

Слава Ісусу Христу ~ Слава на віку! Glory be to Jesus Christ ~ Glory forever!



We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors, and pray that your participation in the Divine Liturgy will be enriching and meaningful.

December 10, 2017 ~ 27th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 6: 10-17

Gospel: Luke 13: 10-17

Troparia are in **Tone 2**, found on **page 91** in the navy blue missals

Focus on the GOSPEL

On today's Gospel, Jesus sufficiently shows, not only that it is lawful, but that it is highly fit and proper, to heal (in this particular case, a crippled woman) on the Sabbath day. This was a recurring source of contention between Himself and the religious rulers of the day whom Jesus often labelled as hypocrites, for their actions were not done out of love and compassion, but to satisfy the Law of Moses. The common practice among the Jews of watering their cattle on the Sabbath day was not prohibited, as it would have been cruel not to do so. Jesus' rebuke had its proper effect: to make them realize that the Sabbath was not to prevent works of necessity or mercy, which He applied to the woman's case, and not to argue about religion, despite the exceptions there may be (even in today's world some jobs require Sunday employment), but to learn to live it and embrace it.

~ from a sermon by John Lowe

Undeniable Words of Wisdom



"Healing on the Sabbath doesn't lead to chaos, it leads to rejoicing."

Prepare for Christmas by fasting, not feasting



As we continue our preparation for Christmas, the Church encourages us to practice the spirit of sacrifice, penance, and fasting. This past Wednesday, the fourth candle on the banner, white, was 'lit' representing **peace**. It reminds us of the angel's message to the shepherds on that holy night so long ago: "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

Your Return Gift to God

DECEMBER 2/3

Envelopes: \$1,315. ⁰⁰	Special Projects: \$30. ⁰⁰
Mission Fund: \$45. ¹⁵	Flowers for Christmas: \$135. ⁰⁰
Church in Ukraine: \$20. ⁰⁰	Donation in memory of Claudia Bugara: \$25. ⁰⁰

Thank you for your generosity ~ Щиро Вам дякуємо!

December's Mission Collection is designated for St. Andrew's **Dew Drop Inn**, a warm and welcome place where people who are hungry can come to eat with no questions asked.

This Week's Liturgical Services

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

5:00 p.m. - **Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**
Epistle Reader: Gloria Sherban

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

10:00 a.m. - **Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**
Epistle Reader: Larissa Warywoda




Remember to take your copy of the **Order of Services for Christmas, New Year's and Theophany** home as you depart from the church today. Extra copies will be available on the table in the narthex next weekend as well.

Holy Cross Parish



News and Events

We extend our condolences to the Gacuk family on the passing of their beloved **†Annie**, our former parishioner, on Sunday, December 3 in Pickering, Ontario. A service was held on December 8, 2017 in Ajax, Ontario. Additionally, a memorial and interment will be held this summer in Thunder Bay. Details will be published in our bulletin when received. May the Lord God accept His servant **†Annie** into His heavenly kingdom, and may her memory be eternal ~ вічна її пам'ять.

 We are patiently awaiting the arrival of St. Nicholas for a visit to our parish on Sunday following the 10 a.m. Liturgy. All children and their families (including babas and gis) are welcome to the parish hall to receive him. There will be a short schedule of fun activities for the kids to do. A light lunch will be served. *Those who love Nicholas the saintly...*

Many thanks to all who came out to help with the cabbage roll preparations and making this past Tuesday and Wednesday, despite the bit of nasty weather that fell upon us. Over 165 dozen were made for pre-orders. May God bless you all!

Your 2018 Parish Collection Envelopes will be available for pick up next weekend. As many boxes of envelopes were not used this past year due to deaths, sickness, and people moving, the numbering system will once again be reorganized. This means that many envelope holders will have a **new** number for 2018. Please check the box when you pick it up and ensure that your name is on it. In doing so, we will be able to order less envelopes for the following year and save the parish money. *Thank you for your understanding.* ☺



HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

Thursday, December 14 is the date for our final get-together for 2017. Regular activities happen at the usual time followed by our annual free Christmas dinner along with raffles, sing-alongs, and lots of fun! Members are requested to bring donations for the *Thunder Bay Food Bank*.

There will **not** be a bus to Grand Portage in December; however, if there is enough interest, there will be one scheduled for **January 17, 2018**. Please feel free to contact Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805) between now and early January to book your seat. This is a **free** service. Non-members are invited also. Come for the ride, relaxation, and recreation!



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

Thanks to the members who helped with last week's parish cabbage roll making session. Everything went very well.

There is **no** bingo scheduled for December. However, the next bingo training session will take place at Superior Shores on **Sunday, December 17** from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. We urgently need a few more members to do so as we have recently lost some of our current volunteers. All parishioners are also welcome to take the training and help at bingos. *Thank you for your cooperation and support.*

There will be no regular monthly meeting in December. We will reconvene on **Sunday, February 4, 2018** at our annual 'Super Bowl' meeting. Until then, the Executive wishes all members and their families a peaceful and holy Christmas holiday season and a happy and blessed New Year!

MALANKA 2018



The League of Ukrainian Canadians and Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group present "Malanka ~ A New Year's Celebration" on **Saturday, January 27, 2018** at the Port Arthur Polish Hall, 102 S. Court St. Entertainment by Chaban Dancers and live band "Zirka" from Toronto. For tickets, call Doug Chorkawy at 621-1593 or Han-ya Cvoranjek at 344-3136. Get yours early to avoid disappointment!

Why Isn't Everyone Healed?

Why do people get sick in the first place? The Bible gives a theology of sickness as well as a theology of healing. There are a number of reasons for sickness. The first is sin. The Pharisees were right that *some* get sick because of sin, but wrong that *all* get sick because of sin. In *1 Corinthians*, we are warned about abusing the table of the Lord. "That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen sleep (died)."

We find no record in the gospels of Jesus turning away anyone who came to Him for healing, nor do we find that any disease was too difficult for Him to heal. He even raised the dead. Miraculous healings still occur today — evidence that Christ is still our Healer. Why don't we see it as the disciples in the Early Church did? They were full of the Holy Spirit. We leak. They were fully obedient. Too often, we are not. They fully expected to see Him work. We are often surprised that He does.

Rev. John F. Soper

Sunday Smile



An elderly man in Nipigon calls his son in Victoria, B.C. and says, "I hate to ruin your day son, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are getting a divorce; 45 years of marriage... and that much misery is enough!" "Dad, what are you talking about?" the son retorts. "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the old dad explained. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Halifax and tell her!" Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this." She calls her elderly father immediately, and lets him have it. "You are not getting divorced," she bellows. "Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, you hear me?" she yelled as she hung up the phone. The old man then hangs up and turns to his wife and says, "Okay, it's all set. They're both coming home for Christmas and paying their own airfare."

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Westfort Christmas Market - Sunday, December 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Westfort Prosvita Hall, 721 Gore St. W. New and previous enjoyed items, crafts, jewelry, knitted and crocheted items, food, plus much more. For more info, e-mail Elissa and Lori at westfortmarket@hotmail.com.

Rotary Carol Sing - Sunday, December 17 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Gather your family and friends for an evening of song and entertainment in support of the Thunder Bay Christmas Cheer Fund. Held in Fort William at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 808 Ridgeway Street, and in Port Arthur at St. Paul's United Church, 349 Waverly Street. This is a fun and free event for all. *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing...*

A Daylin James Christmas - A variety holiday show on Sunday, December 17, with a special appearance by "The King" (Elvis Presley) at West Arthur Community Centre, 1914 W. Arthur Street. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.; show begins at 8:00 p.m. Concession will be open for beverages. Tickets are \$20/person and available Monday-Friday or call 627-4400 or 628-5485 to get yours soon.

Malanka - New Year's Eve Ukrainian Style - Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the Royal Canadian Slovak Legion, presented by Zorya Ukrainian Dance Association. Symposium @ 6 p.m.; Dinner @ 7 p.m. Entertainment by the Zorya Dancers. Live music by Danny Johnson and 21 Gun Fun. Advanced tickets only. Featuring 'Kolomeyka', 50/50 draw, and late night snack. See the poster in the narthex for more information or call Alice at 577-2100.

Readings for the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (December 17)

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

Epistle: Colossians 3: 4-11
Gospel: Luke 14: 16-24



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.



Which Is More Important?



Today's Bible story is about a lady who had been bent over for 18 years. Do you think that she was uncomfortable? She must have had a terrible time doing things. Do you think some people stared at her or made fun of her? 18 years is a long time. That's how long it takes to get from kindergarten to high school graduation.

Well, one day Jesus saw the woman. What do you think that Jesus wanted to do for her? Jesus wanted to make her well, right that minute. And Jesus did not wait; He called over to her to tell her she was healed. Then Jesus went to her and touched her and she stood up straight! Wow! Can you imagine how she felt?

You would think that everyone would be really happy for her. But one man was not happy. The leader of the synagogue (a kind of church) was angry. It was the Sabbath – the day people went to church to worship God. Now there is a commandment that says that people should not work on the worship day. Instead, they should go to church and

pray and think about God. The angry man said that Jesus should have waited a day because healing the lady was a kind of work! He thought that poor woman should suffer one more day so that nobody broke a rule. If it were your grandmother or someone else you loved, would you want them to wait?

Jesus told the synagogue leader that he was only pretending to care about God's law. Jesus told him that, if he were really a person who cared about keeping God's law, he would not want the woman to be bent over one more second. Jesus knew there was a more important commandment: "Love your neighbour." That's the commandment the man should have cared about. The woman was more important than the law about when to work.

Jesus did the right thing. Just like in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, He loved His neighbour, so He helped her.

Source: www.sermonwriter.com

Jesus is the Master Healer and He Has a Plan to Bring Healing to Your Life

A great portion of Christ's time was dedicated to healing the sick and downtrodden. He healed all kinds of people including the blind, the paralyzed, the deaf, the lame, lepers, those who had fever, and many with chronic illnesses, among others. If you have any question of His healing power, turn to Scripture. If you are looking for readings that bring light to Jesus' healing power, read through the Book of Acts. Pay close attention to the miracles of the Apostles, especially physical healing. They were enabled by Christ to do miraculous work which not only helped heal those who were sick and downtrodden, but also glorified Jesus.

The first occurs in the first few verses of Acts 3. Here, Peter heals a man who had been lame his entire life. Many wondered how Peter could pull off a trick like healing. Peter and John took the opportunity to share the Gospel. When this act landed them in jail, they took their time in front of the court to continue to share the Good News. They used this healing opportunity which defied understanding to glorify Christ Jesus.

The next occurs in Acts 5:12-16 where we learn that the sick were brought to the apostles in the hopes that Peter's shadows might cross over them and cause healing. Scripture tells us, "The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed" (Acts 5:12-16). These people who sought Peter and the other apostles believed in the Lord and His healing power. In turn, they experienced a power that can only be enabled through Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

There are also many instances where the Holy Spirit enables divine healing in everyday people. There are times when a person (or people) has prayed over a lifeless body. Despite everything we understand, this person wakes up, and their health is restored. These things can't be explained without attributing it to the healing power of Jesus. After these miraculous experiences, the people who saw it happened witnessed and testified to who Jesus was. These moments don't take away from Jesus. In fact, they do the opposite. We know in these instances that Jesus is still healer and can do wonderful, miraculous things. In the Book of John, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I am doing. He will do even greater things than these" (John 14:12). We know from Scripture that healings did not end with Jesus. Jesus told the disciples they would do greater things. That same power is enabled in us as we look toward the healing of others.

Jesus healed so many people, not only to meet their physical needs, but to also get the door open to speak about His great mission: salvation. This is seen throughout His ministry. Who else had the power to say that He was the bread of life and feed 5,000 people with only a few loaves of bread? This same power is also working through us. This power comes from Jesus alone. This healing ministry continues through His body, the Church. With so many reports of sickness and devastation in our country and around the world, it's hard to imagine ever living in a restored world, but it is possible. It's important that we pray for healing, whether it's our own or the healing of others. If you are looking for personal healing, pray that Jesus will heal you because you want to serve Him more. Ask that this healing be a testimony of His power and your faithfulness. If you are lifting up someone else who is in need of healing, pray that Jesus would heal them and enable them to serve Him more so that they may glorify our Father in Heaven.

Source: www.beliefnet.com