Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Elia

11833 – 66 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5B 1J2
Office: 780-471-2288
Kitchen: 780-479-8824

Website: https://www.uocc-stelia.ca/
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada:www.uocc.ca
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/UOCStElia/

Clergy: Priest: Rev. Fr. Vasyl Maskal
vs.maskal@gmail.com
780-471-2288

Council Contacts:

Parish President: Tammy Ewanec
tewanec@shaw.ca

Treasurer: Tanya Popovych

Secretary: Marie Davies

UWAC President: Betty Corlett
bettycor@telus.net
780-932-9727 cell

Club Trident President: Ivan Sawchuk

Newsletter Contacts:
Myrna Kostash
kostashm@yahoo.ca
Betty Corlett (see contact info above)

Kitchen Contact Hilda Ewanec 780-474-4867

Council member: Jory Buck

Hospodars: Igor Stebli, Vasyl Pavliuk,
Ihor Popovych,

May 2026 Newsletter

This is the Day
That the Lord has made,
Let us rejoice
And be glad in it.
Psalm 118.24

Worship Hours
9:00-9:30 Confessions/8:30-9:00 starts on April 19
10:00 Divine Liturgy/9:30 starts on April 19

Next Mission Outreach Potluck is May 31

'Then the righteous will answer Him [Christ], saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? . . . And the King [Christ] will answer and say to them, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me.' (Matthew 25: 37,40)

We need your help! All hands on deck! to help clean the church. Saturday, May 9, 11 am. Lunch will be provided. Many hands make light work tra la

Saints and Feast Days for May

May 5: Great Martyr Irene

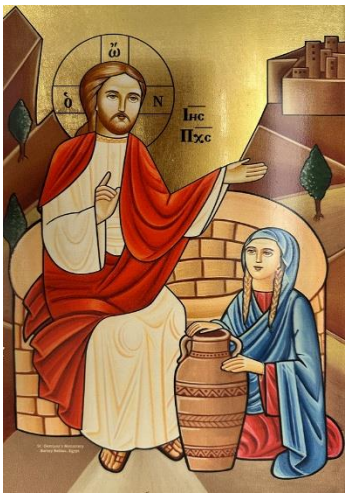


The holy Great Martyr **Irene of Thessaloniki** was born in the city of Magedon in Persia during the fourth century. She was the daughter of the pagan king Licinius, and her parents named her Penelope. Her baptismal name *Irene* means *peace*.

Little is known of Irene's early life, and her personage is surrounded by legend. Her pagan father, fearful of her beauty, locked her away in a tower at the age of six. She found God in her imprisonment, and He taught her the Christian doctrine. Baptized by Saint Timothy, she renounced her birth name, took the name Irene, and destroyed the idols that her father gave her to worship.[4]

Irene's father, angered by her actions, ordered for her to be tied to a horse and dragged to death. She survived the dragging and the horse turned on her father and bit him. His injury festered, leading to his death, but Irene prayed over his body and brought him back to life. The end of her legend appears to differ, depending on who is telling the story. In one rendition, Irene converts her father to Christianity and the two become evangelists. They convert thousands of pagans, until a Governor named "Ampelio" captures and imprisons the pair. Ampelio attempted to torture Irene until she renounced her faith; when she refused, he had her beheaded

May 10 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman



The Gospel of John (4:5-42) relates the encounter of Photine, the Samaritan woman, with Christ at Jacob's well. She repented after a very gentle and wise conversation with Christ and went and told her townspeople that she had met the Christ. For this, she is sometimes claimed as the first to proclaim the Gospel of Christ.

Kondak: O Almighty Saviour, Who did pour forth water for the Hebrews from a solid rock: You did come to the Land of Samaria, and addressed a woman, whom You did attract to faith in You, and she has now attained life in the heavens everlastingly.

The holy and glorious Great-martyr Photini of Samaria, Equal-to-the-Apostles, encountered Christ at the well of Jacob. Tradition relates that the Apostles baptized her with the name "Photine" meaning "enlightened one."

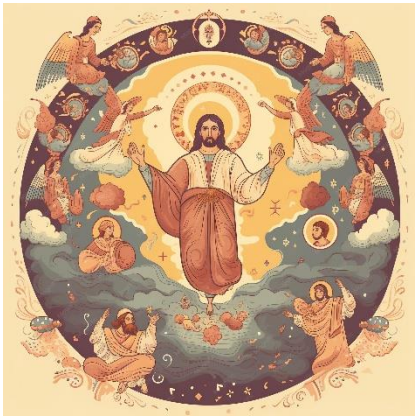
May 11: Equal- to- the- Apostles Cyril and Methodius



Our fathers among the saints **Cyril and Methodius** were brothers who brought Orthodoxy to the Slavic peoples of central Europe in the ninth century. In preparation for their mission to the Slavs they devised the Glagolitic alphabet to translate the Holy Scriptures and other Christian writings into what is now called Old Church Slavonic. Glagolitic later developed into the Cyrillic alphabet which is now used in a number of Slavic languages. The two brothers have been recognized as saints, equals to the apostles, for their missionary work.

Tropar: O Cyril and Methodius, inspired by God,
You became equal to the Apostles by your life.
Since you were teachers of the Slavs,
Intercede with the Master of all
That He may strengthen all Orthodox peoples in the True Faith,
And that He may grant peace to the world
And great mercy to our souls.

May 21: Ascension of Our Lord



The **Ascension** of Jesus Christ is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated forty days after Pascha :Forty days after the Resurrection, while blessing his disciples, Christ ascended into heaven, taking his place at the right hand of the Father.

The first account of the Ascension found in the Bible is in the Gospel of Mark (16:14-19). The description is brief. Jesus and the remaining eleven disciples are seated at a table, presumably in a room in or near Jerusalem. Jesus commands his followers to spread the Gospel, and that those who believe will be known by their invulnerability to poison, ability to heal the sick, and the like. After delivering these final words, Jesus is received into heaven to sit at the right hand of God. No description of the Ascension itself is given; Mark simply states that it happened.

The Gospel of Luke is even more brief in its description (24:50-51). Jesus led the eleven to Bethany, not far from Jerusalem. While in the act of blessing them, Jesus was carried up to heaven.

Parish News

On Lazarus Saturday, April 4, five Catechumens were received into the Orthodox faith (Carlos Sr, having been baptised as a Roman Catholic, was not re-baptized but was Chrismated) and here they are, our Newly Illuminated ones l-r : Scott, Carlos Sr, Carlos Jr, Kyle and Vince. Also pictured is Kyle's Tonsure and First Communion

Thanks to Vira our parish photographer for posting these on St E;ia's Facebook page.







Over the next couple of newsletters, as the editor, I hope to include the responses to a short Q&A I will be sending out to our new Orthodox brothers-in-Christ. Scott Backus has responded:

"I found out about St. Elia church by coincidence (but as we know there are no coincidences, only God's hand guiding us). I was looking for an Orthodox Church and found the closest one to me. I was nervous because I wasn't Ukrainian, but I was welcomed with open arms. I chose to attend services because I love God and I love the church with all my heart. Seeing the service felt like home and a piece of history.

“I wanted to be baptized and chrismated to be saved and be on the path to theosis. To come closer to Jesus Christ and participate in the Holy Eucharist. I take the Eucharist and baptism very seriously and I wanted to do it right. Doing my research in church history I realized Orthodox is the way.

“Where am I on my path? I would say I'm a beginner, but I think I'll always feel like I'm a beginner when I read about the saints. I love learning and participating in the church. I'm always learning and reading scripture. I'm taking one baby step at a time and when I fall, Jesus is there to lift me back up. Learning to walk with Jesus is a lifelong process that I'm excited to be on.

“My baptismal name is Andrew. I chose the apostle Andrew (the first called) or should I say the name chose me in a way. My birthday is on November 30th, St. Andrew's feast day, my middle name is Andrew, the Church I chose is a Ukrainian church which St. Andrew's church is in Kyiv, my grandpa is named Andrew, and St. Andrew is the patron saint of singers which I love music and I love to sing. All arrows pointed to me choosing St. Andrew. God has his ways of nudging us in the direction that he wants us to go down.”



A year ago, on April 19, our acolyte Jory Buck was baptized and chrismated at St Elia’s; Oleksiy Popovych and I stood as his sponsors. Jory also has written aa response to the Q&A:

“I was at CFB Cold Lake when I first began to attend church (Holy Name RC Chapel on base), and upon return, I wanted to visit an Orthodox church. St. Elia's was the closest canonical Orthodox church, which by coincidence turned out to be a Ukrainian church.

“I fell in love with the liturgy during my first visit and decided to keep attending. I became more involved in the church community with a strong desire to put down roots, which kept me at St. Elia's. A year later and I'm still at the beginning of this journey, but faith in Christ Jesus has given me a firm foundation to stand upon, a retreat from the stresses of this world, and a compass for my heart & soul.

“My name given at birth was "Jory", which is the Cornish ‘George’. I accepted St. George the Archmartyr as my name saint, and being in a Ukrainian church, I was baptized with the name ‘Yuriy’.”

mkostash

‡ **PLEASE NOTE THAT PROVODY AT ST MICHAEL CEMETERY HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO SUNDAY MAY 17 AT 2 PM** ‡

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‡ **UWAC, Lesia Ukrainka Branch News**

‡ **Thank you** for supporting our Easter baking sales; there is still product available for purchase.

‡ **Thank you** for your generous financial support for church flowers; the church looked beautiful for Easter.

‡ **Thank you** for volunteering at the UWAC Casino of May 1 and 2. (Ivan, Chris, Alex, Karen, MaryAnn, Tammy, Betty, Norm, Marie, Hilda, Tanya, Ihor, Oleksiy, Carlos Sr., Carlos Jr., Tanya, Justina, Jory; Lorne, Michael, Vicki [from ABCA]; Josip, Larisa [from Razom])

The digital copy of Visnyk is available at https://www.uocc.ca/visnyk/ Hard copy is available at St Elia's if requested

Mission Outreach Committee Report



Thanks to the generous donations made at our monthly Potlucks, the Mission Outreach committee is able to make 3 donations of $750 each (with some funds held back in reserve) in time for Spring (finally). We are focussing this time on charities that support youth in our Edmonton community (our "neighbours").

They are

1.Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS)' **is a 24/7, single-point-of access to immediate and low-barrier physical, mental, cultural, and emotional health supports and a safe place to stay for youth aged 15-21 who are experiencing crisis in the Edmonton Metro Area. The Youth Support Centre also host Monday to Friday Resource and Health Hubs with physical and mental health clinics and youth-supporting resources to ensure youth 15-24 get the help they need, when they need it.**

2.Since its inception nearly 30 years ago, iHuman has believed in the transformative power of the arts.For nearly 30 years, iHuman Youth Society has supported youth navigating complex social and economic challenges through an integrated model of care that brings together creative programming and coordinated supports.

Grounded in trauma-informed practice and early intervention, iHuman leverages the arts to build trust, strengthen protective factors, and create accessible pathways to services. This model contributes to improved stability, skill development, and long-term outcomes for youth.

3. For over 30 years the ***Inner City Youth Engagement Program*** and ***Inner City High School*****,** under the umbrella of the Inner City Youth Development Association, have provided **life-changing opportunities** to Edmonton's marginalized Indigenous and other urban youth, allowing them to leave the desperation of the street and build more productive lives. Our Youth Engagement Program reaches youth at the street level, providing needed support that bridges them to an eventual **high school diploma**. Our unique approach allows us to work with youth in a more holistic way.

Myrna Kostash, for

Betty Corlett
Tammy Ewanec
Tanya Popovych



APRIL/MAY

April 26 – Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women.

† Confession: from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

† Hours: 9:00 a.m.

† Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Coffee hour fellowship following the Divine Liturgy

May 3 – Sunday of the Paralytic.

† Confession: from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

† Hours: 9:00 a.m.

† Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Coffee hour fellowship following the Divine Liturgy

May 10 – Sunday of the Samaritan Woman.

† Confession: from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

† Hours: 9:00 a.m.

† Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Coffee hour fellowship following the Divine Liturgy

May 17 – Sunday of the Blind Man.

† Confession: from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

† Hours: 9:00 a.m.

† Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Coffee hour fellowship following the Divine Liturgy

May 24 – Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council.

† Confession: from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

† Hours: 9:00 a.m.

† Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship following the Divine Liturgy

May 30 – Trinity Sunday.

† Vespers: from 5:00 p.m.

May 31 – Trinity Sunday.

† Confession: from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

† Hours: 9:00 a.m.

† Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship following the Divine Liturgy



КВІТЕНЬ/ТРАВЕНЬ

26 квітня – Неділя Свв. Жінок-Мироносиць

† Сповідь: з 8:30 до 9:00 год.

† Часи: 9:00 год.

† Божественна Літургія: 9:30 год.

Братська зустріч при каві після Божественної Літургії

3 травня – Неділя Розслабленого

† Сповідь: з 8:30 до 9:00 год.

† Часи: 9:00 год.

† Божественна Літургія: 9:30 год.

Братська зустріч при каві після Божественної Літургії

10 травня - Неділя про Самарянку

† Сповідь: з 8:30 до 9:00 год.

† Часи: 9:00 год.

† Божественна Літургія: 9:30 год.

Братська зустріч при каві після Божественної Літургії

17 травня - Неділя Сліпонародженого

† Сповідь: з 8:30 до 9:00 год.

† Часи: 9:00 год.

† Божественна Літургія: 9:30 год.

Братська зустріч при каві після Божественної Літургії

24 травня - Свв. Оо. 1-го Вселенського Собору

† Сповідь: з 8:30 до 9:00 год.

† Часи: 9:00 год.

† Божественна Літургія: 9:30 год.

Братська зустріч після Літургії

30 травня - День Святої Трійці

† Вечірня: 17:00

31 травня - День Святої Трійці

† Сповідь: з 8:30 до 9:00 год.

† Часи: 9:00 год.

† Божественна Літургія: 9:30 год.

Братська зустріч після Божественної Літургії