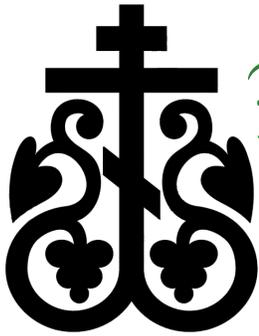


District Priest: Fr. Peter Haugen - 587-252-2715  
District President: Andrew Misiak - 780-573-5386  
Newsletter Contact: Dobr. Erin Haugen - 587-252-3410

January 2014  
Volume 1, Issue 1



# Bonnyville & District Parish News

## Something New!

Welcome to your district newsletter! Some of you may be reading this online after having received it through email, others may be reading it online after having found it on our website, while others still may be reading a hard copy you received either by mail or at one of our district parishes. Whichever situation you find yourself in, I hope you enjoy this latest endeavor.

It will take a few issues to work out the kinks and discover what works best for our district, but my hope is to publish a new issue every couple of months in the beginning, and lead up to a monthly release. The purpose of the newsletter is to help bring us together, raise awareness of goings on at all the parishes of our district, and include a few interesting tidbits and fun reads along the way.

You'll notice in this issue a message both from Fr. Peter and your district President Andrew Misiak. Those will be staples in every issue, and my hope is to be able to include submissions from all of your parish presidents on a rotational basis, as well as a report from your district treasurer—it's always good to know how the district is doing financially. On top of those important reports and messages, I am eager to include announcements and stories from you: The parishioners. If you would like to spread the word about anything you find important or interesting, please send it my way! I want this newsletter to be as useful to each of you as possible.

I hope you enjoy this inaugural issue, and please be patient while we get this project off the ground!

Yours in Christ,  
*Dobr. Erin Haugen*  
ehaugen@hotmail.ca

## Notes from your District President

By Andrew Misiak

On behalf of the executive of the Bonnyville & District Ukrainian Orthodox Parish Council Society, I wish to extend Festal Greetings to our parish priest, Rev. Fr. Peter Haugen and our Dobrodijka Erin and their children Noah & Finn, to all of our faithful parishioners from our congregations both near and far in fellowship. I'm humbled to witness our ability to grow stronger in spirit and fortitude these past few months. Truly



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**Ukrainian Orthodox  
Church of Canada**

[www.uocc.ca](http://www.uocc.ca)

**Western Eparchy**

[www.uocc-we.ca](http://www.uocc-we.ca)

**Bonnyville/St. Paul  
Parochial District**

[www.bonnyvilleanddistrictuoc.ca/](http://www.bonnyvilleanddistrictuoc.ca/)

**Ancient Faith Radio**

[www.ancientfaith.com](http://www.ancientfaith.com)



District President continued from page 1:

that journey is never ending and must be embraced by each one of us and enhanced.

The winter celebrations for some faithful who are shut in, without transportation and unable to share time with others is most pronounced during these times. Why would I mention this in my greetings to you all? I believe in what I can do in my pastoral work as a layperson within our community and what I can contribute to the well being of someone we know who may be alone or bear their pride to not reach out in times of doubt, need or want of some company and a visit. Invite or be invited! Nobody should be left behind as we hold our special services during Rizdvo/Christmas. Make sure that each congregation's leadership reviews their membership rosters to connect with these people we call our

members. Plan to carpool them to our services. Let them know that they are not forgotten, but loved in Christian fellowship that makes us a ГРОМАДА and unified in the spirit of Christ our new born saviour in the flesh. We can do wonderful and miraculous things by just giving of ourselves. I only wish better times for us all as we approach the new 2014 calendar year. Love and be loved in return!

God bless us one and all...

Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!

Happy New Year!

*Andrew Misiak*

President

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

*Bonnyville  
Cookbooks are  
here!*

St. Elias Parish in  
Bonnyville has  
produced a cookbook!

Books can be purchased  
upstairs at **Brosseau's  
Department Store** in  
Bonnyville or **contact Janet  
Hutskal at  
780-826-4547 or  
780-826-3973**. The cost  
is **\$10.00**. A great addition  
to your kitchen or gift for  
your neighbour.

2

## HOUSE BLESSINGS

Please make a note on your calendars that **following January 18th** Fr. Peter will be doing house blessings during regular office hours and into the evenings. Fr. Peter will be contacting all the people on our contact lists after the Nativity feast to arrange times, however if you have a preferred time that you would like him to visit and bless



your home, please feel free to call anytime. As well, **if you have not heard from Fr. Peter by the 20th of January** and would like your house blessed, **please call him on his cell (587) 252-2715 to ensure a visit.**

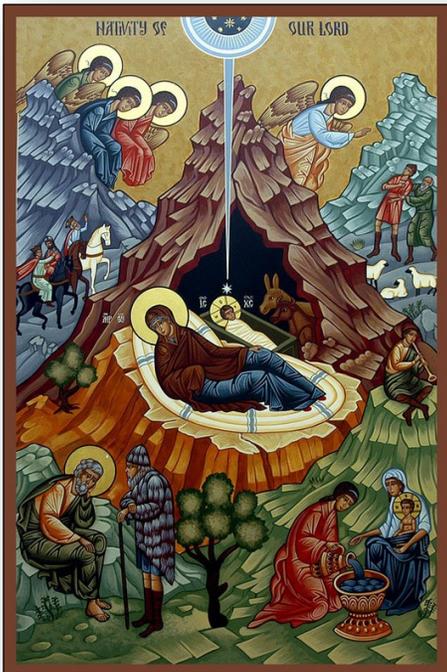
More information on preparing for house blessings can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

# Pastoral Message

By Fr. Peter Haugen

## Христос Родився! Славимо Його!

During the month of December we find ourselves in the midst of the Nativity fast which leads us on a journey to the Nativity of our Lord, then to the Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan, and concludes with the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple. These Feasts of our Lord are of great importance to the church, not only do we celebrate the birth of our Lord, we also are given the building blocks and an understanding of how a Christian should begin their lives. When we look at these feasts closely we can see that they are out of order in that Christ was baptized as an adult. Our Church fathers have specifically placed the feasts in this



*The Nativity of our Lord—January 7th*

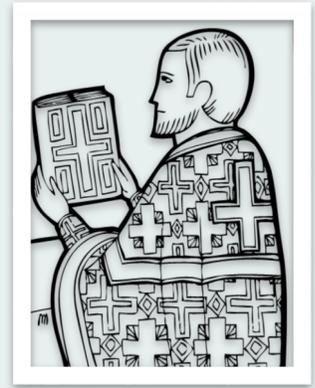
order on our church calendar because we as a church baptize infants and at the conclusion of the baptism the newly baptized child is churching thus imitating the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple.

The Nativity fast that begins this journey is also called Philips fast as it begins just after the day commemorating St. Philip. This fast is a 40 day period prior to the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and is patterned after the Great Lenten Fast period prior to Pascha (Easter). After the fast starts (for us on the 29th of November) the first Major Feast we see is the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple which brings us into the Nativity season as with this Feast we begin to sing the Canon of Christ's Nativity and begins the singing of the liturgical hymns of the Nativity. The next important day celebrated is the day which the church commemorates Holy Apostle Andrew the First Called.

This is also an important part of our fast because Andrew, himself being the first called of Christ, calls us to meet the Messiah just as he called his brother Apostle Peter to meet the Messiah.

A pivotal figure within our current society as well as within our church community is the celebration of St. Nicholas and his arrival to our churches. This commemoration reminds us as Christians how we are to live and as St. Nicholas imitated and lived a life of Christ; we too must try to imitate St. Nicholas and give not just our lives to Christ, but give our material possessions, monies, and food to those who have none. We are always very blessed that at this time of year St. Nicholas visits our parishes to help spread Christ's message to our children.

This period of Fasting that we go through prior to the Nativity of our Lord sometimes takes a back seat the Great Lenten fast and we at times do even see this period as being nowhere near as important. It is proper for us to try to the best of our abilities not just to fast but to take this Fast as well as all of the Fast



## Liturgical Scripture Readings

*January 2014*

Sunday, January 5th  
*Sunday before the Nativity*

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10,  
17-23, 32-40;  
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25.

Sunday, January 12th  
*Sunday after the Nativity*  
Epistle: Galations 1:11-19;  
Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23.

Sunday, January 19th  
*Holy Theophany*  
Epistle: 1 Corinthians  
10:1-4;  
Gospel: Mark 1:9-11.

Sunday, January 26th  
*31st Sunday after Pentecost*  
Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13  
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17.

## Newsletter Submissions Needed!

I would like to assign one person per parish to act as **submission coordinator** for the newsletter. This person would be in contact with me regarding upcoming events and announcements for their parish to ensure I know the details to include in the newsletter. If you would like to volunteer or find our more, please speak with your President and let me know!

Dobr. Erin Haugen:  
ehaugen@hotmail.ca  
587-252-3410

### **Fr. Peter's Contact Information:**

5525-55 Ave.  
St. Paul, Alberta  
T0A 3A1

#### **Phone:**

587-252-2715

#### **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 message continued:

periods or Fast Days of our church just as we would fast within the Great Lenten period.

### January 7th – The Nativity of Christ

At one point in time in our Church history the feasts of the Nativity and Epiphany were celebrated together, as one joyous event of Christ's appearance on earth. It changed between the 4th and 5th centuries to offset the Pagan festival of the sun. As more and more pagans were beginning to convert to Christianity, our Holy Fathers at the time decided to combat the false religions by celebrating the Churches feast on some of the days of pagan festival. This is noted in the Nativity Tropar referring to Christ as the true "Sun of Righteousness". It is through this feast that we celebrate the salvation brought to this world through the incarnate Son of Man, Jesus Christ.

### January 19th – Epiphany (Theophany)

When Christ became thirty, He began to preach and He appeared to the people at the Jordan, where John the Forerunner had been heralding the coming of the Messiah. He preached baptism and repentance for the forgiveness of sins. "Then came Jesus from Galilee to the Jordan unto John to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heav-

en, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3:13-17)

The celebration of the Epiphany which is literally translated meaning "Shining Forth", is celebrated and understood as the fulfillment of the Jewish feast, the Feast of Lights. We more commonly refer to this Feast as Theophany which means the "Shining forth of God". This feast brings to us the full form of the Trinity and allows to better understand Christ's role within the Trinity, the Sacrificial Lamb who takes away the sins of the world.

This feast also has the special feature of the Great Blessing of Water, during which the priest surrounding by the people bless the water with his breath, his hand, the triple candles, and the cross itself. Through the drinking and sprinkling of this Holy Water, as water is the prime element in most things, it reminds us that we are creatures of God. Created and saved us in order to become closer to our Lord, and through the blessing of the Holy Water God is truly with us, now in this world.

## Christ is Born! Let us Glorify Him!

A full district **Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday January 26th** at St. Elias in Bonnyville following the Liturgy. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of this meeting, so please do your best to be there. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

## NATIVITY EPISTLE

*By Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine*

*To the Venerable Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church beyond the Borders of Ukraine and to our Brothers and Sisters of the Faith in Ukraine,*

These words were spoken long ago to people living in anxiety, fear, and despair, people feeling bereft of security, safety and any sense of God's presence. We hear them early on Christmas, forgetting that they were first spoken hundreds of years before the birth we are celebrating. Human beings throughout our planet still yearn to know that a more gracious and divine reality is active and evident in our lives.

The Nativity, or as it is often referred to – Christmas – is here! The season has come and, with it, many joyous moments. However, what is the real meaning of the Nativity? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room and greetings of “Merry Christmas” to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really what the Nativity is? For many people, the Nativity Feast is a time of sorrow. They do not have the ability to buy gifts for their children, family and friends. Many are saddened at Christmas time when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home to join in the festivities. A turkey or ham dinner may be only a wish and not a possible reality for some.

Yet, the Nativity Feast can be a season of great joy, especially if we remember that God is showing His great Love for us through it. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to be incarnate – to become one of us. His Nativity brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary Child. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over the cave in Bethlehem to mark the way for those who were searching for this special Child.

The Nativity is also a season for reflection: What is it about Christmas that draws people together? Why do we go to our grandmother's house for a big dinner or visit family and friends who we see but once a year to exchange presents? Why do we attend one Christmas party after another with people we do not really know? Whatever the reason, it should cause us to reflect deeply about the fact that no one wants to be alone at Christmas. Christmas has become a time for gift-giving. Gifts are a sign of the love and friendship people have for one another. At the same time, gift-giving, and perhaps the expectation of gifts, can get out of hand. The desire for the latest fashion or



**Permanent  
Conference  
of Ukrainian  
Orthodox  
Hierarchs Beyond  
the Borders of  
Ukraine**

**Feast of the  
Nativity  
of our Lord and  
God and Saviour  
Jesus Christ  
2013-2014**

*The people who  
walked in darkness  
have seen a great  
light;  
those who lived in a  
land of deep  
darkness  
- on them light has  
shined. (Isaiah 9:2)*

gadget can become more important than the friendship a gift symbolizes. Sometimes people judge friendships more by the value of the gifts they are given rather than the value of the person who gives it to them. This is a dangerous path to tread – one which can lead to the breaking down of relationships and the cause of loneliness when we want most to not be alone.

Jesus Christ comes as Saviour for all, not just for a select few. His Nativity is God's proclamation that we all matter and that we belong to Him and to one another. The message of His Nativity was first announced to shepherds – those people living on the margins of society and often not trusted by others. The angels proclaimed, "Glory to God on High and peace and good will amongst all people" enabling strangers to become friends and enemies to be reconciled. In that journey towards friendship and the recognition of our common humanity, we discover a freedom which enables us to live in peace with one another and to have respect for every individual and every culture.

Our Saviour teaches us that mercy, forgiveness, joy, peace and justice are all possible realities and not to be found only in our dreams. They are possible realities because it is Christ born in Bethlehem Who is true mercy, forgiveness, joy, peace and justice. These are the genuine gifts of Christmas, presented abundantly to us by the One, Whose humble Nativity we joyfully celebrate. Our prayer for you, for your families, for our parish communities and for our entire world is that these gifts are received with pure hearts, minds and souls and that you will unwrap and quickly share them with others – perhaps even those you may not know in order that they too can discover what it truly means to be "home for Christmas." Most incredibly, when we share these gifts they are replaced almost more quickly than we can give them away.

When you are on your way to Christmas dinner, or to visit family and friends, or to exchange gifts, or to attend another Christmas party or to church to offer praise and gratitude to God on one of the Nativity Holy Days, pray for everyone you greet. Think about how they might come to know what you already believe through those prayers – that God is at home with us and we are to be at home with him, not in a dream, but in reality through the love of Jesus Christ. May we always live as though we truly hold this to be true all the days of our life.

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

*The Nativity of Christ 2013-2014*

With Archpastoral Blessings,

† **YURIJ**, Metropolitan

*Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada*

† **ANTONY**, Metropolitan

*Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and*

*Locum Tenens Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora*

† **IOAN**, Archbishop

*Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora*

† **JEREMIAH**, Archbishop

*Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Brazil and South America*

† **ILARION**, Bishop

*Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada*

## PREPARING FOR HOUSE BLESSINGS:

It is important that our homes receive the blessing of Holy Water. You can contact Father by telephone, e-mail or in person to arrange a date and time that are best for you and your family. You can expect Father to contact you if he hasn't seen you at Liturgy during the Nativity fast and Holy Days.

### Getting Ready:

Christ, by entering the Jordan, sanctified it, and with it all creation. Material creation once again became "very good" as it was in the beginning. The central sign of God's sanctification of all things through the feast of Theophany is the act of blessing the homes of faithful Christians. The priest visits all members of the Church to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with Holy Water. He asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil, and to fill it with every blessing. Thus the house itself, together with the living persons of the family, is "filled with all the fullness of God".

### To prepare for father's visit to bless your home:

- Make a list of the first names of those family members you wish to pray for when the priest arrives, with the living and the deceased in separate lists.
- On your dining room table or family altar, place a lighted candle, a Theophany icon or icon of Christ, and a wide bowl (to hold the holy water the priest will bring). Be sure your prayer list is there, too!
- Turn on a light in each room (in

the evening), so the priest can see where he is going.

- Turn off all Televisions, radios, cell phones, stereos, and computers.
- Secure any pets that might jump up on the priest or family, or "get underfoot" as you move from room to room. (Pets may be blessed, too!)
- Everyone in the house when the priest arrives should gather around the table/family altar and join in the singing of the litany responses and troparion.
- The children may lead the priest around the house with a lit candle, if he permits.

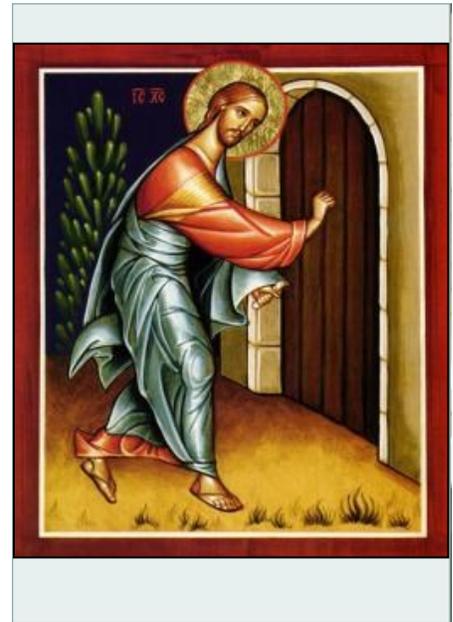
### Frequently asked Questions (and Answers!)

- How long does it take for Father to bless my home? I have a busy schedule!

*Father can bless your home quickly if you have a busy schedule. It is important for him to be able to visit and share with all the family members. A home blessing visit is one of the most valuable and important opportunities we receive during the year to have "one on one" time to discuss matters privately and in confidence with your pastor.*

- Do I have to prepare a meal?

*Welcoming your pastor to your home, praying and visiting with him is the most important thing! You are under no obligation to prepare or serve any elaborate meal for the priest. A warm cup of coffee on a cold January day,*



*however, would be helpful!*

- What if I can't have Father visit my home at this time? Can he come at another time?

*The "stuff of life" can make a pastor's visit difficult at times. Your home may be under renovation. There may be an illness, travel, or other matter that complicates the daily flow of life. The most important thing to remember here is to COMMUNICATE with your Pastor! Your spiritual care and well-being are his most important concern. If the Epiphany season, at the end of January, is not a good time for you and your family for whatever reason, simply let Father know. He can keep in contact with you to determine when a good time is for everyone at a later date in the year.*

- How much should I pay the priest for this service?

*While it is customary to offer a small gift, on such occasions, there is absolutely NO OBLIGATION to pay for this service. (refer to Acts 8:18). The gift of your time, presence and prayer are more than sufficient!*

## **Your District**

### **Executive:**

**President:**

***Andrew Misiak***

**Vice President:**

***Ron Rusnak***

**Secretary:**

***Krystal Johnson***

**Treasurer:**

***Sandra Yuschynshyn***

**Past President:**

***Caroline Yewchin***

## **Membership fees:**

The membership fees for St. Elias Parish in Bonnyville were due at the end of December. If you have not yet paid and wish to do so—Or have any questions regarding membership—Please contact Janet Hutskal at 780 -826-4547.

### **Fees are as follows:**

**\$100 per individual OR**

**\$200 per family**

*If you have question about your membership at another parish within our district please contact your parish President—Their contact information can be found listed below.*

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***“СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ! СЛАВА НА ВІКИ!***

***Glory Be To Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!”***

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**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/](http://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

Sts. Peter & Paul  
Glendon, AB  
Mike Stasyk

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

Sts. Peter & Paul  
Sandy Rapids, AB  
Ron Rusnak  
780-812-6382

Sts. Peter & Paul  
Nowa Bukowina, AB  
Sandra Yuschynshyn  
780-614-0786



# January 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
5 Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM <b>St. Paul</b>	6	7  Nativity Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM <b>St. Paul</b>	8	9	10	11
12 Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM <b>Nowa Bukowina</b>	13	14	15	16	17	18  Eve of Theophany Blessing 5:00 PM <b>Bonnyville</b>
19 Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM <b>Kiev's - K - Hi</b>	20 House Blessings Begin	21	22	23	24	25
26 Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM <b>Bonnyville</b>	27 	28	29	30	31	

A more detailed and long-term schedule is available on the website and of course from Fr. Peter and your District Executive members. The schedule above and those in future newsletters are meant to serve as a visual reminder of services for the month. Please be sure to take note of the time and location of each service (again, due to space I could not include full names of parishes, locations, etc. ). Fr. Peter will continue to announce upcoming services and events at church as he has been doing. Think of this as 'the month at a glance'!