



Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

The Holy Prophet Daniel, the Three Holy Youths Ananiah (Ananias), Azariah (Azarias) and Mishael (Misael) (6th c. BC) – Daniel was carried off into slavery in Babylon with his companions in 605 B.C. God gave him the gift of discernment, enabling him to interpret the dream of king Nebuchadnezzar. Falsely accused by his enemies he was thrown into a lion pit. By God's grace he managed to tame the lion. Daniel is considered the last of the four great prophets along with Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. He prophesied the time of the coming of the Messiah. *** **Ananias, Azarias & Misael**, the three companions of Daniel refused to worship the king's golden idol for which they were thrown into a fiery furnace. An angel of the Lord appeared in the furnace with them and they were untouched by the flames.

**** **Nativity Fast.** ****

*** Sunday, December 17th, 2023 ***

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Parish Liturgical Services

Grindrod * Saturday, Dec. 16 *** 3:00 p.m. *Div. Lit.: God's blessings to all parishioners***

Sunday, Dec. 17 * 9:30 a.m. ** **Rosary (Eng.) / Confessions****
***** 10:00 a.m. * *Divine Liturgy (Eng./Ukr.): God's blessings to all parishioners***

Monday, Dec 18 * 2:00 p.m. **OLPH church** – Funeral Mass for +Maybelle & +Allan Nordick**

Tuesday, Dec. 19 * 9:00 a.m. *Div. Lit.: God's blessings to SSVF Members & Volunteers & to Knights of Columbus & their families***

Wednesday, Dec 20 * 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit.: God's blessings to Mujcin family**

Thursday, Dec. 21 * 9:30 a.m. St. Ann's Academy Mass – Special Intention**

Friday, Dec 22 * 4:00 p.m. – “Moleben to Emmanuel”**

Saturday, Dec. 23 ** Grindrod * 3:00 p.m. Div. Lit.: God's blessings to all parishioners**

Sunday, Dec. 24 * 9:30 a.m. ** Rosary (Eng.) / Confessions *** 10:00 a.m. * Divine Liturgy (Eng./Ukr.): God's blessings to all parishioners**



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*)

Epistle: *Colossians 3:4-11 (NRSV)*

Brothers and Sisters, when Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Alleluia, Tone 4: Moses and Aaron are among His priests and Samuel among those who call upon His name.

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

Gospel: *Luke 14:16-24 (NRSV)*



The Lord spoke 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*).* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;* praise befits the righteous.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. (*Psalm 32:1*)



Today we commemorate the Holy Forefathers, beginning with the first man, Adam, and on through Seth, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, King David, Daniel and others.

These ancient people, separated from us by millennia, nevertheless have a direct and close bearing upon us. In general, the Church brings them to our attention now, right before Christmas, largely because of their faith – their belief in the promise given by God to Adam during his expulsion from the garden of Eden, that in the end a Saviour will come into the world and will redeem mankind from original sin.

All the forefathers – who lived on earth long before the birth of Christ – lived and burned with this faith, never allowing it to be extinguished. They are a shining example to us, who are living on earth after the incarnation of our Lord. Just like those ancient people we, too, have never actually seen Christ: they only knew that He would come into the world, while we know that He did come into the world. But they firmly believed in His coming and their faith was justified.

Let us try to follow the example of the Forefathers, since we currently find ourselves in a similar situation. We can respect the beliefs of our neighbors, but we should not compromise our own faith.

**** To Ponder – The Fathers & Mothers Speak *****

“You must understand why it is that the Word of the Father, so great and so high, has been made manifest in bodily form. He has not assumed a body as proper to His own nature, far from it, for as the Word He was without body. He has been manifested in a human body for this reason only, out of the love and goodness of His Father, for the salvation of us men... the renewal of creation has been wrought by the Self-same Word Who made it in the beginning. There is thus no inconsistency between creation and salvation; for the One Father has employed the same Agent for both works, effecting the salvation of the world through the same Word Who made it in the beginning.”

St. Athanasius

“The knot of Eve’s disobedience was loosed by the obedience of Mary. For what the virgin Eve had bound fast through unbelief, this did the virgin Mary set free through faith.”

St. Irenaeus

“When the gentle light of the Advent candles begins to shine in the dark days of December – a mysterious light in a mysterious darkness – it awakens in us the consoling thought that divine light, the Holy Spirit, has never ceased to illumine the darkness of the fallen world.” **St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross**

A warm welcome - to all parishioners & guests who join us today for the Divine Liturgy. We wish you a blessed & healthy week!

**** ANNOUNCEMENTS ****



**Thank you to all our
Supporters & Volunteers –**



Дякуємо – We are very grateful to everyone for your continued support of our parish community. Thank you to everyone who helped with church decorating for Christmas & also to all involved in preparing for and celebrating St. Nicholas Day. God bless you all!

Please Pray for health of ... All those wounded in the war in Ukraine & Holy Land and: Bill P., Iryna Y., Maria M., Gordon P., Brian K., Joe & Linda S., Sharon & Al L., Ken S., Michelle M., Rita N., Mary & Dave E., Lawrence & Ping B., Jill C., Shelly N., Shane E., Elsie K., Wilma C., Janice R., Rob E., Billie M., Dave C., Matt D., Thomas H., Gladys O., Jeanne R., Lisa M., Suzanne C., Clay B., Stefanica K., 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.



St. Nicholas Day Celebrations – at Sts. Peter & Paul parish in Grindrod, **Saturday, Dec. 16th** & at the Most Holy Trinity parish, **Sunday, Dec. 17th**.

Sincerest Condolences/ Vichnaya Pamiat! – our prayers and condolences go to the Nordick family who mourn the deaths of +Maybelle & +Allan. Maybelle was a long time pro-life supporter and she also provided housing for Ukrainian refugees. May their souls rest in peace.

Monthly Mass at St. Ann's Academy – this coming **Thursday, Dec. 21st** Fr. Andrzej will be concelebrating at the monthly Mass at SSA at 9:30 a.m.

SSVP Christmas Hampers Delivery to youth from “A Way Home Kamloops” will take place this coming **Friday, Dec. 22nd**.

Perogy Sales – Anyone wishing to purchase perogies, please call Mrs. Adelle Dmyterko at **250-554-3107** or Mrs. Mary Emery **250-376-8934**. Cost: \$7.00/dozen.



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.

This Week's Parish Stewardship: Sunday, Dec. 9 – **Grindrod:** \$355.00*** **Kamloops:** \$3,140.00. *** May God bless you for your generosity.

Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion:

You are a member of the Catholic Church (Orthodox faithful are

welcome to receive Holy Communion); 2) You have participated in the Sacrament of Confession at least during the Easter or Christmas seasons this past year if not more frequently; 3) You attend Divine Services regularly; 4) Your lifestyle is consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church; 5) You have kept the Liturgical fast – no food at least one hour prior to the Divine Liturgy (water and medicine does not break the fast). 6) You have been in church from the beginning of the service, or at least heard the Gospel. 7) To the best of your ability, you are in the state of Grace.

If for any of these or other reasons you cannot receive Holy Communion, you are very welcome to come for a blessing. Please indicate to the priest that you would like to receive his blessing.

Spirit of Awareness - Dear parishioners, if our brother/sister in Christ, who usually sits next to you, is not in church today, please contact them and ask how they are doing. Let them know that our parish community misses them!



2023 Christmas Schedule



Sunday, Dec. 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE / НАВЕЧІР'Я РІЗДВА

*** Sts. Peter & Paul Parish – Grindrod *** Great
Compline with Lytia & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 p.m.



Monday, Dec. 25th - NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Most Holy Trinity Parish – Kamloops –

10:00 a.m. Great Compline with Lytia & Divine Liturgy



Most Holy Trinity Parish - Kamloops

Tuesday, Dec. 26th - Synaxis of the BVM –

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Dec. 27th - First Martyr Stephen

10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy



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 the parish priest, please call, or email Fr. Andrzej in advance to arrange a time and a day.



Prayer for the Afflicted People of Ukraine in Time of War

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that Your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all Your precious children, at risk and in fear, that You would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.