

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 22, 2020 ~ Fourth Sunday of Great Lent (St. John Climacus)

Epistle: Hebrews 6: 13-20

Gospel: Mark 9: 17-31

Troparia are located in the grey book on pages 8 and 20

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



Jesus came to us to help remove the fear and doubts of our lives. God wants us to fully and completely believe in Him and His promises and His ways. Unfortunately because of the sin that taints our souls we will not and cannot ever reach that state. If we could achieve that faith, we could move mountains and unclean spirits would obey our commands immediately and without questions. God has given to us this great and saving faith and we pray daily for God to help and strengthen this faith, but also in our prayers should be "help my unbelief." 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 14/15

Envelopes: \$1,210.⁰⁰

Mission Collection: \$314.³⁵

Initial Offering: \$20.⁰⁰ Special Projects: \$30.⁰⁰

Clergy Benevolent Fund: \$100.⁰⁰

Flowers for the Tomb of Christ: \$5.⁰⁰

Дякуємо за вашу щедрість! Thank you for your generosity!

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. For those who missed it, the total for January and February was \$776.⁹⁰. If desired, parishioners can make a larger donation to this cause and get a receipt from the parish. For more information about this programme, log on to www.healthsciencesfoundation.ca.

Words of Faith, Hope and Trust

"Miracles not only point to the Kingdom of God, they invite us to respond to the Kingdom, and in the Gospel, the response to the Kingdom is repentance, not seeking miraculous powers or more miracles."

Parish News and Events

Please note: The following events have been cancelled due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19): 1) This Sunday's coffee hour/mini-luncheon with guest speaker; 2) the Parish Lenten Mission; 3) all Holy Cross Agers Thursday afternoon activities and monthly meeting; 4) St. George's Pyrohy making (March 28-30); and 5) the Parish Easter Dinner on April 19. 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.

Bishop Bryan has asked all to fervently pray to our Lord, and God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, our Divine Healer, to bestow His grace of healing upon all of humanity. Through the Lenten practices, let us beseech our Lord to strengthen our trust in the Divine Providence. And let us entrust our nation, our communities, and our families as well as ourselves under the Heavenly Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God and Ever-virgin Mary.



Our regional Sobor was a success — thanks to our parishioners, especially those who were brave to attend the Moleben to the Holy Spirit prayer service, and in particular, our delegates **Cheryl Bain, Susan Soldan, Roger Swerdlyk and Michael Watral**; and to those who took good care of the preparations **Patricia Hrychuk, Zenya Puchalski, and Christopher Tennant**. May God bless you all!

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. The **May 1st** deadline will be extended. If you would like an electronic copy, please send an email with your request to mawatral@tbaytel.net.

LITURGICAL SERVICES SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE/УВАГА!

Considering serious concerns of many medical professionals and Government Authorities regarding safety and wellbeing of our faithful due to COVID-19 pandemic, by the order of His Excellency Bishop Bryan Bayda CSsR, Apostolic Administrator of Eparchy of Toronto & Eastern Canada, **all public Divine Worship in our Eparchy is being suspended, effective immediately and until further notice.**



Most Holy Mother of God, save us!



*Celebrating
60 years
1960-2020*



Due to the unprecedented situation regarding COVID-19, Superior Shores Gaming Centre (along with all cGaming centres and bingo halls) is now closed to ensure that volunteers, players, and staff remain healthy and safe. The bingo schedule for April-May-June (not yet released) will now be adjusted upon re-opening to balance out the negative impact during the closure. SSGA administration will be closely monitoring the situation and will provide updates as changes happen.

- Other updates:
- 1) The March/April 2020 edition of **The Plentiful Harvester** will be published at a later date.
 - 2) The **March 30 Pyrohy Making** has been cancelled; we will look into a possible new date for mid-late spring.
 - 3) The schedule for our annual **Easter Vigil** (Guarding of our Lord's tomb) has also been put on hold until such time that we are advised to resume regular activities.
 - 4) The **Parish Easter Dinner** on April 19 has been cancelled.

* * * * *

Holy Cross Golden Agers



Attention all members! All activities (including the bus to Grant Portage) are now cancelled until further notice. We encourage you to practice social distancing/self-isolation especially if you have a pre-existing condition that might further aggravate the situation. Unless you are in need of supplies or medical assistance, limit family member gatherings and visits as well. Spend the time at home 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 5th Sunday of Great Lent (to help prepare for the nourishment of the Word of God at Liturgy)

Epistle: Hebrews 9: 11-14
Earthly and Heavenly Worship

Gospel: Mark 10: 32-45
The Request of James and John

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.

CHURCH SIGNS



THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION: A Taste of Advent during Great Lent



During the Fifth Week of the Great Fast, we celebrate a beautiful feast: the Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary. For some, it might feel like we are stepping out of the season a little bit as we turn our attention to the story of God's initiative in sending the angel Gabriel to Mary -- a story that feels more like something related to Advent or Christmas rather than to Lent.

But the Annunciation fits well, not just because this feast falls nine months before we celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas but because, in the midst of Lent, we get to see Mary demonstrate for us the disposition we are all trying to achieve through our own Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

On this day, we see Mary give her "yes" to God's saving plan, and we are reminded of that freedom for love that true Christian discipleship demands. Even after the angel spoke with her, Mary didn't understand the fullness of what God's plan might entail, yet she opened herself — heart, mind, and soul — to God's loving will. May Mary's intercession help us follow her example today and always.

- Rev. Matthew Allman, C.Ss.R.

What's Happening In and Around Our Community



Mother's Market at the Moose - Saturday, March 28 from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Moose Hall, 434 Fort William Rd. Call 627-4400 to book your table today. \$25 for a Mom Table; \$30 for a Business Table. Moms, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, etc. are all welcome. Concessions available on site.

Principe de Piemonte Primavera Tea - Sunday, March 29 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at DaVinci Centre, 340 Waterloo St. Presented by the Ladies Auxiliary. Bake Table, Penny Auction, and Food Hamper. Sandwiches and dainties served. Tickets are \$6/person. Proceeds to the Alzheimer Society. Everyone welcome!

Celebrate with the Chaban Dancers! 40 years of dance, music and memories! **Saturday, April 25** at 7:00 p.m. at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium. Special music guest: **"Tyr i tam."** To get your tickets, visit the Box Office, call (807) 684-4444, or order online at www.tbca.com. *Don't miss the concert of a lifetime!*

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. And 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.



Jesus Heals a Boy with an Evil Spirit

Today's Bible story is about Jesus and the time that He and three of His disciples were having an argument with the religious leaders. Jesus asked them, "What are you arguing about?" A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought my son. He is possessed by an evil spirit. The evil spirit keeps him from talking. Whenever the evil spirit wants to, it throws him on the ground and makes him foam at the mouth. His whole body becomes extremely stiff. I asked Your disciples to help him, but they could not." Once Jesus heard the man, He became upset. He looked at the crowd and said, "You people have no faith. How long must I stay with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." The boy was brought to Jesus. The evil spirit recognized Jesus right away and made the boy fall to the ground. He rolled around and begun to foam at the mouth. The evil spirit knew that Jesus was God's Son and that Jesus was very powerful. Jesus asked the father, "How long has the boy been like this?" "Ever since He was little," said the father. "The evil spirit has even thrown him into fire or water to try and kill him. But if You can do anything, please have pity on us." "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for the one who believes." Jesus knew that the father did not quite believe that Jesus could help his boy. Had the father truly believed, he would not have used the word "if." When the father heard Je-

sus' response, he got excited. He exclaimed, "I do believe. Help me to believe more and not doubt!"

What do you think Jesus did next? Jesus then made the evil spirit leave the boy's body. He said, "Evil spirit, I command you to come out of the boy and never enter him again!" The spirit yelled and shook the boy's body and came out. The boy laid on the ground looking as if he were dead. The crowd all thought he was dead because he was not moving. Jesus took his hand, lifted him up and the boy stood up! Jesus healed the boy of the evil spirit! After everyone had left, the disciples asked Jesus a question. "Why couldn't we remove the evil spirit from the boy?" Jesus answered, "That kind of spirit can only come out by prayer." Jesus was teaching them and us something very important. Prayer is powerful, useful, and important. When we pray about something, we are trusting God that He is going to handle whatever it is we are praying about. The father in the story did not have that trust at first. Once Jesus told him he needed to believe, then he decided he was ready to completely trust what Jesus could do. Jesus did something for all people so that we can know Him. He died on the cross and came back to life. If we ask Him to take away our sins and believe in our heart He has given us a new life, He will be with us forever.

Source: www.missionarlington.org

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