

July 12, 2020 ~ Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings: Epistle: Romans 12: 6-14

Gospel: Matthew 9: 1-8

July 19, 2020 ~ Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (First Six Ecumenical Councils)

Scripture Readings: Epistle: Romans 15: 1-7

Gospel: Matthew 9: 27-35

Words of Inspiration and Hope

The Bible is God's Word and is full of truth for every situation we face in life. As the world endures quarantines, closures, and even panic during the current pandemic, God offers peace. His Word can displace anxiety and fear with hope and healing.

Liturgical Service Schedule

SUNDAY, JULY 19

10:00 a.m. ~ Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
(commemorating the First Six Ecumenical Councils)

SUNDAY, JULY 26

10:00 a.m. ~ Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Please note: the use of Epistle Readers and Eucharistic Ministers is discontinued until further notice. Our cantor will proclaim the Epistle Reading and Father Stepan will administer Holy Eucharist himself. *Thank you for your understanding.*



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.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to a directive from the Chancery Office re: parish security issues, weekly collection numbers will no longer be published online.

Thank you for your support and understanding!

Please note: Since some donations are still being received throughout the week, totals will be approximated.

Дякуємо за вашу щедрість! Thank you for your generosity!

Note: The Mission Collection for Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's "Our Hearts at Home" cardiovascular campaign has been extended until the end of August 2020. *Thank you for your support.*

Parish News and Events

Our parish congratulates and send its best wishes to **Walter and Pamela Wowk** on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary on July 8. May God continue to watch over them, bless them, bestow upon them His healing graces, and grant them many happy and blessed years! Многая і благая літа!



Our church is now open for public worship on Sunday morning only at 10 a.m. Wearing a mask is strongly encouraged. Parishioners are reminded to bring the completed **Church Attendance Screening Form** with them (one per household) each time when attending. You can access it on our parish website by clicking on the Bulletins and News tab at the top to print out a copy at home. Forms will still be available in the narthex. This will avoid line-ups; however, you are encouraged to come early enough to be tested by non-contact thermometer, sanitize your hands, and get installed in your pew in a timely manner. Those who do not wish to attend at this time can continue to watch services online or on television from the comfort and safety of their homes.

Many thanks to those who help with regular cleaning and disinfecting, ushers who are on duty at the entrance before Divine Liturgy, and to our cantor Michael for taking care of the projection screen that displays the responses, announcements, and directives during COVID-19. Everyone's time and effort are sincerely appreciated. ☺

As per the *Summary Checklist for Celebrating the Divine Liturgy under COVID-19 Restrictions*, **no** bulletin shall be distributed in church. The parish bulletin will continue to be issued every 2nd weekend **online only** as it has been since March.

Please remember that even though you may not attend services during the summer months, our expenses don't change. We still have hydro, water, maintenance and salaries to be met, and it can get very difficult if our members don't make a commitment to supporting Holy Cross full time. As you enjoy this season, please give some thought to our parish so it doesn't have to scramble over the summer months to make ends meet. Remember: you can continue to send your donations in the mail, drop them off at the rectory or contribute online through our parish website. Thank you for your continuous financial and spiritual sustenance to help fuel the ministry of our church during this difficult period.



Stay safe and healthy!

Будьте безпечні та здорові!



G In the Gospel for the 6th Sunday after Pentecost, we see Jesus return back to His home to find a paralyzed man brought to His feet by some friends. What were His first words? Jesus knew that paralysis of the limbs was not the real problem in this man, just as it is not the real problem in us. He sees the glimmer of faith, of desire to do God's will, and solves the real problem: "Take heart, my son, your sins are forgiven." Sin is the paralyzing poison of the heart. Sin keeps us doing evil and avoiding good. Sin prevents us from loving God and loving our neighbour. So, our Lord fixes the real problem, and then raises the paralyzed man from his immobile state. Moreover, He proves to the world by healing the man that He, and the Church, have the power to forgive sins.

E On the 7th Sunday after Pentecost, the Gospel of St. Matthew points out the persistence of the blind men: their faith and desire was such that they would not be denied: "Yes, Lord!" So, Jesus asks them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" Their reply is a simple confirmation of their faith. They have no doubt. They are confident in His power. Our precious Lord Jesus makes it clear that He is responding to their faith. He uses His touch of power, touching their eyes and declaring that He is responding to their faith. The lesson is clear: all who come to the Messiah in faith can have their eyes opened.

~from sermons by W. Pat Cunningham and Thomas Swope



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

During this time of COVID-19, ushers/greeters will be needed (this is a mandatory directive) for the various tasks assigned. Please volunteer to serve and be at the church 30-40 minutes prior to the Divine Liturgy to receive instructions and help set-up if necessary.

Superior Shores Gaming Hall still remains closed. For more information, check out the bingo report in the next issue of **The Plentiful Harvester** which will be published in a few weeks.

The Executive encourages all members to find ways to connect with each other through Skype, Facebook chats, Zoom, FaceTime, and your regular landline and convenient mobile devices. Keep practicing social distancing/self-isolation. Wash your hands frequently and try not to touch your face. Stay safe and healthy until we can gather again. Wishing all a good summer!

Love and Service to God since 1960!



HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

Although it may appear that our world is slowly returning to normal, the threat of the coronavirus is still very prevalent. Again, we remind all members to continue practicing social distancing, limiting gatherings and visits at this time, and remaining at home. If you must go out, we encourage you to wear a mask (and gloves). Wash your hands frequently and monitor your vital signs. If you have any symptoms (prolonged fever, dry cough, extreme fatigue, and difficulty breathing), go to the ER **immediately** for assessment or call Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000). We want to see everyone back when we are allowed to gather together again. During this uncertain time, do your best to exercise, stretch, and eat balanced meals. Maintain contact with family members, and if possible, allow them to do your grocery shopping, banking, and other errands. We wish everyone a safe and healthy summer!

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

An Important Message from His Beatitude Sviatoslav

A CHRISTIAN is not a separate or closed person who lives his or her own, deeply private life. His Beatitude explained that even when praying alone, a Christian should feel part of the church community. And when we gather for common prayer, we feel that we are united in one community only through the action of the Holy Spirit, Who is the teacher of true prayer. *"During the Liturgy, the Son of God Himself descends from heaven to those gathered in his Name to serve them. And because we have many personal needs, wounds or some unresolved issues, the Divine Liturgy is the best time to present to God everything that worries us,"* said His Beatitude Sviatoslav, adding that to be together in prayer during the Divine Liturgy is a natural way to be a Church.

Source: www.news.ugcc.ca

READINGS FOR THE EIGHTH AND NINTH SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST

Eighth Sunday (July 26) Ninth Sunday (August 2)

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18
Divisions in the Church

1 Corinthians 3: 9-17
Servants of God

Matthew 14: 14-22
Jesus Feeds the Crowd

Matthew 14: 22-34
Jesus Walks on the Water

COMMUNITY EVENTS

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION SLOVAK
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801 Atlantic Ave

Visit www.slovaklegion.com or **Slovak Legion** on Facebook.



Every Sunday 12pm to 5pm

**Take
Out**

**Or
Curbside
Pickup**

This Sunday and every Sunday the Slovak Legion will try to serve our community. We thank our volunteers and everyone who comes out to support us while enjoying some great food as we fight to keep our Legion alive and active in our Community.

July 5
Perogie & Spaghetti
July 12
Chicken Parmesan
Dinner
July 19
Traditional
Slovak Platter
July 26
Carmine's
Homemade Lasagna

We practise Social Distancing and new Health Regulations for your safety. Leave a message at 623-3354 Ext 2 and we will get back to you.

July 12 ~ The Holy Martyrs Proclus and Hilary



BORN IN THE VILLAGE OF KALLIPPI, near Ancyra, they suffered during the time of a persecution under the emperor Trajan (98-117 A.D.). Saint Proclus was put under arrest first. Brought before the governor Maximus, he fearlessly confessed

his faith in Christ. The governor decided to compel the saint to submit himself to the emperor and offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. During his tortures, the martyr predicted to Maximus that soon he himself would be compelled to confess Christ as the true God. They forced the martyr to run after the chariot of the governor, heading towards the village Kallippi. Exhausted, Saint Proclus prayed that the Lord would halt the chariot. By the power of God the chariot halted, and no force could move it from the spot. The dignitary sitting in it became petrified. The martyr told him that he would remain unmoving until such time as he would sign a document with a confession of Christ. Only after this could the chariot continue on its way with the governor.

The humiliated pagan took fierce revenge on Saint Proclus. He commanded that Proclus be led out beyond the city, tied to a pillar and shot with arrows. The soldiers, leading Saint Proclus to execution, told him to give in and save his life, but the saint said that they should follow their orders.

Along the way to the place of execution, they met Hilary (Hilarion), the nephew of Saint Proclus, who with tears embraced his uncle and also confessed himself a Christian. The soldiers seized him, and he was thrown into prison. The holy Martyr Proclus prayed for his tormentors and surrendered his soul to God beneath a hail of arrows.

Saint Hilary was brought to trial and, with the same courage as Saint Proclus, confessed himself a Christian. After tortures he was sentenced to death. They tied the martyr's hands and dragged him by his feet through the city, wounded and bloody, and then they beheaded him three days after the death of his uncle, the holy Martyr Proclus. Christians buried them together in a single grave.

Kontakion of the Martyrs

O Lord, Maker of nature, the world offers You the godly martyrs as the first-fruits of nature. By their supplications, through the Mother of God, preserve Your Church and Your people in profound peace, O most Merciful One.

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

IN THE NINTH ARTICLE of the Nicea-Constantinople Symbol of Faith proclaimed by the holy Fathers of the First and Second Ecumenical Councils, we confess our faith in "One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church." By virtue of the Catholic nature of the Church, an Ecumenical Council is the Church's supreme authority, and possesses the competence to resolve major questions of church life. An Ecumenical Council is comprised of archpastors and pastors of the Church, and representatives of all the local Churches, from every land of the "oikumene" (i.e. from all the whole inhabited world).

The Eastern Church acknowledges Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils:

The First Ecumenical Council (Nicea I) (May 29, and also on seventh Sunday after Pascha) was convened in the year 325 against the heresy of Arius, in the city of Nicea in Bithynia under Saint Constantine the Great, Equal of the Apostles.

The Second Ecumenical Council (Constantinople I) (May 22) was convened in the year 381 against the heresy of Macedonia, by the emperor Theodosius the Great.

The Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus) (September 9) was convened in the year 431 against the heresy of Nestorius, in the city of Ephesus by the emperor Theodosius the Younger.

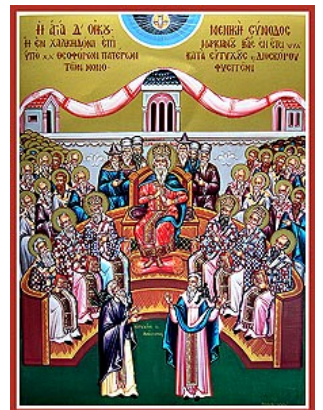
The Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon) (July 16) was convened in the year 451, against the Monophysite heresy, in the city of Chalcedon under the emperor Marcian.

The Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople II) (July 25) "Concerning the Three Chapters," was convened in the year 553, under the emperor Justinian the Great.

The Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople III) (January 23) met during the years 680-681, to fight the Monothelite heresy, under the emperor Constantine Pogonatos.

The fact that the Seventh Ecumenical Council (Nicea II) is not commemorated today testifies to the antiquity of today's celebration. The Seventh Council, commemorated on the Sunday nearest to October 11, was convened at Nicea in the year 787 against the Iconoclast heresy, under the emperor Constantine and his mother Irene.

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as "lights upon the earth," guiding us to the true Faith. "Adorned with the robe of truth," the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Ecumenical Councils, are the highest authority in the Church. Such Councils, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, are infallible.





A Good Job is a Job Well Done: Be Diligent In Your Daily Lives!

Does your family have a vegetable garden? If so, you know that it can be a lot of work. First in the season, the ground has to be prepared (some do so with a tiller), then you have to plan what vegetables you want to have. What are some of your favourites? Once you have chosen the ones you want, you make a map of where your veggies will grow best in the garden, then you have to make all the rows with a garden hoe. Then finally you have to plant your seeds. Then you're all done right? Of course not!

Once you've got everything planted, you get some rest, but not too long, because if it's really hot outside (like it has been over the last three weeks or so) you'll have to water your garden. Then you're finally done, right? Nope not yet. You have to weed the garden, take out all the stuff that shouldn't be growing there. Plus, you have to do it consistently, diligently. You have to stick to your task.

Finally, once the veggies are all grown, you must harvest them. Does anyone know what harvesting is? Harvest time comes when the veggies are ready to be picked and eaten. We can have raw veggies straight from the garden



(fresh Carrots are sooo delicious), you can freeze them, you can put them in cans or bottles for later, or you can have a big corn boil, where corn on the cob is the veggie of choice, with a little bit of butter and a little bit of salt, mmm, mmm, good!

So, remember this story when you face the tasks in your life, like cleaning your room, or doing the dishes, taking out the garbage, your homework. Remember to have diligence in all you do!

Heavenly Father, help us to understand what it means to be diligent and help us to be diligent in all the chores that we face every day. Amen.

Source: www.sermons4kids.com

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