



СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ ~ СЛАВА НА ВІКИ! 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.

September 24, 2017 ~ 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6: 1-10

Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30

Troparia are in **Tone 7**, found on **page 103** of the navy blue missals

Holy Cross Parish News & Events

We extend our sincerest condolences and send our prayers to Elsie Hodwitz and family on the passing of their beloved **†Jim** this past Thursday, September 21. Funeral services will take place at Holy Cross on Wednesday morning of this coming week. May Christ our true God accept the soul of His ever-to-be-remembered servant **†Jim** into His Heavenly Kingdom, grant Him rest among the saints, and make his memory everlasting ~ *вічна йому пам'ять*.



Celebrating 50 Years
1967 2017



A heartfelt thank-you to all who arranged, donated to, participated in, and supported our parish's 50th Anniversary Celebration last weekend to make it a resounding success and memorable time for all. For many of us, Holy Cross Church is a home away from home where family and friends gather and where we can be together to give thanks for all of the blessings we receive and have received this past half-century. As we continue to build God's kingdom here on earth and look forward to the future, let us humbly ask for His mercy and compassion to bestow upon us many more happy and blessed years of prosperity, good health, and long life ~ *На многая літа!*

The members of **St. George's Society** wish to invite all men of the parish who are not currently members to consider joining their ranks. Their club is a strong social and spiritual brotherhood that values the importance of working together to achieve a common goal not only for their organization, but also for the parish and local community. Membership is just \$25/year. The first regular meeting of the new society year will be held on **Sunday, September 24 at 7 p.m.** in our parish hall. All members are requested to attend. **And please note:** Your bi-monthly newsletter, *The Plentiful Harvester*, that would have normally been published last weekend, but was not, due to the coinciding of the parish's 50th Anniversary Celebration, will 'hit the newsstands' in 2 weeks (October 7/8) where you can see and read all about the many events that were recently held during this busy month of September.

The Holy Cross Golden Agers will be making pyrohy on **Tuesday, September 26** beginning at 9 a.m. **Orders are now closed.** Any extra help from parishioners and friends will be most appreciated on that day. *Thank you for your support!*

Please remember in your prayers those people of our parish who are in hospitals, care homes, shut-ins and those who are not able to join us actively. Remember, if you or a family member would like a hospital visit or home visit, please speak to Father Stepan or call him at the rectory (577-7721) and let him know. Don't leave it to the last minute!



Have you been attending services at Holy Cross but are not registered as a parishioner? Registration is important for donation tracking and issuance of tax receipts. It is also important in order to receive the Holy Sacraments. To register, please call the Parish Office at 577-7720 and leave a message. Our bookkeeper Michele is usually there on Monday evenings and will take your information. And a reminder to all parishioners — if your address, telephone number, or e-mail have changed, please call us or send an e-mail to holycross@tbaytel.net and let us know so we can update our files to include all current contact information.

LITURGICAL SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

10:00 a.m. ~ Visitation with the family

11:00 a.m. ~ Funeral Services for **†Jim Hodwitz**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

5:00 p.m. ~ **17th Sunday after Pentecost and Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God**
Epistle Reader: Denny Verdenik

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

10:00 a.m. ~ **17th Sunday after Pentecost and Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God**
Epistle Reader: Andrika Warywoda

This feast day celebrates the appearance of the Mother of God at the Church of Blachernae (Vlaherna) in the 10th century. During that time, the people in the city were threatened by a barbarian invasion. After the appearance of the Mother of God, the danger was averted and the city was spared from bloodshed and suffering.

Your Return Gift to God

SEPTEMBER 16/17

Envelopes: \$2,315.⁰⁰

Vigil Lights: \$40.⁰⁰

Special Projects: \$55.⁰⁰

Mission: \$38.²⁵



Thank you for your generosity ~ Щиро Вам дякуємо!

September's Mission Collection is for **The Underground Gym**, a unique gathering place for community youth in transition. A registered charitable organization, it offers free access to equipment and mentoring in a safe environment that is open to children and youth who lack the cultural, social or economic resources required to access existing facilities. For more information, visit www.undergroundgym.ca.



Readings for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost

(to help prepare for the nourishment of the Word of God at Liturgy)

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6: 16 - 17:1

Gospel: Matthew 15: 21-28

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.

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

Our first regular monthly meeting of the new society year will take place on **Sunday, September 24** at 7:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

The next St. George's sponsored bingo at Superior Shores Gaming Centre is on **Monday, September 25** in the afternoon. Those who have agreed to work on that date are reminded to be there no later than 12 noon. October and November dates are as follows: **Monday, October 16** and **Thursday, November 16** (both matinées). The next training session is on **Sunday, September 24** from 4-5 p.m. at Superior Shores, 435 Memorial Avenue.

Members are encouraged, if you are available, to lend a hand with pyrohy making on **Tuesday, September 26** starting at 9 a.m. in support of the Holy Cross Golden Agers.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The date for our **Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner** has been changed to one week later on **Saturday, September 30** at 3:00 p.m. at Chapples Golf Course. All members are cordially invited to come out and enjoy the fun in the sun. A sign-up list is posted on the narthex bulletin board for you to indicate your intentions. The cost is \$10 per member plus greens fees. Last call!

A reminder to all fishermen: Please submit your weigh-in slips on a regular basis to the following Committee members: *Maurice Zakrewski, Morris Tarnawsky, Myron Warywoda, or Eugene Zdebiak.* You have until **Sunday, October 29** to do so. Good luck to all anglers!

COMMUNITY EVENTS



St. Dominic's CWL presents its **Autumnburst Bazaar** on **Sunday, September 24** in St. Dominic's Parish Hall, 130 W. Redwood Ave., 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be sandwiches, dainties and refreshments, lotteries, Bake Table, knitting, Penny Auction, home and garden items, and the Grand Draw. Tickets ~ Adults: \$5; children 5-10 years: \$3; 4 years & under: free. Everyone is welcome to attend!

The Italian Society of Port Arthur is hosting a Spaghetti Supper in support of VON Thunder Bay on **Sunday, October 1** at the Italian Cultural Centre, 132 Algoma Street S. Take out from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sit down at 6:00 p.m. Purchase your tickets now at VON Thunder Bay, 214 Red. River Rd., Suite 200 or call 344-0012 ext. 229 (Adriana) or ext. 240 (Kathleen). The deadline is Friday, September 29. Sit down dinner price is \$13/person and includes spaghetti and meatballs, salad, dinner rolls, and coffee/tea.

St. Dominic's Church presents 'Oktoberfest' Dinner and Dance, **Friday, October 13** in St. Dominic's Parish Hall. Symposium at 6:30 p.m.; Dinner at 7:30 p.m. Dance to music by Quest. Tickets are \$25 per person. Call the parish office at 577-5672 (Mon-Fri) to reserve your tickets.

HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

A reminder to all members that we will be making pyrohy on **Tuesday, September 26** starting at 9 a.m. **Orders are now closed.** Your help making dough and varenytsi, pinching, boiling, and packaging will be gratefully appreciated.

Our regular monthly meeting will take place this **Thursday, September 28** at **1:30 p.m.** preceded by a shuffleboard tournament starting at 12:30 p.m. Following the meeting, bingo will take place as usual. Refreshments will be available also. Hope to see many in attendance!

The next bus to Grand Portage will leave the church parking lot on **Wednesday, October 15** @ 3:45 p.m. and return @ 10 p.m. To reserve your seat, contact Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805) before that date. This is a **free** service. Everyone is welcome aboard!

Inspirational Words

*“Your talent is God's gift to you.
What you do with it
is your gift back to God.”*

Focus On Today's Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel, we hear a familiar story — the Parable of the Talents. Here, the word “talent” represents all of the opportunities God has given His people to serve Him. Talents include wealth, abilities and learning. The parable teaches us to invest everything God gives us for His glory. If we want to be faithful servants of Christ, we must use what He gives us to spread the Good News. If we are faithful stewards in this life, we will be rewarded with even greater responsibility in the next life. The reward will be in proportion to the tasks we have accomplished.

Sometimes when we do God's work here on earth, we do not feel appreciated. When this happens, all we have to do is something quite simple — pray to God. When we please Him, we are doing our daily job. The greatest reward God can give will go to godly people who have laboured faithfully without any earthly recognition.

We must master and receive the gifts God gives us, including the gift of time. No matter how old or how young we are, we can still use the gifts God gave us. Even when we are sick, God can still use us. If we master and use the gifts God gave us, we will have plenty of time to grow in faith and spread God's Kingdom here on earth.

The Parable of the Talents is also about trust. God trusts us to use the gifts He has given us to spread His kingdom here on earth. He calls on us to return the favour by acting on the gifts He has given us out of trust. God has blessed us so much that we can't lift our bushel baskets on our own. God only asks that we use, spend and grow our resources, including our talents. He only asks that we love Him enough not to hoard or hide our resources. We can trust Him. Can He trust us?

~ Condensed from a sermon by Craig Condon



Using Our God-given Talents: Don't Bury Your Gifts

Today's Gospel account is a familiar story that Jesus told. It is called the Parable of the Talents. In this parable, a very wealthy man was going to go on a trip. He called his three servants together and told them that he would be gone for a long time and that he was leaving them in charge of all of his wealth. He divided up his wealth and gave it to the three servants.

To the first servant, he gave five talents, which in Jesus' day was a lot of money. He took them and earned five more. To the second servant, he gave two talents which he invested wisely and earned two more. To the third servant, he gave one talent. But the third servant took his one talent and buried it in the ground for safe keeping and did not earn any more talents.

When the master returned, he was very pleased when the first two servants told him that they had doubled his money. "Well done," he said. "Because you had been faithful with what I have given you, I will give you much more."

But when the master learned that the third servant did not do the same, he became angry and said, "You are a wicked and lazy servant. You could have at least put my money in the bank where it would earn more." He then took the one talent from the lazy servant and gave it to the one who had ten talents.

In this Parable of the Talents, God is the Master and you and I are His servants. The talents that the master gave to His servants in this story was a form of money. But God has given us talents too, hasn't He? God created each of us with special gifts and He expects us to use those gifts for the purpose for which He gave them to us.

Sometimes you and I may look at the talents that God has given to others and think that God hasn't given us very much talent. We might even be tempted to hide our talent. But when we use our God-given talent to be all that God intended for us to be, we make Him very happy!

Source: www.sermons4kids.com

The Two Ways God Wants You to Use Your Talents

What are you really good at? Painting? Counselling? Maybe you've never met a car problem you can't repair, or you're an amazing chef. Perhaps you just find opportunities to help people wherever you go. Whatever your talent or skill is, guess what? God's behind it! But He didn't bless any of us with a talent or skill simply so we could look awesome or earn lots of cash. God wants us to **steward those gifts for Him!** Maybe you thought stewardship was just for your money. Well, yes, that's a big part of it. But it's *so much* bigger than that. Stewardship is about everything in our lives—and that includes our talents.

If we want to please God—if we want to hear Him say, "Well done good and faithful servant" when we meet Him in heaven—then we must **faithfully use our talents** the way He wants us to. **Colossians 3:23–24** tells us that everything we do should be for Christ: "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." So how exactly does God want us to use our talents for Him? Two ways: **blessing others and building His kingdom.**

God wants us to bless others.

In **1 Peter 4:10**, we're called to use our gifts to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace. Now, in that context, Peter was specifically talking about spiritual gifts like prophecy and healing. Those are supernatural abilities God gives each Christ-follower, but the general idea of blessing others also carries over to talents. God doesn't give us anything just for our own benefit. After all, we're blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2)!

Just as with spiritual gifts, God wants us to use our talents and skills for the benefit of others. How can you put that into practice? Maybe there's a ministry that uses your skill or talent to help others. If you love working on cars, volunteer to repair single moms' cars for free. Or if you paint, hold art classes for nursing home residents. If you look in your community, you're sure to find a need you can meet with the talents God's given you. And if nothing exists, you can always start your own ministry!

God wants us to build His kingdom for His glory.

God made us all different. That's great, because together, all of us make up the kingdom. In **1 Corinthians 12**, Paul compares the body of Christ to a human body: Each of us is unique, but together we make the body complete. And Christ is the head of the body (Ephesians 5:23), so everything we do points back to Him. He directs it all!

In other words, **God wants you to use your unique role in the body of Christ to glorify Him.** So if God made you an amazing singer, sing for Him. If your talent is a little less conventional—maybe you're good with numbers or with writing code—then find a way to translate that into a job for a God-honouring company or ministry. Use your God-given abilities to reach those who don't know Him—and give Him the credit for your talents.

Jesus gives us two commandments: **to love the Lord and to love others as we love ourselves** (Matthew 22:37–40). And when we steward our talents to honour Him and to bless others, we're doing just that.

~ Chris Brown