

Слава Ісусу Христу ~ Слава На Віки! Glory be to Jesus Christ ~ Glory forever!

Вітаємо до Парафії Воздвиження Чесного Хреста \* Welcome to Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church

## November 29, 2020 ~ 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings: Epistle: Ephesians 5: 9-19 Gospel: Luke 12: 16-21

## December 6, 2020 ~ 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Feast of Our Holy Father St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Scripture Readings: Epistle: Ephesians 6: 10-17 Gospel: Luke 13: 10-17

### Words of Hope and Truth

Advent is a marvellous time in which to renew your desire, your nostalgia, your real longing for Christ to come. "Ecce veniat — He is about to arrive!"

## 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.

Due to a directive from the Chancery Office in Toronto, weekly collection numbers will no longer be published online.

Thank you for your support and understanding!

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

The Mission Collection for November is designated for **Christmas Cheer Thunder Bay**. The total will appear in the next bulletin.

December's Mission Collection is designated for **Shelter House's SOS Program**.



### 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Gospel teaches us that if we keep all our profits for ourselves it will end badly for us. Only what's done for Christ will last. And it's okay to be successful. But being rich for God means spending some of your treasure on what matters to God, i.e. the poor, widows, orphans, immigrants, etc. If a person does not acknowledge other beings, he does not recognize the existence of God.

### 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jesus, Who had patience with anybody but a hypocrite, pointed out that the ruler of the synagogue himself probably watered his domestic animals on the Sabbath. Perhaps Jesus had seen him do it on His way to the synagogue. Anyway, what's more important? Surely freeing the woman of faith from her terrible disability is more important than watering your donkey. Jesus always used healings as an opportunity to teach about the kingdom of God, which begins within each Christian heart.

## Parish News & Events

This year, due to COVID-19, we will not be able to take donations for our Christmas Cheer Mugs. The Christmas Cheer Organization will only be accepting monetary donations so that it alone can purchase the hamper items. You can donate directly to it or through our Mission Collection in November. If you have any questions, please call Sherry Opaski.

We would like to update our records to make sure all parishioners and families can be contacted, especially during these uncertain times. A new **Parish Information Form** has been developed and is now ready for completion. Please take on home with you. Copies are available in the narthex or you can download it from our website in the **Bulletins & News** tab.

St. Philip's Fast (Pylypivka) has now begun and will last through Christmas Eve. The third candle on the banner, **gold**, was 'lit' as a symbol of our **love and caring** for one another, and to remind us that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life." The fourth candle, **white**, reminds us of **peace**. May our hearts be filled with the peace of Christ as we increase our love for God and our faith and hope in Him.

Community Clothing Assistance is gathering NEW packages of socks and underwear for youth ages 4 to 14. Donations in kind or monetary donations will be accepted if you cannot shop during this time of COVID-19. A basket will be placed in the narthex for donations until November 30. Questions? Contact Zenya Puchalski.

### SAVE THE DATE!



Join us for Holy Cross Church's evening of Virtual Carolling on **Monday, December 14, 2020** at 6:30 p.m. Virtual connection details to follow.

## Liturgical Services Schedule

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12**

5 p.m. ~ Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**

10 a.m. ~ Sunday after Holy Forefathers

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**

10 a.m. ~ Sunday before Christmas (Holy Fathers)



# A PRAYER FOR PUTTING ON A FACE MASK

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing of this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be (a) shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love.

In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.



~ Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Canada



## ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

Members are still needed for ushering/entry protocols for Divine Liturgies on Saturdays and Sundays; the schedule for Christmas services will be decided soon and members will be informed.

The November/December issue of **The Plentiful Harvester** is ready and will be forwarded to members via e-mail; hard copies will be available by contacting Michael Watral.

Finally, we ask you to please pray for all your fellow members, especially those who are shut-in, recuperating from surgery, or currently experiencing health issues. Don't forget to inform Father Stepan if the situation worsens.

*Celebrating 60 years of Love and Service to God  
1960 ~ 2020*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CITY

**Slovak Legion Take-Out/Curbside Pick-up** - Every Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Call 623-3354 ext. 2 for more information. A different meal is featured every week. Visit [www.slovaklegion.com](http://www.slovaklegion.com) for more information.

### Columbus Centre

## TAKE OUT THURSDAYS

Thursday December 3 & 17, 2020

Pick Up Time 2:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Columbus Centre 301 S. May St.

### MENU

Spaghetti & Meatballs (6)  
\$13.00

Meatballs (10) In Sauce  
\$13.00

Roast Chicken Thighs (2)  
\$3.00

Perogies - 1 Dozen  
\$6.00

Spaghetti Sauce - 1 Litre  
\$10.00

Tossed Salad  
\$3.75



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## READINGS FOR THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS AND SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

### December 12/13

**Colossians 3: 4-11**  
The Old Life and the New

**Luke 14: 16-24**  
The Invitation to the Great Feast

### December 20

**Hebrews 11: 9-10; 17-23; 32-40**  
Faith

**Matthew 1: 1-25**  
Christ's ancestors and His birth

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.

## HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

All regular Thursday afternoon activities remain **cancelled** until February 2021 — this includes the annual Free Bingo in November and Christmas social and dinner in December. Should there be any major changes, which at this point in time are unlikely, you will be contacted by phone with an update.

Flu season is upon us, and therefore, all members are encouraged to get the annual flu shot as a wise precaution. Until it is safe for us to congregate in large groups again, stay safe and healthy. Wear a mask in public, wash your hands regularly, practice social distancing wherever and whenever necessary, and limit your contact with others. We want to see everyone return with a smile, hear some interesting 'quarantine' stories, and be thankful to know that 'our friends' are still with us.

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

## December Mood



**EARTH'S CRUST GROWS COLD**, and bare trees resemble grey etchings on the hillsides. Along the edges of moving water, ice lace forms a delicate pattern. Woodland ponds have closed their eyes.

This is the last page of the book. The year is posting its accounts. Hibernating animals are sleeping in their dens and in old logs or beneath stones. Down in the swamps, muskrat houses resemble igloos among the windblown cattails and faded grasses.

Days are short and nights are long as time slides down to the nadir. Winter is ahead, and one knows that snow and ice, tempests and sleet will bludgeon the land. This is December, the beginning of winter. Man knows that he must wait through nature's rest time before the miracle comes again.

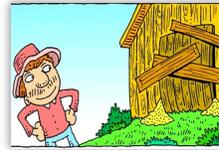


# Trapped By Our Own Greed

**D**o any of you know how to catch a monkey? Well, this is how they catch a monkey in some places of the world. First, they take a gourd (a dried squash), cut a small hole in it, then put some rice inside. Next, they tie the gourd down securely and wait for the monkey. The monkeys fall for the gourd trick every time. The monkey sticks his paw into the gourd to get the rice. He grabs a handful — but then he can't get his hand out of the gourd; his closed fist won't go through the small hole. The monkey is so greedy that he won't let go of the handful of rice. He just waits there with his greedy fist wrapped around the rice until the men come and capture him.

Well, you've got the moral to this story: Don't be greedy and selfish or you may make a "monkey" of yourself. In our Bible lesson, a man came to Jesus and said, "Please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me." Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge to decide such things as that?" Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life isn't measured by how much you own."

Then He told them a story: "A rich man had some very good land that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have enough room in my barn to hold all my crops.'" Then he said to himself, "I know, I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I will have enough for all my crops and I will sit back and say to myself, 'Take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!'" But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'"



Jesus then said, "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves, but does not have the riches of God."

Let us, then, always hear what God's Word says. Don't let selfishness and greed make a monkey out of you.

Dear Father, help us to be content with the blessings which You so generously give us and help us to be on guard against selfishness and greed. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

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

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