



Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors.
We pray that your participation in the Divine Liturgy will be enriching for you as well.

June 11, 2017 ~ Sunday of All Saints

Epistle: Hebrews 11:33 - 2:2

Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

Troparia and special texts are found on the inserts

Your Return Gift to God

JUNE 3/4

Envelopes: \$1,335.⁰⁰
Papal Charities: \$150.⁰⁰
Eparchial Collection: \$30.⁰⁰
Special Projects: \$60.⁰⁰
Mission Collection: \$46.⁵⁰
Initial Offering: \$5.⁰⁰

Thank you for your generosity!
Щиро Вам дякуємо!

The Mission Collection for June is designated for **Thunder Bay Shelter House's 'SOS' (Street Outreach Services) Program.**

This Week's Liturgical Services

MONDAY, JUNE 12

10:00 a.m. ~ Funeral Service for †**Joseph Soldan**

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

10:00 a.m. ~ **Feast of the Holy Eucharist**

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

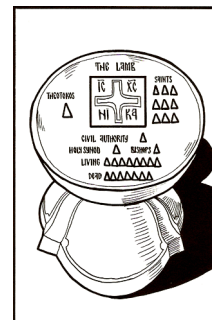
10:00 a.m. ~ **Moleben to Jesus Christ**

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

5:00 p.m. ~ **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**
Epistle Reader: Grant Andrusky

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

10:00 a.m. ~ **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**
Epistle Reader: Susan Soldan



Parish News & Activities

Our annual **Parish Picnic** will be held on the church grounds this **Sunday afternoon** beginning at 12 noon (rain or shine). There will be food, games, and activities for everyone. Get out your lawn chairs, hats, sports gear, and appetites. See you there!

We extend our sincerest condolences to the Soldan family on the passing of their beloved †**Joseph** on Thursday, June 8. Panakhida will be offered at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon at Blake Funeral Chapel, with funeral services on Monday in our church beginning at 10:00 a.m. May our Lord God grant him rest among the saints, number him among the just, and make his memory everlasting ~ Вічна йому пам'ять.

If you (and/or members of your family) were not able to attend graveside services on Pentecost Sunday or this past Saturday morning and still wish to have a private one for your departed loved one(s), Father Stepan is available to do so. Please call him (577-7721) to arrange an alternate day and time.

St. George's Society sends its thanks to all who came out to help with cabbage roll making (including all of the preparations beforehand as well as clean-up during and after) this past Tuesday and packaging on Wednesday. The next making is tentatively set for mid-late October. Thanks also to everyone who supported all of our fundraising efforts this past church year.

The installation of air conditioning in our parish kitchen is now complete and in working order. Many thanks to those parishioners who assisted with this project from its initial planning to the final realization. Now, we must continue our work to raise the funds to offset the sizeable debt incurred by this endeavour which will be raised through bingos at Superior Shores. We ask that all parishioners (18 years & older) consider attending upcoming training sessions (TBA) and volunteering at future bingos. Those who already are trained and support other charities at bingos are requested to bring their names forward. *Thank you!*

Бажаємо Вам чудового тижня - *Wishing everyone a wonderful week!*

The Gospel reading for today, taken from the Book of Matthew, is about a heavenly contract with God. These chosen verses spell out our Lord's expectations from His people in certain, specific terms. Basically, our Lord requires three basic things from us: (1) that we acknowledge Him, (2) that we love Him above anything else, and (3) we are willing to take up our Cross and follow Him. Just like any other agreement or contract, our Lord also promises to reward His people for their faithfulness. Most important about God's contract is that He can be trusted to fulfill His promises.

Today, we celebrate the Sunday of All Saints. Many of our saints have familiar names and are well known to everyone. Much more numerous are those saints that are unknown to us, but are well known to God because He has their names written in the Book of Life. Like the saints who have come before us, we have an important decision to make regarding the course of our life. We must choose between two contracts. One is a pact with the world, and the other is a contract with God. The choice should be simple, for if we accept our Lord's contract by acknowledging Him, placing Him above all other relationships, and by taking up our Cross, we are restored to Paradise in His Kingdom and receive the fruits of God's Holy Spirit. *"For all the saints who from their labours rest, who You by faith before the world confessed..."*

~ condensed from a sermon by Kenneth Anthony



St. George's Society

Thank you to those members who came out to help at cabbage roll making. Your assistance was appreciated.

Our Parish Picnic takes place on Sunday. Members who are available to assist in any way are asked to speak with Murray Salomon for the list of tasks to complete. *Thank you!*

Tickets for our **Annual Dinner Meeting** on **June 22** are now available. See Michael Watral to purchase yours ~ \$20/member. Last day to buy them will be next **Sunday, June 18**.

A reminder to all parishioners: Monetary donations are now accepted online through the Holy Cross parish website (www.holycrossbay.com/donate). Registered parishioners, family and friends can now contribute by a one-time gift using any major credit card, or by setting up automatic weekly donations through a PayPal® account. All donations are eligible for tax receipts. If you have any questions about any aspect of either process, please contact Andrea Warywoda, Parish Council Chair at 629-6818..

Is your contact information up to date? If you have moved, have a new telephone number or e-mail address, please complete the pink slip of paper on the table in the narthex and place it in the collection plate or in the wall folder outside the Parish Office in the expansion hallway. New parishioner to Holy Cross? We welcome you with open arms! Please take the time to speak with Father Stepan Didur after the Divine Liturgy or call him at 577-7721 during the weekday to chat.

Readings for the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost (to help prepare for the nourishment of the Word of God at Liturgy)

Epistle: Romans 2: 10-16
Gospel: Matthew 8: 28 - 9:1

As you read, ask yourself, "What thoughts, ideas, words or images come to mind?" and "What are the connections between them?"

Community Calendar

Two Bit Auction - sponsored by the RC Legion Ladies Auxiliary Slovak Branch 129 on **Wednesday, June 14** at 7:00 p.m. at the Slovak Legion Hall, 801 Atlantic Avenue. Tickets are \$5.00 per person and are available at the door or by calling 623-3354, ext. 2. Featured baskets will be worth \$50 to \$100. Sandwiches, dainties and refreshments will be served.

Looking for a rewarding way to volunteer? The Thunder Bay Food Bank is looking for volunteers who can give just two hours of their time from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, or Saturdays in various roles. Please contact Reino Pitkanen at 475-8827 to discuss this opportunity.

Twin Fiddle Express - Join Scott Woods and his band on **Saturday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m.** at the CLE Coliseum for this uplifting live show celebrating the sweet harmonies of Twin Fiddles with Traditional Country, Western Swing, Country Gospel music, Sensational Step Dancing, family humour, inspirational stories and Scott's famous trick fiddling where he will turn somersaults and walk on a barrel while fiddling. Ticket prices are \$25/adults, \$10/children age 6-12, kids 5 & under get in free. Call Phil at 623-9077 or Scott Woods Band Office (toll-free) at 1-855-726-8896.

Holy Cross Golden Agers

Our annual picnic takes place **Thursday, June 15** at 1 p.m. starting with games and entertainment, followed by the usual picnic foods, and prize presentation. Members may bring one guest. Hope to see many there!

The bus to Grand Portage this month will leave the church parking lot on **Monday, June 19** (instead of the usual Wed. afternoon) at 10:30 a.m. and return around 4:30 p.m. As usual, to book your seat, contact Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805). This is a **free** service for everyone including non-members. Come along for the fun!

The Golden Agers are also planning a trip to Winnipeg for **September 11-14, 2017** and are extending an invitation to parishioners to join them in order to help fill up the bus. Price per person is pending — the more travellers, the lower the cost. For more information, please speak with Peter Swerdlyk or George Rusnick at your earliest convenience.

Unyielding Words of Wisdom



The Eucharist is essential for us;
it is Christ Who wishes to enter
our lives and fill us with His grace.

~ His Holiness, Pope Francis ~

Rory Bain would like to thank those who came to Churchill High School this past Thursday afternoon to attend "**The Holodomor Awareness Tour.**" Your support for this project is sincerely appreciated. If you were not able to attend, you can visit the website at www.holodomortour.ca where you will find numerous videos featuring personal accounts of survivors, testimonies from journalists, and educational resources. You can also pledge your financial support by donating to the tour — just click on "Donate Today."

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13)

In his book, "Written in Blood," Robert Coleman tells the story of a little boy whose sister needed a blood transfusion. The doctor had explained that she had the same disease the boy had recovered from two years earlier. Her only chance for recovery was a transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the disease. Since the two children had the same rare blood type, the boy was the ideal donor.

"Would you give your blood to your sister Mary?" the doctor asked. Little Johnny hesitated, his lower lip started to tremble, and then he smiled and said, "Sure, for my sister."

Soon the two children were wheeled into the hospital room--Mary, pale and thin; Johnny, robust and healthy. Neither spoke, but when they met, Johnny grinned. As the nurse inserted the needle into his arm, Johnny's smile faded. He watched the blood flow through the tube from his body.

With the ordeal almost over, his voice slightly shaky, broke the silence. "Doctor, when do I die?" Only then did the doctor realize why Johnny had hesitated, why his lip had trembled when he'd agreed to donate his blood. He'd thought giving his blood to his sister meant giving up his life. Though, in reality, it was not necessary, he was willing to give his life for his sister. In that brief moment, his love for his sister, caused him to make his great decision.

Let us always remember the One who laid down His life for us.



Do This In Remembrance of Me

When Jesus went back to heaven to be with His Father, He left behind a picture for us to remember Him by. It isn't a picture in an album that we can look at and remember what Jesus looked like, but it is a picture to help us remember what Jesus did for us. We call it "The Lord's Supper." (Holy Communion)

Just before Jesus was crucified, He called His disciples together for a meal. He took a piece of bread and He told the disciples that the bread was to remind them of His body that would be hung on a cross for them. Then He took a glass of wine and told them that the wine was to be a reminder of His blood that would be shed for them on the cross. He told them that whenever they ate the bread and drank the wine, it was to remind them of what He had done for them. We still eat the bread and drink the wine today, and when we do, we do it to help us remember what Jesus has done for us.

Here is the Gospel Reading from the Feast of the Holy Eucharist celebrated during June. (John 6: 48-54)

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you; he who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us this picture to remind us of what You did for us when You died on the cross. Help us to remember and be thankful. Amen.

Asking Our Fellow Christians in Heaven for Help

Like all Christians, Catholics believe in life after death. But unlike some Christians who believe that the divide between our life here on earth and the life of those who have died and gone to Heaven is unbridgeable, Catholics believe that our relationship with our fellow Christians does not end with death. Catholic prayer to saints is a recognition of this continuing communion.

The Communion of Saints

As Catholics, we believe that our life doesn't end at death but simply changes.

Those who have lived good lives and died in the faith of Christ will, as the Bible tells us, share in His Resurrection.

While we live together on earth as Christians, we are in communion, or unity, with one another. But that communion doesn't end when one of us dies. We believe that the saints, the Christians in heaven, remain in communion with those of us on earth. We call this the Communion of Saints, and it's an article of faith in every Christian creed from the Apostles' Creed on.

Why Do Catholics Pray to Saints?

But what does the Communion of Saints have to do with praying to saints? Everything. When we run into trouble in our lives, we frequently ask friends or family members to pray for us. That doesn't mean, of course, that we can't pray for ourselves. We ask them for their prayers even though we're praying, too, because we believe in the power of prayer. We know that God hears their prayers as well as ours, and we want as many voices as possible asking Him to help us in our time of need.

But the saints and angels in Heaven stand before God and offer Him their prayers, too. And since we believe in the Communion of Saints, we can ask the saints to pray for us, just as we ask our friends and family to do so. And when we make such a request for their intercession, we make it in the form of a prayer.

Should Catholics Pray to Saints?

This is where people begin to have a little trouble understanding what Catholics are doing when we pray to saints. Many non-Catholic Christians believe that it is wrong to pray to the saints, claiming that all prayers should be directed to God alone. Some Catholics, responding to this criticism and not understanding what prayer really means, declare that we Catholics do not pray to the saints; we only pray *with* them. Yet the traditional language of the Church has always been that Catholic pray *to* the saints, and with good reason—prayer is simply a form of communication. A prayer is simply a request for help. Older usage in English reflects this: We've all heard lines from, say, Shakespeare, in which one person says to another "Pray thee . . ." (or "Prithee," a contraction of "Pray thee") and then makes a request.

That's all we're doing when we pray to saints.

What Is the Difference Between Prayer and Worship?

So why the confusion, among both non-Catholics and some Catholics, about what prayer to the saints really means? It arises because both groups confuse prayer with worship.

True worship (as opposed to veneration or honor) does indeed belong to God alone, and we should never worship man or any other creature, but only God.

But while worship may take the form of prayer, as in the Mass and the other liturgies of the Church, not all prayer is worship. When we pray to the saints, we're simply asking the saints to help us, by praying to God on our behalf—just like we ask our friends and family to do so—or thanking the saints for having already done so.

By Scott P. Richert