



# THE TROPHY-BEARER

## The Bulletin of St. George Orthodox Cathedral

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## ***Eternity and Time: Oration for the New Year***

*"O Creator of all creatures, You who have the times and seasons in Your power, bless this year we begin in Your goodness, O Lord."*

Troparion of the New Year

Every instant of life is already a new beginning of life. But human imagination seeks clear and distinct boundaries in flowing time; and at the midnight hour of the conventional new year, when for our consciousness a new page is turned over in our life, we experience, as it were, an immobility of time, as if an interruption in the beating of our hearts. We discern in time the face of eternity. We gaze with wide-open, frightened eyes into the stream of time which rushes before us; we gaze into it with the fear and hope that this stream will bring us new happiness and new life. God gives time; and it is time that constitutes our life, with its freedom and creativity. It is in time that the future is concealed, the world is created, and the untried, the unexperienced, the yearned-for is revealed. It is for this reason that we greet one another with this new life: with the new year, with new happiness. However, time has for us two faces: the past and the present, birth and dying. Time erases the written characters of life; it submerges them in nonbeing: "There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after" (Eccl. 1:11), lamented Ecclesiastes. "Everything flows," lamented the ancient sage. Everything is covered by the waters of forgetting in us ourselves as well as outside of us and after us. However, this forgetting too is only temporary in character, for time contains eternity and is contained by it; and nothing disappears that has once flashed in time. In the depths, beneath the surface of the waters, all things that have been submerged there are preserved in the eternal memory of the world. Our time is inscribed in the book of life; and this book will once again be opened beyond time, in the life of the future age. And the judgment of eternity will be pronounced by the Truth on the basis of this book. Time, flowing and fleeting, possesses a higher reality. Time is the casing of eternity; it is a thought of God, a work of God, a deed of God, which, in the fullness of time, will become transparent for eternity.

But now time in its flow is bordered for us by shores of nonbeing: In the past, there is the time before our birth; in the future, there is the yawning darkness of death. For a man,

every year, as well as every day, can be his last; and the end inevitably comes. Our creatureliness trembles before this thought, but this horror is not worthy of a Christian, and it does not correspond to the essence of time. For although we are subject to time, time is subject to God, and it is through time that God's destiny is accomplished upon us. It is in time that the work of God's Providence is accomplished and that God's Wisdom is realized. For God, the book of our time with its present and future is open, for "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end" (Rev. 22:13). Nevertheless, humanly, we consider that time belongs to us ourselves. We now greet one another with new life, with the new year, with new happiness. Are these greetings appropriate and reasonable? But as long as we live in time, the latter is the only given form of our life; and why should we not express human hope, which after all is better than hopelessness? We must love and respect the life given by God; and in life there is always revealed for us something new, for that is the nature of life. And we wish one another new life not because of unworthy curiosity or the desire for novelty, but because life truly is inexhaustibly new. It does not repeat itself, as the ancient Ecclesiastes thought in his despondency (1:9–10). However, such an attitude is for us still pagan and earthly, something which "the Gentiles seek" (Matt. 6:32). Christians, beyond this, must also seek to learn the will of God which is being accomplished in us; and they must subordinate themselves to this will even when it does agree with our human will: "not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39). We must in prayer seek in ourselves the power to accept God's will—in our personal life, as well as in the life of our nation and in the life of the entire world.

This hour our thoughts, as well as our prayers, unite us tremulously with our near and dear ones, who are now far from us, separated from us by the cruelty of power. And they also unite us with our homeland, abused, tortured, and suffering beneath a heavy yoke. We pray the Lord that He return our near ones to us and that He save and liberate our homeland. We ask that the Lord soon manifest His mercy, and that that hour come. We pray thus from our human hearts, but in this prayer we must direct our gaze toward heaven: Thy will be done! Thou knowest the times and the seasons, and let Thy determination be accomplished!

The gates of the future are open before us, and through them we pass from time to beyond time, into eternity. Earthly time will cease to be with our death, and especially with the death of the entire world, beyond which its transfiguration will take place. Time will cease to be when the Lord comes. To Him, to His coming to us, we are led by time. Time is woven into a knot at this point. It is that truly new thing for us—the new life, the new heaven and earth—for which we yearn. And the midnight hour when the old year ends and the new year begins, this hour speaks to us of another midnight hour: "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh" (Matt. 25:6). And while loving this life, while awaiting and desiring new things from it, we must gaze beyond it. Christian faith, hope, and love should not make time their final home. Instead, they must strive toward that which is beyond time, toward that which is the foundation of time. And our New Year prayer contains, like the beating of the Christian heart, the Christian call and beckoning: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

Fr Serghei Bulgakov

## CHURCH FINANCES FOR 2021

MONTH	NOVEMBER	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME	12,185	159,371
EXPENSES	12,939	160,306
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(754)	(935)

The December fundraising dinner raised \$1415. Thank you for your generosity.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Monday January 1st-** Circumcision of our Lord and Saint Basil( please see calendar for services)

**Saturday January 6th-**The Baptism of the Lord

**Sunday January 14th-**Fundraising Dinner

**Tuesday January 23rd-** Parish Council Meeting

**Tuesday January 30th-** Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs

## TALENT SHOW

Talent Night February 10, 2024

Linnett Moldovan is managing ticket sales for the event, please contact her at 306-527-2895 or [moldovanls@sasktel.net](mailto:moldovanls@sasktel.net), to purchase your tickets.

## SUNDAY READINGS

**Sunday January 7th-**Sunday after Theophany.

Epis. Ephesians 4:7-13; Acts 19:1-8 (of the Saint).

Gos. Matthew 4:12-17 (Beginning of the Lord's ministry); John 1:29-34 (of the Saint)

**Sunday January 14th-**29th Sunday after Pentecost.

Epis. (of the 28th Sunday): Colossians 1:12-18.

Gos. Luke 17:12-19 (Ten lepers).

**Sunday January 21st-**32nd Sunday after Pentecost (Zacchaeus).

Epis. 1 Timothy 4:9-15.

Gos. Luke 19:1-10.

**Sunday January 28-**14th Sunday after Pentecost.

Epis. 2 Corinthians 1:21-24, 2:1-4.

Gos. Matthew 22:1-14 (The Marriage of the King's Son).

## SCEP

In December, our church collected items for SCEP to help families in need. In addition two cheques were delivered, one for \$2000 from the Charity fund and one for \$382 that the children generously donated from their bake sale. Thank you for your support.





## *ANNUAL MEETING*

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday February 4, 2024 1:00 pm, in the church basement.

## *MEET YOUR PARISH*

My name Steven and I would like to tell you a bit about myself. I was born in Dubai in 2003 and my family moved to Canada in 2009 when I was in grade 1. I lived in Mississauga, Ontario where I went to school and church. I have always loved being at church and in the altar, it makes me feel closer to God. I made many friends in Mississauga and still keep in touch with many of my friends; in fact I still visit them when we go back for a vacation and my best friend also comes to visit me here sometimes.

In 2021, I moved to Regina with my mom and my younger sister and it was a very big change for all of us; we were not sure what to expect or how life was going to be; but as it has always been with us, God has shown us His love and mercy and blessed us in so many ways! A great gift from God is how we found St. George church, my mom was looking online to find a church that would be open for us and where we would fit in and feel welcomed, and that's exactly what we found here. I love coming to church and helping in the altar, what a special blessing and honour to be in that holy place! The church community became our family here in Regina, everyone was very kind and welcoming, people would always smile at me and say nice things which made me and my family feel happy and grateful.

Another amazing blessing happened last summer!! Soon after we moved here, I got back into playing my favourite sport, basketball and I joined special Olympics Regina team. With God's grace, I was selected to play with Team Canada in the 2023 World Olympics in Berlin, and that was a life changing experience for me. I got to travel, explore the world, meet many wonderful people and

most importantly, feel more independent and confident to do things on my own. We came back winning the Gold Medal and I still get recognized and asked about my trip which is always an amazing feeling.

Now I feel like I have all I need, a great church that feels like our family, my mom and my sister whom I love very much and who also love me and care about me so much, very nice work place places that I enjoy working at- Co Op Store and London Drugs. I am blessed and grateful and want to always be close to God and do what He wants me to do.



## *HOUSE BLESSINGS*

In January, Father will perform house blessings. If you would like to have your house blessed please put your name on the list provided at the Epitrop desk.

