



Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners and guests, and pray that your participation in the Divine Liturgy will be enriching and meaningful.

February 5, 2017 ~ Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee and Post-Feast of the Encounter (Presentation) of Our Lord

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3: 10-15

Gospel: Luke 18: 10-14

See insert for special troparia and texts

Today's parable of the Publican and the Pharisee warns us to "beware the sin of self-righteousness" which is often subtle and undetected in life. And the fact that while this parable is talking about a Pharisee, Jesus did not limit its application to him. Remember that the disciples were also in danger of such behaviour and so were warned (Luke 12:1-2). What's more is that they had already demonstrated similar attitudes in their treatment of others (Luke 9:46-50). The Pharisee asked for nothing and received nothing. His sin was not found in his actions, but in his self-righteous attitude. What started out as a prayer of thanksgiving to God ended up being a prayer of self-satisfaction. Like other "sinners" he found himself included among God's people. Why "sinners?" Because they lived under no pretense of their own self-righteousness. The Publican, who was a tax collector and considered a person of low status, assumed no rightful place among the others and felt unworthy to stand with God's people. His prayer was one of dissatisfaction with himself. He came to the temple in humility and was justified by God. This is evidenced by his unwillingness even to lift his eyes up to heaven.

Indeed, the sin of self-righteousness is something that anyone can struggle with especially when one is quick to rush into the judgement of others and when one minimizes his/her sin while maximizing others'. Let's face it, we will never ever totally arrive spiritually in this life — there is so much more to learn, experience, and understand. Ever wonder how many people are going to be surprised by our Lord when He returns and they find themselves on the outside looking in? How many will have never properly prepared for the coming Kingdom of Christ and foolishly placed their confidence in their own righteousness? How many will have neglected to humble themselves and receive the righteousness of God in Christ? How many will be surprised "disciples" who, while expecting a place in the kingdom, will be left out in the cold? Will you be one of them? Stay warm in the Lord.

Your Return Gift to God

JANUARY 28/29



Envelopes: \$1,594.⁸⁵
Initial Offering: \$65.⁰⁰
Candle Offering: \$38.²⁵
Andrew's Pence: \$25.⁰⁰
Mission Collection: \$46.¹⁰
Special Projects: \$75.⁰⁰

Thank you for your generosity!
Щиро Вам дякуємо!

The Mission Collection for January totalled \$290.³⁰ and will be donated to **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thunder Bay**. The Mission Collection for February is designated for the **Alzheimer's Society of Thunder Bay**.

LITURGICAL SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

5:00 p.m. ~ Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Epistle Reader: Michael Watral

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Epistle Reader: Denny Verdenik



Words to Meditate Upon

*"Through judging, we separate.
Through understanding, we grow."*

Holy Cross Parish News & Coming Events



We extend our condolences to **Annie Gacuk and her family**, on the passing of her beloved husband and their father and grandfather, †**Peter**, on January 21, in Ajax, Ontario. Peter was a charter member of St. George's Society who spent many hours volunteering in the kitchen for society and parish functions, and after relocating to southern Ontario, devoted himself to the care of his wife Annie. Both were strong supporters of Holy Cross parish. A memorial and internment will be held this summer in Thunder Bay. May the Lord God accept His humble servant †Peter into His heavenly kingdom, number him among the saints, and may his memory be eternal ~ вічна йому пам'ять.

It's **Super Bowl Sunday**, and 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 (*free of charge, but donations will be accepted*) and social — watching the game on the big screen TV in our parish hall and cheering on your favourite team. Who will win — the Falcons or the Patriots???



More Holy Cross Parish News and Events...



It's Holy Cross' 50th Anniversary and we need pictures — a lot of them for a video collage. We ask that you place them into an envelope with your name clearly indicated and, if possible, label each picture on the back with a brief description (event, group, year, etc.) and place them in the box located just below the bulletin board in the narthex. A historical subcommittee has been established to assist in this important task with the intention of providing a written account to be included in the event programme and possibly a souvenir booklet. If you are approached, we respectfully ask for your cooperation and support. And don't forget to 'save the date' for the 50th Anniversary celebrations that start with a Divine Liturgy at 4:00 p.m. on **Saturday, September 16** followed by a testimonial dinner and dance at the Slovak Legion. Tickets will be available in the spring; price per person will be determined by the Committee in the near future. Stay in touch for further information as it is made known.

Important news! St. George's Society is planning a '**Cabbage Roll Making Session and Sale**' for **March 1** *for parishioners only*. Orders will be taken beginning this weekend in the narthex. You will have an option of ordering cooked or raw frozen. Last day to order: **Sunday, February 26**. As in the past, we are counting on all men and women who have the time and expertise to make this endeavour run smoothly and be another success. *Thank you!*



Have you been attending services at Holy Cross but are not registered as a parishioner? Registration is important for donation tracking and issuance of tax receipts. It is also important in order to receive the Holy Sacraments. To register, please call the office at 577-7720 and leave a message. Our bookkeeper Michele is there on Monday evenings and will take your information. And an important reminder to all parishioners! If your address, telephone number, or e-mail have changed, please call the parish office or e-mail holycross@tbavtel.net and let us know so that we can update our files to include all current contact information. ☺

Holy Cross Golden Agers



WELCOME BACK!

Regular Thursday afternoon activities have now resumed at the usual time (doors open at 12:30 p.m. and activities begin at 1:30 p.m.). New members (55+) will still be welcome with open arms. It's just \$10 per year and well worth the membership fee. Come to the parish hall and check us out!

The next bus to Grand Portage leaves the church parking lot on **Wednesday, February 15** at 3:45 p.m. and returns @ 10 p.m. To book your seat, please contact either Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805). This is a **free** service for everyone. Non-members (ages 18 and over) are invited also. Come for the ride, see the new gaming floor, and try your luck!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Greek Orthodox Community Souvlaki Take-Out

from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 651 Beverly Street, **February 9 & 23 and March 9** (every second Thursday). Their popular combo dinner is \$12/person. Other items including soup, spanakopita and baklava are also available. Opa!

Knights of Columbus Pickerel Dinner - in support of community projects, **Saturday, February 18** with two sittings: 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Menu includes pickerel, home fries, coleslaw, dessert & coffee/tea. Refreshments will also be available. Limited tickets: \$19 per person. Reserve yours by calling Rosie at 623-3252.

Valentine Tea - presented by St. Dominic's CWL on **Sunday, February 19** from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the parish hall featuring sandwiches, dainties, draw prizes and door prize. Adults: \$5.00; children (5-10 years): \$3.00; children (4 and under): free. Welcome all!



St. George's Society

Copies of the January/February edition of **The Plentiful Harvest** are now available in the narthex. Pick your copy up today!

Attention members: our first gathering in the new year will be the annual '**Super Bowl**' Meeting on **Sunday, February 5** beginning at 4:30 p.m., followed by a delicious dinner and social.

The next Superior Shores Bingo Training Session is on **Tuesday, February 7** beginning at 7:00 p.m. in our parish hall, and it only takes about one hour. Members (and parishioners) are asked to inform **Gerry Bullock, Fred Humeniuk, Joe Myslicki or Michael Watral** if anyone is interested in attending. Since future money raised from bingo will be used to cover the cost of the installation of air conditioning in the parish kitchen, everyone (18+) will be allowed to volunteer at bingo, but must first undergo a brief but important training. The next scheduled bingo is an afternoon session on **Monday, February 13** at the gaming centre. *Thanks!*

On behalf of all parishioners, we would like to welcome and say 'thank you' to **Coran's Music Education Centre** as the newest sponsor of our parish bulletin, and say 'welcome back' to **Hosanna Fire Protection Services** who have renewed their partnership with us. Also, many thanks to **Beebe Mechanical Systems, Blake Funeral Chapel, Everest of Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay Insulations Ltd., and Ukrainian Credit Union** for their continued financial support of this weekly publication. Likewise, we encourage all parishioners to support those establishments as well. And it's not too late if you, or someone you know, would like to place an ad on our bulletin cover. See Michael Watral for more details and information. ☺

Бажаємо Вам чудового тижня!
Wishing everyone a wonderful week!



Don't Think Too Highly of Yourself

Have you ever known someone who thought he or she was much better than everyone else and deserved special treatment? Dr. Seuss wrote a book about a turtle who was like that. Perhaps you have read it. It's called "Yertle the Turtle."

Yertle was ruler of a little pond on the island of Sala-ma-Sond. All of the turtles at the pond had everything they needed and were quite happy. They were happy, that is, until Yertle decided that his kingdom was too small. "I am ruler of all that I see, but I don't see enough. My throne is too low down" complained Yertle.



So Yertle lifted his hand and gave a command. He ordered nine turtles in the pond to stand on each other's backs so that they could become his new and higher throne. He climbed up onto the backs of the turtles and he had a wonderful view.

But Yertle still wasn't satisfied. "Turtles! More turtles!" he called from his lofty throne. Yertle swelled with pride and feelings of importance as turtles from all over the pond came to climb on the stack of turtles which made up Yertle's throne.

At the very bottom of the stack was a plain and ordinary turtle named Mack. He struggled under the weight of all the turtles until finally, he decided that he had taken enough. That plain little turtle named Mack did a very plain little thing. He burped! His burp shook the throne and Yertle fell right into the mud! And now the great Yertle is King of the MUD.

When you think too highly of yourself, you often wind up taking a big fall, don't you? In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells a story about a man who thought he was better than everyone else. In His story, two men went to the Temple to pray. One of the men was a Pharisee, who stood up and prayed about himself. But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he bowed his head in sorrow, saying, "Oh God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner."

Now, which of these two prayers do you think was pleasing to God? If you said the prayer of the tax collector, you are right. Jesus said, "The tax collector, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Let us pray: Dear Father, we respectfully ask You to help us to remain humble so that we would not think more highly of ourselves than we ought. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

