



BULLETIN

Українська Католицька Церква Христового
Воскресення

Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Resurrection

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Pastor: Rev. Renaldo Kekis, STB, B.Ed.

MASSES Sundays (September to June): 10:00am
Sundays (July and August): 9:30am
Holy Days: as announced

Confessions: Prior to Liturgies

Sacraments: By appointment

Hall Rentals: (905) 807-4255

December 9, 2018

Twenty ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Immaculate Conception
Saint Nicholas

Tropar tone 4:

When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the glorious news of the resurrection and cast off the ancestral condemnation, they proudly told the apostles: "Death has been plundered! Christ our God is risen, granting to the world great mercy."

Exult, peoples, and rejoice, for behold, the morning star of the mystical day has risen for you today, the most blessed Virgin Mary, who was immaculately conceived in the womb of wondrous Anne. Let us kneel in reverence before her with choirs of angels and cry out aloud: "Hail, Mother of the never-setting Light, Christ our God, the Orient on high. He enlightens us who sit in darkness and the shadow of death and directs our footsteps on a peaceful path."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: To your flock the uprightness of your deeds showed you to be a norm of faith, a model of meekness and a teacher of self-control. And so, you attained eminence through lowliness, riches through poverty. Our Father, hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Today the most pure image of God's glory is being painted in the womb of wondrous Anne by the Holy Spirit. A powerful weapon, the most blessed Virgin Mary is raised against Hades today by the arm of God. With hosts of angels let us cry out to her: "Hail, you who alone were privileged by the Lord's special redemption to be preserved, not cleansed, from Original sin."

Prokimen:

My soul extols the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Verse: For he looked with favor upon his lowly handmaid.

Communion hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia (3).

The schedule of vidpravy for this week:

Wednesday, December 12, 6:30 pm -

Moleben to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday, December 15, 10:00 am -

Holy Mass

Christ, our Savior, derived his humanity from Mary. Without Mary there would have been no Christ. Hence Mary played an essential and important part in our redemption. God placed Mary at the very center of his plan for salvation. She occupies a pre-eminent position in the work of redemption.

If we wish to honor and imitate God, we must give Mary a correspondingly important place in our lives. We must strive to know Mary better, to love her more and imitate the virtues she practiced in our own lives.

Doctrine and devotion are closely related. If we know and realize the important part Mary played in our Redemption, then we naturally have a greater devotion to her. We will show love and honor to our Blessed Mother.

One of Mary's great privileges was her Immaculate Conception. God ordained that Mary should enter this world free from the stain of original sin with which all other men are born. Almighty God bestowed this privilege on Mary not only because of her virtue but because he foresaw that one day he would choose her to be the Mother of his own divine Son.

God did not wish his divine Son born of a mother whose soul was stained with sin. Therefore he bestowed this singular privilege on Mary. She entered this world and was born free from the stain of any sin. This privilege of Mary we celebrate today, the feast of her Immaculate Conception.

The Second Vatican Council has reaffirmed the important position Mary plays in the Church and in our salvation. The Vatican Council echoes the honor that has been paid to Mary down through the centuries. It encourages us to honor her and pray to her frequently.

Vatican II tells us that the Blessed Virgin Mary figures profoundly in the history of salvation. She unites and mirrors within herself the central truths of the faith.

Devotion to Mary was officially sanctioned by the Council of Ephesus and since then has been encouraged and fostered. Vatican II says that devotion to Mary causes her divine Son to be rightly known, loved and glorified. True devotion is shown to Mary when one comes to know her excellence and is prompted to true love of her and her divine Son. This is to be deeply encouraged.



St. Nicholas, the Wondermaker

Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, is one of the most popular Saints, especially among Eastern Christians. He won great esteem through his numerous works of mercy during his life and through great zeal in defending the divinity of Christ against the heretic Arius at the Council of Nicaea in 325. He is regarded as the Patron Saint of children. He was popularized in America by the Dutch puritans who disguised the "popish" Saint as a nordic magician, called "Santa Claus."

In 1087 Italian merchants brought St. Nicholas' body to Bari in Italy from Asia. A perfumed oil is still flowing out of his holy relics.

Our prince Vsevolod Yaroslavych introduced his feast into Ukraine under Pope Urban II (1088-99). Saint Nicholas is very popular among our people, both Catholic and Orthodox.