



Вітаємо до Парафії Воздвиження Чесного Хреста! Welcome to Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish!

A place of prayer, family, and community since 1967 which follows the Eastern (Byzantine) Christian traditions of the Catholic Faith that first emerged in the lands of Rus-Ukraine through the preaching of Saint Andrew, the First-Called, and echoed onwards through the mission of the holy apostles to the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius. At Holy Cross, we are called to enter into communion with God within the community of the faithful, the Church, that is, the Body of Christ. Here, services are offered in the English and Ukrainian languages where we are united to God and one another, and, "with one heart and one voice", form the family of God. Jesus Christ is the centre of our life, and it is in the Divine Liturgy where we come to know Him in each other by means of the Sacred Scriptures, and through the receiving of the Holy Sacraments. May your participation in today's celebration be thoroughly enriching and truly meaningful as well.

Sunday, November 17, 2019 ~ 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Readings: *Epistle: Ephesians 2: 4-10*

Gospel: Luke 8: 26-39

Troparia are in **Tone 6** on page 101 of the navy blue missals

Epistle Readers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Gloria Sherban
Sunday (10 a.m.): Susan Soldan



Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Christopher Tennant
Sunday (10 a.m.): Murray Salomon

Parish News & Activities

Our thanks to all who attended last Sunday's Pancake Breakfast, and, of course, to our Pancake Chef Murray Salomon, his sous-chef Walter Warywoda, and the rest of the volunteer crew for putting on another successful event. It was a nice turnout!

We extend our condolences to the family of †Anne Konopski on her passing on Thursday, November 7. Funeral services will take place Wednesday, November 20 at 11 a.m. at Everest Chapel Westfort. May the Lord accept the soul of His servant †Anne into His heavenly kingdom, and may her memory be eternal ~ вічна пам'ять.



We are again asking for donations for our **Christmas Cheer Project** to make up personal hygiene packages, as well as any Christmas mugs and candy with which to fill them. There is a box in the narthex for your donated items. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sherry Opaski (767-0253) or Cheryl Bain (623-2138) anytime. ☺

St. Philip's Fast (Pylypivka) began on November 15 and will last through Christmas Eve. Candles on the banner will be 'lit' each week to signify the different ways to focus our spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Who is represented by the centre candle "Emmanuel – God is with us". The first candle, blue, reminds us of the **faith** that we have in God Who kept His promise to send His Son.

Please note: We are already up to our desired limit for cabbage roll orders, so a waiting list has been created. Cabbage steaming/cleaning will take place on Monday, November 25 at 10:00 a.m., with rolling/packaging on Tuesday, November 26 from 10:30 a.m. Help is always needed, so your presence is appreciated. *Thank you!*

Today's Gospel account presents us with two important points. First, it is a clear indication that the redeeming grace of God through Jesus Christ is not confined only to the children of Israel. It is extended to all the people of the world, who will acknowledge Jesus as the Son of the Most High God.



Secondly, this story calls upon us to be diligent in our call to be a disciple and witness to God's saving grace in Christ. Although many may reject the message of the Gospel, we, who have been touched by the redeeming grace of God through our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection, have been commissioned by God to proclaim His saving grace. No, we may not have suffered from demon possession, but each of us in one way or another, has been touched by the healing grace of God.

~ from a sermon by Ronald Harbaugh

This Week's Liturgical Services

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

11:00 a.m. ~ Funeral services for †Anne Konopski at Everest Chapel Westfort (Gore at James)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

10:00 a.m. ~ **Feast of the Entrance into the Temple of Our Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

5:00 p.m. ~ **24th Sunday after Pentecost**
Epistle Reader: Joseph Z. Myslicki
Eucharistic Minister: Zenya Puchalski

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

10:00 a.m. ~ **24th Sunday after Pentecost**
Epistle Reader: Walter Warywoda
Eucharistic Minister: Mary Ann Lysak

St. Nicholas is expected to arrive for a visit to Holy Cross on **Sunday, December 8** shortly after the 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy. All children and their families are invited to come to the parish hall to receive him. Those planning to attend are asked to call or text Jaclyn Strehlow (252-1789) no later than **Wednesday, December 4** so that appropriate arrangements of food and goodies can be made. *О хто, хто, Миколая любить...*

We have decided to hold our own **Christmas Carol Sing-along** on **Monday, December 16** at **6:30 p.m.** in our parish hall for some music and entertainment. There will be a short 'play-reading' from our youngsters as well. All we ask is that you bring a donation of a canned/dry good in support of the Regional Food Distribution Association (RDFA). And if so desired, you may bring your choice of Christmas baking (cookies, squares [pre-cut], macaroons, tarts, etc.) to share. We encourage everyone to attend this "family-friendly" evening of song and fellowship to help usher in the spirit of Christmas!



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.

NOVEMBER 9/10



Envelopes and Loose: \$1,096.⁰⁰
Mission Collection: \$103.¹⁵
Vigil Lights: \$66.⁵⁰
Special Projects: \$65.⁰⁰
Church in Ukraine: \$20.⁰⁰

Дякуємо за вашу щедрість!
Thank you for your generosity!

The Mission Collection for November has been designated for **Thunder Bay Christmas Cheer**, a volunteer organization whose mandate is the provision of toys for children living in poverty and hampers for their families at Christmastime. Visit www.thunderbaychristmascheer.com for more information.



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

The latest issue of **The Plentiful Harvester** is now available in the narthex. E-copies will be sent out this week.

Pyrohy Making continues on Sunday and Monday morning. Members are needed to help make potato balls, process dough, pinch, boil, help package and clean-up. The usual schedule will be followed. Help will also be needed on Thursday morning @ 10:30 a.m. for a few hours to package and wait for pick-up of frozen orders. *Thank you to all!*



Our next two scheduled bingo sessions occur on **Wednesday, November 20** (evening) and **Friday, December 20** (afternoon). The next bingo training session takes place on **Saturday, December 14** from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Speak with Gerry B. for more info.

Our annual 'Grey Cup Meeting and Social' will take place on **Sunday, November 24** beginning at 4:30 p.m. Please plan to attend and share in the food and festivities!

Love and Service to God since 1960!

National Holodomor Awareness Week November 18-24, 2019



As we gather this year to pray for the victims of the Famine Genocide in Ukraine, let us also remember the victims of today's Russian aggression against Ukraine, including the lives that have been sacrificed for the right of every Ukrainian to live in freedom with dignity on Ukrainian soil on which rule of law prevails and fundamental human rights are respected.

At 19:32 (7:32 p.m.) local time on Saturday, November 23, pause for a moment of silence wherever you may be to honour the memory of the estimated 7-10 million victims. Light a candle of remembrance in your home (preferably in a window visible to the street), and say a prayer to ensure that eradication by starvation and similar tragedies upon the human race are never repeated!

Readings for 24th Sunday after Pentecost
(to help prepare for the nourishment of the Word of God at Liturgy)

Epistle: Ephesians 2: 14-22

One in Christ

Gospel: Luke 8: 41-56

Jairus' Daughter and the Woman
Who Touched Jesus' Cloak



HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

Regular afternoon activities take place every Thursday starting at 1:00 p.m. (doors opened at 12 noon). New members are still welcome to join anytime. Membership is just \$10 per year.

St. George's Society could use our help at pyrohy making on **Monday, November 18** starting at 8 a.m. with the various tasks. All members are welcome. A hot lunch will be provided.

The next bus to Grand Portage will leave the church parking lot at 3:45 p.m. **Wednesday, November 20**, and arrive back @ 10:00 p.m. Contact either Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann (G) Opaski (577-2805) to book your seat today. This is a **free** service. Non-members are cordially invited to join us.

Mark your calendars! **Thursday, December 12** is the date for our final get-together for 2019. Regular activities happen at the usual time followed by our annual free Christmas dinner along with raffles, sing-alongs, and lots of fun! All members are requested to bring a donation for the *Thunder Bay Food Bank*.

Undeniable Words of Wisdom

*"Only by confronting your demons
can you ever hope to conquer them.
Let Jesus help you to do so."*

EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Shrimp Feast - Saturday, November 23 at the Columbus Centre, 301 S. May Street. \$26/person. Two sittings: 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets available at the Columbus Centre Office or reserve them by calling 623-3252. Limited seating.

Holiday Card Making - Saturday, November 30 starting at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mark's Anglican Church Basement, Rosslyn Village. Cost is \$30/person. Create 10 cards in 2 hours! No experience necessary. Contact Marlene Rogers at 939-1390 to register. Deadline is **November 23**.

St. Dominic Church Christmas Concert - Sunday, December 1 at 3:00 p.m. in the church proper (130 W. Redwood Avenue). Adults: \$10; children: \$5. Refreshments and raffle draws to follow in the church hall. For tickets call St. Dominic Church Office at 577-5672.



Spirit of Christmas Concert - presented by the Lakehead Choral Group on **Wednesday, December 4** at 7:30 p.m. at St. Agnes Church, corner of Brown and Mary Sts. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, and are available from Rol-lason Flowers, Kitchen Nook & Finnish Bookstore and any Lakehead Choral Group member (Susan Soldan) or by calling 577-1224. Come and celebrate the spirit of Christmas!



St. Philip's Fast: Awaiting the Saviour, Jesus Christ

On November 15, forty days before Christmas, our Church begins to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. In our Byzantine Rite it is referred to as St. Philip's Fast, because it starts the day after St. Philip's Day. During these forty days, we prepare to celebrate the coming (therefore *Advent* which means *coming* or *arrival*) of God's Son, Jesus Christ, into this world.

Many faithful people had waited a long time for the coming of Jesus. During this long period of time, God spoke to prophets and instructed them how He wanted His people to prepare for the coming of His Son. He told them that they needed to repent, change their way of living, make peace with one another, care for each other, and be obedient and faithful to God. Similarly, every year during this forty-day period we are invited to prepare in like manner as we await Christ's arrival.

Forty days can seem like a very long time for children -- and even adults. We know how anxious we are when a birthday or anniversary is approaching -- how we want to start planning a party and inviting our friends. When we think about that special celebration, we realize that part of the enjoyment of it is the time we spent getting ready for it.

The Church helps us get ready for this very special celebration of Christ's birth. First, the Church issues an announcement, much like an invitation, letting us know that the Feast of the Nativity is approaching. Then, during this forty-day period there are additional announcements made on special days which instruct us on how to get ready and focus our attention as the feast approaches. Those special days are: **November 21** -- when Mary the Mother of Jesus first entered the Temple; **November 30** -- the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, the First-Called; **December 6** -- the feast of St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker; and the **Two Sundays before Christmas**, which tell us how people of the Old Testament prepared for the coming of the Saviour.

St. Philip's Fast (like Great Lent) is a special time in our lives that we can use to prepare for this very important celebration. Through prayer, fasting, and good works, we will meet the baby Jesus worthily and joyfully. And let us always remember that through sincere spiritual preparation for Christmas during St. Philip's Fast, our heart will become a manger for Jesus Christ where He can be born and rest.

Sources: www.ucymb.wordpress.com

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