



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 18, 2016 ~ Sunday of the Holy Fathers

(Sunday before Christmas ~ Неділя Перед Різдом Христовим)

Epistle ~ Hebrews 11: 9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Gospel ~ Matthew 1: 1-25

See insert for troparia and special texts

The end of our journey through Pylypiwka (Advent) in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord is near. For the final week, the **red candle** on the banner is lit to signify the **Holy Eucharist**. It also reminds us that Christ, Who came to Bethlehem, comes to us in the great Sacrament of His Presence, the Holy Eucharist. The reason He was born in Bethlehem was that we might allow Him to come and be born in the manger of our hearts. *"Christ our God to earth descends; He will give to all the faithful, His own self for heavenly food."*

Your Return Gift to God

DECEMBER 10/11, 2016

Envelopes: \$2,265.⁰⁰

Candle offering: \$96.²⁵

Mission Collection: \$51.⁵⁰

Flowers for Christmas: \$129.⁰⁰



Thank you for your generosity!

Щиро Вам дякуємо!

The **Mission Collection** for December has been designated for **Blessings in a Backpack**, a unique program inaugurated in 2003 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 needs on Saturdays & Sundays.

This Week's Liturgical Services

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:00 p.m. ~ Great Complines with Vespers

9:00 p.m. ~ Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy

Epistle Reader: Andrea Warywoda

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 a.m. ~ The Nativity of Our Lord

Epistle Reader: Michael Watral



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Last Sunday the Church commemorated all the righteous of the Old Testament who awaited the coming of Christ. Today, the Sunday before the Birth of Christ on earth, the Church remembers all those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. That is why today we have read Christ's family tree from the Gospel of St Matthew.

In this way, the Church shows us that Christ really became a man, that the Son of God really took on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, the abstract god of philosophers. Such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors, many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in tears and sweat, in mind and soul, in heart and will, He differed from us in only one way, He did not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He shows us the way that we too can go in order to strive to avoid sin and so improve and transform our failing human nature.

However, the fact that Christ took on human nature and has a family tree, has another meaning too. Christ is descended from Adam through Abraham and David, through His ancestors Joachim and Anna - in His human nature He is therefore related to us and we are related to Him. He is a cousin of our ancestors. He is one of our own forebears. He is our kith and kin and we are His kith and kin, we belong to the same family. It is now that we understand that with Christ we belong to a family, a family of saints and sinners, but a family of which He is the Head and we are His children, the children of Mother Church and Father God. And believing in the Fatherhood of God, we believe in the Brotherhood of Man.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Thank you to **Sophie Kozyra, Mary Ann Lysak, and Joanne Zanewycz** who arranged and put up the beautiful Christmas decorations in the church last week with help from our custodian, **Cal Pearson** and **Father Stepan**. *Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table...*

If you did not receive the insert that outlined the **Order of Services for Christmas, New Year's and Theophany** that was contained in last week's bulletin, you may pick one up in the narthex at your convenience.

The **2017 Church Calendars** are here and on display in the narthex. We are still waiting for the arrival of donation envelopes. Sorry for the delay, and thank you for your patience.

Epistle Readers' & Eucharistic Ministers' Schedules for 2017 are now available for those who have volunteered for these positions. Please check the box in the narthex for your copy. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Michael Watral.

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Колядуймо разом! Christmas carolling will take place on **Thursday, December 29** beginning at 3:00 p.m. If you wish to have the carollers come to visit and sing, please sign the sheet posted on the narthex bulletin board soon. And if you'd like to participate or need more information, please speak with Andrea Warywoda, Dr. Jennifer Swerdlyk, or Murray Salomon at your earliest convenience.



As the weather gets colder, please remember the food hamper for non-perishable items located in the narthex. Items are regularly delivered to local food banks and soup kitchens through the courtesy of our parishioner Denny Verdenik. *Many thanks!*



St. George's Society

At this time of the year, 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. We extend an open invitation to all men of the parish to join us as well, and to consider becoming a part of this important parish brotherhood.

The next Bingo Training Session will take place on **Monday, January 9** at 7 p.m. in our parish hall. Interested members (and parishioners) are requested to contact Gerry Bullcock of their intention to attend so he can inform Kathy Bukovy, Superior Shores Charity Coordinator, how many to expect from our parish.

Fishermen: if you are going to venture out onto the ice this winter, remember to conduct a visual inspection before heading out. Be careful around logs, rocks, and docks which all absorb heat from the sun causing the ice to form much more slowly. Tight lines and be safe on the ice!

Love and Service to God since 1960

On the Road to Bethlehem

Хто там по дорозі йде до Вифлеєму?
Що це за невіста пречудна приньому?
То Марія Діва, Йосиф коло неї
Йдуть шукати місця у рідні свої.



Who is on the road to Bethlehem in twilight?
Who is this young women travelling towards the dark night?
'Tis the Virgin Mary; Joseph watches o'er her.
They are seeking shelter from the cold of winter.

Holy Cross Golden Agers

Regular Thursday activities are now cancelled for the rest of December and through to the end of January, and will resume on **February 2, 2017** at the usual time. We wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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.**

Inspirational Words

"The message of the Christmas tree is that life is 'ever green' if one gives: not so much material things, but of oneself: in friendship and sincere affection, and fraternal help and forgiveness, in shared time and reciprocal listening."

~ St. John Paul II

Don't forget to check out the back cover of this parish bulletin for the **Children's Corner.**

Take some time to sit down and read it together with your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

What's Happening In Thunder Bay...

Rotary Carol Sing - **Sunday, December 18** from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Gather your family and friends for an evening of song and entertainment in support of the Thunder Bay Christmas Cheer Fund. Held in Fort William at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 808 Ridgeway Street, and in Port Arthur at St. Pauls' United Church, 349 Waverly Street. This is fun and free event for all!

Fundraiser In Support of the MS Society - **Thursday, December 29** from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Superior Shores Gaming Centre, 435 Memorial Avenue. A great opportunity to gather your friends or co-workers this holiday season. Tickets are just \$15 (\$29 value!) and can be obtained by calling 344-2944 or you can send an email to Sarah.Boucha@mssociety.ca. Must be 18+ to play bingo. ID is required.

Come and celebrate Malanka! - **Saturday, January 14, 2017** at the Royal Canadian Slovak Legion, presented by Zorya Ukrainian Dance Association. Symposium: 6 p.m.; Dinner: 7 p.m. Music by Danny Johnson and 21 Gun Fun. Advanced tickets only. \$60/individual or \$450 for a table of 8. Available at the Slovak Legion (623-3354) or from Alice Chony (577-2100).

For a complete listing of all events happening in and around Thunder Bay, visit www.thunderbay.ca/Living and check out the monthly calendars. It's filled with interesting information for the whole family!

Wishing you a happy week! Бажаємо Вам веселого тижня!



There is Salvation in the Name of Jesus

What's in a name? Has anyone ever asked you what your name means? Do you know what your name means? When your mom and dad found out they were going to have a baby, they spent a lot of time choosing a name. They may have looked through a book that gives the meaning of names. You might like to look up the meaning of the names of several of the children that are in your group. If you do not have a book, there are numerous sites on the Internet that give the meanings of names.

John is a very popular name for boys and Joan or Joanna for girls. Their name means "God's gracious gift." Have you ever known anyone named Daniel or Danielle? Their name means "God is my judge." There are quite a few boys named Michael and girls named Michaela. That is a great name that means "one who is like God." One of the angels in the Bible was named Michael.

When Mary and Joseph found out that they were going to have a baby, they didn't have to go to the library and get a book to choose his name. In fact, they didn't choose his name at all. God sent an angel to tell Mary and Joseph, "You will have a son, and you will call his name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sin." You see, the name Jesus means "the Lord saves." God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to die on the cross to save us from our sin. The Bible tells us that there is no other name that can save us.



What's in a name? If the name is Jesus, there is salvation. *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.* (Matthew 1:21).

Heavenly Father, we thank You that there is salvation in the name of Jesus.

During this holiday season, help us to remember that it is His birthday that we celebrate. Amen!

