



Вітаємо Всі до Нашої Парафії! Welcome All to Our Parish! **A Place of Prayer, Family and Community for More than 50 Years**

Epistles ~ Philippians 4: 4-9; Hebrews 2: 1-18 Gospels ~ John 12: 1-18; Luke 1: 24-38
 Troparia and special texts (to encompass both feasts) are included in the insert

Epistle Readers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Michael Watral
 Sunday (10 a.m.): Mary Ann Lysak

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Zenya Puchalski
 Sunday (10 a.m.): Mary Ann Lysak

Jesus is "the guest of honour" in today's Gospel, both at the gathering hosted by Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus, and the following day at a parade by people who are en route to the Passover, becoming witnesses of His ministry and miracle. Our Lord enters into Jerusalem on a donkey, not on a royal stallion. He comes not as a conquering king and monarch, but as the lowly Prince of Peace, the gentle King, riding on a donkey, a beast of burden. With the crowd's waving of palm branches and the exclamations of "Hosanna! Save NOW!" the crowds are honouring Jesus as a victor, but several days later, the cross will become Jesus' display of the glory of God's grace and the empty grave on Easter Sunday will be His Emblem of Victory over the power of sin and death. Today, and for ages of ages, may Jesus be our eternal "guest of honour." *"Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"*



Today, we also celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation, delivered by Archangel Gabriel and accepted by the Virgin,

occurring nine months before the Birth of Christ at Christmas. It is, as the hymns of the Church tell us, the crown of our salvation, the beginning of everything. This is why its Greek name is 'Evangelismos', which comes from the word 'Evangelion' meaning 'Good News'. This is the feast of the Good News, the Feast of the Gospel. Without this Feast, there would have been no Good News, no Gospel. The sacrifice of the Mother of God in accepting to bear and nourish God, giving Him her blood, bones and flesh, and raise Him as a man is such that she alone among all mankind can take us outside the cycle of wars and can lead us, if we wish to follow her, into Eternity, to the Resurrection of Christ.

Services for Passion (Holy) Week and Easter

Thursday, March 29

10:00 a.m. ~ **Divine Liturgy of St. Basil ~ Institution of the Holy Eucharist**
 6:30 p.m. ~ **Matins of the Passion of Our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ**
 Twelve Gospel readings depicting His suffering and death

Friday, March 30

3:00 p.m. ~ **Vespers of Holy and Great Friday and Exposition of the Holy Shroud**
 followed by the evening vigil at the tomb of Christ

Saturday, March 31

3:00 p.m. ~ Children's Easter Basket workshop (parish hall)
 3:30 p.m. ~ **Prayers Over the Tomb (Надгробне)** (church)
 4:00 p.m. ~ Blessing of Easter Baskets (parish hall)



Sunday, April 1

9:00 a.m. ~ **Matins of the Resurrection (Воскресна Утренья)**
 10:00 a.m. ~ **The Resurrection of our Lord ~ Easter Divine Liturgy**
 Epistle Reader: Larissa Warywoda
 Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Douglas and Stanley Myslicki

HOLY CROSS PARISH **NEWS & ACTIVITIES**

Many thanks to those who came out to help at cabbage roll prep and making this past Monday and Tuesday. Everything went well and quicker than expected, with more than 130 dozen made. See Michael Watral if you haven't yet picked up your order.



The children of our parish will have an opportunity to put together their very own Easter Basket on **Saturday, March 31** at **3:00 p.m.** in our hall, and therefore, we need to know for how many children to prepare. Please call Jaclyn Strehlow at 252-1789 if you have not already done so, to indicate if your son(s)/daughter(s)/grandchild(ren) will be attending. ☺

Our parish Easter Dinner (Свячене) will take place **Sunday, April 8** in the hall after the 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy. The featured menu appears on the back of the **Holy Week, Easter and Bright Week** insert. Help will be needed to make cabbage rolls Friday afternoon (April 6) before the dinner, set up the hall on Thursday evening, prepare and serve the meal, and clean up on both Saturday and Sunday. Please speak with any member of the current Parish Council, kitchen lead Dr. Larry Watral, or hall lead Susan Ibey in advance if you are able to help in any way. *Let's all come together to have another delicious and communal Easter dinner!*

The current Parish Council met this past week to determine the slate of officers for this year. Here are the results: **Cheryl Bain**, Chair; **Christopher Tennant**, Vice-chair; **Patricia Hrychuk**, Secretary; **Susan Soldan**, Treasurer; **Zenya Puchalski**, **Roger Swerdlyk**, Directors; **Maurice Zakrewski**, Property Chairman; **Joseph Z. Myslicki**, representing St. George's Society. Congratulations and blessings to all for a successful tenure! We wish to thank outgoing members, **Andrika Warywoda**, **Ches Chomycz**, and **Dr. Ron Hrychuk** for their time on Council. Your work and effort is sincerely appreciated.

Бажаємо Вам святого Страсного тижня ~ Wishing everyone a blessed Holy Week!

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.

Collection for March 17/18

Regular Envelopes: \$1,404.⁰⁰
Mission Fund: \$50.³⁰ Vigil Lights: \$53.⁰⁰
Clergy Benevolent Fund: \$30.⁰⁰
Special Projects: \$135.⁰⁰ Initial Offering: \$10.⁰⁰
Flowers for the Tomb: \$20.⁰⁰

Щиро Вам дякуємо ~ Thank you for your generosity!

The Mission Collection for March is for the **Regional Food Distribution Association (RFDA)** of Northwestern Ontario. Visit www.foodbanksnorthwest.ca for more info.

FYI: All unclaimed **2017 Donation Income Tax Receipts** have now been mailed out.

HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

There will be **no** afternoon activities on Holy Thursday, **March 29**. Regular activities will resume at their usual time on **Thursday, April 5**. Hope to see everyone then!

Orders for our Spring Pyrohy Making session on **Tuesday, May 29** can be placed anytime. Contact Ann Kozlowski at 622-3006 or Ann (G) Opaski at 577-2805 now to get your name of the list. The price is now \$6 per dozen for **cooked or raw frozen**. Help spread the word before the maximum amount of orders are reached.

If you were not able to board the bus to Grand Portage in March, the next one will leave the church parking lot on **Wednesday, April 18** at 3:45 p.m. and return @ 10 p.m. Please contact Ann Kozlowski or Ann Opaski as soon as possible (numbers are above) to book your seat. This is a **free** service. Non-members (18 years and up) **with valid passports** are invited also. Come join us for the relaxing ride and gripping gaming!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Primavera Tea - Sunday, March 25, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Da Vinci Centre. Featuring Bake Table, Penny Auction, and Food Hamper. Dainties & sandwiches will be served. Admission: \$5.⁰⁰. Proceeds to the local Alzheimer Society.



Fish and Chips Fridays - Royal Canadian Legion Port Arthur Branch No. 5, 229 Van Norman Street, invites you to join them on Fridays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for fish and chips. They serve Atlantic Cod and your choice of hand-cut fries or baked potato. Also included: coleslaw, coffee/tea, and dessert. \$14 for a full order (2 pieces of fish); \$11.⁵⁰ for a half order (1 piece of fish); and \$7 for children (12 years old and younger). **Open on Good Friday, March 30.**

An Evening of Colour & Energy! - Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group presents its annual concert "*Beauty and the Beets Beats*", **Saturday, April 28** at **7 p.m.** at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium. To get your tickets, visit the TBCA box office, call (807) 684-4444, or order online at www.tbca.com. This is a fun, family-friendly evening you won't want to miss!



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

Thanks to the members who helped at Cabbage Roll Making on Monday and Tuesday this past week. It went very well. Help will be needed for the Parish Easter Dinner especially hall and kitchen clean-up after the occasion. Your help is always welcome. ☺

At this point in time, we have not been allotted a bingo during the month of April. However, the next bingo training session for new volunteers will take place on **Sunday, April 15** from 4 to 5 p.m. at Superior Shores at which we need more members (and parishioners) to attend. Your assistance is gratefully appreciated. The next refresher training session is **Sunday, April 22** from 4 to 5 p.m. as well. This is important as new requirements are being instituted. Please inform Gerry Bullock when and if you plan to attend. Bingo dates in May and June will be published in future bulletins.

There will be no other monthly meeting in March. We will once again gather on **Sunday, April 29** at 7:00 p.m. In the meantime, we wish all members and their loved ones a very Happy and Blessed Easter!

Readings for Easter Sunday

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

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-8

Gospel: John 1: 1-17

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.

DID YOU KNOW... the last time (in the Gregorian calendar) that Easter fell on Sunday, April 1 was the year 1956 (62 years ago). Our local Ukrainian parishes (minus Holy Cross of course) were still following the Julian calendar then, and "Ukrainian" Easter fell on April 23. But the span between the next occurrence of Easter on April 1 will not be quite that long. In fact, Easter will again occur on April 1 in 2029 — that's only 11 years from now — and then 11 years after that in 2040. After that, it won't happen again until 2108 — 68 years later.

There have been a number of suggested reforms for the Easter date. For example, in 1997 the World Council of Churches proposed a reform of the Easter calculation to replace an equation-based method of calculating Easter with direct astronomical observation. This would have solved the Easter date difference between churches that observe the Gregorian calendar and those that observe the Julian calendar. The reform was proposed to be implemented in 2001, but it is not yet adopted.

Source: www.timeanddate.com

Seasonal Church Signs





Lay Your Cloak Before Him

In the day when Jesus lived, many people wore a garment called a cloak. It was a loose outer garment similar to the cape that today's superheroes like Batman, Wonder Woman, and Superman wear. It provided them protection against the harsh winds and blowing sand in the desert. It also provided protection from the hot desert sun. In today's Bible story, we will see a very unusual way the people used their cloaks.

Jesus and His disciples were walking toward Jerusalem and had stopped near a small village. He sent two of His disciples to go on ahead into the village. He told them that when they got there, they would find a donkey and her colt which they were to bring back to Him. Of course, the disciples were a bit concerned because they imagined that these animals might belong to someone who might not appreciate having their animals taken. Jesus simply told them, "Tell them that the Lord needs them and they will let you have them." So, the disciples went into town and sure enough, there was a donkey and her colt. They grabbed them and as they were leaving, someone asked why they were taking the animals. They answered, "It is for the Lord." And the people let them take them just as Jesus had said they would. When they arrived back at the camp, the disciples took their cloaks and

put them on the donkey to make a nice soft seat for Jesus. Jesus got on the donkey and headed toward Jerusalem.

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, a very large crowd gathered to welcome Him. Some of them spread their cloaks on the road for Jesus to ride on, while others cut branches from the palm trees and spread them on the road. Why would they do that? They were treating Jesus like a king!

The Bible tells us that the crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed shouted: "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

The people greeted Jesus as a King that day. Today, Jesus wants to be your King -- and He will be if you will allow Him to come into your heart and rule over your life. Lay down your cloak to greet your King as He comes to you in love.

Let us pray: Jesus, come into our lives and create in us a new heart. May we excitedly welcome You just as those that awaited Your arrival in Jerusalem did. Thank You for being here with us. We praise You Lord! Amen.

Source: www.sermons4kids.com