

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 Church

September 6, 2020 ~ Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings: Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1: 21 - 2: 1-4

Gospel: Matthew 22: 2-14

September 13, 2020 ~ Sunday before the Exaltation

Scripture Readings: Epistle: Galatians 6: 11-18

Gospel: John 3: 13-17

HOLY CROSS PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Our sincerest appreciation is extended to **Morris Kibzey** who has been appointed and has accepted the position of Usher Coordinator in charge of COVID-19 entry protocols for our parish. Morris is a certified Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP) with extensive background and qualifications in this area, and has been working with Father Stepan and others to develop proactive protocols which are utilized in the training of ushers during the time of this pandemic. May God bless Morris and all ushers for their efforts to keep us safe and healthy!



For those who have not yet heard, this year's **Parish Praznyk** has been cancelled, as the Ontario Government has limited indoor gatherings to a maximum of 50 people to maintain social distancing, and deemed buffet-style food services unsafe. In the future, when we are allowed to meet safely in larger numbers, we will, once again, gather to share a meal and enjoy each other's company as we have done so at Holy Cross for the past 53 years.

Please take note: This parish bulletin will continue to be published every second weekend as activities in the church and parish have not yet returned to the usual 'normal' schedules. If you have any parish or community announcements, please contact Michael Watral at 475-4914 or e-mail him at mawatral@tbaytel.net at your earliest convenience. *Thank you for your cooperation.* ☺



The Holy Cross Golden Agers will delay the start of their new year and resumption of regular Thursday afternoon activities for now. Consequently,

the Executive will meet in mid-September to discuss and make a decision whether to open up or not in October or delay it further, and possibly until the new year (February 2021). The membership will be contacted by phone to see how many are willing to return. Stay safe!

During the ongoing pandemic, it has been difficult for Father Stepan to make visits to the hospital/long-term care facilities due to the restrictions currently in place. Those who wish him to do so are requested to place his name on their 'family list' (at the entrance of the facility), so that he can enter the building without impediment especially in the case of an emergency. It is also a good idea to contact Father in advance if your loved one or another parishioner is nearing death, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for anointing.

Words to Reflect Upon

"If you seek patience, you will find no better example than the cross. Great patience occurs in two ways: either when one patiently suffers much, or when one suffers things which one is able to avoid and yet does not avoid."

~ St. Thomas Aquinas ~

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.

Due to a directive from the Chancery Office re: parish security issues, weekly collection numbers will no longer be published online.

Thank you for your support and understanding!

Liturgical Services Schedule

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m. ~ Sunday after the Exaltation

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

10 a.m. ~ Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Those who are able to help with ushering/entry/cleaning protocol are requested to speak with Father Stepan. Thank you for your consideration. ☺

Дякуємо за вашу щедрість! *Thank you for your generosity!*

Please note: The Mission Collection for Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's "Our Hearts at Home" has now ended. The total to be donated will be confirmed by the Parish Council and published in a future bulletin. Thank you for your generous support.

September's Mission Collection is designated for **PRO Kids** (Positive Recreation Opportunities for Kids), a service that helps low-income families access recreation activities for their kids. Visit their Facebook page for more information.

HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

COVID-19 UPDATE: The Executive has recently met to discuss the possibility of returning to regular Thursday afternoon activities. Since there are still a few unknowns, it was decided that more information and directives were needed. Consequently, the Executive will meet again in mid-September to review all new information and then decide (pending approval from the Bishop) whether to open up or not in October or delay it further. In the meantime, the membership will be polled (by telephone) to see how many members wish/are willing to return. Your patience is appreciated. Until then, stay safe and healthy. Wear a mask whenever and wherever it is required.

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



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

Superior Shores Gaming Centre has re-opened for cabinet games (TapTix) and POD game play only at this time. **There will be no bingo sessions until further notice, so volunteers are not required.** Check out the bingo report in the current issue of our newsletter for more information. You can also phone the Bingo Hotline at 345-4946 for regular updates.

Fisherman: remember to submit your weigh-in slips to any Fish and Game Committee member as soon as possible so that the Board can be updated regularly.



Our annual 9-Hole Golf Tournament will take place on **Saturday, September 19** at Chapples Golf Course. Be there by 2:30 p.m. to get into teams. Tee off time is **3:00 p.m. sharp**. Cost is \$10/person plus green fees. Steak dinner to follow in the parish hall is tentative at the moment. If you wish to book a cart, call 625-2582. All participants must register by contacting Jim Glena. Call 628-5888 or email him at jimglena@gmail.com. Non-golfers are invited to attend the dinner and social as in the past at a cost of \$10/person. Please call/email Jim to register as well.

Celebrating 60 years of Love and Service to God

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Slovak Legion Take-Out/Curbside Pick-up - Every Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Call 623-3354 ext. 2 for more information. A different meal is featured every week. Visit www.slovaklegion.com for more information.

Zorya Ukrainian Dance Association - Registration for the 2020-21 Dance Season is online until Tuesday, September 8 @ www.zorya.ca. In person registration takes place on Wednesday, September 9, or Thursday, September 10, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Zorya Dance Studio, First Wesley United Church, 130 N. Brodie St. (use Miles St. Entrance). For more info, contact Chloe Johnson @ 629-7682, Alice Chony @ 577-2100 or email zorya@tbaytel.net. Anyone interested in Ukrainian dance is welcome!

Stay safe and healthy!

Happy Labour Day weekend to all!



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

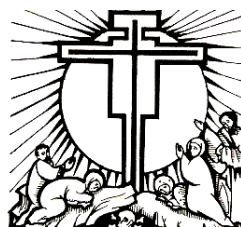
The parable Jesus tells is not really about a wedding feast, but a story about the salvation that is available if you follow Jesus. The king represents God, Who asks each and every one of us to come into His Kingdom. . . no matter what our station in life, what we have done in the past. The Kingdom of Heaven is not limited to only the 'good' people or the Jewish people, it is open to all of us.

But there are some conditions for entry into the Kingdom of Heaven. Scripture says that there was one man who did not have a wedding robe. But this doesn't refer to a piece of clothing – that just doesn't make sense since the king's servants went out onto the street and hauled in everyone they could find. Obviously, no one was dressed for the wedding. This 'robe' is the robe of salvation, which we all get when we give our lives to Jesus. . . when all our sins are forgiven and we are clean and spotless. For many are called, but few are chosen.



SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION

On this Sunday, we hear the well-known passage from the Gospel of John: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life" (John 3: 16) — part of the Lord's conversation with Nicodemus. So, to believe in Christ means to acknowledge with your mind and your heart the two natures: God and man, His resurrection and victory over death. To believe means to acknowledge and gratefully accept the salvation He has given us. Christ has opened the door to the Kingdom of Heaven for us - but we must also make an effort to enter it.



As we prepare to celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, this passage helps us to realize that the Cross and the Resurrection, as joy and sorrow in life, are inseparable. Indeed, wherever we are, no matter what cross we carry, God's boundless love will always be with us.

~ from sermons by Rev. Deniray Mueller and Bishop Vasyl Ivasyuk

NEWS FLASH! CNN has reported that a new virus has been recently discovered. One person can pass it on to millions as it is very contagious. The Centre for Disease Control has reported this week that the virus spreads rapidly from one person to the next. They have put a very interesting name to this virus... they are calling it...a smile. ☺

READINGS FOR SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION AND 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday after the Exaltation 17th Sunday (Sept. 27)

Galatians 2: 16-20
Saved by Faith

2 Corinthians 6: 16 - 17: 1
Warnings Against Pagan Influences

Mark 8: 34 - 9:1
Jesus' Speaks of His Suffering & Death

Matthew 15: 21-28
A Woman's Faith

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.



The Children's Corner will return in the next issue. We wish all students a safe and enjoyable scholastic year. Good luck in all of your studies!

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

Immediately, at the beginning of the new ecclesiastical year, the Church thrusts us into the reality of our need for renewal. The hymns praise the conception and birth of the Theotokos (Virgin God-bearer) as — not only the deliverance of the barrenness of Anna, but of the deliverance of our human nature from barrenness. We have begun a new year, and the Church, as always, greets us with another grace of beginning again. But in order for us to begin again, we need to be reminded about our need to begin again. We can float about our daily life, we can become distracted by our daily work, we can enjoy everything around us — food, people, cheer, beautiful weather, the stillness of nature. All of these things are good and beautiful and blessed.



All of these things are great gifts from God. But, weak as we are, we need constant reminders that our true life, our true home, our final resting place, is not this mode of life. Yes, this very earth, at the end of time, will be the very earth which the meek and the saved will inherit. Our Faith teaches us that it will be changed, transfigured, glorified, when Christ comes to resurrect the dead and restore all things. But the mode of life at that time is very different from our mode of life here and now. Therefore, we need constant reminders and spurs to make us reach heavenward, to seek that changeless life which is to come in the fullness of its perfection at the end of time. In order for us to seek that life to come, we need to feel, in the depths of our bones and hearts our need for it, our lack, our inadequacy, our barrenness.

However, we do not observe the barrenness and pain of soul of Joachim and Anna as outside spectators. Nor do we merely observe from the outside their great joy and exultation when they finally give birth to the Mother of God! We must always learn where God is leading us, and for this we have the great blessing of being aware of where we are at in the liturgical year. We do not just watch the days go by, or count the days to Nativity or Pascha, but we are mystically thrust into the heart of their preparation and fulfillment by the right hand of God. We are children of the Church Whose nurturer is the Holy Spirit. The child whose nativity we honour has become the all-pure and only worthy spouse of this Holy Spirit. She greets us at the beginning of the Church new year, and we greet her.

O Most Holy Mother of God, save us!

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