



FEASTS OF THE SEASON

- Nativity of the Mother of God— Sept 8
- Exaltation of the Holy Cross— Sept 14
- Protection of the Mother of God— Oct 1
- St. Demetrius Great Martyr— Oct 26
- Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple— Nov 21
- St. Nicholas— Dec 6
- The Maternity of St. Ann Dec 9
- Nativity of our Lord— Dec 25

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Welcome to the Church Year!

ISSUE 1, SEPT 2011

GENERATIONS OF FAITH

The Liturgical Year— Christ Living and Active

For us the festivals of the Liturgical Year, according to the Church, should not be mere commemorations of past historical events, but should rather be opportunities, here and now, to re-live these events and participate in them as though they were just now taking place. The person of Jesus Christ in whom the whole cycle of the Ecclesiastical Year is centered is not a dead person, who once lived, worked and passed into history. Jesus Christ is eternally alive and active. Just as He once did on earth, so He does now. He teaches and admonishes us, sanctifies and forgives us, offers Himself up for us, saves us, and draws us to Himself by His example. "Jesus Christ," says St. Paul "is the same today as He was yesterday and as He will be

forever." (Heb. 13,8) The Liturgical Year, then, is a continuation of Christ's life, work and doctrine among us today. It is the mystical repetition of the myster-



In the Liturgical Year, it is Christ Himself who is ever living in His Church.

ies of Christ's life in the hearts of the faithful.

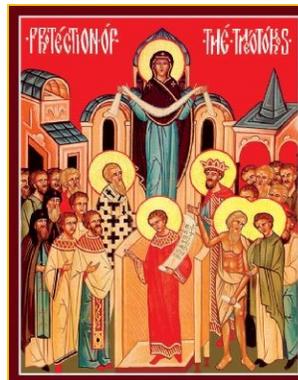
In his encyclical letter of November, 1947, "Mediator of God," Pius XII wrote: "The Liturgical

Year devoutly fostered and accompanied by the Church is not a cold and lifeless representation of the past, nor a simple, bare record of a former age. Rather, it is Christ Himself who is ever living in His Church. Here He continues that journey of immense mercy which He lovingly began in His mortal life 'going about doing good' with the design of bringing men to know His mysteries and in a way live by them. These mysteries are ever present and active...they are shining examples of Christian perfection as well as sources of divine grace."

- *A Byzantine Rite Liturgical Year*
17-22

A Source of Profound Veneration of the Mother of God

The Liturgical Year is not only a very rich source of the love of Jesus Christ, but is also a fountain of the profound veneration of His most holy Mother. Jesus and Mary are so closely united, that one cannot love Jesus Christ without, at the same time, loving the all-pure Virgin Mary.

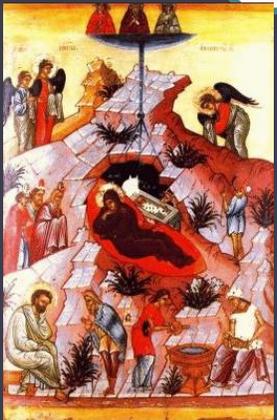


"Whoever honors Christ," says Epiphany of Cyprus (t403) "honors also Mary; whoever does not honor Mary, does not honor Christ"...

The Liturgical Year of our Eastern Church is particularly remarkable for its profound and sincere veneration of the Mother of God, expressed in all our Church services.



The Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross



The Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ

Spiritual Significance of the Liturgical Year

In the pastoral letter written by our Ukrainian bishops and Patriarch, Joseph Slipyj at the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council (1965), we read: “The Liturgical cycle of our Church is very rich. Our Liturgical Constitutions guide the faithful throughout the whole year and continuously place before their eyes the mysteries of the life, passion, death, and resurrection of our Divine Saviour, the grandeur of the Divine Motherhood and powerful intercession of the most

Holy Virgin Mary, the lives of holy men and women, who by their heroic imitation of Christ glorified God and the whole human race. The seasons of fast and abstinence from boisterous entertainment are to help the faithful exercise more self-control and better prepare them for the sacramental encounter with Christ in the Holy Eucharist and that face-to-face encounter with Christ on the day of his Second Coming at the end of the World.”

From what has been said, it is evident that our Liturgical Year resembles a great spiritual book that teaches us in a practical manner how to praise, love and serve God and thus save our souls. It speaks to us not only of great love and mercy of God towards us, but also of His strict justice. This spiritual book predisposes us for prayer, sacrifice and penance.

A Byzantine Rite Liturgical Year

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

“The holy Fathers and authors of the Christmas services not only admire and extol the mystery of the Incarnation, but also summon us to give worship to Christ and bring Him the gifts of our faith and love, together with the Most Holy Virgin, St. Joseph, the angels, the shepherds and the Wise Men.”

A Byzantine Rite Liturgical Year 305

Take time to reflect on three ways that you can offer your gifts of faith and love to other people during the Christmas season:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Reflection Questions

1. What is the most important part of your celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord?
2. When you think of the members of your communities, what message do they need to hear about the season of Christmas?

Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

“One could say that Theophany— the first public manifestation of Jesus to humanity— corresponds in our inner life to the ‘first conversion.’ This must be understood as the first conscious meeting of the human soul with its Saviour, the moment when we accept Jesus as Master and as

friend, and at which we make our decision to follow Him.”

A Year of Grace of the Lord 85

In baptism we “accept Jesus as Master and as friend.” Identify three situations in your life that you turned to Jesus for help.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Discover the Beauty of the Liturgical Year!

We're used to marking our lives by the events during the year that give shape to our existence and of those around us. A birthday. An anniversary. A graduation. A death. Each of these celebrations helps us mark significant moments in time.

We record many of these meaningful moments in pictures, videos, greeting cards, letters and the such. And from time to time, we reminisce about the people and happenings recorded for posterity, bringing a smile to our faces when our memories fill our hearts with gladness, or bringing a tear to the eye when we recall the loss of a loved one.

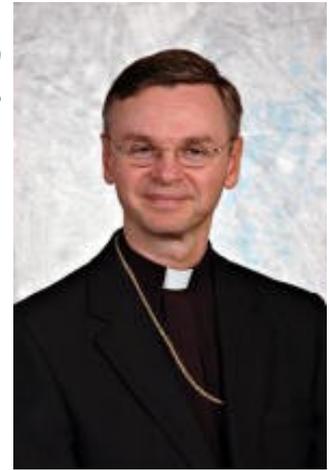
The Liturgical Year has a similar purpose in that it brings us closer to God through the celebration of significant persons and events in salvation history. Creation. The story of Adam and Eve. The Fall. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Moses. David and Goliath. John the Baptist and the Prophets. Jesus Christ, the Messiah – his birth, teachings, signs and miracles, crucifixion, death upon the cross, and resurrection. Mary, the Mother of God. The Apostles. The Evangelists. The Saints.

Each of these – and more – tells the beautiful story of how God draws near to his people, to you and me. And how we, in response, draw near to God.

The Liturgical Year, through the celebration of the various liturgical seasons of Great Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Christmas, Theophany, etc., is intended to transform our lives through grace, taking our rightful place in the Kingdom of God.

Therefore, the Liturgical Year is really a "love story" retold each year so that we may come to love the One who is Love, and to have life in abundance in God.

Discover the beauty of the Liturgical Year!



"Learn. Love. Live."

Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

The Resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our faith. What meaning would Christ's teaching have had if the Resurrection, which He had so frequently predicted had not taken place. 'If Christ has not risen, then,' says St. Paul, 'is our preaching vain and vain too is your faith...But, as it is, Christ has risen from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.' (I

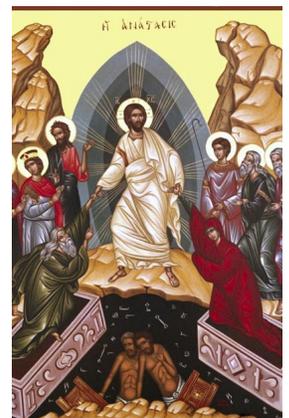
Cor 15:14-20) For this reason, the truth of the Resurrection and the Christian religion are inseparable."

- *A Byzantine Rite Liturgical Year 158*

Reflection Question:

Identify three of your daily or weekly actions that show you believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead to give you eternal life:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton

Українська Католицька
Едмонтонська Єпархія



Compiled by Mike Bombak for
Office of Religious Education
9645-108 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5H 1A3

Phone: 780-425-9907

Fax: 780-425-2330

E-mail: education@edmontoneparchy.com

What is Generations of Faith? More than a program, more than another initiative, Generations of Faith is an engaging, enjoyable, yet powerful way to learn about our faith. And it is for **EVERYONE** of **ALL** ages!

Yearning for something to steady you amid the frantic pace of modern life? Is it deeper understanding of our Faith? Then Generations of Faith is for you...and for your children...and for your spouse...and for your parents...and for those with special needs, and for couples...for singles...for teenagers...for retired people...for empty nesters...**FOR EVERYONE.**

Too busy for Generations of Faith? Open your heart and clear your calendar just once. You'll want to make time for GOF

The Teachings of the Feast Days

Refer to these reflection papers throughout the liturgical year. Share your reflection with other family members, or at the next Generations of Faith session.

1. Choose 7 more feast days for reflection, and mark the dates on your calendar so that you remember to refer to these suggestions.
2. Read the Epistle and Gospel readings for the feast day.
3. Read the prayers (Troparion and Kontakion) for the feast. These can be found at www.edmontoneparchy.com
4. Ask yourself: How am I living out the teachings of this feast day?
5. Subscribe to the google calendar

for the Church year. It can be found at <https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/ugccliturg%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

6. Write one paragraph identifying how your actions show you are following the teachings of Christ. Ex: For the Feast of Annunciation, identify ways that you are saying "Yes" to God's plan for your life, just as the Theotokos said "Yes" to God. What are the areas of my life that I still need to turn over to Christ?

