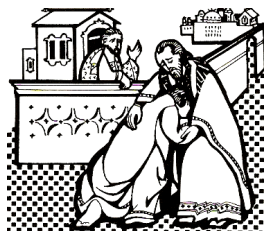


Вітаємо Всі до Нашої Парафії! Welcome All to Our Parish! A Place of Prayer, Family, and Community for More than 50 years



Epistle ~ 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20

Gospel ~ Luke 15: 11-32

Troparia are found on **pages 1 and 10** of the grey booklet

Epistle Readers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Dr. Larry Watral

Sunday (10 a.m.): Larissa Warywoda

Eucharist Ministers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Zenya Puchalski

Sunday (10 a.m.): Stanley Myslicki

The Parable of the Prodigal Son highlights three gifts that a loving father gives to his children: **1) freedom** to make mistakes and fail, so they can come to their senses on their own; **2) forgiveness** in second chances, here not just with the younger son, but with the elder as well, who always did the right thing, but with the wrong attitude; and **3) favour**, for he loves each of his children unconditionally. God, our Heavenly Father, shows us all three, for He is the Perfect Father, and He wants and encourages us also to share the same with others in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

~ from a sermon by Kerry Haynes



This Week's Liturgical Services

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

10:00 a.m. ~ **The Three Holy and Great Hierarchs**

1:00 p.m. ~ Living Rosary for the health of **Joan Conrad**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

10:00 a.m. ~ **The Presentation of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ into the Temple**
Candles will be blessed after the Liturgy

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

5:00 p.m. ~ **Meatfare Sunday** (Of the Fearful Judgement)
Epistle Reader: Evelyn Poleschuk

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

10:00 a.m. ~ **Meatfare Sunday** (Of the Fearful Judgement)
Epistle Reader: Walter Warywoda

Your Return Gift to God

Let us strive to live as Christian stewards, receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them generously and lovingly with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.



Collection for January 20/21

Regular Envelopes: \$1,325.⁰⁰

Mission Fund: \$63.⁶⁵

Initial Offering: \$30.⁰⁰

Special Projects: \$150.⁰⁰

Щиро Вам дякуємо ~ Thank you for your generosity!

January's Mission Collection is designated for **The Catholic Family Development Centre**. (www.catholicfamilycentre.ca)

Holy Cross Parish News & Events

We extend our condolences to the Babin family on the passing of their beloved †**Marie Babin** on Sunday, January 14 at her residence in Roseview Manor. May the Lord accept her into His heavenly kingdom and may her memory be eternal ~ вічна пам'ять.

Pancake Breakfast and Penny Auction - Sunday, January 28 following the 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy with an added twist included — a 'mini' penny auction. Breakfast cost per person: \$10/adults; \$5/children (12 and under). Your support is very much appreciated. We hope to see many parishioners, family and friends in attendance for the return of this delightful event and fundraiser!



Nominations to Parish Council: It is important that we, as parishioners, take turns on the Parish Council so that a wide range of ideas, experience, and insight is shared amongst each other. Serving on the Council is not a tremendous task and it can be very rewarding, so we encourage **all** parishioners 18 years and older to let their names stand. This is a two-year commitment, however, all council members have the option to stay on for another term

if desired. Please consider sitting on the Parish Council if you are approached and help keep our parish vibrant and alive. The Annual General Parish Meeting will take place after Liturgy on **Sunday, February 25** with lunch to follow. Please plan to attend!

A reminder to all parishioners: It's not too early to place an order for the upcoming **March 12 pyrohy making**. You may call 475-3757 and speak with Walter Warywoda or send an email to him at warywodaw@gmail.com to get your name on the 'Standing Order List' before the limit of 425 dozen is reached. Consequently, an order sheet will be placed on the table in the narthex as well for the first few weeks in **February** from which orders will be logged when received, so you are encouraged to order your pyrohy well in advance so to avoid disappointment.



February 4 is **Super Bowl Sunday**, and once again, St. George's Society members would like to extend an open invitation to **all men** of the parish to join them for some food and fun. Our regular monthly meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. (for approximately an hour) followed by a super supper and social — watching the game on the big screen TV in our parish hall and cheering on the Eagles or the Patriots. Come for the chow and stay for the camaraderie!

Христос Раждається ~ Славíme Його! Christ Is Born ~ Glorify Him!



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

The January/February edition of *The Plentiful Harvester* is now available in the narthex — you may pick up your copy there — and you can also view it online on our parish website at www.holycrosstbay.com.

Our first gathering of the new year will be our annual 'Super Bowl' meeting on **Sunday, February 4** starting at **4:30 p.m.** with dinner and social to follow. Come and enjoy the food, fun, and friendship.

We were not given a bingo in February, however, there will be a training session at Superior Shores on **Sunday, February 18** from 4 to 5 p.m. at which we need more members and parishioners to attend. Remember: funds raised are being used to cover the cost of the A/C unit that was installed in our parish kitchen last spring. Your assistance is gratefully appreciated in this matter.

Love and Service to God since 1960!

Words of Hope & Faith



*"There is no evil
that the Father's love
cannot pardon and cover;
there is no sin that is
a match for His grace."*

EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Souvlaki Dinner - Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Parish, 651 Beverly St. (at Balmoral), 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the following Thursdays: **February 1 & 15, March 1 & 15** featuring souvlaki, tzatziki sauce, Mediterranean rice, Greek salad, and pita. **Takeout/Pick-up only.** Check out the poster, and pick up a copy of their 'a la carte' menu in the narthex. Opa!



Valentine's Dinner and Dance - Sponsored by the Gentlemen of Harmony, **Saturday, February 10** at the Columbus Centre. Symposium: 5:30 p.m.; Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Dance Music by Quest. Tickets: \$45/person and available from members of Gentlemen of Harmony, and at Columbus Centre Office, Finnish Bookstore, ICS Electronics, or Music World Academy, or call Rod Johnson (632-5411), Myles Fucile (628-9653), or Albert Potvin (475-3817).

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Our Lady of Loretto R.C. Parish invites everyone to its Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on **February 13** at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall featuring pancakes, sausages, dessert, and good company. A monetary donation of your choice will be gratefully appreciated and accepted at the door. Proceeds are in support of Our Lady of Loretto Elevator Fund. Everyone welcome ~ bring a friend!



Catholic Schools Information Nights - High School (St. Ignatius & St. Patrick) **Thursday, February 15** at 7:00 p.m.; Senior Elementary (Bishop Gallagher, E.Q. Jennings & Pope John Paul II) **Thursday, February 28** at 7:00 p.m. Join us at our schools!

Readings for Meatfare Sunday (February 4)
(to help prepare for the nourishment of the Word of God at Liturgy)

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8: 8 - 9: 2

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46



As you read each passage, ask yourself these questions,
"What thoughts, ideas, words or images come to mind?"
and "What are the connections between them?"
This will help make them easier to follow and understand.



HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

Regular afternoon activities are cancelled during January and will resume on **Thursday, February 8** at the usual time (doors open at 12:30 p.m.) when new members are welcome to join. Membership is just \$10 per year and well worth it. Come check us out next month - you'll be glad you did!

Feeling lucky? The next bus to Grand Portage will leave the church parking lot @ 3:45 p.m. and returning @ 10 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 21**. To book your seat, please contact Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805) as soon as possible. This is a **free** service. Non-members with **valid passports** (18 years and up) are invited also. The more, the merrier, so come join us for the ride and recreation!

Sunday Smile

The Prodigal Son Parable in "F"

Feeling footloose and frisky, a feather-brained fellow forced his fond father to fork over the family finances. He flew far to foreign fields and frittered his fortune feasting fabulously with faithless friends. Finally facing famine and fleeced by his fellows in folly, he found himself a feed-flinger in a filthy farmyard. Fairly famished he fain would have filled his frame with the foraged foods of the fodder fragments left by the filthy farmyard creatures.

'Foey', he said, 'My father's flunkies fare far fancier,' the frazzled fugitive found feverishly, frankly facing facts. Frustrated by failure and filled with foreboding, he forthwith fled to his family. Falling at his father's feet, he floundered forlornly. 'Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited family favour.'

But the faithful father, forestalling further flinching frantically flagged the flunkies. 'Fetch forth the finest fating and fix a feast.' But the fugitive's fault-finding frater frowned on the fickle forgiveness of the former folderol. His fury flashed.

But fussing was futile, for the far-sighted father figured, such filial fidelity is fine, but what forbids fervent festivity? The fugitive is found! "Unfurl the flags, with fanfares flaring! Let fun and frolic freely flow!" "Former failure is forgotten, folly is forsaken! And forgiveness forms the foundation for future fortitude."

~ Author unknown

DONATE TO HOLY CROSS PARISH ONLINE

Online donations are an easy way for parishioners to donate, especially for those who cannot make it to church each week.

On our Parish Website (www.holycrosstbay.com) you can click on the **DONATE** button and through PayPal® you can choose to make a one-time donation or to donate weekly — which means you are supporting **YOUR** church even when you cannot attend. If you have any questions feel free to contact Andrea Warywoda at 629-6818, or call Michele at the Parish Office (she is usually in on Monday evenings). ☺



God Rejoices When the Lost Are Found

In today's Gospel story, Jesus tells of a father and his two sons, one of which He refers to as a "prodigal", meaning a person who spends his or her money wastefully and excessively. This certain son did not want to wait until his father died to get a portion of his father's estate (or inheritance), but wanted it immediately. In Jesus' time, this was an insult, and pushing forth in this manner was not only disrespectful toward his own father, but against the tradition of his older brother receiving the inheritance first (which would have been double since he was firstborn). The Bible tells us that his father agreed to the request and 'divided unto them his living.' Not many days after, this younger son gathered his belongings and left for a far country where he, very quickly, spent all his money and soon was left with nothing, becoming poor beyond measure. He was starving and had no home, and because he needed to eat, he took a job feeding the pigs, which for the Jewish people was very embarrassing and demeaning.

But this son soon realized that his father's servants back at home were probably living better than he was, and that he was wrong to do what he did. So, he decided to return home and beg for his father's forgiveness. And do you know what happened? His father was so happy to see him come back that he threw a big party for him because, despite his actions, his father never stopped loving him or looking forward to his return.

This is God's end desire for all, including the lost. He wants to welcome them home and put on them the identifying markers that they are His child and they are restored. Those that are spiritually dead He wants to make alive once more. In your life, now or in the future, if you ever find yourself in a prodigal state of living, without hesitation, turn back to our heavenly Father and let Him restore you. Experience His compassion of salvation offered through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Source: www.wordforlifesays.com

The Prodigal Son

A Poem by
Albert Watson *

Dad, give me my inheritance,
I'll see the world, take my chance.

Life for me upon this farm
Has no attraction, lost its charm.

Milking cows and herding goats,
Growing corn, rye and oats.
This farming life is not for me,
I wish to go to a far country.

Yes, I know I'm your youngest son,
But after all is said and done.
This place for me is now a chore,
Frankly, dad, it's become a bore.

Bless you dad, you understand,
I receive my money from your hand.
Over there, beyond that hill
I'll start new life, ambition fulfill.

Hi there friend, hello my mate,
Living here must be truly great.
Have a drink, let's go on a spree,
I'll pay for it with my money.

I say, you are a pretty girl,
You've got my head in quite a whirl.
Can I spend some time with you?
Darling, you want money too.

Times moved on and cash is low,
Friends have said they've got to go.
Things for me are not quite so grand,
Money's gone, a famine in the land.

I'll go to work with farming skills,
Need do something to pay the bills.
So, in a field eating pods with pigs
Whatever happened to my luxury digs.

Things now getting very bad,
I'm thinking of my life with dad.
What would he say if I wandered back?
And offered to become a hired hack.

With broken spirit and body, thin.
I'll be your servant take me in.
My son, we'll do no such thing,
Wear these shoes, a robe, a ring.

Servant kill the fatted calf.
Play some music, dance, laugh.
Invite the our friends from all around
My son was lost, but now he's found.

* This poem won 1st place
for a May 2008 poetry contest.

Source: www.christart.com