

## **BLESSED WORKERS**

<b>Greeters:</b>	Feb. 5	Bogdan & Alec
	Feb. 12	Catalin & Felix
<b>Readers:</b>	Feb. 5	George & Dan
	Feb. 12	Daniel & Anne
<b>Prospora makers:</b>	Feb. 5	Psa. Lillian
	Feb. 12	Eugenia & Galina
<b>Altar servers:</b>	Dan C, Andrei M, Bogdan, Stefan, Andrei V, Danny D., Mark	

***Tropar for the church**  
Your Nativity O Birthgiver of God,  
has proclaimed joy to all the Universe.  
For the Son of Righteousness,  
Christ our God, has risen from you,  
By abolishing the curse, He gave a blessing,  
By destroying death, He bestowed eternal life.*

### **To our visitors: Welcome to St. Mary's**

*We are honored to welcome you to worship with us today.  
Please note that only Orthodox Christians who have prepared  
themselves with prayer, fasting and Confession may approach  
to receive Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to receive the  
blessing and partake of the blessed bread (Antidor) at the dismissal.  
If you are new to our church, please introduce yourself to Father  
Michael.*

St. Mary's family – please show our visitors the warmth and hospitality we are known for. If you see a new person at church today- say hello and ask them to join you for a coffee. *“Hospitality is the greatest of virtues. It draws the grace of the Holy Spirit towards us. In every stranger's face, my child, I see Christ himself.” – Elder Amphilochios Makris*

# **Saint Mary's Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church,**

Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America (O.C.A.)

3511 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SW, Calgary T3C 0A7

Hierarch: The Most Reverend Archbishop Nathaniel

Pastor: Very Reverend Father Michael Lupu

[fatherlupu@shaw.ca](mailto:fatherlupu@shaw.ca) <http://www.saintmaryscalgary.org/>



**Feb. 5, 2012**

**Vespers Saturdays 6 pm  
Divine Liturgy Sundays 10 am  
Feast Days as announced**

## Upcoming EVENTS

- Feb. 18 – **Memorial Saturday** (Sambata Mortilor) 6:00pm
- Feb. 19 – **Church Pot Luck** – everyone is asked to bring their favorite dish. Please speak to Ana Maria or Annie. This is also the last Sunday meat is allowed before the fast.
- Sunday Feb. 26, 6:30pm – **Forgiveness Vespers @ St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church.**
- Feb 27 – **Great Lent** begins

### Mark your Calendars

- Sunday March 4, 6:30 pm- **Sunday of Orthodoxy** at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church
- April 15 – **Pascha/ Easter**
- April 20-22 – Men's Retreat
- May 26 – Young Adults' 1 day retreat

"There is only one way into the Kingdom of Heaven, and that is the very way that Jesus Christ went when He lived on earth." -- Bishop INNOCENT, Bishop of Kamchatka, the Kurilian and Aleutian Islands

**Please keep the servants of God in your prayers:**

Archbishop Seraphim,

Efstradia, Nicolae, Bogdan, Daniel, Maria, Mircea, Daniel,  
Constantine

Heavenly Father, grant them spiritual and physical healing.

### **The Publican and the Pharisee -Reading:**

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness.

Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights. All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday.

*The icon of the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee shows both men in the manner in which they enter the temple to pray. The Pharisee goes to a very prominent place where others will see him. The positions of his hands indicate that he is addressing God by speaking of his stature and accomplishments. In contrast, the Publican enters and remains in a... low place, far from the holiest parts of the temple. His posture shows his openness to God, his humility, and his petition for mercy.*

*The icon also shows the state of both men as they leave the temple. Following the words of Christ in Luke 18:14, the Publican has now been exalted in the kingdom of God because of his humility. He leaves the temple forgiven, and he shows that he remains open to the will of God. In contrast, the Pharisee leaves the temple unjustified, still in need of forgiveness. Because of his pride and lack of repentance, he will be humbled before God, the One who knows the condition of each person's soul and who will offer the gift of salvation to those who come to Him in true repentance. - Archmandrite Tryphon*