



## Христос Раждається ~ Славите Його! Вітаємо до Парафії Воздвиження Чесного Хреста! Christ Is Born ~ Glorify Him! Welcome to Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish!

A place of prayer, family, and community since 1967 which follows the Eastern (Byzantine) Christian traditions of the Catholic Faith that first emerged in the lands of Rus-Ukraine through the preaching of Saint Andrew, the First-Called. At Holy Cross, we are called to enter into communion with God within the community of the faithful, the Church, that is, the Body of Christ. Here, we are united to God and one another, and, "with one heart and one voice", form the family of God. Jesus Christ is the centre of our life, and it is in the Divine Liturgy where we come to know Him in each other by means of the Sacred Scriptures, and through the receiving of the Holy Sacraments. May your participation in today's celebration be thoroughly enriching and truly meaningful as well.

## Sunday, December 29, 2019 ~ Sunday after Christmas (Relatives of Christ)

Today's Readings: Epistle: *Galatians 1: 11-19* Gospel: *Matthew 2: 13-23*

Troparia and special texts are found on the bulletin inserts

### Epistle Readers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Gloria Sherban  
Sunday (10 a.m.): Michael Watral



### Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Francis Puchalski  
Sunday (10 a.m.): Murray Salomon



The Holy Family is at the centre of today's Gospel reading, and we can learn several things as a result. The Holy Family teaches us that blood may be thicker than water, but love is thicker than blood. The Holy Family teaches us that sacrifice is at the heart of a strong family. The Holy Family teaches us that a successful family is not child- nor even parent-centered, by God-centered. If we want our families to flourish, we need to seek God's will. That means listening to what God says through supernatural means -- nudges, pictures, dreams. It means listening to what the Holy Spirit has said down the ages through the saints. And it means listening to what God says through His Bible.

~ from a sermon by Rev. M.C. Thompson

## Liturgical Services for the Week

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 a.m. ~ **Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord and St. Basil the Great**

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

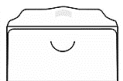
5:00 p.m. ~ **Sunday before the Theophany of Our Lord**  
Epistle Reader: Linda Douglas  
Eucharistic Minister: Linda Douglas

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

10:00 a.m. ~ **Sunday before the Theophany of Our Lord**  
(followed by the Great Water Blessing)  
Epistle Reader: Walter Warywoda  
Eucharistic Minister: Murray Salomon

## Parish News and Activities

Any parishioner, 18 years & older, interested in serving on Parish Council is encouraged to submit his/her name to Father Stepan or PC Chair Cheryl Bain. As parishioners, we are encouraged to share our ideas, experiences and insight among each other. Please consider letting your name stand.



Your **2020 Parish Collection Envelopes** are now ready for pick-up in the narthex. **Remember: please do not use them until the New Year.** Also, please make sure you take the appropriate box with your name on it as the numbers may have changed.

Parish calendars have now arrived. The icon chosen is in honour of the **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of our St. George's Society men's club. Please feel free to take one (or two) home with you and also to bring them to those from our parish who are no longer able to attend services, but wish to stay connected with us.

For those who would like their home blessed with holy water by Father Stepan following the **Jordan feast (Theophany)**, please call him at the rectory at 577-7721 to arrange a visit.

**SOME VERY EXCITING NEWS!** We have purchased a block of **40** tickets for the Badanai Theatre production of the musical **Sister Act** on **Saturday, February 15** for the 7:30 p.m. show at Maple Tops/Paramount, 24 S. Court Street. Tickets are **\$20/person** (must be paid for upon receipt) and will be offered to parishioners and family first. Susan Soldan will be in the narthex with them after both liturgies. A perfect gift for Valentine's Day for that someone special, as well as an awesome activity for Family Day weekend. Speak with Susan for more information.

## 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.

### DECEMBER 21/22 AND CHRISTMAS

Envelopes: \$2,220. <sup>00</sup>	✱	Envelopes: \$2,543. <sup>00</sup>
Mission Collection: \$46. <sup>10</sup>	✱	Loose: \$244. <sup>05</sup>
Special Projects: \$10. <sup>00</sup>	✱	Special Projects: \$20. <sup>00</sup>
Nativity of our Lord: \$125. <sup>00</sup>	✱	

### Дякуємо за вашу щедрість! Thank you for your generosity!

December's Mission Collection has been designated for the **Mission to Seafarers: Port of Thunder Bay**. Its purpose is to promote the spiritual, moral and physical well-being of seafarers and their families world-wide.

**Христос Ся Раждає! Christ Is Born!** Dear Brothers and Sisters, parishioners of Holy Cross; let me say to all of you "Thank you!" for your kind greetings, cards and "Gifts of Love/Дарі Любові".

Merry Christmas to all of you, to your families and children! May the Christmas star lead you peacefully throughout the year 2020 to meet the next Christmas, and for many more happy years with God's blessing!

Wishing you the best! Your Padre, *Father Stepan Didur*





## ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

The next training session for new volunteers will take place on **Sunday, January 12, 2020** from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Our first bingo session in the New Year is a matinee on **Thursday, January 30, 2020**. Dates for February and March will be published in future parish bulletins and in our newsletter.



St. George's Society has purchased **56** extra blue liturgical missals in memory of our long-time member †**Marko Kozorys**, who fell asleep in the Lord earlier this year. These missals have now been placed randomly into the pews and marked with a special label inside the first two pages. We extend our sincerest thanks to the Hardiejowski/Kozorys and Smith families for their generous donations to this commemorative endeavour.

The Executive wishes all members and their loved ones a very special holiday season with all the best in 2020! Our first meeting of our **60<sup>th</sup>** year will be the annual 'Super Bowl' Meeting on **Sunday, February 2** beginning at 4:30 p.m. followed by a dinner and social. Hope to see many members and some new faces in attendance for this customary gathering!

*Love and Service to God since 1960!*

## HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS



We are now on our holiday/winter break. Regular Thursday afternoon activities will resume on **February 6, 2020** at 1:00 p.m. (doors open at 12 noon) when new members are welcome to join — and it's still only \$10. Until then, we wish all current members (and potential new ones) a very Happy New Year!

In the meantime, the first bus to Grand Portage in 2020 is scheduled to leave the church parking lot @ 3:45 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 15**, and arrive back @ 10:00 p.m. To book your **free** seat, contact Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann (G) Opaski (577-2805) anytime before that date. Remember: you **must** have a valid passport. ☺

*Do not regret growing older.  
It's a privilege denied to many.*



## Holiday Hilarity

**SARAH**, a new bride, called up her mother in tears. She sobbed, "Richard doesn't appreciate what I do for him."

"Now, now," her mother comforted, "I am sure it was all just a misunderstanding."

"No, mother, you don't understand. This year, I decided to buy a frozen turkey roll instead of a fresh whole turkey, and he yelled and screamed at me about the price."

"Well, the nerve of that lousy cheapskate," says her mother. "Those turkey rolls are only a few dollars."

"No, mother it wasn't the price of the turkey. It was the airplane ticket." "Airplane ticket....What did you need an airplane ticket for?"

"Well, mother, when I went to fix it, I looked at the directions on the package and it said: 'Prepare from a frozen state,' so I flew to Alaska."



## History Corner



**TRUST US...WE'VE BEEN GOOD ALL YEAR LONG!**

Pictured above with "Santa Claus" and beaming for the camera (at the 1989 Seniors' Christmas Party) are †Wanda Iwasenko and †Annie Gacuk. It must have been a lot of fun!

## Readings for the Sunday before Theophany

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

**Epistle: 2 Timothy 4: 5-8**

(Paul's Last Instructions to Timothy)

**Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8**

(The Preaching of John the Baptist)

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.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**'Mini-Monster Bingo' - Tues., December 31**

at Superior Shores Gaming Centre, 435 Memorial Avenue, from 6:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. with dinner following from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tickets limited; \$60 per person (18 years and over). Featuring elevated jackpots including a \$3,000 final full card, plus 3 swag bags and gift card random raffles - over \$10,000 in guaranteed prizes. Help ring in the New Year while supporting local charities!

**Malanka 2020 - Celebrate New Year's Eve Ukrainian Style!**

**Saturday, January 11, 2020** at the Royal Canadian Slovak Legion, 801 Atlantic Ave. Symposium: 6:00 p.m.; Dinner: 7:00 p.m. Presented by Zorya Ukrainian Dance Association. Entertainment by the Zorya Dancers; live music by Danny Johnson and 21 Gun Fun. Also featuring the "kolomeyka", late night snack and 50/50 draw. Advanced tickets: \$65 per individual; \$500 for a table of 8; \$625 for a table of 10. Get your tickets soon as the hall is filling up fast. Available at the Slovak Legion Office (623-3354) or you can call Alice Chony at 577-2100. Come and enjoy a fun-filled evening of fantastic food and friendly frolic.



# Angels Are Watching Over Us

Have you ever heard the song, "Angels Watching Over Me?" It is a beautiful African-American Spiritual (song) which tells about how God sends His angels to watch over us. No one knows who wrote the song, but it is believed to have originated in the southern part of the United States during the days of slavery. Here are the first two verses:



All night, all day,  
Angels watching over me, my Lord.  
All night, all day,  
Angels watching over me.

Sun is a-setting in the west;  
Angels watching over me, my Lord.  
Sleep my child, take your rest;  
Angels watching over me.

When Jesus was born, Herod was King. When he heard about the birth of Jesus, he thought that Jesus had come to set up a kingdom here on earth and he was not at all happy about that. He tried to find out where Jesus was so that he could kill him. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and warned him of the danger. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I

tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." That night Joseph left for Egypt with Jesus and Mary. They stayed there until Herod died. Later, when Herod died, God's angel spoke to Joseph in a dream again. "Get up, take the child and his mother and return to Israel. All who were out to kill the child are dead."

Isn't it wonderful that God sent angels to watch over His infant son and protect Him from harm? Well, God loves all of His children. He loves you and me and He sends angels to watch over us. In Psalm 91, the Bible says:

"Evil can't get close to you, harm can't get through the door. He ordered His angels to guard you wherever you go. If you stumble, they'll catch you; their job is to keep you from falling."

We should be glad that we have God's angels watching over us as we walk – even in dangerous places. Be thankful that God's angels are watching over you today!

Let us pray: Dear God our Father, we thank You for Your love and protection. Amen.

Source: [www.sermons4kids.com](http://www.sermons4kids.com)

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