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| **Sunday after the Theophany of our Lord**.**Неділя пiсля Богоявлення.****Synaxis of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John - today John the Baptist is honored for his part he played in the events celebrated yesterday. The Synaxis, or gathering, is an occasion for the people of God to come together and hear the voice of the Forerunner preaching repentance for the remission of sin.****\*\* Sunday, January 7th, 2024\*\*** |
| Pastor: *Fr. Andrzej Wasylinko*  *109 Tranquille Rd. Kamloops, BC V3B 3E8*  *Mailing address: 118 Don St., Kamloops, BC V2B 1B7*  ***Phones****: 250-376-3690 (church) \*\** 250-461-7249 (residence)  **Email:** [mostholytrinitypar@shaw.ca](mailto:mostholytrinitypar@shaw.ca) \* or \* fr.wasylinko@gmail.com  Website*:* [*http://kamloops.nweparchy.ca/*](http://kamloops.nweparchy.ca/) |

**Christ is Baptised! In the Jordan by John!**

**Христос Хрещається! В Йордані! від Йоана!**

***Parish Liturgical Services***

**Saturday, Jan. 6** \*\*\* Grindrod Parish \*\*\* ***4:00 p.m.*** Great Compline with Lytia & Great Sanctification of Water & *Div. Lit.: God’s blessings to all parishioners*

**Sunday, January 7** \*\*\* **9:30 a.m.** Rosary**\*\*\* 10:00 a.m. \*\*\*** *Div. Lit.* (Eng./Ukr.): God’s blessings to all parishioners

**Tuesday, Jan. 9 \*\*\*11:00 a.m.** *Funeral Mass at OLPH for + Vincent Wells*

**Wednesday, Jan. 10 \*\*\* 9:30 a.m.** *Div. Lit.: God’s blessings for Tara, Garrett & Wyatt H.*

**Thursday , Jan. 11 \*\*\* 9:30 a.m.** *Div. Lit.: God’s blessings to Michael & Miranda*

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**Friday , Jan. 12 \*\*\* 9:30 a.m.** *Div. Lit.: +John Eng*

**Saturday, Jan. 13** \*\*\* Grindrod Parish \*\*\* ***4:00 p.m.*** *Div. Lit.: God’s blessings to all parishioners*

**Sunday, January 14** \*\*\* **9:30 a.m.** Rosary**\*\*\* 10:00 a.m. \*\*\*** *Div. Lit.* (Eng./Ukr.): God’s blessings to all parishioners

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When Israel came forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from an alien people.

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

Judah became His sanctuary, Israel His dominion.

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

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

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

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

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

Glory…  Now… Only-Begotten Son…

***Antiphon 3***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Troparion, Tone 7****:* By Your cross You destroyed death; \* You opened Paradise to the thief; \* You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy, \* and charged the apostles to proclaim \* that You are risen, O Christ our God, \* offering great mercy to the world.

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

***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.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

***Kontakion, Tone 4:***Today, You have appeared to the world \* and Your light, O Lord, has been signed on us, \* who with

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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.

***Prokeimenon, Tone 7 -*** The just man shall be glad in the Lord and shall hope in Him.

***Epistle:****Ephesians 4:7-13 (NRS)*

*“*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.

***Acts 19:1-8***In those days, Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy

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Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them. He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly, and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God.

***Alleluia, Tone 5 -*** 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.

***verse****:*Light shines forth for the just and joy for the upright of heart.

**Gospel:**Matthew 4:12-17 (NRSV)

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 sea, 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.”

***John 1:29-34***

At that time John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be

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revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

***Hymn to the Mother of God***

O my soul, magnify Christ the King, baptized in the Jordan.

***and the Irmos:***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.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia. *(Titus 2:11)*

***According to Galician usage, we sing the following:***

***Instead of*** *“We have seen the true light…” we sing:*

All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is baptized in the Jordan.

***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. *(3)*

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**CATECHETICAL SUMMARY**

The first sermon that Jesus Christ ever delivered, took place right after Theophany. It’s one of the shortest sermons that He gave; yet, it’s one of the most powerful. After Theophany, and the temptation of Christ by the devil in the desert, St. Matthew the

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Evangelist quotes the prophecy of Isaiah, saying that *“the people*

*who sat in darkness saw a great light”* and that Jesus began to preach, saying, *“Repent!”* or *“Μετανοείτε!”* For a person to repent, it isn’t simply saying “I’m sorry” for a sin they might have committed. The Greek verb *“μετανοώ”* literally means “I change my mind”. Jesus was guiding people to change their minds – change their relationship with God, with their friends and neighbours and with themselves. The rest of Jesus’ ministry – at the Cross and death, His Resurrection and even until today – was about people changing, having an internal *μεταμόρφωσις* (or, transfiguration) and having God as the centre of their lives.

In today’s Gospel, we hear the announcement of the “Kingdom of Heaven.” With this announcement, Jesus begins his public ministry in which he will exercise his kingship by reclaiming dominion over his creation and most importantly reclaiming his dominion over man, who is made in his image and likeness.

The great Biblical scholar Origen, explains that, “The kingdom of heaven” is not a place, but a disposition. For it is “within” us.”

Just as with any earthly kingdom, so with the heavenly kingdom, the citizens of the kingdom are invited to obey the King and follow the laws set out by the King for the common good of the entire kingdom.

We who accept the invitation to divine citizenship, are invited to do just this, to accept Jesus as the King of our life and to begin to live our life in accord with the laws of His divine kingdom.

And what are those laws? For Jesus, and for us who call him our King, our law is simply the law of love – to love God above all things and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

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**To Ponder**

*"Our faith — is the throne of the soul, the foundation of life, the immortal root. The life-giving root of faith — is the Father; the unwithering branch — the Son; the immortal fruit — the Holy Spirit; that is, the Trinity — simple, uncomplicated, unspeakable, incomprehensible, undivided in identity, in dignity, action, Divinity and grandeur; however, divided — in Persons and names, but One in essence and powers. The Trinity exists from eternity. Its existence had no beginning. It is without beginning; it is eternal, ageless, immortal, without end.”* **St. John Chrysostom**

*“In a word, therefore, let us all listen, and seriously reflect what great merit there is in having fed Christ when he was hungry— and what sort of a crime it is to have ignored Christ when he was hungry. Repentance for our sins does indeed change us for the better. But even repentance will not appear to be of much use to us if works of mercy do not accompany it. Truth bears witness to this through John, who said to those who came to him, "Bear fruits that befit repentance." And so those who haven't produced such fruits have no reason to suppose that by a barren repentance they can earn pardon for their sins.”* ***St. Augustine***

*“Moreover, the fruit of repentance is, in the highest degree, faith in Christ. Next to it is the evangelic mode of life, and in general terms the works of righteousness as opposed to sin, which the penitent must bring forth as fruits worthy of repentance.”* ***St. Cyril of Alexandria***

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

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| **\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \*\*** |

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

**Дякуємо –** We are very grateful to everyone for your continued support of our parish community. Our gratitude to ladies who help prepare today’s meal. God bless you all!

**Please Pray for health of …** All those wounded in the war in Ukraine & Holy Land and: Bill P., Orest H., 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.

**Theophany Eve Meal and Caroling (Shchedrij Vechir) –** will take place today, **Sunday, Jan. 7th, 2024** after the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

**Jordan House Blessings -** next week Fr. Andrzej will begin his 2024 pastoral visits. Please assist him in planning these visits by contacting him at 250-461-7249.

**Monthly Parish Council Meeting** – will take place next **Sunday, January 14th, 2024** at 10:00 a.m. at the parish hall.

**SSVP Monthly Meeting –** will take place on **Tuesday, Jan. 16th** at 11:00 a.m. at our parish hall.

**Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Monthly Meeting** – will take place on Thursday, January 18th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at OLPH Centre.

**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.

**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

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parish community misses them! Additionally, take the opportunity this coming Christmas season to share with them the joyful news that Christ is Born!

**Eparchial Accounting Clerk - Part-Time Job Opening** - The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster is looking for a part-time Accounting and Payroll Clerk. The ideal candidate must have working knowledge of English and an accounting certification along with experience in payroll and preparation of financial reports.  This is role is approx. 40 hours per month and requires being knowledgeable in Microsoft Suite, Quickbooks and current accounting practices.  For more information on the full job posting or to submit your resume, please contact [finofficer.eparchy@gmail.com](mailto:finofficer.eparchy@gmail.com" \t "_blank)

**This Week’s Parish Stewardship**: Saturday, Dec. 30 – **Grindrod:** $480.00\*\*\* Sunday, Dec. 31 - **Kamloops:** $764.00. \*\*\* May God bless you for your generosity.

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**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.*

**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.

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**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.

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**Why Do 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 we renew the insurance

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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 domestic 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.) 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.

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***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.**