livestreamed through www.rcdk.org so you can either attend live or watch online. If you are in attendance, masks are mandatory. This joyful evening will help us to spiritually prepare for Christmas.

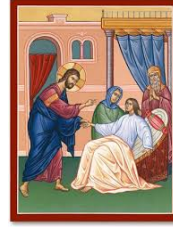
The Most Holy Trinity Parish Stewardship: Sunday, Nov. 28 - \$ 860.00 **** *May God bless and reward you for your generosity & support.*

Prayer During the Coronavirus Outbreak

Lord, Our God, We thank you for the life that is your gift,

For the providence that sustains us,

And for your wisdom that directs the course of our days. The threat of an infection of coronavirus is upon us today. This disease causes fear among us and has claimed lives.



We humbly beg you, loving Lord, dispel our fear and deliver us from this and other diseases.

Heal those who are afflicted and stop the spread of the virus.

Strengthen us in charity to care for one another.

For You are a God of mercy, kindness, and love, and we glorify You Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Amen.



Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in these Holy Gifts!

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot receive You now,

I place before You my whole life and hope, O loving Master; and I ask, pray, and entreat You: Make me worthy to partake in a mystical way and with a pure conscience of Your awesome and heavenly Mysteries:

for forgiveness of sins, for the pardon of offenses, for communion of the Holy Spirit, for the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven, for confidence before You, and not for judgment or condemnation.

I embrace You as You enter and abide in me, and I unite myself completely to You. Permeate my soul and body, and never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.





Prayer for Preparation for Holy Communion (St. John of Damascus)

“O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, You alone have authority to forgive people their sins, for You are good and love all. Forgive my transgressions committed in knowledge or ignorance. Make me worthy to receive Your divine and glorious, all-pure and life-giving Mysteries without condemnation, incurring neither punishment, nor the increase of my sins. Let me, instead, receive cleansing, sanctification, and a pledge of life and kingdom to come. Let Your Mysteries be a rampart, a help, a routing of my adversaries; and let them wipe away my many transgressions. For You are a God of mercy, compassion, and love for all, and to You we render glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

Pastoral Ministry and Sacraments:

Reconciliation: on Sundays and Holy Days: before Divine Liturgies and other days, by appointment.

Holy Communion: for the sick, by appointment, any time.

Baptisms: by appointment.

Marriages: six months' notice should be given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made.

Funerals and Memorials: by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick (Holy Unction): Those anticipating surgery, hospitalization or treatments and who would like to receive anointing or to meet with parish priest, please call or email Fr. Andrzej in advance to arrange a time and a day.



Tentative **2021 Christmas Schedule**

Friday, Dec. 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE / НАВЕЧИР'Я РІЗДВА

10:00 a.m. – Royal Hours

3:00 p.m. - Great Compline with Lytia & Divine Liturgy

Saturday, Dec. 25th - NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

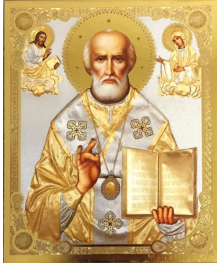
10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

Sunday, Dec. 26th - Synaxis of the BVM

10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

Monday, Dec. 27th - First Martyr Stephen

10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy



We praise you, O bishop of Christ, Nicholas, and we venerate your memory, for you pray for us to Christ our God. " (Hymn of Praise of the Feast)

Among the various feasts of the Saints whose memory we commemorate during the Church Year, **St. Nicholas** merits special consideration. From earliest times our holy Father, St. Nicholas, enjoyed great veneration and universal respect among our people. Not a single home in our native land was without an icon of St. Nicholas, and his icon is almost always seen among the icons on the iconostases of our churches. Our people venerate him as though he were a native Saint.

Although over one thousand five hundred years have passed since his death, because of his works of charity and merciful generosity, he continues to live in the hearts of millions of people.

Every year on his feastday, his love of neighbor continues to live symbolically throughout the world, as thousands upon thousands of children receive gifts in his name. The secret of his great and continuous cult among all the Christian nations lies in the fact that he has become a symbol of sacrificial love and compassionate mercy. This is attested by the history of his cult, our church services and the fervent veneration of his icons.

1. The Cult of his Person

We do not know very much about the life of St. Nicholas, and what we do know is somewhat embellished with various legends.

We know for certain that St. Nicholas was a bishop for many years in Myra, a city in the province of Lycia, in Asia Minor; that he took part in the First Ecumenical Council in 325 at Nicea; and that he died around the year 345. His whole life was dedicated to works of mercy, both corporal and spiritual. Even during his lifetime he was called the father of orphans, widows, and the poor. After his death, the Lord glorified him with the gift of working miracles, for which he received the title "Great Wonder-worker". His celebrated miracles were the chief reason for the rapid spread of his cult.

The cult of St. Nicholas began to grow when the Emperor Justinian I (527-565) built a church in his honor in Constantinople. In the Jerusalem Canonarium of the seventh century, under the day of the 6th of December, it is stated: "Commemoration of Nicholas, Bishop of a great city" . All the Greek menologies of the ninth century have his feast. Emperor Manuel Comnen (1143-1181), prescribed by civil legislation that the feast of St. Nicholas be celebrated on the 6th of December. From Byzantium his cult spread throughout the entire world. The oldest biography of St. Nicholas comes from the ninth century.

In the west, Pope Nicholas (858-867) — the first Pope bearing this name — erected a church in Rome in honor of St. Nicholas around the year 860. His cult was introduced into Germany by Princess Theophano, wife of Emperor Otto II (973-983). The Latin Church also celebrates the feast of St. Nicholas on the 6th of December. In France and Germany over two thousand churches are dedicated to his name; an additional four hundred such churches are found in England.

The cult of St. Nicholas came to our native Ukraine along with the Christian faith. In the second half of the eleventh century, a church was built in Kiev in honor of St. Nicholas, over the grave of Askold. In Kiev there was a convent (monastery for women) under the patronage of St. Nicholas, founded by the wife of Prince Iziaslav Sviatoslavych (1078). The mother of St. Theodosius Pechersky received the monastic tonsure in that monastery. In our native land, there were numerous churches in honor of St. Nicholas. The Church of St. Nicholas in Lviv, which dates back to the thirteenth century, is one of the oldest. Our Ukrainian Encyclopedia says the following about the veneration of St. Nicholas among our people: "In a great number of oral traditions, Nicholas protects people from disasters caused by the elements; mostly

he protects those who sail on the sea. Hence, the Black Sea fishermen, when going out to fish, take the icon of St. Nicholas with them. In ancient times, St. Nicholas was also a protector from the dangers of the steppes. Songs about St. Nicholas are among the earliest examples of Ukrainian poetry and include such popular ones as "O Whoever, whoever loves St. Nicholas..." (Vol. 4, P. 1533)

2. Cult of the Relics of St. Nicholas

A very significant factor which contributed to the spread of the cult of St. Nicholas, especially in Italy and in the West, as well as among our people, was the translation of the relics of St. Nicholas, from Myra in Lycia, Asia Minor, to the city of Bari in southern Italy toward the end of the eleventh century.

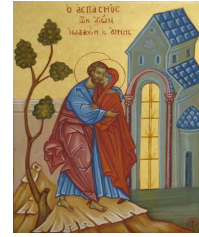
In the second half of the eleventh century, the Mohammedans occupied Asia Minor and the city where the relics of St. Nicholas were preserved. The Italian merchants of Bari regarded St. Nicholas as a great Saint and protector of seamen. While trading with Asia Minor, they decided they would steal the relics of St. Nicholas and carry them off to Italy. The stolen relics of the Saint reached Bari on the 9th of May, 1087. As a result, great miracles began to take place immediately. For this reason, in 1089 Pope Urban II instituted the feast of the translation of the relics of St. Nicholas and ordered it to be celebrated on the 9th of May. Three years later a magnificent church was built there and his relics were deposited in it. The city of Bari became a great and famous place for pilgrimages.

Not long after the relics were transferred to Bari, the feast of the translation of the relics of St. Nicholas was also established on the 9th of May in Rus-Ukraine. Hence, our people speak of the cold and warm Nicholas. The institution of this feast has been ascribed to the Metropolitan of Pereyaslav, Ephrem. He is also said to have described the event of the translation of the relics and to have composed the service of the translation and an akathistos in honor of St. Nicholas. In regard to the institution of the feast in Ukraine, our historian M. Chubatyj writes: "It is most strange that this feast, instituted by the Pope, was a feast of joy in the West, but one of sadness in the East, especially in the Byzantine Church, for around the year 1090-1091 it was introduced into the Kievan metropolitan Church province. This feast does not exist in any other part of the Eastern Church, only in the territory of the ancient Kievan Metropolia — and to this day, it exists

not only in Ukraine, but also in Muscovy and Bielorussia". (History of Christianity in Rus-Ukraine, Vol. I, p. 416)



Feast of the Conception of St. Anna/Immaculate Conception (December 9th)



"Today the universe celebrates the Conception of Anna, which is brought about by God." (The Kontakion of the Feast)

The very ancient and profound cult of the Most Holy Mother of God, a characteristic mark of the Eastern Church, is especially manifested in the great wealth of Marian feasts in the Liturgical Year. These feasts present to us the more important moments in the life of the Mother of God, from the moment of her immaculate Conception to the moment of her glorious Dormition (Assumption into Heaven).

The Holy Gospel does not give much information about the life of the Most Pure Virgin Mary, hence, it is not strange that the feasts of our Blessed Mother in general do not have their basis in the events of the Gospels, but rather in Christian tradition and in the narratives (accounts) given in the Apocryphal books of the first centuries. One such feast is that of the Conception of St. Ann, which our Church celebrates on the 9th of December. Let us consider the history of this feast as it developed both in the East and in the West and in our Church.

The main theme of the liturgy of this feast, according to the Apocrypha, was the miraculous event when Anna conceived the Most Holy Mother of God. This liturgy describes the grief and distress Joachim and Anna experienced because of their childlessness, and presents the fervent prayer of Anna: "O Lord God of the heavenly Powers," prays St. Ann, "You know the shame of childlessness, therefore, heal the pain of my heart and make this barren one fruitful..." (Stichera of the Vespers service of the Feast).

In response to her fervent supplication, an angel appears and announces the conception of the Most Pure Virgin Mary. "Your supplication," says the angel, "has reached the Lord. Do not be sad, and cease weeping, for you shall become a fruitful olive tree, bringing forth a young shoot — a wonderful maiden, who will bring forth a flower — the Christ in the flesh, who will grant great mercy to the world." (Ibidem)

At the moment of her conception, the womb of St. Ann becomes like a heaven... "A new heaven is being formed in the womb of Anna, " says the Sessional Hymn in Matins, "at the command of the Almighty God; from it shines forth the never-setting Sun, illumining the whole universe with the rays of the Divinity, with the great riches of goodness, the one and only Lover of Mankind.'

Her parents rejoice over the wonderful conception of the Most Holy Mother of God; the prophets rejoice; heaven and earth rejoice. The Church calls upon the Old and New Testaments to join in the rejoicing: "Come, people of all classes and ages," we sing in the sticheras of the Praises in Matins, "let us celebrate with the Angels the all-glorious conception of the Mother of God; patriarchs sing praises to the Mother of the King of all; you, prophets, praise her whom you preached; you, forefathers, praise your descendant — the Mother of God; you aged, praise the ancestor of God; you, faithful, praise the root of your faith; you, priests, praise the all-holy temple of God; you, choirs of saints, praise the cause of your assembly; you, armies of angels, praise the Mother of the Lord of all creation, and Saviour of our souls." In the service of the Conception of St. Ann the holiness and purity of the Most Holy Virgin Mary is praised: "Choirs of prophets," says the Sessional Hymn of Matins, "in times past preached the immaculate, pure, and divine maiden and Virgin, whom Ann conceived, who until then had been barren and childless. We, who have been saved because of her, let us extol her today with hearts filled with joy as the one and only Immaculate One.

The canon of Matins which was composed by St. Andrew of Crete is a most beautiful hymn in honor of the Conception of the Mother of God. She is the "Undefiled Ark", the "pure dove" "the star of divine grace", "divine temple of the bush", "Master", "immaculate "royal porphyry", dove ", "holy "fragrant myrrh", the New Testament and urn containing the manna", "unconsumed bush" 'golden candlestick ", "living chamber of the Lord God" "living fountain", "holy temple".

On December 9th we celebrate her immaculate conception whereas nine months later on the 8th of September she appears among us in her glorious Nativity.

Please join in live-streamed coverage of liturgical services:

Holy Eucharist Cathedral (New Westminster) – Divine Liturgy at **9:00 a.m.** (Eng.) & **10:30 a.m.** (Ukr.)

<https://www.facebook.com/holyeucharistcathedral/>

Youtube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPp1JaDotlj_4h3aAJq0Srg

St. Nicholas Parish, (Victoria) - Divine Liturgy at **10:00 a.m.** via [Facebook](#) or [Website](#)

St. George's Parish (Prince George) - Divine

Liturgy live streamed at **10:00 AM** on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ParishPG> and on the parish web-site at <http://www.sgparish.ca>

The [new requirements by the Provincial Health Officer](#) from November 30, 2021.

These measures include:

- A requirement that worship services must be limited to 50% of seated capacity, unless all the participants are vaccinated, in which case the capacity could increase to 100. While the BC Vaccine Card is an option available for this purpose, faith leaders will have the flexibility to design their own system to ensure that all participants are vaccinated, if that is the model they choose to follow.

Given these two options the Eparchy of New Westminster is implementing the first option, which includes **both vaccinated and unvaccinated but the services must be limited to 50% of seated capacity.**

If a parish will prefer the second option, where all the participating in the services are vaccinated, please speak with Bishop David individually.

- A requirement that participants attending worship services, including choirs, must wear a face covering during worship services, including as participants come into the place of worship and when they leave, until outside. Participants will be able to remove the face covering when consuming food or drink to allow for ceremonial activities. Readers and celebrants will be allowed to speak without a mask, subject to distancing requirements or barriers to prevent transmission.