



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 26, 2017 ~ Cheese-fare Sunday

Epistle: Romans 13: 11 - 14: 4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Troparia are found in the grey booklet, pages 3 & 12

Liturgical Services for This Week

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

6:00 p.m. ~ For the departed servant †**Wanda Iwasenko**
Offered by John and Linda

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

10:00 a.m. ~ **Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** followed by
Panakhida (Sorokousty) for the deceased

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

5:00 p.m. ~ **First Sunday of Lent** ~ Sunday of Orthodoxy
Epistle Reader: Grant Andrusky

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

10:00 a.m. ~ **First Sunday of Lent** ~ Sunday of Orthodoxy
Epistle Reader: Walter Warywoda

Today's Gospel is part of what is well-known as **The Sermon on the Mount** (St. Matthew, Chapters 5, 6 & 7). And the big question from this passage of the Bible is the question of where our hearts are.

There are a lot of things vying for your heart, as this is the control centre for life. A person's life is a reflection of his heart. Proverbs 4:23 states it like this: "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well spring of life." Therefore, we must guard our hearts and watch over them so that our heart follows hard after the things of God and is not distracted by the things of this world.

So, another question arises, "How do we lay up treasures in heaven?" The answer is by living the way God has asked us to live and following after Him in all that we do. For example, loving your neighbour as yourself, being a cheerful giver, honouring God in your marriage, guarding your mind against adulterous thoughts, and sharing the good news of the Gospel with those around you.

Jesus challenges us, as He challenged those He was talking to that day in the crowd, to ask ourselves where our treasure is. If your treasure is on earth and the things of this world, your heart will be there as well. If your heart is focused on the Father and on laying up treasures in heaven, your heart will be there.

Christian Words of Wisdom



*"The way you store up
treasures in heaven
is by investing in getting
other people there."*

Parish News & Upcoming Events

We extend our deepest condolences to the Brescacin family on the passing of their beloved †**Frances** this past Monday. Funeral services took place in our parish. May the Lord grant her rest and accept her into His Heavenly Kingdom, and may her memory be eternal ~ Вічна її пам'ять.

On Sunday morning, following the 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy, we will have our **Annual General Parish Meeting** in our church auditorium. **All** parishioners are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be served after the meeting featuring soup and salad, plus much more. See you there!

Attention all parishioners! This is your **last chance** to order cabbage rolls for **Wednesday, March 1**. Please sign the list on the clipboard in the narthex to do so. Preparation of the cabbage and rice will start on Wednesday at **11 a.m.** Rolling will start at **12:30 p.m.** Baking/freezing of the holubtsi will take place immediately. Help will be needed for cleanup during and after as well. Packaging will take place on Friday (time TBD). You will be contacted when to pick up your order. *Thank you!*

Please note: Father Stepan will be away on Monday & Tuesday of this week attending a clergy conference in Niagara Falls with special guest our most blessed Patriarch Sviatoslav, and will be returning on Wednesday afternoon.

Orders are now being taken for the next **Pyrohy Making Session** taking place on **March 27**. Please note that the contact person has changed. To place an order, call **Walter Warywoda** at 475-3757 or e-mail him at warywodaw@gmail.com. Price per dozen is **\$5.00**, cooked or raw frozen. As usual, we are counting on all men and women of the parish to help with this important fundraiser as 'many hands make light work.' Your support and cooperation are sincerely appreciated. ☺

Your Return Gift to God

FEBRUARY 18/19

Envelopes: \$2,650.⁰⁰
Initial Offering: \$50.⁰⁰
Andrew's Pence: \$15.⁰⁰
Mission Collection: \$54.⁸⁵
Candle Offering: \$128.⁴⁰
Special Projects: \$15.⁰⁰



Thank you for your generosity!

Щиро Вам дякуємо!

February's Mission Collection is designated for the **Alzheimer's Society of Thunder Bay** which supports persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias as well as their families and partners in care.

This year, we begin our Lenten journey through the Great Fast starting at sundown on **Sunday, February 26** (and all day Monday). It is a day of strict abstinence from **meat and dairy products**, and an occasion when we should only take in one full meal. Other meals should be of smaller portions, like snacks. Our Church obliges only those from 14-59 years of age to fast and abstain on designated days. Many people over 60 choose to continue to observe the Church's regulations, which they and their families consistently practiced throughout their lives. Similarly, young children will eat the food that is served in the household. Those whose state of life (*i.e.* pregnant women, manual labourers or ill) should not fast or abstain from meat if it will harm them, but are encouraged to take up some other form of penitence or acts of charity or piety. God gave us the gift of our body; we must moderate our appetites with fasting and abstinence, but not harm that body while doing His service.

During the Great Fast or Lent, as Eastern Catholics, we are obliged to abstain from meat on Fridays, except those upon which holydays of celebration fall. In many Christian countries, even in restaurants, fish is featured on Fridays. When others see us observing the Church regulations, we are setting a good example of how much we value our faith and its practices. In our own homes, we must follow Church Law, but when invited to others' homes, we should never insult them by refusing what they have prepared for us (Fr. Stepan has mentioned this before in one of his sermons).



Besides fasting and abstinence, throughout Great Lent we should refrain from joyous celebrations, dancing and other entertainments. When in doubt, you can approach your parish priest for a dispensation. Above all, remember that our Lord Jesus Christ taught us that certain evils "*can only be driven out by prayer and fasting.*" (Matt. 17:21) Self-denial and penance are direct teachings of Christ and can never be changed by the Church. Christians should fast and abstain of their own free will, when and if they are able. More important than food, we need to control our other desires through other types of self-denial. Abstaining from sin is the goal of physical self-denial. May we all stay the course as we make our way toward Good Friday and Easter Sunday!



St. George's Society

Cabbage roll making takes place this **Wednesday, March 1** beginning at **12:30 p.m.** However, members are needed at **11 a.m.** to help prepare the rice and cabbage. Orders are still being taken in the narthex. The deadline is Sunday!

Our next monthly meeting is on **Sunday, March 5** at **7 p.m.** in our parish hall. All members are requested to attend. New members are welcome at this time also.

The next bingo training session will take place in our parish hall at 7 p.m. on **Monday, March 6**. Our next scheduled bingo is a matinee on **Thursday, March 23** at Superior Shores Gaming Centre. Please speak with Gerry Bullock if you are available to help on that date. *Thank you!*

Love and Service to God since 1960!

Holy Cross Golden Agers

Regular activities take place on Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. [doors open at 12:30 p.m.]. New members (55+) are always welcome with open arms. It's just \$10 per year and well worth the membership fee. Check us out!

If you missed the bus to Grand Portage, you can catch the next one. It will leave the church parking lot **Wednesday, March 15** at 3:45 p.m. and return @ 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 are cordially invited for the ride as well.

Events In Our Community

Spaghetti Dinner - on **Sunday, February 26** in support of St. Andrew's CWL at the Italian Cultural Centre. Take-out: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sit-down dinner at 6:00 p.m. Adults: \$13/person; children: \$9/person. Tickets available from Barbara Jaatinen at 344-7913 or Barbara Jarvela at 345-5457. Only tickets sold in advance will be credited to St. Andrew's CWL.

Items Needed! - If anyone has any **size large white** lab coats or white hospital pant/top sets that you no longer use or need, please bring them (cleaned) to the church and place them in the labelled box in the narthex. Father Dan Lapolla of St. Dominic's Church is looking for some to send to Ukraine. We will be forwarding them to him to do so. Many thanks!

4th Annual Sled for Eternity ~ Kakabeka Falls Ride - in support of Adult and Teen Challenge Thunder Bay Men's Ctr. on **Saturday, March 4**. A beautiful ride on groomed trails courtesy of Thunder Bay Adventure Trails Club. Checkpoint prizes, fundraiser prizes, and bonus draw prize. To register, call 345-2277 or visit www.teenchallenge.tc today!

In the Eastern Church, the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is used on the weekdays of Great Lent, a season of repentance, fasting, and intensified prayer when the more frequent reception of communion is desirable. However, the full Divine Liturgy, having a joyful character, is not in keeping with the somberness of the season of repentance (*Eucharist* literally means "thanksgiving"), and so the Presanctified Liturgy is substituted. Although this service may be performed on any weekday (Monday through Friday) of Great Lent, common parish practice is to celebrate it only on Wednesdays and Fridays. Father Stepan has chosen Friday mornings, and afterwards Panakhyda (Sorokousty) for the deceased will take place.

WONDERFUL NEWS! We are pleased to announce that **Father Andrija Petresin**, currently serving parishes in Barrie and Cawaga Beach, ON, will be spending some time with us during the March Break, and has agreed to lead us in a Lenten Mission on the evenings of **March 14, 15, and 16** (T-W-Th) beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Cross. Please come out and welcome him and spend some time in prayer and reflection as he guides us in a renewal of our relationship with God and with each other.



*Help us in the coming fasting season
To remember more and more
How Your sacrifice has saved us;
Lord and Saviour we adore.*



Laying Up Treasures In Heaven

Do you have a piggy bank at home? How often do you put money in it? There are some people who, at the end of each day, put all of the change from their pockets into a piggy bank. It may not be a lot of money, but when you add to it every day, it is amazing how quickly it builds up.

Whether we use a piggy bank or a savings account at the bank, it is a good idea to have a plan to save money for unexpected emergencies or when we want to do something special. One thing we have to be careful of is that the treasure that we are building doesn't become the most important thing in our life. Jesus warned about that in teaching His followers about money. He told them that they should not worry so much about building up treasures on earth, but that they should concentrate on building up treasures in heaven.

How do we build up treasures in heaven? Jesus taught that one way to build up treasures in heaven is to give money to the poor. Can you think of some other ways that we might build up treasure in heaven? How about the following ...

- Visiting the sick
- Helping to feed the hungry
- Being cheerful and thoughtful to someone who is sad
- Praying for one another
- Working in a shelter for the homeless
- Being a friend to someone who is lonely
- Forgiving someone who has hurt you
- Saying you're sorry when you hurt someone

All of these are things that we can do here on earth that will be stored up as the "treasures in heaven" about which Jesus spoke. They may not seem like much, but if we do something for someone each and every day, it is amazing how quickly they add up.



Let us pray: God, our Father, we may never have much in the way of earthly treasure, but help us to be faithful each day in building up treasures in heaven. Amen.

Forgiveness

Anyone can hold a grudge, but it takes a person with character to forgive. When you forgive, you release yourself from a painful burden. Forgiveness doesn't mean what happened was OK, and it doesn't mean that person should still be welcome in your life. It just means you have made peace with the pain, and are ready to let it go.

