



Вітаємо Всіх до Нашої Парафії! Welcome Everyone to Our Parish!
~ A Place of Prayer, Family and Community for More than 50 Years ~



Epistle: Colossians 3: 4-11

Gospel: Luke 17: 12-19

Troparia are found on the insert included with this bulletin

Epistle Readers

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



Eucharistic Ministers

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

Gospel Reflection

*Are you walking with
the crowd of nine or with
the one fallen at His feet?*

Your Return Gift to God

Let us strive to live as Christian stewards, receive God's gifts gratefully,
cultivate them responsibly, share them generously & lovingly with others,
and return them with increase to the Lord.

DECEMBER 1/2



Envelopes: \$2,425.⁰⁰
Mission: \$49.⁶⁵ Flowers: \$85.⁰⁰
Special Projects: \$150.⁰⁰
In memory of Eddie Fedori: \$325.⁰⁰

Thank you for your generosity ~ Щиро Вам дякуємо!

December's Mission Collection is designated for the **Dew Drop Inn** (St. Andrew's Soup Kitchen).

Attention all who attend Holy Cross Parish! The new collection envelopes are almost ready for distribution. Please call the office and leave a message for our bookkeeper Michele if you do **not** wish them for 2019 **or** you would like to receive a box of your own (especially new parishioners).

FYI: Donations can be made online through the Holy Cross website (www.holycrosstbay.com/donate). Parishioners, family and friends can do so by setting up automatic weekly donations or by one-time donation. One-time donations can be made through any major credit card, while automatic donations require the use of a PayPal® account. All donations are eligible for tax receipts.



After Jesus healed the ten lepers, He was grieved because only one of them, a Samaritan, returned to thank Him for what He had done. Jesus then did a second thing for him — He forgave his sins. The other nine lepers were healed, but they were not saved. But why didn't the others return to give thanks also? The refusal of the nine pained Jesus. He was deeply concerned that the Father in heaven did not receive the thanks due to Him. Of the many that receive mercy from God, there are but a few, very few, that return to give thanks in the right manner.

The ten men believed that Jesus could help them, and He did. The Samaritan not only brought joy to Christ's heart but received salvation from His hand. Thankfulness should be in the Christian's heart. We can and should give to God our thanksgiving and praise. It is wonderful, just to be able to thank and praise Him. When God answers your prayers, be sure to tell Him "thank You!" Jesus dismissed the man with the familiar words, "Your faith has made you well." ~ condensed and edited from a sermon by John Lowe

Parish News & Events

We extend our sincerest condolences to Patricia Zakrewski and husband Maurice on the passing of Patricia's sister **†Marie McInnis** on November 30. May her memory be eternal ~ вічна її пам'ять.

Our many thanks to **Mary Ann Lysak, Sophie Kozyra, & Joanne "Ivanka" Zanewycz** for preparing the church for Christmas with the beautiful decorations now seen upstairs and downstairs. The manger, trees and extra trimmings are still to come!



Many thanks to all who came out to help with Wednesday's cabbage roll making. More than 150 dozen were made!



We are patiently awaiting the arrival of Saint Nicholas to our parish on Sunday following the 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. There will be a short schedule of fun activities for the kids to do. A light lunch will be served. *О хто, хто Миколая любить...*

Attention all Eucharistic Ministers and Epistle Readers! The schedule for 2019 is being prepared and will be ready soon. If you already know that you may not be available for a certain day or month, please inform Michael Watral as soon as possible before he finalizes the schedule.

This Week's Liturgical Schedule

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

5 p.m. ~ **Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**
Epistle Reader: Joseph Myslicki

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

10 a.m. ~ **Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**
Epistle Reader: Andrika Warywoda



St. Philip's Fast (Pylypivka) began on November 15 and will last through Christmas Eve. This past Wednesday, we 'lit' the **white** candle on the banner to remind 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.



Колядуймо разом! Christmas carolling will take place on **Sunday, December 30** beginning at **1:30 p.m.** If you wish to have the carollers come for a short visit to sing, please sign the sheet posted on the narthex bulletin board. Carolling will take place provided we have a minimum of 3 places on the list by Christmas Day. And if you'd like to participate or need more information, please speak with Dr. Jennifer Swerdlyk or Michael Watral at your earliest convenience. ☺

TODAY'S IMPORTANT FEAST DAY

Saint Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim who was a native of Galilee. Their feastday is September 9, the day after the feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary.

For a long time, Saint Anne was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race. The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem.



*We kneel at your shrine
And in faith we draw near,
Led onward by Mary,
Your daughter so dear.
O Good Saint Anne,
We call on your name,
Your praises loud,
Your children proclaim.*

Readings for the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (to help prepare for the nourishment of the Word of God at Liturgy)



Epistle: Colossians 3: 4-11
(The Old Life and the New)

Gospel: Luke 14: 16-24
(The Invitation to the Great Feast)

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 OF EVENTS

Snowflake Bazaar and Bake Sale - St. Peter's Church presents this event **Sunday, December 9** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish hall. There will be a Christmas bake table, penny auction and raffles, a gently-used table, deli take-outs, and a lunch counter. Proceeds from the raffles will be used to replenish and purchase needed kitchen supplies. Admission is **free** and everyone is invited!



Rotary Carol Sing - **Sunday, December 16** at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 808 Ridgeway St. (across from McKellar Place) in Thunder Bay South and at St. Paul's United Church, 349 Waverly Street, Thunder Bay North. Featuring local musicians and performers. Gather family and friends and come celebrate the season. Admission is free; however, donations are accepted.

For a listing of events happening in and around Thunder Bay, visit www.thunderbay.ca/Living and check out the monthly calendars. They're filled with fun and interesting information for the whole family!



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

Many thanks to the members who helped at cabbage roll making session this past Wednesday. Your assistance was sincerely appreciated.

The first bingo session for us in the New Year will be an evening one on **Thursday, January 17**. The next training session for new volunteers is scheduled for **Sunday, January 13** from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. All training is held at Superior Shores Gaming Centre, 435 Memorial Avenue.



At this time of the year, we wish all members and their loved ones a very special holiday season with all the best in 2019! Our first meeting in the new year will be the annual 'Super Bowl' Meeting on **Sunday, February 3** beginning at 4:30 p.m. followed by a dinner and social. Hope to see many in attendance!

Love and Service to God since 1960!

HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS



Attention members! **Thursday, December 13** is our final get-together for 2018. Regular activities happen at the usual time followed by our annual free Christmas dinner along with raffles, sing-alongs, and a whole lot of fun. Members are requested to bring donations for the *Thunder Bay Food Bank*. Let's 'wrap up' this year in festive holiday spirit!

We will **not** be chartering a bus to Grand Portage in December; however, if there is enough interest, there will be one scheduled for **Wednesday, January 16, 2019**. Please contact Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805) between now and early January to book your seat. This is a **free** service for those 18 years and older who have a valid passport. Come join us for the ride and recreation!

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

**Smile
everyday**



*"Rudolph, I'm sick and tired of you
and your reindeer games!"*



We Should Truly Be Thankful for What Jesus Has Done for Us

In today's Bible story, we hear of some men who had a skin disease called leprosy. It doesn't say that they deserved leprosy but just that they HAD leprosy. It was a disease they suffered from because they were living in a sinful, fallen world. When sin came into the world, it spoiled everything! So because we live in a fallen, sinful world, there are terrible diseases. The disease of leprosy is one of them.

The men in today's story stood at a distance from Jesus and called out to Him. As lepers, they knew that they could not go near anyone because they had a contagious illness. But they also believed they were bad people who were unacceptable to God. The men had probably been waiting for Jesus at the edge of the village. When they saw Jesus crossing the border between Galilee and Samaria, they yelled, "Jesus, Master, have mercy upon us." Jesus then told the them to show themselves to the priest. At some point, as they were going to do that, the ten lepers noticed that their leprosy was gone. They had been healed!

What do you think happened next? Do you think they went back to thank Jesus? Well, the answer is yes and no. Only one of them, a Samaritan man who was considered an outsider,

came back praising God in a loud voice and throwing himself at Jesus' feet, thanking Him. Jesus immediately wondered about the other nine men who also had been healed.

Certainly, the other nine men noticed that they were healed, but they did not take the time to return to say, "Thank you." The ten lepers were given a great gift. The problem was, nine of them didn't receive it with true thankfulness. Sure, they were happy that they had received the gift of healing, but they didn't CHOOSE to thank the gift giver. When Jesus asked, "Where are the other nine?" He clearly was asking, "Why aren't they giving thanks to God?"

The same question could be asked of us today: "Why aren't these people giving Me thanks?" Jesus has given us the unbelievable free gift of forgiveness. We didn't have to do anything to earn it. Even though our sin deserves to be punished, Jesus took that punishment for us when He died on the cross. That's the biggest, best gift we will ever receive!

The message from God is clear: we should have a heart filled to overflowing with thanksgiving to God, AND we should also tell God and others how thankful we are! God has done so much for us! He deserves our thanks!

Question: "What does the Bible say about ingratitude/unthankfulness?"

Answer: The Bible says much about gratitude as well as the lack of it. God knows how we are made, and He designed us to thrive when we are humble, moral, and thankful. When we are arrogant, immoral, and ungrateful, we cannot have fellowship with Him, nor can we experience all it means to be created in the image of God ([Genesis 1:27](#); [James 4:6](#); [1 Peter 5:5](#)). So God included repeated commands in His Word about [being thankful](#), reminding us that a grateful heart is a happy heart ([1 Thessalonians 5:18](#); [Colossians 3:15](#); [Psalm 105:1](#)).

Ingratitude is a sin with severe repercussions. [Romans 1:18–32](#) gives a detailed description of the downfall of a person or a society. Verse 21 says, "Although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him." This tells us that God takes gratefulness—and ungratefulness—seriously. As long as a person or a culture remains thankful to God, they retain a sensitivity to His presence. [Thankfulness](#) toward God requires a belief in God at the very least, and ingratitude fails to fulfill our responsibility to acknowledge Him ([Proverbs 3:5–6](#); [Psalm 100:4](#)). When we refuse to be thankful or to express gratitude, we grow hard-hearted and proud. We take for granted all God has given us and become our own gods.

Jesus' healing of the [ten lepers](#) gives an example of how highly God values thankfulness ([Luke 17:12–19](#)). Jesus healed all ten men, but only one returned to thank Him (verse 15). The Bible specifically records that the thankful leper was not even a Jew. He was a Samaritan, a fact that drove home the idea that Jews were not the only people who could reach the heart of God. The Lord notices those who thank Him, regardless of socio-political status or level of spirituality. His questions "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" (verse 17) show His disappointment at the ingratitude of the majority.

[Second Timothy 3:2](#) describes what people will be like in the last days, and one characteristic is ingratitude. When pride and self-rule become fashionable, the human heart has no one to thank. We become convinced of our own supremacy and consider all we have as a just reward for our efforts. We are wise to heed Paul's rhetorical questions "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?" ([1 Corinthians 4:7](#)).

Ingratitude toward God is not so much a cause of evil but the result of it. Once we have hardened our hearts to the point that we no longer see God as the source of our gifts, nothing is off-limits. We become a law unto ourselves. One reason the Bible takes such a strong stance against unthankfulness and ingratitude may be that God knows that the end result of such arrogance is a [reprobate mind](#) ([Romans 1:24](#)). When we remind ourselves often that all we are and all we have is a gift from God ([James 1:17](#)), we are guarding ourselves against idolatry and pride.