



Sunday before the Nativity of Christ **** *Sunday of the Holy Forefathers*

Неділя перед Різдом Христовим –
Святих Отців *** Передсвяття Різдва
Христового Св. вміц. Анастасії.

Holy Great-Martyr Anastasia – Anastasia was
born in Rome into a wealthy senatorial family. Her
father was a pagan and her mother a Christian. She
loved Jesus and clung to Him in faith. She ministered
openly to Christian martyrs and helped the poor and the
sick from her great inheritance. She was martyred in
305. **** *Nativity Fast.* ****

**** Sunday, December 22nd, 2024 ****



Most Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church

Pastor: *Fr. Andrzej Wasylanko*

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 * or * fr.wasylanko@gmail.com

Website: <http://kamloops.nweparchy.ca/>

Parish Liturgical Services

Sunday, Dec. 22nd ** **Nativity Fast Mission** ** 9:30 a.m. *
Confessions/Rosary *** 10:00 a.m. *** *Div. Lit. (Eng./Ukr.):*
God's blessings to all parishioners

Tuesday, Dec. 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE / НАВЕЧІР'Я РІЗДВА
10:00 a.m. – Royal Hours

3:00 p.m. - Great Compline with Lytia

4:00 p.m. - Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, Dec. 25th - NATIVITY OF
OUR LORD / РІЗДВО ХРИСТОВЕ**

10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

Thursday, Dec. 26th - Synaxis of the BVM

10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

Friday, Dec. 27th - First Martyr Stephen

10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

Sunday, Dec. 29 *** 9:30 a.m. * Confessions/Rosary *** **10:00 a.m.** ** *Div. Lit.* (Eng./Ukr.): God's blessings to all parishioners *



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 2: Great are the achievements of faith! * In the fountain of flames, the three holy youths rejoiced as by the water of rest, * and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep. * Through their intercession, O Christ God, * save our souls.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 6: Armed by the Being that defies description * You defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth. * In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God: * "In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid," * for You can do whatever You will.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4 - Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, * and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

verse: For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us. (*Daniel 3:26,27*)



Epistle - Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40

Brethren, by faith Abraham dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs

with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises, offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

By faith, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

By faith, Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

By faith, Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trials of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Alleluia, Tone 4 - O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us the work You did in their days.

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

Gospel - Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen

generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Communion Hymn - Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest . *** Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;* praise befits the righteous (**Psalm 32:1**).* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.



***** To Ponder *****

This past Sunday, the Church commemorated all the righteous of the Old Testament who awaited the coming of Christ. **Today's Feast of the Holy Ancestors** although similar, remembers all those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood and those who spoke of his birth as a man.

One of the important purposes of Matthew's genealogy: to identify

Jesus as the true Messiah, the One Who, as predicted in the Old Testament would be born of a virgin and would be the fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham and David by God. It gives us the history of the true Christmas, the human side of the story of how this Christ Child came to us. Since the Jews did not trace genealogies in the mother's line, the Scriptures do not give us the lineage of Christ according to the flesh, which was through his mother Mary; but instead list the forebears of Joseph the Betrothed, who served according to the Law as husband of Mary and father of Jesus. According to the Fathers, the blessed Virgin was the daughter of Joachim, son of Bar-Panther, son of Panther, son of Levi, son of Nathan, son of King David. Thus as prophesied, the Messiah was of the house and lineage of David.

** ANNOUNCEMENTS **

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

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 those who were able to donate toward the insurance bill & to Kamloops Food Bank. God bless you all!



Please Pray for health of ... All those wounded in the war in Ukraine & Holy Land and: Paulette K., Metropolitan Lawrence H., Al B., Sharon & Al L., Dawna S., Stella B., Louise M., Orest H., Mary & Dave E., Finn N., Amanda F., Anna N., Paul K., Maria M., Michelle M., Rita N., Lawrence & Ping B., Jill C., Shelly N., Elsie K., Wilma C., Janice R., Rob E., Dave C., Thomas H., Gladys & Oliver O., Jeanne R., Lisa M., Suzanne C., Clay B., 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 who would appreciate a visit.

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass – 6th session with Dr.

Edward Sri will be presented today, **Sunday Dec. 22nd** during our coffee time.

Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve – is a day of strict fasting from meat and dairy products (applies to those without various dispensations). Everyone is invited to take part in spiritual preparation for Christ’s Nativity according to their abilities.

“The Gospel of Mathew” – our next session will take place on Friday, Jan. 3rd, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. **Please email Fr. Andrzej at fr.wasylinko@gmail.com for the invite.**

Weekly Ukrainian Language Classes – take place at our parish hall each Saturday from **1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Please come and join us.

Weekly Saturday Rallies for Ukraine – take place in front of Kamloops City Hall from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come and “Stand with Ukraine.

Theophany Eve Meal and Caroling (Shchedrij Vechir) – will take place on **Sunday, Jan. 5th, 2025** after the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Special Request – Fundraiser for the Insurance Bill – on behalf of our Parish Council, we are turning to the generosity of our faithful with a request for donations to cover the cost of our annual insurance bill. Our bill for this coming year is: \$6,456.75. So far, we have collected \$1,250. Please keep the donations coming. God bless and reward you.

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!

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.



This Week’s Parish Stewardship: Sunday, Dec. 15 – \$865 (\$200 for insurance) & Friday, Dec. 20 - \$2150 (includes \$1450 for hall rental by SSVP) *** 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.

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



Christmas Eve - *"The time of our salvation has arrived. Prepare yourself, O Manger, for the Virgin is on her way to give birth. "*
(*Stichera of the Eve of Christmas*)

The feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ is ranked among the greatest feasts of our Church Year. Therefore, holy Church, mindful of the majesty and significance of this feast, encourages the faithful to prepare by prayer and fasting for this encounter with our Saviour. The Pylypiwka (Philip's Fast), the pre-festal services, and the celebrations on the Eve of the Nativity serve this purpose. The closer we approach to the Feast of the

Nativity, the more and more frequently in the sticheras, canons and troparions of our services, the manger in Bethlehem where the Son of God was to be born, his Most Holy Mother Mary, St. Joseph, her Spouse, the cave, the star, the angels and the other accompaniments of His birth, are mentioned.

This festal preparation reaches its peak on the Eve of the Nativity. **It is a day of watching, prayer and fasting.** The guest from heaven is about to arrive, therefore, it is necessary to prepare for his coming worthily. The Holy Eve of the Nativity has not only its own significant services; it is also rich in symbolic rites and customs, some of which go back to pre Christian times.

The Spirit of the Holy Eve Services

The celebration of the Eve of the Nativity of our Lord, dates from the first centuries of Christianity. As early as the fourth century, there was a church rule, which specified how the Eve was to be celebrated when it falls on a Sunday. The Christmas Eve service is a faithful reflection of the spirit in which holy Church goes forth to meet her Saviour. This is the spirit that glorifies God's plans regarding the redemption of the human race; a spirit of wonderment at the love and sacrifice of the Incarnate Word of God; the spirit of adoration and devotion toward the Divine Child and finally, the spirit of unearthly spiritual joy that the time of our salvation has arrived. The best expression of this spirit are the sticheras and canons of the Christmas Eve services. In the third Ode of the canon of Matins we read: *"Today earth has become a heaven for me, for on it the Creator is born and is placed in the manger in Bethlehem of Judea. The shepherds sing unceasingly with the angels: 'Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth. The Exapostilarion in Matins calls upon us to worship the newly-born Messiah: "With great haste let us go to Bethlehem, to worship him with the Magi, bearing the fruits of good deeds as gifts. "*

The Eve of the feast of the Nativity has a special liturgy called the **Great or Royal Hours**. The Patriarch of Jerusalem, Sophronius (+641), is believed to have composed it. The Royal Hours are

celebrated three times a year: on the Eve of the Nativity, on the Eve of the Theophany (Epiphany) and on Great Friday.

The Royal Hours before the Nativity of our Lord are so composed that in their Psalms and in the readings of the prophets of the Old Testament are collected the main prophecies relating to the promised Messiah. The events connected with the Nativity of the Lord are read from the Gospel, while the sticheras sing the praises of the Incarnate Son Of God and relate the place and circumstances surrounding the Nativity. During the service of the Royal Hours, the Holy Gospel Book is placed on the tetrapod; it remains there as a symbol of Christ who has already arrived and is now preaching his divine doctrine.

The Holy Hours received its name from the fact that in Byzantium, the emperors, along with their court, were always present at this service. At the end of the service the polychronion was sung in their honor.

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.

Prayer to St. Monica

Lord our God, ever merciful to all who hope in you, You adorned your servant Monica with the priceless gift of reconciling her husband and children to you. You listened to her fervent and continuous prayers calling St. Augustine from the ways of error to serve you in holiness, making of him a sign of conversion in the world. Please bring back to you those who we love. Amen.

The Spiritual Preparation at Home

The eve of Christmas brings the Forty Days Christmas fast to a close. A strict fast is prescribed for this entire day. The whole family feels that on that day a very important heavenly guest will arrive in the evening, and therefore, a deeply festal and spiritual mood pervades the home.

Our ancestors highly respected and zealously observed the fast of this day until the appearance of the evening star. Kievan Metropolitan, Maxim (1283-1305), in his rules on fasting says, that even if it be Saturday or Sunday on which the Eve of the Nativity falls, on that day a strict fast must be kept. Only after the Vespers service is one allowed to strengthen oneself with bread and wine. He orders that the same kind of fast be observed also on the Eve of the Theophany.

From earliest times, besides fasting, our ancestors prepared themselves for the feast of the Nativity of our Lord with confession and Holy Communion. This very beautiful and holy tradition comes from the first centuries of Christianity in Ukraine; it began with the Kievan Metropolitan George (1072). This holy practice was prescribed by Metropolitan Peter Mohyla, in his Euchologion, and also by the Synods of Zamost and Lviv.

БОЖЕСТВЕННА ЛІТУРГІЯ:

Тропар (глас 6): Ангельські сили на гробі Твоїм* 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!

Тропар, (глас 2): Великі подвиги віри,* в джерелі полум'я, як на спокійній воді, святі три отроки радувалися;* і пророк Даниїл пастирем левів, наче овець, являвся.* їх молитвами, Христе Боже, спаси душі наші.

+Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові. І нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

Кондак (глас 6): Рукописаному образу не поклонившись,* але неописаним єством захистившись, триблаженні,* в подвизі вогню ви прославилися,* і посеред нестерпного полум'я стоячи, Бога ви призивали.* Поспішись, о Щедрий, і скоро прийди як милостивий нам на поміч,* бо Ти можеш, якщо воля Твоя.

Прокімен (глас 4): Благословен єси, Господи, Боже отців наших, і хвальне, і прославлене ім'я Твоє на віки (*Дан. 3,26*).

Стих: Бо праведний єси в усьому, що створив Ти нам (*Дан. 3,27*).

Апостол: (*Євр 11,9-10. 17-23. 32-40*):

Браття і Сестри, вірою Авраам перебував у обіцяній землі, як у чужій, живучи у наметах з Ісааком та Яковом, спадкоємцями, як і він, тієї самої обітниць. Бо чекав міста з непохитними основами, якого Бог будівничий і засновник. Вірою Авраам, поставлений на пробу, приніс у жертву Ісаака; і то єдиного приніс у жертву сина, він, що обітницю одержав, до якого було сказано: «Від Ісаака тобі народиться потомство», думаючи, що Бог має силу і з мертвих воскресити; тому його й одержав назад, як символ. Вірою Ісаак благословив Якова та Ісава на майбутнє. Вірою Яків, перед смертю, благословив кожного з синів Йосифа і поклонився, спираючись на кінець палиці своєї. Вірою Йосиф, вмираючи, згадав про вихід синів Ізраїля і розпорядився про свої кості. Вірою батьки Мойсея, як він народився, три місяці його ховали, бо бачили красу дитини, і не злякалися царського наказу. І що ще скажу? Часу не вистане мені, коли заходжуся розповідати про Гедеона, про Варака, про Самсона, про Єфту, про Давида й Самуїла та пророків, що вірою підбили царства, чинили справедливість, обітниць осягнули, загородили пащі левам, силу вогню

гасили, вістря меча уникали, ставали сильні, будши недолугі, на війні проявили мужність, наскоки чужинців відбивали. Жінки діставали назад своїх померлих, які воскресали. Інші загинули в муках, відкинувши визволення, щоб досягнути ліпше воскресіння. Інші наруг і бичів зазнали та ще й кайданів і в'язниці; їх каменовано, розрізувано пилою, брано на допити; вони вмирили, мечем забиті; тинялися в овечих та козячих шурах, збідовані, гноблені, кривджені; вони, яких світ був невартий, блукали пустинями, горами, печерами та земними вертепами. І всі вони, дарма що мали добре засвідчення вірою, не одержали обіцяного, бо Бог зберіг нам щось краще, щоб вони не без нас досягли досконалість.

Алилуя (глас 4): Боже, ушима нашими ми почули і отці наші сповістили нам (Пс 43,2).

Стих: Ти спас нас від тих, що напастують нас, і тих, що ненавидять нас, засоромив ти (Пс 43,8).

Євангеліє: (Мт 1,1-25):

Родовід Ісуса Христа, сина Давида, сина Авраама. Авраам був батьком Ісаака, Ісаак – Якова, Яків – Юди і братів його. Юда був батьком Фареса та Зари від Тамари. Фарес був батьком Есрома, Есром – Арама, Арам – Амінадава, Амінадав – Наасона, Наасон – Салмона, Салмон – Вооза від Рахави, Вооз – Йоведа від Руті, Йовед – Єссея, Єссей був батьком царя Давида, Давид – Соломона від жінки Урії. Соломон же був батьком Ровоама, Ровоам – Авії, Авія – Асафа, Асаф – Йосафата, Йосафат – Йорама, Йорам – Озії, Озія – Йоатама, Йоатам – Ахаза, Ахаз – Єзекії, Єзекія – Манасії, Манасія – Амоса, Амос – Йосії, Йосія – Єхонії і братів його за вавилонського переселення. А після вавилонського переселення в Єхонії народився Салатііл, у Салатіїла – Зоровавел, у Зоровавела – Авіюд, в Авіюда – Еліяким, в Еліякіма – Азор, в Азора – Садок, у Садока – Ахим, в Ахима – Еліюд, в Еліюда – Єлезар, в Єлезара – Маттан, у Маттана – Яків, у Якова – Йосиф, чоловік Марії, з

якої народився Ісус, що зветься Христос. Поколінь же всіх було: від Авраама до Давида чотирнадцять, від Давида до вавилонського переселення чотирнадцять і від вавилонського переселення до Христа – поколінь чотирнадцять. Народження Ісуса Христа відбулося так: Марія, його мати, була заручена з Йосифом; але, перед тим, як вони зійшлися, виявилось, що вона була вагітна від Святого Духа. Йосиф, її чоловік, будучи праведний і не бажавши її ославити, хотів тайкома її відпустити. І от, коли він це задумав, ангел Господній з'явився йому уві сні й мовив: “Йосифе, сину Давида, не бійсь узяти Марію, твою жінку, бо те, що в ній зачалось, походить від Святого Духа. Вона породить сина, і ти даси йому ім'я Ісус, бо він спасе народ свій від гріхів їхніх.” А сталося все це, щоб здійснилось Господнє слово, сказане пророком: “Ось, діва матиме в утробі й породить сина, і дадуть йому ім'я Еммануїл, що значить: З нами Бог.” Прокинувшись від сну, Йосиф зробив, як звелів йому ангел Господній: прийняв свою жінку; та не спізнав її, аж поки породила сина, і він дав йому ім'я Ісус.

Причасний: Хваліте Господа з небес,* хваліте Його на висотах (Пс 148,1). * Радуйтеся, праведні, у Господі, * правим належить похвала (Пс 32,1). * Аلیلуя (х3).