

Слава Ісусу Христу ~ Слава на віки! Glory be to Jesus Christ ~ Glory forever!
Вітаємо до Парафії Воздвиження Чесного Хреста! Welcome to Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish!
~ May your participation in today's Divine Liturgy be thoroughly enriching and truly meaningful ~

Sunday, March 29, 2020 ~ Fifth Sunday of Great Lent (St. Mary of Egypt)

Epistle: *Hebrews 9: 11-14*

Gospel: *Mark 10: 32-45*

Troparia are located in the grey book on pages 1 and 22

Epistle Readers

Saturday (5 p.m.): n/a
Sunday (10 a.m.): n/a



Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday (5 p.m.): n/a
Sunday (10 a.m.): n/a

LITURGICAL SERVICES SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE/УВАГА!

All public Divine Worship in our Eparchy has been suspended until further notice by order of His Excellency Bishop Bryan Bayda. During the shutdown, you can access a number of live streaming liturgical services on the Internet. The full list can be accessed on our Facebook page (Facebook/holycrossbay) or you can click on the following link to view them as well.

www.royaldoors.net/2020/03/2020-streaming-liturgical-services

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE: There may be a remote possibility of having a short service (not a eucharistic liturgy) outside the main church doors at 11:00 a.m. on **Palm Sunday, April 5**, which will include the readings for the feast, blessing of palm branches (and if possible, pussy willows) and a special prayer for health. **THIS ACTION WILL BE DEPENDENT UPON THE DIRECTION FROM BISHOP BRYAN AS WELL AS WEATHER CONDITIONS AND LEGAL CONSTRAINTS.** That decision will be made at the last moment as a commitment cannot be guaranteed at this time; therefore, we ask you to please bear with us until then.

Parish News and Activities

Please note: All hall activities are cancelled until further notice. The schedule of services for **Holy Week, Easter** and **Bright Week** is in the process of being reviewed, and will be published as an insert in the bulletin for Palm Sunday.



Applications for St. George's Scholarships are available in the narthex. All potential high school graduates who are parishioners of Holy Cross parish, are encouraged to apply. Due to the current situation, the **May 1st** deadline will likely be extended. If you would like an electronic copy, please send an email with your request to mawatral@tbaytel.net.

Please remember in your prayers those of our parish who are ill, in hospital, shut-in, on home rest, and who no longer can be physically active during this difficult time. If you wish to arrange a personal visit from Fr. Stepan, please do not hesitate to call him. And if your loved one or another parishioner is nearing death, please notify him as soon as possible.



Planning a wedding in 2020 or 2021? Engaged couples wishing to be joined in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at Holy Cross are required to contact Father Stepan (577-7721) at their earliest convenience regarding the proposed wedding and required marriage preparation classes. Please don't leave it to the last minute!



Christians in our day struggle with many of the same issues that early followers of Christ wrestled with. It's not unusual, for example, for someone to evaluate his or her worth as a person in terms of honours received or positions held – even to the church he or she belongs. Not so in the sight of God. In today's Gospel, Jesus made it clear that "greatness" is determined on the basis of willingness to pattern one's life after Christ who gave His ALL in service to God and others. And no better argument can be made on behalf of serving one's fellowman than the example Jesus gave of how He Himself served God. Yes, our Lord had the power to alter the scheme of things to suit His own Will but chose rather to be submissive to the Will of God.

~ Charles Cunningham

Words of Obedience and Unconditional Love

*Jesus gave His life to set us free
from the guilt and the consequences of sin.
He paid the price because of His love
and God the Father's love for us. Amen!*

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.*

MARCH 21/22

Envelopes: \$500.⁰⁰
Vigil Lights: \$66.⁷⁵

FYI: Since donations are being received throughout the week, totals will be approximated.

Дякуємо за вашу щедрість!
Thank you for your generosity!

Please note: During the shutdown, our parish may experience some shortfalls in cash flow. Therefore, we are sincerely requesting that you mail in your weekly contributions (envelope and mission donation) to the Parish Office or kindly drop it into the mailbox at the Rectory (422 W. Victoria Ave.). Thank you!

The Mission Collection from **January to June 2020** is for the TBRHSC "Our Hearts at Home" cardiovascular campaign. We will, therefore, publish the running total at the end of every second month. If desired, parishioners can make a larger donation to this cause and get a receipt from the parish. For more information about this programme, you can log on to www.healthsciencesfoundation.ca.



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

Superior Shores Gaming Centre remains closed to ensure that volunteers, players, and staff remain healthy and safe. The AGCO and the OLG will inform each association when re-opening of the halls can happen. In the interim, the bingo schedule for the next quarter has been released; our next session is a matinée on



Tuesday, April 21. That date is tentative at this time. The dates for May and June will be published in the future. SSGA administration will be closely monitoring the situation and will provide updates as changes happen.

As published in last week's bulletin, the **March 30 Pyrohy Making** has been cancelled — we will look into a possible new date for mid-late spring depending on the situation; our annual **Easter Vigil** (Guarding of our Lord's tomb) has also been put on hold; the **Parish Easter Dinner** on April 19 has been cancelled; and our monthly meeting on April 26 is contingent upon the overall health situation; members will be advised of any change via email and/or a phone call.

All members (and loved ones) are encouraged to self-isolate and limit interaction with others at this time to help curtail the spread of COVID-19. And remember to pray daily.

*O victorious great-martyr George,
as a liberator of captives and helper of the poor,
physician of the sick and champion of kings,
entreat Christ God to save our souls.*



REFLECTING ON TODAY'S COMMEMORATION

ON THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT LENT, the Church commemorates our venerable Mother, Mary of Egypt, who lived during the sixth century and passed away in a remarkable manner in the year 522 A.D.

She began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve for Alexandria. There she lived as a prostitute for seventeen years, refusing money from the men that she had relations with, instead living by begging and spinning flax.



One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along for the ride, but when the group reached Jerusalem and went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church patio, where she looked up and

saw an icon of the Mother of God (*Theotokos* in Greek; *Bohorodytsya* in Ukrainian). She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her.

After this heartfelt conversion, she fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. For seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts, mad desires and passions." After these years of temptation, however, she overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things.

The Church also celebrates her feast day on the day of her repose on April 1.



HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

Attention all members! All activities are cancelled until further notice. We remind everyone to practice social distancing/self-isolation especially if you have a pre-existing condition that might further aggravate the situation, and to limit family member gatherings and visits as well. Unless you are in need of supplies or medical assistance, please remain at home. Spend this time sorting through pictures, recording and sharing memories that you have yet to do, and practicing excellent hygiene.

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

Readings for the Palm Sunday

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

Epistle: Philippians 4: 4-9

Paul's Instructions

Gospel: John 12: 1-18


Jesus is anointed at Bethany before His entry into Jerusalem

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.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Due to government restrictions, most community events and gatherings have been cancelled/postponed at this time. Please check our local newspaper or online version for updates.

PRACTICING MEASURED CONCERN, NOT PANIC: A HEALTHY CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

 Our loving God hiddenly but surely works for our good even in the places we do not expect, including amid the evil of deadly epidemics. The fear of bodily illness and death should drive us to pray and to care for our souls, remembering that this world is not our lasting home. An epidemic is one of many evils that beset us, and we have to take that seriously; but the greater evil is the evil within (Matt. 10:28, Luke 12:4). Therefore, responding to an epidemic or any other crisis must involve turning from our sins — chief of which is the selfish love that gives thought first to self, and only secondly, if we can assure our own health and safety, to others.

LOVE LIFE
LIVE  **LENT**
TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

PROPER FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY

FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

Commemoration of Our Venerable Mother, Mary of Egypt

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion, Tone 1: Though the stone was sealed by the Judeans,* and soldiers guarded Your most pure body,* You arose, O Saviour, on the third day,* and gave life to the world.* And so the heavenly powers cried out to You, O Giver of Life:* Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ!* Glory to Your kingdom!* Glory to Your saving plan,* O only Lover of mankind.

Troparion, Tone 8: The divine image was faithfully preserved in you, O mother,* for taking up the Cross, you followed Christ.* By your deeds you have taught us to see beyond the flesh, which passes,* and care for the soul, a thing immortal.* And so, O venerable Mary,* your spirit rejoices with the angels.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 3: Once you were filled with every impurity,* now through repentance you have been revealed as a bride of Christ,* following the angelic life, you crushed demons with the weapon of the Cross.* Therefore, O glorious Mary, you have been shown to be a bride of the kingdom.

Prokeimenon, Tone 1

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have hoped in You.

verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous. (*Psalm 32:22,1*)

Prokeimenon, Tone 4

verse: God is wonderful in His saints,* the God of Israel. (*Psalm 67:36*)

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Brothers and sisters! When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), He entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

Alleluia, Tone 1

verse: God gives me vindication, and has subdued people under me.

verse: Making great the salvation of the king, and showing mercy to His anointed, to David, and to His posterity forever. (*Psalm 17:48,51*)

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

At that time, Jesus took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death; then they will hand Him over to the Gentiles; they will mock Him, and spit upon Him, and flog Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise again."

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to Him, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You." And He said to them, "What is it you want Me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Your right hand and one at Your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at My right hand or at My left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the other ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So, Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Hymn to the Mother of God

In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angelic ranks and all the human race. Sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, virgins' pride and boast, from whom God is made flesh and became a little Child; and He who is our God before all ages, He made your womb a throne, and He made it wider than all the heavens. In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

Communion verses

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest. (*Psalm 148:1*)* The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance;* of evil hearsay he shall have no fear.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. (*Psalm 111:6*)

Looking for God in the Time of Crises

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

When the first man, Adam, sinned, he departed from God's presence. The closeness that existed between man and God in Paradise was destroyed. A huge distance was created. It was to bridge this distance that Jesus came. He built a bridge that overcame the separation and brought God to each one of us. That bridge is the Cross. He is still on that bridge inviting us to draw near to God.

Many people in our modern time try to move away from God and even try to hide from Him. But God never moves from our side. We are the ones who move away from Him. And when we do, we experience something comparable to hell. God is trying to tell us that true happiness is to not be found away from Him, but always in Him.

And we have a means of connection to God. Here is a good example...A spider slid down a thread from a barn roof. He built a small web, caught many flies, grew sleek and prosperous. One day, noticing the single thread stretching above the web, he said to himself, "How useless that thread is! Who needs it?" He snapped it, and immediately the whole web collapsed. It was a disaster!

The thread that holds us and keeps us in touch with God is prayer — talking to Him personally each day, walking with Him. But like the spider, we come to feel self-sufficient in our prosperity. "Prayer?" we say, "The Liturgy? Church? The Bible? Who needs it?" So, we snap the thread that keeps us in touch with God. We ask Him to leave, to depart from us, then we wonder why our universe begins to crumble around us; why there are wars and violence and hatred; why there is meaninglessness and confusion and breakdowns.

Man is free to depart from God, but when he does, he gets into trouble. Yet God is present even in that hell, striving with man, trying to bring him an awareness of himself.

Let us stay focussed on God during this difficult time and HIS REDEMPTIVE POWER.

May God bless you all!

Humbly, your Padre (Father Stepan)

What True Christianity is Based Upon

God's Kingdom is unlike man's kingdoms and governments. In those organizations, the leaders establish their greatness by exercising authority over their subjects. Those leaders want to be served and honoured by those beneath them in the organization.

That's not the way it is in the kingdom of God. Christianity is based on service to others, so Christian leaders must be interested in serving rather than being served. Our example is Jesus Christ. He did not come to earth to be served by others, but to serve. (Phil. 2: 7). He came to offer His life as a sacrifice for our sins. You may never be asked to give your life for someone else, but that attitude of self-sacrificing service should be the mark of your Christianity.

"But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant."

Matthew 20: 26



Climbing Down the Ladder of Greatness

In the Gospel for this Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, Jesus and His disciples have one of the most memorable dialogues in the New Testament. While Jesus is speaking of His eventual death, James and John, two brothers who belong to Jesus' "inner circle" approach Him. These brothers had fiery personalities and zeal for the Lord. This leads them to ask a rather bold question: "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You." In other words, "Jesus, since we're your best friends, we want the best."

Since Jesus is wise and clever, He asks James and John, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The brothers reply, "Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory." You see, James and John believed that Jesus was the Messiah, and they thought He was likely going to establish His kingdom when they reached Jerusalem. These brothers wanted the positions of highest honour. To be seated at the king's right hand was to take the most important position; the person seated at the left hand ranked just below that. James and John wanted the number one and number two spots.

Jesus had been teaching that another world existed beyond their present life and that some positions in God's kingdom

were better than others. In fact, Jesus guaranteed the disciples twelve thrones in His coming kingdom as part of their reward for following Him. Yet, James and John said, "It's nice to make the top twelve, Jesus, but we have higher goals than those other ten guys. We would like to reserve a couple of the executive suites." Well, how insensitive can you get?! It's insensitive to Jesus, but it's also cruel to the other disciples. To James and John, life is like the reality show *Survivor*, and they've just voted the other ten disciples off the island.

In the end, Jesus wants these brothers and the rest of the His disciples to understand the need to climb down the ladder to greatness, and to concentrate on present service rather than future honour. This was Jesus' expectation of His disciples and of us. We too must be prepared to suffer. We must not want the benefits without the bruises, the glory without the bloodshed, the position without the persecution, or the blessings without the bumps. Those who follow Jesus seek to be humble, not proud of their status or accomplishments. If Jesus, as the Son of God, was willing to serve, how much more so should we!

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!



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