

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 Parish!  
 May your participation in today's Divine Liturgy be thoroughly enriching and truly meaningful.



**Sunday, February 9, 2020 ~ Sunday of the Prodigal Son (34<sup>th</sup> Sunday)**

**Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20**

**Gospel: Luke 15: 11-32**

Troparia are located in the grey book on pages 2 and 10

**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.): Stanley Myslicki

**Liturgical Services Schedule**

**Parish News & Activities**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

10:00 a.m. ~ Divine Liturgy for the sick



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

5:00 p.m. ~ **Meatfare Sunday**  
 Epistle Reader: Christopher Tennant  
 Eucharistic Minister: Christopher Tennant

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

10:00 a.m. ~ **Meatfare Sunday**  
 Epistle Reader: Susan Soldan  
 Eucharistic Minister: Mary Ann Lysak

Our block of tickets for *Sister Act* is now sold out! Thanks to everyone who purchased them, and to Susan Soldan for taking care of things. *See you at the show on February 15<sup>th</sup>!*

The annual General Parish Meeting is set for **Sunday, February 23** following the 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. (weather permitting). A number of important items will be on the agenda, so we encourage all parishioners to attend. And if you are interested in serving on the Parish Council for this coming year, please contact chair Cheryl Bain or Father Stepan. All parishioners 18 years & older are eligible. The meeting will be followed by a full lunch featuring homemade soup, sandwiches, salads, and sweets. If you wish to bring an item for the buffet table, you are most welcome to do so!



We regret to inform you that pyrohy orders for **March 30<sup>th</sup>** are now full and therefore, closed. If you wish to be put on a waiting list, please call or text Walter Warywoda (475-3757) or send him an e-mail at [warywodaw@gmail.com](mailto:warywodaw@gmail.com).

Please remember in your prayers those people of our parish who are in hospitals, care homes, shut-ins and those who are not able to join us actively. Remember, if you or a family member would like a hospital or home visit, please speak to Father Stepan or call him at the rectory (577-7721) and let him know. Don't leave it to the last minute. And if your loved one or another parishioner are nearing death, please notify Father as soon as possible.



Income Tax Receipts for 2019 are now in the narthex. Any questions or concerns should be politely directed to our bookkeeper Michele at the Parish Office (call and leave a message). Also, any corrections/changes to your personal contact information should be timely communicated to her. *Thank you!*

**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.*



**FEBRUARY 1/2**

Envelopes: \$2,265.<sup>00</sup>  
 Mission Collection: 119.<sup>25</sup>  
 Initial Offering: \$10.<sup>00</sup>  
 Special Projects: \$115.<sup>00</sup>  
 Andrew's Pence: \$110.<sup>00</sup>

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

The Mission Collection from **January to June 2020** is for the TBRHSC "Our Hearts at Home" cardiovascular campaign. We will, therefore, publish the amount collected at the end of every second month. **Please note:** if desired, parishioners can make a larger donation for this cause and get a receipt from the parish.

**Undeniable Words of Wisdom**

*The difference between mercy and grace?  
 Mercy gave the Prodigal Son a second chance;  
 grace gave him a feast.*

~ Max Lucado ~



**R**ebellion, Repentance, and Rejoicing! In today's Gospel passage, it is interesting to consider the father's description of his son's experience: "for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found." This is the spiritual experience of every lost sinner or wayward Christian who comes to the Father through faith in Jesus Christ. Notice the parallels between the prodigal's coming to the father and our coming to the Heavenly Father through Jesus: He was lost; Jesus said, "I am the way." He was ignorant; Jesus said, "I am the truth." He was dead; Jesus said, "I am the life." This is how Jesus tells us of God's wonderful grace and His all-encompassing love!

~ Scott Bayles

## Readings for Meatfare Sunday (Last Judgement)

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

**Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8: 8-9: 2**

**Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46**

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**

Attention all members! Regular Thursday afternoon activities have now resumed at 1:00 p.m. (doors open at 12 noon) and new members are always welcome!

This month's bus to Grand Portage will leave the church parking lot on **Wednesday, February 19 @ 3:45 p.m.** and return @ 10:00 p.m. Those who are 18 years and older with valid passports are invited to join us. Just call Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann (G) Opaski (577-2805) to book your free seat or sign your name on the sheet on Thursday afternoon. Come join us for an evening of friendship and frolic!



## **ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY**

The next bingo training session will take place on **Saturday, February 15** at 10:00 a.m. sharp at Superior Shores Gaming Centre, 435 Memorial Avenue. Our next scheduled bingo is **Friday, February 21** at 5:45 p.m. Please let Gerry Bullock know if you will attend the training or can volunteer at the next session.

Fisherman: It's the perfect time to venture out onto the lakes and spend an afternoon catching some fresh fish. Remember: plan ahead and take the necessary equipment and precautions for a successful outing. And don't forget your cell phone in case of an emergency. Tight lines to all!



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## **Question: "What is the origin of St. Valentine's Day, and should Christians celebrate it?"**

**Answer:** The first Valentine was posted around 1806. Almost one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year on or near February 14 with females purchasing 85% of the cards. This is second only to the number of Christmas cards sent. The history is somewhat murky as to how Valentine's Day has come to be what we now know and celebrate. Saint Valentine served in third-century Rome. Emperor Claudius decided that single men made better soldiers. Therefore, Claudius banned soldiers from being married. One version of the story is that Valentine continued to perform the weddings of young soldiers who were in love, and Claudius had Valentine imprisoned. While imprisoned, Valentine reportedly fell in love with the jailer's daughter. Valentine sent her a card and signed it, "Love, your Valentine." Another version is that Valentine defied Claudius by helping Christians escape the torture of the Romans.

There is no biblical reason why Christians should not celebrate Valentine's Day by giving their loved ones flowers, candy and/or cards. As with celebrating any holiday, the decision should be between the individual and God. Some people feel very strongly that observing any secular holiday is wrong, while others see it as harmless. The important thing to remember is that celebrating or not celebrating holidays should not be a cause for pride or division among Christians.

Source: [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)

## **EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**Holy Family Chili Cook-Off 2020 - Saturday February 22** (following 5:00 p.m. Mass) in the church hall, 2055 Rosslyn Road. Tickets are **\$5.00 each**; children under 6 are **free**.

 Come sample all the different competitors' chili recipes and decide for yourself for which one you want to vote. If a team would like to enter its favourite chili recipe, you are more than welcome to do so. Just call the office at (807) 473-9722 and register; then bring your slow cooker with your favourite chili & let the competition begin. Olé!

**Palliative Care Volunteers Needed** - Hospice Northwest is seeking volunteers who will support individuals living with dementia and to be compassionate listeners for persons grieving the loss of a loved one. Deadline for applications is **Friday, March 6, 2020**. For information, call 626-5570, or visit the website at [www.hospicenorthwest.ca](http://www.hospicenorthwest.ca) or via email at [mailthomas@hospicenorthwest.ca](mailto:mailthomas@hospicenorthwest.ca).

**Passport Around the World** - Silent Auction and Multicultural Entertainment. Dinner from 5 countries. WestJet travel raffle, Bling Blitz. **Saturday, March 7** at the Valhalla Inn. Symposium: 6 p.m.; dinner 7 p.m. Tickets: \$90/person or \$850 for a table of 10. In support of the MS Society of Canada. For registration and information, call 344-2944.

## **How 4-8 Year-Old Kids Describe Love**

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." *Terri - age 4*

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." *Billy - age 4*

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him — to make sure the taste is OK." *Danny - age 7*

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." *Nikka - age 6 (we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)*



"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." *Jessica - age 8*

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four-year-old child whose next-door neighbour was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbour, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."



# Three Wishes: A Prodigal Son and a Forgiving Father

**O**ur Bible story today is about a young man who had three wishes: 1) He wanted a lot of money; 2) He wanted to travel and see the world; 3) He wanted to be his own boss.

The young man got his wishes, but they were not granted to him by a genie. The young man went to his father and asked him to give him the inheritance that would be his when his father died. Even though the father was sad that his son wanted to leave, he gave him his share of the family fortune and the young man left home and visited all of the places he had always wanted to visit and did whatever he wanted to do. He was happy that no one was telling him what to do. Since the young man had a lot of money, if he saw something he wanted, he bought it, and since he had a lot of money, he also had many friends.

This sounds like very happy story, doesn't it? Well, that isn't the end of the story. After a while, the young man ran out of money. When that happened, his friends ran out on him. He was so desperate that he went to work for a man who sent him to feed the pigs. The young man was so hungry that he would gladly have eaten the food he was feeding to the pigs. As he looked at the filthy pig pen, he thought

about the mess he had made of his life. He thought about his father and the home he had left behind.

"Even a servant in my father's house lives better than this," the young man said to himself. "I will return to my father and tell him that I am sorry for the way I have behaved and ask him to give me a job as one of his servants."

Do you think the father was willing to take him back? Yes, but not as a servant. He welcomed him back home as a son. He called his servants together and told them, "Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was lost, but now is found."

Well, the story had a happy ending after all, didn't it? This story that Jesus told is really a story about the way we sometimes behave.

Sometimes we make bad choices -- just like the young man in our story. We sometimes wish for things that are not good for us. We sometimes don't want to listen to God and obey what the Bible tells us we should do. When we act that way, we really make a mess of our life. But there's good news. Just like the father in our story, God, our Heavenly Father, is always willing to take us back if we will admit that we were wrong and return to Him.

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