

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



*Epistle ~ Romans 13: 11 - 14: 4*

*Gospel ~ Matthew 6: 14-21*


Troparia are found in the **grey booklet** on **pages 3 and 12**

## **Epistle Readers**

Saturday (5 p.m.): Brett Glena  
 Sunday (10 a.m.): Mary Ann Lysak

## **Eucharist Ministers**

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

 On the Sunday before Great Lent, the last day that traditionally Eastern Christians were allowed to eat dairy products until Easter, the Church remembers the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. God commanded them to fast from the fruit of a tree (Gen. 2:16), but they did not obey. In this way, Adam and Eve and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption. In the Gospel, we hear the words of our Lord: "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses..." Now, forgiveness stands at the very centre of Christian faith and of Christian life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is in Christ, His Son, Whom He sends to us, so that by sharing in His humanity we may share in His love and be truly reconciled with God. Indeed, Christianity has no other content but love. And it is primarily the renewal of that love, a return to it, a growth in it, that we seek in Great Lent, in fasting and prayer, in the entire spirit and the entire effort of that season. Thus, truly forgiveness is both the beginning of, and the proper condition for, the Lenten season.



## ***This Week's Liturgical Services***

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

10:00 a.m. ~ Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

5:00 p.m. ~ **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**  
 Epistle Reader: Michael Watral  
 Eucharistic Minister: Zenya Puchalski

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

10:00 a.m. ~ **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**  
 Epistle Reader: Walter Warywoda  
 Eucharistic Minister: Christopher Tennant

**Note to all parishioners:** During Great Lent, the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is used on weekdays (since the Divine Liturgy has a joyful character and is not in keeping with the sombreness of repentance), except in the case of a major holyday or funeral service, and therefore, requests for memorial liturgies will be deferred until the Easter Season. A Lenten Mission, led by Father Pat Stilla will take place March 6, 7 & 8 at 6:30 p.m.

## **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 February 3/4**

Regular Envelopes: \$2,458.<sup>75</sup>  
 Mission Fund: \$37.<sup>80</sup>  
 Initial Offering: \$50.<sup>00</sup>  
 Andrew's Pence: \$105.<sup>00</sup>  
 Special Projects: \$125.<sup>00</sup>



**Щиро Вам дякуємо ~ Thank you for your generosity!**

February's Mission Collection will go to **Northern Hearts**.

Your **2017 Donation Income Tax Receipts** are in the narthex. We ask that you pick them up now to help us save on postage costs. If there are any issues or discrepancies, please call our bookkeeper Michele at the Parish Office on Monday evenings between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.



## **Holy Cross Parish News and Activities**

In the Eastern Rite, **Great Lent** begins tomorrow. It is a day of strict abstinence for those who have the strength to do so — no meat, fish, oil, wine, eggs, and dairy products should be consumed. Those who are unable to keep such a strict fast are encouraged to eat less, while everyone should refrain from snacking between meals. Vegetables and legumes (lentils, beans, peas, etc.) cooked in water and salt (no stir-frying in oil) are suggested, together with fruit, nuts, bread and honey as alternatives on this day.

**Attention all parishioners:** The order sheet for pyrohy (for the March 12 making) on the table in the narthex has been removed as we are getting very close to the limits. For any further orders, please call Walter at 475-3757 at your earliest convenience.

**Nominations to Parish Council:** It is important that we, as parishioners, take turns on the Parish Council so that a wide range of ideas, experience, and insight is shared amongst each other. All parishioners 18 years and older are strongly encouraged to let their names stand if approached. For more information, you may speak with any current PC member. The Annual General Parish Meeting will take place after Liturgy on **Sunday, February 25** with lunch to follow. Please attend and let your voice be heard.

Also, due to recent resignations, we need to replace two members of the **Holy Cross Villa Board**. If you are interested and willing to let your name stand, please speak with Villa Board Chair, Gloria (Opaski) Sherban. If a number of individuals wish to fill those positions, a secret ballot will take place at the Parish AGM if necessary. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## True Words of Wisdom

*"It is by serving God and others  
that we store up heavenly treasures.*



*Everyone gains;  
no one loses."*

- Randy Alcorn

## Sunday Smile: Children and the Bible

The following statements about the Bible were written by children and have not been retouched or corrected.

Adam and Eve were created from the apple tree.

Samson slew the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

Moses died before he ever reached Canada.

The seventh commandment is "Thou shalt not admit adultery."

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives & 700 porcupines.

The people who followed Jesus were the 12 decibels.

Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert.

Jesus was born because Mary had an Immaculate Contraption.

The epistles were the wives of the apostles.

One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.

A Christian should have only one spouse.  
This is called monotony.



## ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

We were not given a bingo in February, however, there will be a training session at Superior Shores on **Sunday, February 11 (not February 18 as published last week)** from 4 to 5 p.m. at which we need more members (and parishioners) to attend. Remember: funds raised are being used to cover the cost of the A/C unit that was installed in our parish kitchen last spring. Your assistance is gratefully appreciated in this matter.

Our next monthly meeting will take place in the parish hall on March 4 following the 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy. Lunch will be served. All members are requested to attend.



## HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

Regular Thursday afternoon activities have now resumed at the usual time (doors are open at 12:30 p.m.) New members are welcome to join anytime. Membership is just \$10 per year. Come check us out this Thursday or speak with any current Golden Agers member!

Are you feeling lucky? The next bus to Grand Portage will leave the church parking lot @ 3:45 p.m. and returning @ 10 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 21**. To book your seat, please contact Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805) as soon as possible. This is a **free** service. Non-members (18 years and older) **with valid passports** are invited also. Come join us for the ride and recreation!

### Readings for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

(February 18)

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

**Epistle: Hebrews 11: 23-26, 32-40; 12: 1-2**

**Gospel: John 1: 43-51**

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



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** - Our Lady of Loretto R.C. Parish invites everyone to its Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on **February 13** at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall featuring pancakes, sausages, dessert, and good company. A monetary donation of your choice will be gratefully appreciated and accepted at the door. Proceeds are in support of Our Lady of Loretto Elevator Fund. Everyone welcome ~ bring a friend or two!

**Souvlaki Dinner** - at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Parish, 651 Beverly St. (at Balmoral), 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the following Thursdays: **February 15, March 1 & 15** featuring souvlaki, tzatziki sauce, Mediterranean rice, Greek salad, and pita. **Takeout/Pick-up only**. Check out the poster in the narthex, and pick up a copy of their 'a la carte' menu there. Opa!

**Catholic Schools Information Nights** - High School (St. Ignatius & St. Patrick) **Thursday, February 15** at 7:00 p.m.; Senior Elementary (Bishop Gallagher, E.Q. Jennings & Pope John Paul II) **Thursday, February 28** at 7:00 p.m. Join us at our schools!

**G**REAT LENT is a period of time when people are more conscious about their spiritual wellbeing. The passages of the Gospels and the Epistles, the hymnology and prayers, the spirit of the Church, all help to cleanse ourselves spiritually through repentance. However, that repentance does not simply mean feeling sorry for our sins. The goal of repentance is the transformation of our minds and hearts, our very consciousness. It means a transformation of our whole life.

To engage in repentance means that we have to embrace change. This change not only will affect our diet for these few weeks, or abstaining ourselves from some bad habits, it will bring a different way of behaving, of perceiving God, our neighbours, and ourselves. It will bring a rejection and renunciation of the old ways we have been living according to, and the adoption of a new way of life.

We have to come to the recognition that how we have been living and behaving does not lead us deeper into communion with God and our neighbours, but rather alienates us from both, and from our very selves. It is only through this transformation that we will be able to open our spiritual eyes, and with all our being, we will be able to shout with joy on Easter Sunday, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life!"



# Forgive Those Who Sin Against You

**R**ight after Jesus taught us how we should pray using "The Lord's Prayer" in the Gospel of St. Matthew, He continued by saying, "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." Uh oh. Now that seems tough. It does sound tough, but that is because it matters so much to God. If we expect God to forgive us for the wrong things we do that hurt Him, it is only right for us to forgive the wrong things that other people do that hurt us.

You see, forgiveness is a big deal to God. If we are hurt by someone, it is easy to just ignore them or be angry. Neither of these options makes God happy. God wants all of His children to get along. When we choose to ignore or be angry with others instead of forgiving them, we are not getting along with them like God wants us to.

Even when it is hard to forgive, we can remember that Jesus DIED so we could be forgiven of the many, many sins we commit against Him, and He does not keep track of all the things we do wrong. That helps make it easier to forgive, doesn't it?

So, it is important to forgive everyone, no matter what mean things they say or do. Remember, people may not always say they are sorry. When you forgive, it is not because they feel sorry, but because God told you to forgive them, even if they are never sorry. You do not have to tell them they are forgiven if they do not say sorry, but you need to tell God in your heart that you forgive them. This will help you be kind to these people and continue to get along with them. This does NOT mean we have to stay in situations where people keep hurting us. If a friend continues to be mean, you do not have to spend time with him or her. Continue to pray that he or she would repent to God and turn away from his or her sins, but you do not have to let yourself continue to be hurt. This is especially important if someone is physically hurting you or bullying you or making you uncomfortable in any way. **TELL A GROWN UP YOU TRUST.** If you want, you can talk to your teacher, your pastor, or your parents. They all care about you very much and want to protect you from getting hurt. Let them know if there is any way they can help you in an unsafe, uncomfortable, or scary situation.

Source: [www.ministry-to-children.com](http://www.ministry-to-children.com)

## Richer Than Most

By Deborah Ann

*Some people need fancy homes,  
the most extravagant new car  
some people need jet airplanes  
so they can travel near and far.*

*Some people need fast race boats,  
vacation homes on the lake  
some people need high paying jobs  
so more money they can make.*

*Some people need elaborate clothes,  
jewelry and diamond rings  
some people need a stock account  
and the interest that it brings.*

*I have none of these things,  
in which to flaunt or to boast  
but I do have Jesus . . .  
making me richer than most!*



**Бажаємо Вам чудового тижня! Wishing you a wonderful week!**  
**Happy a very Happy Valentine's Day!**