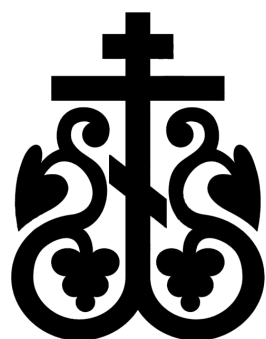


District Priest: Fr. Peter Haugen - 587-252-2715
District President: Ron Rusnak - 780-826-2062
Newsletter Contact: Dobr. Erin Haugen - 587-252-3410

December 2019
Volume 6, Issue 9



Bonnyville & Parish News

Sponsors!

Our fundraising committee has begun a new campaign - Newsletter Sponsorship!
If you are interested in how you can sponsor a newsletter,
please see Caroline Yewchin.

This month's Newsletter is sponsored by Marie Loch
In Memory of Conrad Loch.

May his memory be eternal! Вічна Пам'ять!

"Wishing you all a blessed and Merry Christmas!"

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Submitted by Fr. Peter Haugen

Христос посеред нас! Christ is amongst us!

In preparation for this year's Nativity fast, I came across this article that spoke closely to me as a priest, as to how we should prepare for the Feast of the Nativity, and how the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity is one that we continue to celebrate throughout the whole year. I pray the God blesses us during the course of Advent in the hopes of joining in prayer and celebration at the feast of His birth!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Peter Haugen



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**Ukrainian Orthodox
Church of Canada**
www.uocc.ca

Western Eparchy
www.uocc-we.ca

**Bonnyville/St. Paul
Parochial District**
www.bonnyvilleanddistrictuoc.ca/

Ancient Faith Radio
www.ancientfaith.com

Our Journey to Bethlehem

- Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirinakis

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

We are about to take a journey. Whether one is a devout Christian or doesn't know Christ at all, we are all about to take a journey that will see Christmas decorations go up, lines at the malls get long, and stress levels go up. Such is the modern celebration of Christmas.

But there is another journey, a journey of faith that some choose to take and others choose to ignore. The journey of faith is a daily choice to follow Christ. Each year on November 15 (*November 28th on the Old Calendar*), as we begin the Orthodox Christian season of Advent that journey takes on a new focus. For forty days, we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Christ. We fast. We pray. We worship. When the Feast of the Nativity comes, there is something to celebrate. Most important, however, is that when the Feast of the Nativity has passed, there is something more than gifts to return, decorations to take down, and credit cards to pay off. There is joy—and joy is what overcomes sadness. There is hope—and hope is what overcomes sorrow.

So, I invite you to share a meaningful journey to Bethlehem this year. I invite you to immerse yourself in the scriptures and services. We have the opportunity to study the characters in the Christmas story in a way that perhaps you haven't thought of them before. In studying and praying over the scriptures, having identified fifty distinct topics from only a few chapters of scripture, I saw things in scripture that I never before slowed down to appreciate. The hustle and bustle of the season has even permeated how I've read these most important passages.

People greet the feast of Christmas in different ways—some are happy to see it come, and others dread its coming. And when Christmas is over, some are sad to see it go, while



Liturgical Scripture Readings

December 2019

December 1, 2019

24th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 7

Epistle - Gal. 1:11-19;
Gospel - Lk. 16:19-31

December 8, 2019

*25th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 8
Leavetaking of the Entry of the Theotokos.*

Epistle - Eph. 4:1-6
(Sunday); Heb. 9:1-7
(Theotokos).

Gospel - Lk. 13:10-17
(Sunday); Lk. 10:38-42,
11:27-28 (Theotokos).

December 15, 2019

26th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 1

Epistle - Eph. 5:9-19;
Gospel - Lk. 18: 18-27

December 22, 2019

*27th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 2
The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos.*

Epistle - Eph. 6:10-17
(Sunday); Gal. 4:22-31
(Conception).

Gospel - Lk. 17: 12-19
(Sunday); Lk. 8:16-21
(Conception).

Newsletter Submissions Needed!

Please keep the submissions for the newsletter coming! Announcements, reports, stories, photos... If you want to share it, we want to see it! Please feel free to submit to me anytime.

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St. Paul, Alberta
ToA 3A1

Phone:

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Email:

pmthaugen@hotmail.com

If anyone you know is in the Hospital, or are at home ill and would like a visitation from me, please contact me and I will make immediate arrangements to meet with them.

Pastoral continued from page 2.

others are relieved. I feel blessed that, as an Orthodox priest, I celebrate Christmas all year round. Each time I celebrate the Liturgy and prepare the Gifts that will become the Body and Blood of Christ, I gaze upon an icon of the Nativity at the table of preparation (Prothesis) in the Holy Altar of the church. The first prayer of the service of the Preparation of the Gifts (the Proskomedia) at every Eucharistic service (and we celebrate the Eucharist in a service called the Divine Liturgy over one hundred times a year) is a hymn of Christmas:

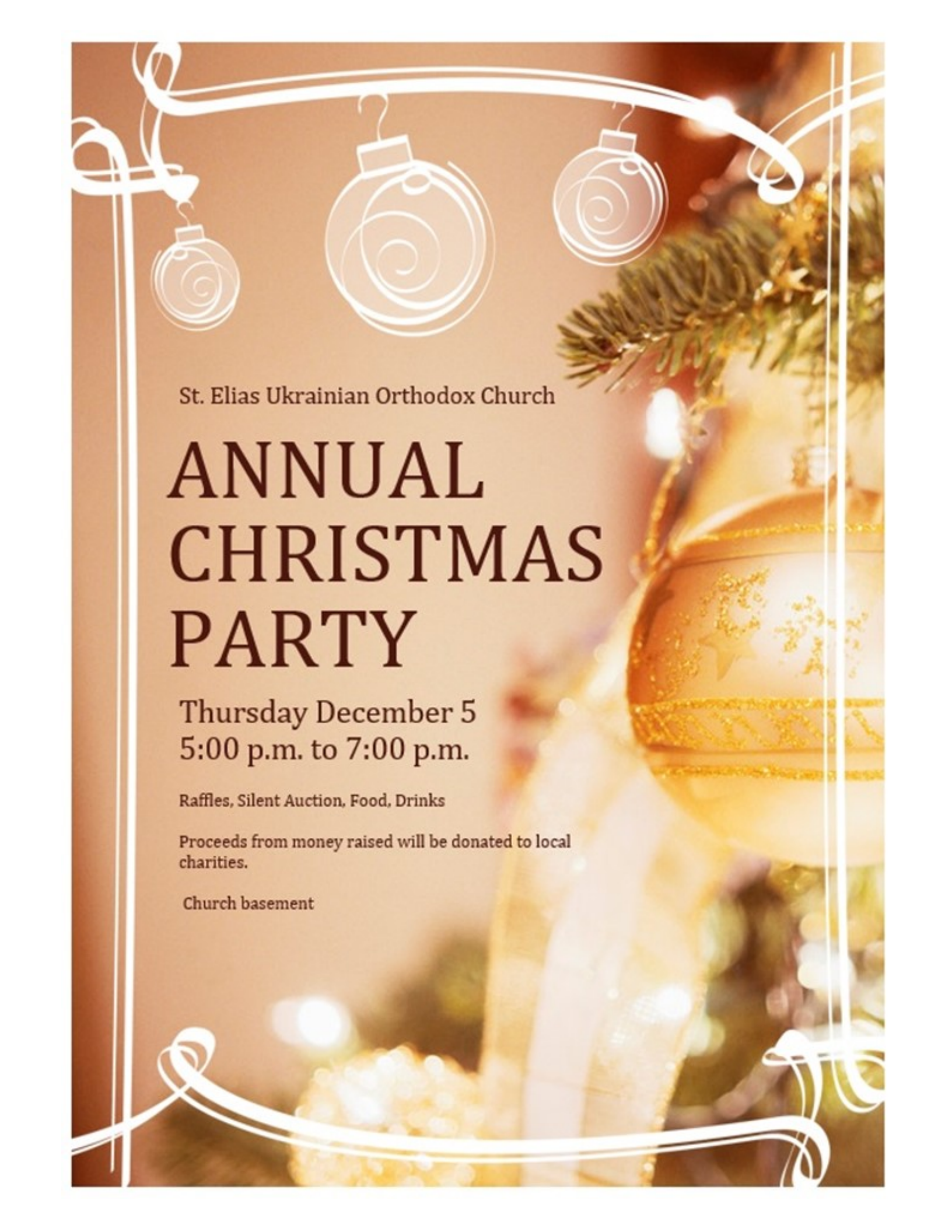
O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born, so that He might raise up the formerly fallen image. (Trans. Fr. Seraphim Dedes.)

As I cover the Bread on the Paten with a metal covering "Star" which looks like a four-point star, I offer a prayer based on the Gospel of Matthew 2:11: "And the star came and stood over where the child was with Mary His mother." (The prayer is found in The Order of the Divine and Holy Liturgy by Holy Cross Seminary Press)." The service concludes with the dismissal from the Nativity services, "May Christ our True God who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation . . ." So, it's always Christmas in the church. The lessons of the Nativity are things we should meditate on all the days of our lives.

As we pass this Holy time of preparation, I humbly ask for your prayers. I humbly offer mine as well.

O Bethlehem, welcome the Mother-city of God. For she is coming to give birth to the never-setting Light. Angels in heaven, marvel; people on earth, give glory. Magi from Persia, bring your triply precious gift. Shepherds in the field, sing the Thrice-Holy Hymn. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord who does all things. (From the Matins on the Feast of St. Andrew, November 30. Trans. Fr. Seraphim Dedes.)

<https://www.goarch.org/-/our-journey-to-bethlehem>



St. Elias Ukrainian Orthodox Church

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday December 5
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Raffles, Silent Auction, Food, Drinks

Proceeds from money raised will be donated to local charities.

Church basement

BIBLE STUDY - GENESIS (CONTINUED)

We will be finishing off the bible study on Genesis in the next two weeks ending with an in depth discussion on Abraham and Isaac.

- Monday, December 2nd - St. Paul @ 6:30pm
- Tuesday, December 3rd - Bonnyville @ 6:30pm
- Tuesday, December 9th - Bonnyville @ 6:30pm



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

On **Sunday, December 1st**, the district is hosting a family movie night. The evening will begin with a prayer service and talk with Fr. Peter, followed by Pizza, popcorn, and a movie. We will be showing The Grinch on the big screen in the All Saints hall, feel free to bring a pillow and something comfy to lay on. Parents, (or grandparents)

Please let Fr. Peter know before December 1st if you are joining us so that we can make appropriate arrangements for food.



GREAT VESPERS

We will be holding Great Vespers on the Saturdays preceding the Divine Liturgies in St. Paul and Bonnyville. It is my hope that in time, as our parishioners become more comfortable with this service, that individuals will volunteer to assist in the readings when they arrive at the Church. No one will be forced to read, so please don't avoid these services in fear of being asked, but it really is a wonderful way of becoming more involved in our worship services.

Schedule of Great Vespers:

Saturday - December 14th - St. Elias, Bonnyville - 5 pm

*"O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. Have mercy on me, a sinner ."
-Jesus Prayer*

WEBSITE

Don't forget we have a website!

It is under a bit of construction, but you can find updates, locations, and a long term schedule there. Photos will be coming soon as well. Check it out!

www.bonnyvilleanddistrictuoc.ca/

We're also on Facebook!
Look up:

Bonnyville District of the
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of
Canada

All Saints
St. Paul, AB
Dwayne Ternovoy
780-614-0858

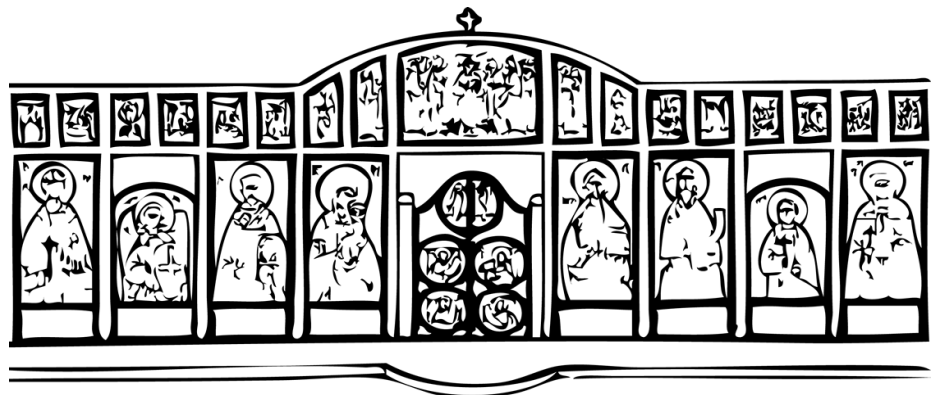
St. Elias
Bonnyville, AB
Janet Hutskal
780-573-3470

Sts. Peter & Paul
Nowa Bukowina, AB
Sandra Yuschyshyn
780-645-4815

Holy Trinity
Glendon, AB
Joyce Drapaka
780-645-3760

All Saints
Sandy Rapids, AB
Ron Rusnak
780-826-2062

Descent of the Holy Spirit
Stry, AB
Marion Chimko
780-636-2870





Bonnyville & District Ukrainian Orthodox Parish

Council Society - Schedule of Services - 2019

Note: Services may be cancelled due to inclement weather. If weather is a concern, please contact the President listed to learn service status.

NOVEMBER				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
2	Saturday	5:00 PM	St. Paul	Great Vespers
3	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
10	Sunday	10:00 AM	Nowa Bukowina	Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost
17	Sunday	10:00 AM	Glendon	Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost
23	Saturday	5:00 PM	Bonnyville	Great Vespers
24	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost
27	Wednesday	NATIVITY FAST BEGINS		
30	Saturday	5:00 PM	St. Paul	Great Vespers

DECEMBER				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
1	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
4	Wednesday	*ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE*		
8	Sunday	10:00 AM	Nowa Bukowina	Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
14	Saturday	5:00 PM	Bonnyville	Great Vespers
15	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
22	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	Twenty Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
29	Sunday	NO SERVICE WITHIN DISTRICT		

*Note: Services for Elk Point and Hamlin may be scheduled at a future date.

- Information and Month.
- Major Feats, Fast, and Xram celebrations.
- Great Lenten Services and events outside of District.
- Great Vespers