

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.

December 4, 2016 ~ 29th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle ~ Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel ~ Luke 17: 12-19

Troparia are in Tone 4, found on page 95 of the navy blue missals

Your Return Gift to God

NOVEMBER 26/27, 2016

Envelopes: \$2,280.⁰⁰

Candle offering: \$189.³⁰

Church in Ukraine: \$170.⁰⁰

Mission Collection: \$80.⁰⁰



Thank you for your generosity!

Щиро Вам дякуємо!

The **Mission Collection** for November totalled **\$283.80**, which will be donated to **Thunder Bay Christmas Cheer**.

The **Mission Collection** for December has been designated for **Blessings in a Backpack**, a unique program designed to support schoolchildren who simply do not have enough to eat on weekends. Families who struggle with hunger or who are 'food insecure' rely on food banks and other resources during the week, but many cannot satisfy weekend needs. For more information, visit www.blessingsinabackpack.ca.

T In this week's Gospel account, Jesus heals ten men that were stricken with leprosy, but only one of them, a Samaritan, comes back to thank God and give Him glory and honour He deserves. Where were the other nine? Jesus did tell them to go and show themselves to the priests, who had to make an official ruling on their healing. And that's what they did, but that's **all** they did, and it quickly became about them and not God. How and why did they instantly forget what Jesus had done for them and their lives?

How about you? How often do you give God the credit for all of the good things in your life? Are you one of the nine or are you the one that returns back to praise Jesus and glorify God? In your life, who is it about? God, church, your worship, your service; is it about you or is it about God? Our lives can also quickly change from God to us if we are not careful. As His children, we must make time to express gratitude towards God and understand that it is always appropriate. There is **NEVER** a bad time to praise God, even in public.

At the end of this passage, Jesus says to the Samaritan man "Your faith has made you well." Brothers and sisters, your faith will heal you as well. Your faith in Jesus will bring cleansing and peace back in your life, Your faith in Jesus will calm the roaring waves, Your faith in Jesus will restore joy back into your life. Your faith in Jesus will turn darkness into Light - that's a biblical promise of God.



Prepare for Christmas by fasting not feasting: For the fourth week of the Nativity Fast, the **white candle** on the banner is lit to remind us of God's **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. *Peace is flowing like a river, flowing out from you and me...*

LITURGICAL SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

7:00 p.m. ~ Panakyhda Service in the church proper

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

11:00 a.m. ~ Funeral Liturgy for the departed servant †**Sophie Katchen**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

10:00 a.m. ~ Feast of Our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonderworker

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

10:00 a.m. ~ **Feast of the Immaculate Conception of St. Anna**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

5:00 p.m. ~ Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Epistle Reader: Gloria Opaski-Sherban

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Epistle Reader: Andrea Warywoda



Parish News & Events

Our parish extends its sincerest condolences to the Katchen, Myslicki, Strehlow, and Tuck families on the passing of their beloved mother and aunt †**Sophie Katchen** on December 2. May our Lord accept the soul of His servant †Sophie into His Heavenly kingdom, grant her rest, and make her memory everlasting ~ Вічна її пам'ять.

St. Nicholas will make his annual visit to us on **Sunday morning** following the Divine Liturgy. We invite all children and their families to come down to the parish hall to receive him. Lunch will be served. *О хто, хто, Миколає любить...*

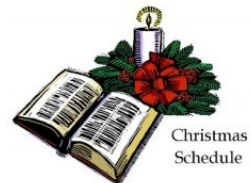
Your 2017 envelopes and calendars are on order and expected to be ready for distribution by December 17/18. If they are late, please be patient ~ you'll get them before the New Year.

Christmas Eve (December 24) services for this year will be as follows:

8:00 p.m. ~ Great Complines with Litiya followed by a *mini carol sing*

9:00 p.m. ~ Solemn Divine Liturgy of the Nativity

Christmas Day (December 25) Divine Liturgy will take place at 10:00 a.m. See the insert in next week's bulletin for a complete listing of all services from *Christmas Eve* to the *Theophany of Our Lord*.



Volunteer Envelope Counters Needed! We need to increase our pool of volunteers who count the Sunday collections. Our counters work in pairs and are assigned for specific months. We invite current or new volunteers to sign up to help. New counters will receive training. To volunteer or to obtain more information, please speak with Susan Soldan or call her at 475-4550.

Our parish "**Getting Ready for Christmas Sale**" is on **Saturday, December 10** from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Before that, more help is required to make another small batch cabbage rolls on **Tuesday, December 6** at 1 p.m. for a few hours. Cooking will be done on Thursday evening and Friday morning. Help will be needed starting at 6 p.m. on Friday to help package. Also, donations of pickles, preserves, baking, and Christmas items for the Santa Sale will be accepted from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on that day (or anytime during the week when preparations are being made). On Saturday morning, your help at the sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is needed for this endeavour to be a success. Please speak with Michael Watral or Walter Warywoda anytime to indicate your intentions as there will be no advance sign-up lists — we are counting on all parishioners to lend a hand as much as possible ~ *Thanks!*

What's Happening In Our Community...



Christmas Café - sponsored by the Ladies' Philoptochos Society "Friends of the Poor", **Sunday, December 4** from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church hall, 652 Beverly Street. Tickets are \$4.00/person and available from any Philoptochos member, at the church office or at the door. Coffee/tea, sandwiches, bake sale, raffles and door prizes are featured. Everyone is warmly invited. Your support is appreciated. Check out the poster on the narthex bulletin board.

Firefighters Serving Day - Firefighters will be serving tables at Boston Pizza on **Wednesday, December 7** during lunch and dinner (12 noon - 2:00 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.). It's all in support of Toys for Tots! Boston Pizza will donate 10% of sales, and should you choose you can "tip" your firefighter by way of a donation towards the campaign! Please join them for a great time. Reservations accepted. Please call Sharon at 627-4213 for more information.

Spirit of Christmas Concert - presented by Lakehead Choral Group on **Wednesday, December 7** at 7:30 p.m. at St. Agnes Church, Mary at Brown Sts. Advance tickets: \$15.⁰⁰ at Rollason Flowers, Kitchen Nook and Finnish Book Store, Music World Academy or call 577-1224. You may also call Susan Soldan, a member of LCG.



Rockin' Santa Skate - in support of PRO Kids on **Friday December 9** from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Admission is \$2.00 per person. Family fun includes face painting, chuck-a-duck, prizes and a beginner's area. Small fees apply to extra activities. Concessions will be open during the event. Helmets are mandatory for children 12 years and younger but is recommended for all skaters. For more information, please call 625-3212.



St. George's Society

Members will be needed for a few hours to help in the kitchen during cabbage roll making (rice preparation and cleaning) on **Tuesday, December 6** at 1 p.m. For the schedule of other tasks, see the notice above in Parish News and Events.

The next St. George's sponsored bingo at Superior Shores is a matinee on **Wednesday, December 7**. Members who have volunteered to serve at requested to be there by 11:30 a.m. in proper dress.

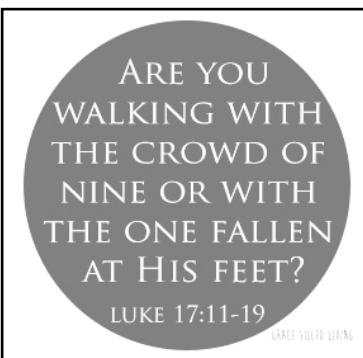
We wish all members and their families a very special holiday season with all the best in 2017! Our first meeting in the new year will be the annual Super Bowl Meeting at 4:30 p.m. on **Sunday, February 5**, followed by a dinner and social.

Love and Service to God since 1960!

Holy Cross Golden Agers ~ Fun for Seniors

Thursday, December 8 will be our final get-together for 2016. Regular activities will happen at the usual time followed by our annual free Christmas dinner along with raffles, sing-alongs, and lots of fun! Members are requested to bring donations for the *Thunder Bay Food Bank*. A winter break follows until Thursday, February 2 when we will once again resume in the parish hall. Have a happy and healthy holiday season!

The next bus trip to Grand Portage is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 18**. Please feel free to contact Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805) between now and early January to book your seat. Non-members are invited also. This is a **free** service. All we ask is that you be at the church no later than **3:45 p.m.**



We need your help! To reduce the cost to reproduce this weekly parish bulletin, local businesses pay to advertise on our back cover. However, that number has decreased in the last few years. We'd like to remedy that for the New Year, especially with it being Holy Cross's 50th Anniversary. Through the grapevine, we know that there are parishioners within our circles who either have businesses or families that can and want to contribute to our worthy cause. The cost per year is only \$100 for a single ad and \$200 for a double ad. The money is also used to brighten up the bulletin from time to time with colour. If you own or run a business, please consider advertising this coming year. Contact Michael Watral as soon as possible and he will tell you more information about supporting our parish bulletin. *Thank you!*





Don't Forget to Say "Thank You"

Don't you just hate it when someone does something nice for you and your mother or father prompts you by saying, "Now, what do you say?" You knew what to say, didn't you? We all know what to say, but unfortunately, we sometimes forget to say it. That is what happened in our Bible lesson today.

Today's Gospel account is about ten lepers. A leper is a person who has a disease called leprosy. This disease causes sores all over the body. Leprosy was very common in Jesus' day, and people who had this disease were thought to be unclean. They were required to stay away from other people because of the fear that they might infect them with their disease.

One day, Jesus was walking through a small village when he saw a group of ten lepers. They stood far away from Jesus and called to him, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us." Obviously, they knew who Jesus was and that He had the power to heal them. When Jesus heard them, He called back to the lepers and said, "Go, show yourself to the priests."

As the lepers went on their way to see the priests, they looked at their skin and the sores were gone. Jesus had healed their disease. They were so happy that they ran up and down the streets singing and dancing. Suddenly, one of them stopped and went back. Praising God with a loud voice, he threw himself at Jesus' feet and said, "Thank You." Jesus said to him, "Weren't there ten who were healed? Where are the other nine?" Only one out of ten remembered to say, "Thank You."

God does so much for us! Every day He provides everything we need: food, clothing, and a place to live. Do we ever forget to say, "Thank You?" Let's stop right now and say "Thank You" and ask God to help us remember to thank Him every day.

Dear Lord, You give us everything we need, but we often forget to say "Thank You." We thank You now, and ask You to help us to remember to give thanks every day for all that You do for us.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

