



Вітаємо до Парафії Воздвиження Чесного Хреста! 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, and echoed onwards through the mission of the holy apostles to the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius. 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, services are offered in the English and Ukrainian languages where 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 22, 2019 ~ Sunday before Christmas (Holy Fathers)

Today's Readings: *Epistle: Hebrews 11: 9-10; 17-23; 32-40* *Gospel: Matthew 1: 1-25*

Troparia and special texts are found on the bulletin inserts

Epistle Readers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Christopher Tennant
Sunday (10 a.m.): Susan Soldan



Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Christopher Tennant
Sunday (10 a.m.): Stanley Myslicki



Christmas Week Services

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

3:30 p.m. ~ Panakhyda service at Blake Funeral Chapel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

10:00 a.m. ~ Funeral services for †Elsie Salomon

Please refer to the **Order of Services for Christmas, New Year's and Theophany** insert that was published separately (extra copies are in the narthex).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

5:00 p.m. ~ **Sunday after the Nativity**
Epistle Reader: Gloria Sherban
Eucharistic Minister: Francis Puchalski

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

10:00 a.m. ~ **Sunday after the Nativity**
Epistle Reader: Michael Watral
Eucharistic Minister: Murray Salomon

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 14/15

Envelopes: \$1,480.⁰⁰
Mission Collection: \$46.⁰⁰
Flowers for Christmas: \$25.⁰⁰
Special Projects: \$24.⁷⁵
The Nativity of Our Lord: \$100.⁰⁰



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.**

Holy Cross Parish News and Events

The end of our journey through St. Philip's Fast (Pylypiwka) in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord is nearly complete. This past Thursday evening, the **red candle** on the banner was 'lit' to signify the **Holy Eucharist**, reminding us that Christ, Who came to Bethlehem, also 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. *"He will give to all the faithful, His own self for heavenly food."*

Our sincerest condolences are offered to the following parishioners: to Anne Chicorli and family on the passing of her brother †**Frank Shchepanik** on Wednesday, December 11; to Murray Salomon and family on the passing of his mother †**Elsie** on Wednesday, December 18; and to Hanya Karpowich on the passing of her mother †**Maria Iwanyshyn** also on Wednesday, December 18. May the Lord accept the souls of His ever-to-be-remembered servants †Frank, †Elsie, and †Maria into His heavenly kingdom, number them among the just, and may their memory be eternal ~ вічна їм пам'ять.

Many thanks to all who attended and brought such a wide assortment of delicious baking to our **Christmas Sing-along** this past Monday evening. We raised \$95 for the RFDA in addition to the many foodstuffs that were donated for which were gratefully appreciated. It was a wonderful event with many positive comments. Thanks also to the Sing-along Committee members for putting together and running a very enjoyable program, which we hope will become an annual event.

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. Serving on the Council can be very rewarding, and 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. **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. Church calendars have yet to arrive but are on their way. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

Thursday afternoon activities are cancelled for the rest of December and through to the end of January, and will resume on **February 6, 2020** (weather permitting) at the usual time when new members are welcome to join. We wish all current members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay warm and healthy and be careful in your daily travels, especially where there's snow and ice!

There will be **no** December bus to Grand Portage. However, if there's enough interest, the first one of the new year will leave the church parking lot at 3:45 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 15**, and arrive back @ 10:00 p.m. Contact either Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann (G) Opaski (577-2805) to book your **free** seat today.

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

Readings for the Sunday after Christmas

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

Epistle: Galatians 1: 11-19

(How Paul Became an Apostle)

Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-23

(The Flight to and Return from Egypt)

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

The next training session for new volunteers is scheduled for **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 20, 2020**. Dates for February and March will be published in future parish bulletins and in our newsletter.



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 60th 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!

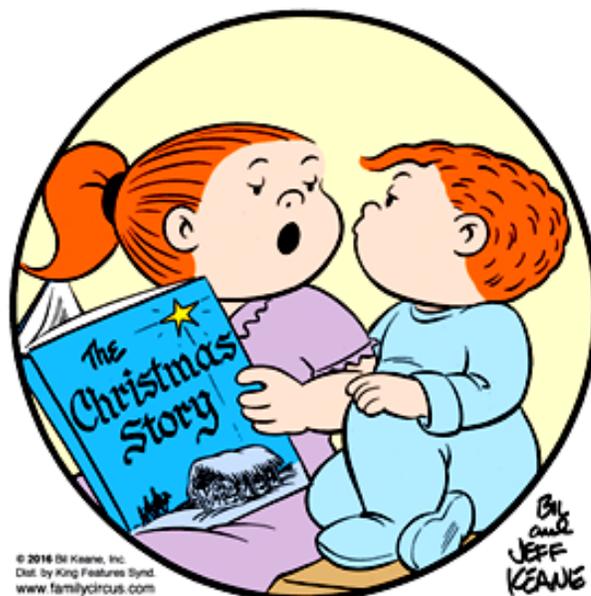
*F*or Joseph, the Christmas Story began with disillusion and disappointment. No doubt the news of a pregnant fiancée would have been hard to accept. But his disappointment would have been quickly replaced with relief as he realized that this child Mary was carrying was in God's will and for God's purpose. This was to be no ordinary child. And obediently, Mary and Joseph accepted the angel's message from God as truth and received it in faith when they heard, "To you a child will be born and His name is to be Jesus, and He will save His people from their sins."

If you look at the message through the eyes of Mary and Joseph, you will see it as truth and receive it in faith yourself. Feel the wonder, know the joy of the promise of God through the birth of His Son. The Christmas Story announcements were the first steppingstones towards our salvation! Believe the Christmas Story with all your heart and soul, have faith in God the Father and Jesus the Christ and you can be one hundred percent assured of your salvation!

~from a sermon by Dennis King



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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Bill Keane
JEFF KEANE

"Putting Baby Jesus in swaddling clothes was the first Christmas present wrapping."

What's Happening In and Around Our Community



Holiday Health Care Career Fair - **Monday, December 23** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Heritage, 63 Carrie Street. Bring your résumé and meet with local and regional recruiters about jobs all across the health care sector. Register now at www.thunderbay.ca/HolidayHealthCareCareerFair.



'Mini-Monster Bingo' - **Tuesday, 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.



God Sends An Angel To Visit Joseph

In today's Gospel story, we first hear the long list of Jesus' ancestors, those in His family who came before Him. It's a pretty long list, but it is important that we hear it.

Then the story changes to the soon-to-be-mother of Jesus, Mary, who has a problem. She's going to give birth to Jesus sometime soon, but she's not yet married, but only engaged to Joseph. Not being married is a problem for her because when and where Mary lived, men were the people who were allowed to make money. It was very difficult for women to make money on their own. So, without someone who would have money and not being able to make her own money, it was going to be very difficult for Mary to buy the things that she needed to raise her baby. But, then, we hear how God speaks to Joseph in a dream and tells Joseph that he is to take Mary as his wife and help her take care of and help raise Jesus.

Now, Joseph did not have to do what God told him to do. But Joseph *did* do what God told him to do. And, because Joseph chose to do what God told him, both he and Mary were able to give baby Jesus all the things that babies need. And because both Joseph and Mary did what God said, baby Jesus grew up to be adult Jesus ~ our Saviour.

Sometimes you and I may find ourselves in a situation where we don't know what to do. Like Joseph, we might ask ourselves, "What do I do now?" If we listen, God will tell us what to do. He probably won't speak to us through an angel, but He will speak to us through the Bible! It is up to us to listen and obey.

Today's story reminds us that even Jesus needed help. In the same way that Joseph was able to help Jesus, we can help others - by listening to God. As we pay attention to what God calls us to do, then we will know how God is calling us to help and care for those who are around us. And that's the good news for today!



Let us pray: Dear God, we are filled with joy by the many lessons we learn when we accept Jesus as God's Son. Help us read Your Word and listen as You give us the answers to life's difficult questions. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Source: www.rfour.org and www.sermons4kids.com

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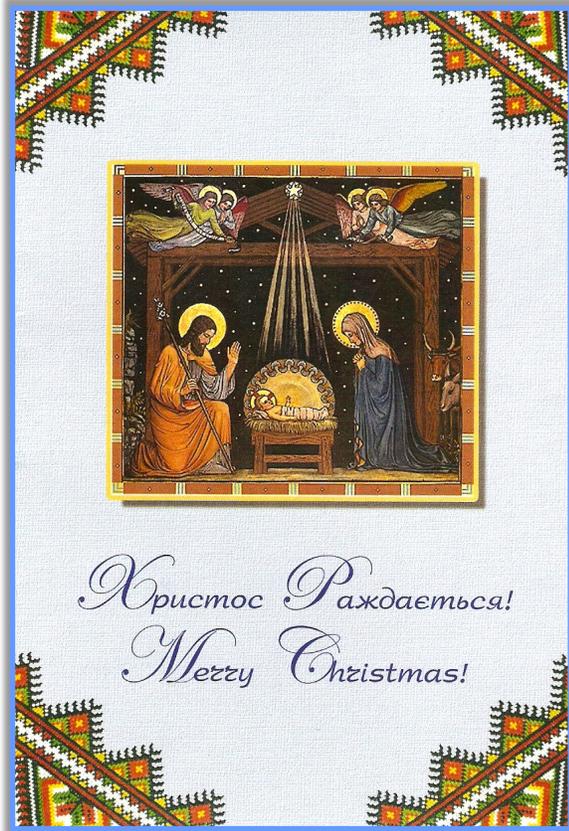
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Order of Services for Christmas, New Year's & Theophany



*Wishing everyone happiness
as you share God's gifts of
peace, hope and love with
others this festive season!*

**A Very
Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
to All!**

**ХРИСТОС
РАЖДАЄТЬСЯ!
СЛАВІТЕ ЙОГО!**

**CHRIST IS BORN!
GLORIFY HIM!**

VIGIL EVE OF THE NATIVITY

Tuesday, December 24

8:45 p.m. ~ Great Compline

9:30 p.m. ~ Christmas Eve Liturgy

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 a.m. ~ Festal Divine Liturgy

SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, December 26

10:00 a.m. ~ Festal Divine Liturgy

ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

Friday, December 27

10:00 a.m. ~ Post-feast Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 28 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 29 ~ 10:00 a.m.

CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD

AND ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

10:00 a.m. ~ Festal Divine Liturgy

THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

Sunday, January 5

10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday before Theophany
followed by the Great Water Blessing

Monday, January 6

10:00 a.m. ~ Festal Divine Liturgy

