

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR PASTORAL DISTRICT AND IN OUR COMMUNITY

Date	Time	Location	Event
Thurs, 26 Dec Synaxis of the Mother of God	9:00AM	Dormition-Church	Divine Liturgy: For our Parishioners
Fri, 27 Dec St. Stephen	9:00AM	Dormition-Church	Divine Liturgy: For the Sick & Suffering
	6:00PM	Dormition-Church	Baptism: Sutton Jacob Fritz
Sat, 28 Dec	9:00AM	Dormition-Church	Divine Liturgy: +Allan Rudyk (Annette & Family)
	4:00PM	Dormition-Church	Confessions
Sun, 29 Dec Sunday after Christmas	9:30AM	Dormition-Church	Divine Liturgy: For Our Parishioners
	5:00PM	Dormition-Church	Divine Liturgy: For the Needs of the Eparchy
Mon, 30 Dec	6:00PM	Dormition-Church	Wedding Rehearsal
Tues, 31 Dec	4:00PM	Dormition-Church	Marriage: Amanda Kobylka & Justin Stupak
Wed, 1 Jan New Year's Day	11:00AM	Dormition-Church	Divine Liturgy: For Our Parishioners

1. **Theophany Great Water Blessing** - Sunday, January 5th - Vigil of Theophany Divine Liturgy & Water Blessing @ 5:00PM; Meatless Potluck to follow. Sign-up sheet located in church.

2. 2020 Blessing of Homes after Theophany

Throughout the month of January, Fr. André will be visiting and blessing the homes of parishioners from our pastoral district with the newly blessed “Jordan water”. If you wish to have your home blessed, please call the parish office at 306-652-4837 or send an email to admin.ducc@sasktel.net to book an appointment.

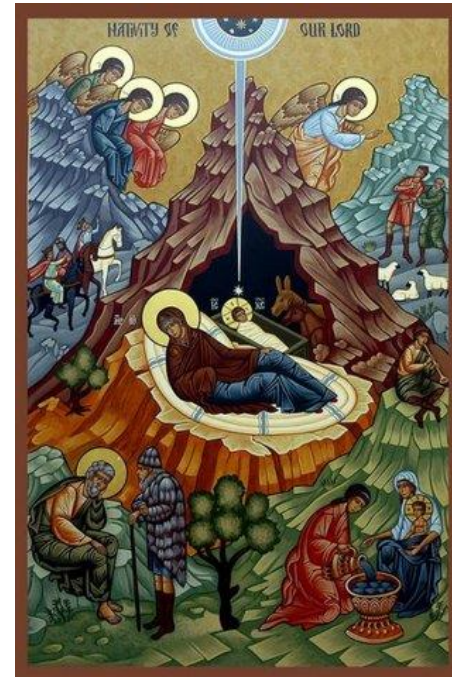
3. **Contemplative Mass** led by Fr. Kevin McGee will be held 7 p.m. Friday, Jan.3 at St. Augustine Church (602 Boychuk Drive). Incorporates 20 minutes of silence after communion to allow space for reflection and recognition of the intimate presence of Christ who comes to us through Scripture and the Eucharist. Relax and rest in the abiding presence of God.

4. Planning to get married in 2020? Congratulations! The Eparchy of Saskatoon **Marriage Preparation Program** “Crown them with Honour and Glory” will take place in Saskatoon on Saturday, February 29th from 8 am. to 7 pm. at the Eparchial Chancery Office (214 Ave M South). At this one-day intensive course you will be immersed in the beauty and richness of Byzantine-Ukrainian Catholic wedding liturgy. Please speak immediately with Fr. Andre about your plans. For more info or to register email Deborah Larmour at uwitness2family@skeparchy.org.

5. **Hospital Chaplaincy** - Catholic Hospital Chaplaincy continues at Saskatoon City Hospital and Royal University Hospital. To arrange for pastoral visits at either of these two hospitals, please contact Fr. Andre at 306-2850-2941 or Jackie Saretsky at (306) 292-5531 or jsaretsky@rcdos.ca. For spiritual care at St. Paul's Hospital ask at the nursing desk, or call (306) 655-5000 and ask them to page Spiritual Care.

Christmas, 2019

Христос Раждається! Славите Його!
Christ is Born! Let us glorify Him!



Dormition of the Blessed Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church

Церква Успення Пресвятої Богородиці

District Parishes: Bodnari, Borschiw, Hawruliuke, Laniwci, Prud'homme, Smuts and Vonda

120 105th Street West Saskatoon, SK S7N 1N2

Parish Office: 306-652-4837 admin.ducc@sasktel.net

www.dormitionsaskatoon.ca or <https://www.facebook.com/DormitionSaskatoon/>

Priest Administrator: Fr. André Lalach (alalach@sasktel.net or 306-280-2941)

Council President: Mr. Don Gabruch (dlgabruch@shaw.ca or 306-491-5590)

Sunday Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am (Rosary at 9:00am) & 5:00PM (September-April)

Weekdays & Feast Days: As Scheduled - See Weekly Bulletin or Website

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...A child is born to us! A son is given to us! He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

The beautiful story of Jesus, born under a clear and starlight night-time sky is the Christian account of the fulfillment of ancient prophetic longing. The world changed dramatically because of the short life of Jesus of Nazareth. People came to see and experience how love brings so much joy to life. Love is so vulnerable – just like the love that surrounded the baby lying in the manger. The story always reminds us that just beyond the jubilation of a singing of a heavenly choir, political intrigue threatened to undo all hope.

God calls us to Christian love. Christmas is not an historic event simply to be celebrated like a birthday party. It is instead a celebration of the living presence of Christ-like love TODAY. In a world where there is hopelessness, we are to hold out hope. In a world where there is sadness, we are to live acts of joy. In a world where truth is sorrowfully lacking, we are to live the promise that was spoken long ago – but alive in us. This is what makes Christmas merry.

Luba, Roman, Annika and I wish you all the Joy of Christmas Promise and a Blessed New Year!

Fr. Andre Lalach

To Youth (13+) and Young Adults of the Eparchy of Saskatoon:



For those seeking to grow closer to Jesus, **we are planning to put on a Passion Play in the Spring of 2020.** A passion play is the telling of the Passion and Death of Jesus through the medium of theatre. We will try to faithfully and artistically relive the terrible and glorious accounts of Jesus' passion and death. Please come join us, and invite friends, as we experience this spiritual drama that will lead you closer to ultimate joy in the resurrected Christ. **Come and help us portray this beautiful mystery, rehearsals start in January.** Glory be to Jesus Christ and his Passion.

Watch for further announcements of dates and times!!! To register please contact Viktoriia at uwitness2youth@gmail.com/306-914-0355

The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon **Covenant of Care Abuse and Misconduct Protocol** is designed to ensure that all allegations of physical and sexual abuse and other misconduct are handled responsibly, transparently and with all due care and attention. If you have a concern please contact Fr. Andre, Parish Coordinator of Care **Jon Abrametz** at (306-652-8833 ext.1) or **Deb Larmour**, Eparchial Coordinator of Care covenantofcare@skeparchy.org or 306-653-0138 ext. 228.

“God is With Us, Understand This All You Nations! And Be Humbled, For God Is With Us!”

This is a glorious and wonderful refrain sung at our liturgical services during this season. We have to admit it is very memorable and we might find ourselves singing this truth throughout the year, particularly when spirits are low and we need to remind ourselves of God's presence in our personal lives and the life of our church.

In fact it points to a mystery about the human person – presence. Why is “presence” so important to us? How is it that “presence” can change our disposition? When a person is present to us it changes how we think and feel and act. Even more so is the case when we are present to those who are present to us.

For instance, when a parent gives a child a warning not to sneak a snack just before a meal, it makes a big difference if the parent stays in the room or leaves the room. Or if a parent is there to calm the pain of a child who fell and hurt themselves. Likewise, if you are driving and, say, you're late for an appointment. The temptation to speed is more under control if you see a police car in your rear-view mirror. Yet how comforting is the presence of a police officer to assist in roadside trouble. Or if you are overwhelmed by those you love at a surprise party in your honour. The presence of so many you care for completely changes your heart.

The same is so true of our awareness of Jesus in our lives. Hopelessness and despair can be dealt with much more easily when we are aware of God's presence. This is especially true for those who find themselves in armed conflict while they defend human dignity against unjust aggressors. It is true for those fighting addictions, fighting loneliness, struggling with gender or sexual identity or battling against any unfair treatment by others because of someone's prejudice. Any challenge a person faces is most difficult if they are alone and what is worse, it is more difficult when they are not alone, but they certainly *feel* alone. This can lead to depression, and in our opinion, is one of the worst lies about any person's reality.

The good news that God is with us is central to this Christmas season. May the Holy Spirit give you the grace to encounter Christ so that your awareness of His presence is undeniable all through your day. Our Church services and family traditions speak of his presence when we encounter each other, for indeed we encounter Christ in each other, especially those who face mental or physical distress. In turn, may your awareness of His presence be a light to those who struggle to dwell on this important truth. He is the one who loves us and gives us hope in the midst of all we experience.

May your celebration of this profound truth this Christmas be a time to encounter Jesus Christ in your spouse, in your family members, in your parish that is Vibrant because you are part of it. May you be aware of the presence of the Jesus, Mary and Joseph that give us the gift of the Holy Family present in your personal and parish family. And may this awareness bear fruit in your life throughout 2020.

God is with us! Christ is Born!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Lawrence Huculak, OSBM Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg

+Michael Wiwchar, CSsR Eparch Emeritus of Saskatoon

+Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM Eparch Emeritus of New Westminster

+David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton

+Stephen Chmilar, Eparch Emeritus of Toronto

+Ken Nowakowski, Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster

+Bryan Bayda, CSsR Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon and Administrator of Eparchy of Toronto