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, December 8, 2019 ~ 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Readings: ***Epistle:*** *Ephesians 5: 9-19* ***Gospel:*** *Luke 12: 16-21*

Troparia are in **Tone 1** found on **page 89** of the navy blue missals

Epistle Readers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Michael Watral
Sunday (10 a.m.): Tanner Mills

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Francis Puchalski
Sunday (10 a.m.): Murray Salomon

In today's Gospel, we need to understand that Jesus is **not** telling us not to prepare for our future. In fact, it would be foolish for us not to prepare for our future, especially our future life after we die. If we want to have a future with God, we must prepare ourselves spiritually now by doing His work in this world and by following His will for our lives. Just as the farmer prepares his fields before he plants his crops, we must prepare now for our next lives especially since we never know when we will die. If not, we automatically prepare ourselves for a life in hell. Jesus is also not telling us to sit back and do nothing in the hope that God will provide for us. He encourages us to keep just enough of our possessions for our own use and share the rest with the poor. In other words, we must look outward toward others instead of looking inward toward ourselves. True satisfaction in life flows out of fulfilling the purpose for which we were created; namely, to enjoy a loving relationship with God. Wealth and selfishness can *never* substitute for a relationship with Him, and they will ultimately make the heart feel hollow.

~ from a sermon by Craig Condon

Holy Cross Parish News and Events

We are eagerly anticipating the arrival of St. Nicholas to our parish hall on Sunday following the 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. While waiting, there will be a short program of fun activities for the kids to do. A light lunch will be served. *Those who love Nicholas the saintly…*

A small group of singers from our choir has been invited to perform a few Ukrainian carols at Holy Family R.C. Church, 2055 Rosslyn Rd. on Sunday afternoon beginning at 2:00 p.m. Those who wish to attend as well may do so. The theme is: *Christmas carols from around the world*.

A reminder of our **Christmas Carol Sing-along** in our parish hall next **Monday, December 16** beginning at **6:30 p.m.** You are asked to bring a donation of a canned/dry good in support of the Regional Food Distribution Association (RDFA). If so desired, you may also bring your choice of Christmas baking (cookies, squares [pre-cut], etc.) to share. We invite everyone to attend this "family-friendly" evening of song and fellowship to help usher in the spirit of Christmas at Holy Cross!

Any parishioner (18 years and older) interested on serving on Parish Council is encouraged to submit his/her name to Father Stepan or PC Chair Cheryl Bain. Serving on the Council is not a tremendous task and it can be very rewarding, and as parishioners, we are encouraged to share our ideas, experiences and insight among each other. Please consider letting your name stand.

Our sincerest thanks to **Sophie Kozyra, Mary Ann Lysak,** and **Joanne "Ivanka" Zanewycz** for once again, preparing the church for Christmas with the beautiful decorations now seen upstairs and downstairs. The manger, trees, and extra trimmings will be coming soon. ☺

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 30/December 1

Regular Envelopes: $1,825.00
Mission Collection: $78.90
Vigil Lights: $100.25
Special Projects: $50.00
Flowers for Christmas: $90.00

Дякуємо за вашу щедрість! Thank you for your generosity!

December's Mission Collection has been designated for the **Mission to Seafarers: Port of Thunder Bay.** Its purpose is to promote the spiritual, moral and physical well-being of seafarers and their families world-wide.

Liturgical Services Schedule

Monday, December 9
10:00 a.m. ~ **The Conception of St. Anna**
(Rosary at 9:40 a.m.)

Saturday, December 14
5:00 p.m. ~ **Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**
Epistle Reader: Evelyn Poleschuk
Eucharistic Minister: Zenya Puchalski

Sunday, December 15
10:00 a.m. ~ **Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**
Epistle Reader: Mary Ann Lysak
Eucharistic Minister: Mary Ann Lysak

We are currently in the period of St. Philip's Fast (Pylypivka). This past Thursday, we 'lit' the **white** candle on the banner to remind us of **peace**. May our hearts be filled with the peace of Christ as we increase our love for God and our faith and hope in Him.

Readings for the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

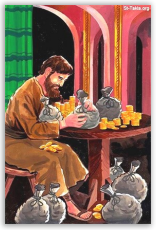
(to help prepare for the nourishment of the Word of God at Liturgy)

Epistle: Colossians 3: 4-11
(The Old Life and the New)

Gospel: Luke 14: 16-24
(The Invitation to the Great Feast)

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.

Undeniable Words of Wisdom



The mistake that makes a rich man a fool is that he makes plans without God.

~ Peter Nii Korley ~

The **Usher Schedule for 2020** has been printed and is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. There are still many spaces to be filled. We ask all able members to consider signing up for one (or two) months. Remember: there is no substitute for the ministry of an usher. Like John the Baptist, ushers are forerunners for all other ministries in the congregation during the Divine Liturgy. Let us continue this important ministry!

Our next scheduled bingo session is a matinée on **Friday, December 20.** The next training session takes place on **Saturday, December 14** from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Speak with Gerry Bullock if you are able to volunteer or wish to attend the training. Dates for the new year are not yet available, but will be published in future bulletins.

At this time of the year, we wish all members and their loved ones a very special holiday season with all the best in 2020! Our first meeting of our **60th** year will be the annual 'Super Bowl' Meeting on **Sunday, February 2** beginning at 4:30 p.m. followed by a dinner and social. Hope to see many members and some new faces in attendance for this customary gathering!

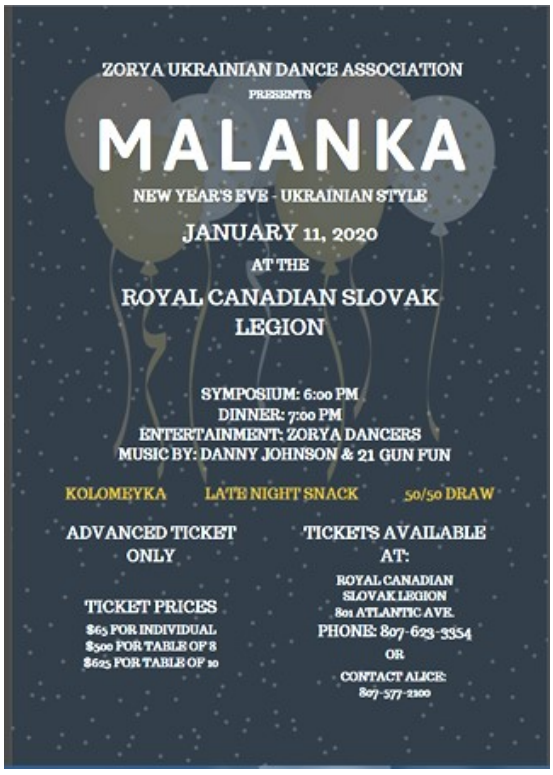
Holy Cross Golden Agers

Attention all members: 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 loads of fun! All members are requested to bring a donation for the *Thunder Bay Food Bank*.

FYI: Thursday afternoon activities will then be cancelled for December 19 & 26, and through to the end of January, and will resume on February **6, 2020** (weather permitting) at the usual time when new members are welcome to join. We wish all current members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay warm and healthy, and be careful in your daily travels, especially where there's snow and ice!

There will be **no** December bus to Grand Portage. However, if there's enough interest, the first one of the new year will leave the church parking lot at 3:45 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 15,** and arrive back @ 10:00 p.m. Contact either Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann (G) Opaski (577-2805) to book your ***free*** seat today, and leave the driving to Happy Time Tours!

Do not regret growing older. It's a privilege denied to many.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Rotary Carol Sing - **Sunday, December 15** at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 808 Ridgeway St. (across from McKellar Place) in Thunder Bay South and at St. Paul's United Church, 349 Waverly Street, Thunder Bay North. Featuring local musicians and performers. Gather family and friends and come celebrate the season. Admission is free; however, donations are accepted.

Christmas Recital - Zorya Dancers will be having a Christmas recital for all dancers, plus their family and friends on **Wednesday, December 18** from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at St. Martin's School Gymnasium, 115 W. Mary St. Admission for adults is one (1) can or package of non-perishable food for the local food bank. You may also bring some dessert to share if so desired. It's an evening of family fun for everyone. Call or text Alice Chony (355-1945) for more information.

Elf Jr. The Musical - Presented by St. Patrick High School Grade 12 Drama Class, **Wednesday, December 18** and **Thursday, December 19** at 7:00 p.m. (Selkirk Auditorium). Tickets are $10/person and are available from the Main Office. Call 623-5218 before they're all sold out!

Holiday Health Care Career Fair - **Monday, December 23** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Heritage, 63 Carrie Street. Bring your resume and meet with local and regional recruiters about jobs all across the health care sector. Register now at **www.thunderbay.ca/HolidayHealthCareCareerFair**.

Count Your Blessings, Not Your Possessions

Many people have valuable things that are very dear and special to them. What do you have that you love the most – a teddy bear, a bicycle, or maybe a favourite winter toque? If you had to leave home and only take a few things, what would you want to take? In today's Bible story, we are looking at someone who was concerned about things and wanted to make sure he got all the stuff he thought was coming to him.

So, to make sure people did not prioritize material things, Jesus told a story about that: A certain rich man had an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." Jesus told this parable because He had been asked to settle an argument between two brothers and their inheritance.

Have you ever moved? It seems like when we have to pack up everything we own, we often find things that we had forgotten about, or things that we don't really even need. Some people manage to acquire so many things that they need to get bigger houses or get boxes or storage units to put their things into. In this story, the man had so many things that he had to build a bigger barn. He thought he could relax and enjoy life, but before the day was done his life was over!

We can't take anything with us when we die. None of our material things will last forever. Jesus knew this and wanted to remind His listeners of how important it was. Our lives cannot rely on our stuff, but on the maker of all things, on God. Jesus reminded His people that God handles everything we need. We might not always have every little thing we think we want, but we will have what we NEED. God promises this!

Source: www.ministry-to-children.com

Beebe
Mechanical Systems Limited
345 N. May Street
P7C 3R3
623-4181

BLAKE
FUNERAL CHAPEL
SARGENT FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES LTD.
Greg Sargent
TEL: (807) 623-6446
FAX: (807) 623-1427
TOLL FREE: 1-888-584-4444
Mike Sargent
200 SOUTH MAY STREET
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO
P7E 1B4
http://www.blakefuneralchapel.com
blakes@blakefuneralchapel.com

Direct Cabinets
It's that easy!
New Location ~ 941 Simpson Street,
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 3K7
807-622-4349
Visit our website at www.directcabinets.ca
Serving our community one family at a time!

EVEREST
OF THUNDER BAY
The Waverly Chapel
299 Waverly Street
344-1121 or 344-2014
The Westfort Chapel
420 W. Gore Street
473-1121

499 North Cumberland Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7A 4R9
www.harbourviewfuneral.ca
(807) 346-9880
HARBOURVIEW
FUNERAL CENTRE
by Arbor Memorial
Managing Funeral Director
Cory Kutschke
Senior Funeral Director
Michael Uitto
Funeral Director
Rachel Isleifson
Hot & Cold Food Receptions
Reception Halls seat up to 300
Video Recorded Services
Parking for over 200 cars
24/7 SERVICE

HFP
HOSANNA FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES
HOSANNA FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES
FIRE EXTINGUISHER
SALES & SERVICE
• Recharging, Testing All Makes
• Restaurant & Kitchen Fire Systems
• Fire Equipment, Industrial, Municipal, Residential
• Hoses, Lighting, Fire Plans, Extinguisher Training
• On Site Inspections
• Mobile Service Available Throughout Northwestern Ontario
807-346-7054
Mobile Unit: 807-627-5746 • Fax: 807-577-2142
290 S. Water St. • Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 6P6

SARGENT
&
SON
FUNERAL CHAPEL
SARGENT FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES LTD.
Funeral Home, Reception and Cremation Centre
21 N. Court Street, Thunder Bay, ON
807-345-5351
www.sargentandson.com
Family Owned Since 1924

SPRAY FOAM
THUNDER BAY INSULATIONS
Industrial
Commercial
Residential
Blown In Fiberglass & Polyurethane Foam Specialists
Residential & Commercial
Approved For Energy Efficient Grants
2210 Oliver Rd. 344-5667 FAX 345-2034
THUNDER BAY INSULATIONS LIMITED 1978
Mechanical Insulation Contractor
Registered CUFCA Member • Insulation Materials For: Piping, Ducts & Outside Boiler
2210 Oliver Rd. 344-5667 FAX 345-2034

Oksana Harapyuk
Branch Manager
THUNDER BAY BRANCH
697 RED RIVER ROAD
THUNDER BAY, ON P7B 1J3
T 807 622 9796 x 261
F 807 622 0441
oharapyuk@ukrainiancu.com
www.ukrainiancu.com
ucu УКС UKRAINIAN CREDIT UNION LIMITED
УКРАЇНСЬКА КРЕДИТОВА СПІЛКА

If you, or someone you know, would like to purchase advertising space on this page, please speak with Michael Watral or call the Parish Office (577-7720) and leave a message or send an email to **holycros@tbaytel.net.**