

# Christ Is Born! Let Us Glorify Him!

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

**January 22, 2017 ~ 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Epistle:** 1 Timothy 1: 15-17

**Gospel:** Luke 18: 35-43

Troparia are in **Tone 6**, found on **page 101** of the navy blue missals

## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

We extend our sincerest condolences to **Sandra Pivarnik** on the sudden passing of her partner †**Greg Upton** on January 11, and **Julie (Horde) Coskie** on the passing of her husband †**Walter** on January 13. May the Lord accept the souls of His servants into His Heavenly Kingdom and may their memories be eternal ~ Вічна їм пам'ять.

Your **2016 Income Tax receipts** are now available for pick-up in the narthex. If there are any issues, please speak with our bookkeeper, Michele.



On Sunday morning, following the Divine Liturgy, we invite everyone to come down to the parish hall for this year's first mini-luncheon/coffee hour. You are welcome to bring an item for the buffet or dessert table or both. Saturday worshippers are also welcome to join us as there will be plenty to eat, drink...and discuss.

**Nominations to Parish Council:** **Andrea Warywoda** and **Father Stepan** will be soliciting people to stand for election to Parish Council. Serving on the Council is truly not a difficult task, and it can be very rewarding, so we encourage all parishioners 18 years and older to let their names stand. **Please note:** at this year's General Parish Meeting, a notice of motion will be brought forth to amend the tenure of service of (incoming) council members from three years to two years, therefore lessening the commitment for individuals who wish to serve, but might not be always available to do so. All council members will still have the option to stay on for another term if they so desire. Please consider sitting on the Parish Council if approached. *Thank you!*

In today's Gospel, the once-blind man receives his sight and becomes a disciple of Jesus. But what is so special about the blind man's faith? Once he hears that Jesus is there, he immediately begins to ask mercy of Jesus as Messiah, exhibiting insight into Jesus' true mission. But he also has an unstoppable faith, a faith that won't take no for an answer. The crowd tells him to shut up, and he calls out all the louder. People are embarrassed as the local beggar goes ballistic when Jesus comes to town, but he doesn't care. He has an intensity of desire that overcomes obstacles, rebuke, and embarrassment to achieve what he desires. Jesus is pleased.

Jesus is a bridge to the Father, always pointing people to a relationship with the Father. Jesus is trying to make people trust God on their own. Many can see Jesus only, but Jesus keeps encouraging their faith and pointing them to the invisible Father. We also can serve as bridges for people. At first, they are often VERY dependent upon us. We shouldn't be afraid of that, but not seek it. Rather we should see it as a stage of faith. Our goal is to help transfer their faith in us to faith in their Heavenly Father. Only when we have achieved this have we succeeded; only then have we become like Jesus.

## LITURGICAL SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28**

5:00 p.m. ~ **Sunday of Zacchaeus** (32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)  
Epistle Reader: Dr. Larry Watral

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**

10:00 a.m. ~ **Sunday of Zacchaeus** (32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)  
Epistle Reader: Michael Watral



**Бажаємо Вам приємного тижня!**  
**Wishing everyone a pleasant week!**

## *Words to Live By*

**Surround yourself with people who talk about visions and ideas, not other people.**

– Anon

## Your Return Gift to God

**JANUARY 14/15**

Envelopes: \$1,580.<sup>00</sup>  
Initial Offering: \$223.<sup>00</sup>  
Special Projects: \$145.<sup>00</sup>  
Mission Collection: \$64.<sup>50</sup>



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

The **Mission Collection** for January has been designated for **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thunder Bay**. Big Brothers Big Sisters facilitates life-changing relationships that inspire and empower children and youth to reach their potential, both as individuals and citizens. Your donation is sincerely appreciated.

# Holy Cross Golden Agers

## ~ Fun for Seniors ~

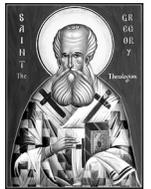
Regular Thursday activities are cancelled during January and will resume on **Thursday, February 2** at the usual time. Stay warm and healthy until we meet again. New members (55+) will be welcome at that time. It's just \$10 per year and well worth it. Check us out!



## OUR FAITH: LIVES OF THE SAINTS

This week, we commemorate Our Holy Father Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople on January 25.

Born in the year 329 in Arianza, near Nazianza in southwest Cappadocia, he studied in Caesarea, Alexandria and Athens, the last two cities being in those days the centres of western culture. In Athens, Gregory encountered Basil, who was to become Basil the Great and a deep friendship developed between them. In 357, Gregory returned to Cappadocia where he was baptized and led a life of ascetical holiness with his friend. He was later ordained a priest in Nazianza. Still later, his friend Basil consecrated him bishop of the auxiliary see of Caesarea. In 375, he retired once more into solitude, leading the life of a hermit for four years. He was elected Patriarch of Constantinople in 379, applying all his talents to writing and preaching, suffering the while to restore peace in the see of Constantinople which was torn by divisions and by the Arian heresy. Emperor Theodosius became for him a helper and a friend. Gregory presided over the Second Ecumenical Council in 381, after which he resigned his patriarchal dignity and retired to the place of his birth where he died in the year 390.



## St. George's Society

Attention members: our first gathering in the new year will be the annual 'Super Bowl' Meeting on **Sunday, February 5** at 4:30 p.m., followed by a delicious dinner and social. We extend an open invitation to **all men** of the parish to join us and to consider becoming a part of this important parish brotherhood as well.

Fishermen: if you are going to venture out onto the lakes this winter, remember to conduct a visual inspection before heading out. And remember: always be cautious. If you are unsure if the ice is safe, don't take your chances. Tight lines to all!

*Love and Service to God since 1960*

## What, Where and When: Community Calendar



**2017 Chinese New Year** - Come celebrate the Year of the Rooster! **Saturday, January 28** at the Da Vinci Centre, 340 Waterloo Street S. presented by the Thunder Bay Chinese-Canadian Association. 5:30 p.m. Reception; 6:15 p.m. Lion Dance and Red Packets; 6:30 p.m. Sit-down Dinner; 8:00 p.m. Cultural Entertainment; 8:30 p.m. Lucky Draw; and 9:00 p.m. Dance with live music by Ti Amo. Tickets are \$60 for 12 years old and over; \$30 for 3 years old to under 12; \$15 for under 3 years. For information, please contact Ed Chang at 767-6825 or Lee Leonard at 344-1019.



**Teens Encounter Christ: Youth Retreat** - This weekend retreat, free from the pressures of school and work, is for youth in grade 11 and up and 16 years of age or more, and will be held **February 3 to 5, 2017** at Corpus Christi Church, 664 Red River Road. For more information, please visit [www.tec-thunderbay.org](http://www.tec-thunderbay.org) or contact chaplain Debbie DeBruyne at [ddebruyne@tbcschools.ca](mailto:ddebruyne@tbcschools.ca).

Celebrating 50 Years

1967 2017



**Attention all parishioners:** Our parish **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** preparations are well under way. The date will be **Saturday, September 16** starting at **4:00 p.m.** with a festive Divine Liturgy followed by a testimonial dinner and dance. The venue for the latter will be confirmed soon and announced in future bulletins. Please stay in touch for further information as it is made known to all.

**Pictures — we need pictures!** Many may recall the video presentation that took place at our 40th anniversary highlighting the past years of our parish. And we would like to do the same for our 50<sup>th</sup>. So, we will need your help! If you have any noteworthy snapshots (especially from the last 10 years) that display Holy Cross life, a box will be set up in the narthex starting next week to receive them. Pictures will be scanned on a weekly basis and returned to their rightful owners once this is complete. We ask that you put them into an envelope with your name clearly indicated and, if possible, label each picture on the back with a brief description (event, group, year, etc.). A historical subcommittee has been established to assist in this important task in hopes of providing a written account to be included in the event program and possibly a souvenir booklet. If you are approached, we respectfully ask for your cooperation and support.

Let's all join together to celebrate this important milestone of Holy Cross!



# Receive Your Sight; Your Faith Has Healed You.

**I**magine that you cannot see at all. When you open your eyes, it is still dark. This is called blindness. When someone is blind they cannot see. Now, close your eyes and think for a moment what it would be like if you couldn't see. How would your life be different? What could and couldn't you do? You probably know someone, perhaps a family member or a person at school, who is blind and may need help with some things.

Today's Gospel story is about a man who was blind and believed that Jesus could heal him and make him see. When he heard a large crowd going by, he had to ask who it was that was walking down the street. Perhaps he had been hoping and waiting for Jesus to walk down the street. As soon as he heard that it was Jesus who was walking by, he cried out to Jesus. He knew that Jesus was the only one who could help him to regain his sight. Everyone told the man that he should be quiet and leave Jesus alone, but the man would not. He continued to yell for Jesus to come and help him. The man knew exactly what he wanted, and that was sight. He believed that Jesus could help and Jesus did indeed help him.

How amazing is that? The man was probably amazed by all the things that he could see when he opened his eyes for the first time. There were many things that he could have done or have gone to see when he received his sight, but he chose to follow Jesus and praise him for his sight. Praising Jesus was the right way to respond after he received his sight.

When the blind man woke up that morning he had no clue that he would be able to see by that evening. Jesus used this miracle to show us how great His power is and what He can do when we have faith. What is faith? Faith is believing that God is real. God can do amazing things in our lives when we have faith as well.

Jesus said to the man: "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." We must always remember to have faith in Jesus. He can do wonderful things in our lives, just like he did in the life of the blind beggar.

Let us pray: Dear God, thank You for all of the blessings You have given us. Help us to continue to grow in our faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen.

