

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 23, 2020 ~ Cheesefare (Forgiveness) Sunday

Epistle: *Romans 13: 11-14: 4* Gospel: *Matthew 6: 14-21*

Troparia are located in the grey book on pages 4 and 12

Epistle Readers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Brett Glena
Sunday (10 a.m.): Walter Warywoda



Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Francis Puchalski
Sunday (10 a.m.): Stanley Myslicki

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 15/16

Envelopes and Loose: \$1,100.⁰⁰
Mission Collection: 57.⁰⁰ Vigil Lights: \$138.¹⁰
Special Projects: \$45.⁰⁰ Andrew's Pence: \$5.⁰⁰

Дякуємо за вашу щедрість! Thank you for your generosity!

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

Also, please pick up your 2019 Income Tax Donation receipt from the narthex table if you have not yet done so. *Thank you!*



Take note that in today's Gospel, our Lord says, "When you fast..." not "If you fast..." Fasting should be the natural result of an earnest desire to commune with God, to please God, and to have power with God. The desire to fast must come *before* the fast or it is not effectual. And as we enter Lent, the season of preparation for the manifestation of the Lord, we bring our repentant hearts as we acknowledge our Saviour. We come together in Lent, realizing that we, together, need God to be merciful to us. Together, we are marked out as sinners. Together, we receive His forgiveness. Fasting is about spending time in prayer with God and meditating upon His Word, and when we go about our righteous duties without drawing attention to ourselves, we are laying up treasures in heaven.

Liturgical Services Schedule

A reminder to all parishioners: **Monday, February 24** is the **First Day of Great Lent** — a day of strict fast in our rite. Those who can are to abstain from meat and dairy products on that day and try to eat a bit less as well.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

10:00 a.m. ~ Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts followed by Panakhyda for the deceased

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

5:00 p.m. ~ **First Sunday of Great Lent** (Orthodoxy)
Epistle Reader: Linda Douglas
Eucharistic Minister: Linda Douglas

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

10:00 a.m. ~ **First Sunday of Great Lent** (Orthodoxy)
Epistle Reader: Mary Ann Lysak
Eucharistic Minister: Mary Ann Lysak

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Parish News and Events




The annual General Parish Meeting is on **Sunday, February 23** following the 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy.

There are a number of significant items that will be on the agenda, and we encourage all parishioners to attend. And don't forget, the meeting will be followed by a full lunch featuring soup, sandwiches, salads, and sweets. *See you there!*

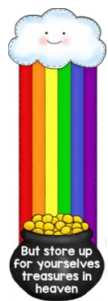
Our special thanks go out to **Susan Soldan** for purchasing tickets and being our ticket coordinator for the Badanai Theatre production of *Sister Act* last Saturday evening. Those who attended were thoroughly entertained — and impressed by all the fine talent that we have in Thunder Bay — and cannot wait for their next musical production. *Raise your voice!*

Msgr. Stilla of St. Patrick's Cathedral, will once again lead us in a Lenten Mission, to be held at Holy Cross on **March 24, 25 & 26 at 6:30 p.m.** You are encouraged to attend as many days as possible. As in the past, let us welcome Father Pat with open arms. The sessions will begin in the church and then continue in the parish hall. A light snack and refreshments will be offered.

All parishioners and guests please note: During the Saturday evening & Sunday morning Divine Liturgies, two collections are customarily taken — the first one for the parish (which can include special eparchial envelopes and for our Special Projects Fund), and the second one for the Mission Collection, which is designated for a local charity campaign. Those who wish to be credited for donations to the **Mission Fund** must place their donation into a spare (or blank) envelope, indicating their name, envelope number, and amount. In this way, our bookkeeper can log Michele all donations appropriately and add them to the financial database that is updated weekly. Lastly, if you happen to miss a week (or more), **please do not submit separate envelopes**, but include (all) your donation(s) for the day on which you return in one (1) envelope. *Thank you for your cooperation!*

 Though much effort is taken to make sure all entrances and exits are clean from snow and ice, please be careful when entering and exiting the church and hall, especially when climbing and descending the stairs during this winter season.

Words To Reflect and Meditate Upon



When you leave this world,
will you be known as one who
accumulated treasures on earth
that you couldn't keep,
or will be you recognized as one
who invested treasures in heaven
that you couldn't lose?

~ Randy Alcorn ~

HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

Attention all members! Our regular monthly meeting takes place on **Thursday, February 27** at **1:00 p.m.** preceded by a 'mini' shuffleboard tournament starting at 12 noon. Following the meeting, bingo will take place as usual. Sweets and refreshments will be available also. Hope to see many there!

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



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

The next bingo training session will take place on **Sunday, March 8** at 4:00 p.m. at Superior Shores. Our next scheduled bingo is **Wednesday, March 18** at 12 noon. Please let our Volunteer Coordinator Gerry Bullock know if you wish to attend the training and/or can volunteer at the next session.



The date and time for our next monthly meeting is **Sunday, March 1** at 7:00 p.m. in our parish hall. New members are welcome to join our ranks at that time.

Good luck and a fun outing to all ice fisherman! Dress warmly and take the necessary equipment and precautions. And remember to take your cell phone in case of an emergency — we want you back safe and sound. Tight lines to all!

*Celebrating 60 years of Love and Service to God
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Readings for the First Sunday of Great Lent (to help prepare for the nourishment of the Word of God at Liturgy)

Epistle: Hebrews 11: 24-26; 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.

WHAT, WHERE AND WHEN OUTSIDE OUR PARISH WALLS...

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. The deadline for applications is **Friday, March 6, 2020**. For more information, call 626-5570, or visit the website at www.hospicenorthwest.ca or via email at 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.

K of C Shrimp Feast - **Saturday, March 7** at the Columbus Centre. Two sittings: 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. \$26 per person, includes one pound of golden shrimp, home fries, coleslaw, hot vegetable, bread, cheesecake and coffee/tea. Refreshment bar available. Tickets are limited and **must** be purchased in advance. Call Rosie at 623-3252 to reserve your tickets by phone.

Pysanky Workshop - Try your hand at this 'egg-citing' workshop to learn how to make pysanky — colourful Ukrainian Easter eggs. Cost is \$30/person which includes materials, along with light snacks and refreshments (\$25 if you have your own stylus/kistka). Hosted by the League of Ukrainian Canadians, **Saturday, March 14** at the 'Ukrainian Home', 211 Robertson Street. There will be **two** sessions this year: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **OR** 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Experienced instructors will guide you through all the steps of transforming a plain egg into a beautiful work of art. If you have never tried doing this before, give it a shot and wow your friends with your creations. To pre-register, call or text Kyle at 629-3969. Limited seating, so book early.





Forgive Others Even When It's Hard to Do So

Have you ever noticed that God sometimes asks us to do the difficult things? Why do you suppose He wants us to do things that are hard for us?

Well, Jesus taught a lot of hard things during His time on earth. In His most famous sermon, the "Sermon on the Mount," He taught a lot of things that were opposite to the ways of the people. They were opposite to the ways of the religious leaders. But Jesus was teaching about a different society. He wanted the people to learn about the Kingdom of God—He wanted them to know this is a different world where people live in peace and help one another. He wanted the people to know that they could see this Kingdom on earth if they lived by God's principles.

We've talked many times about the most important commandments: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself. If God wants you to love Him with everything you have, how do you think you'll do that? How will you love your neighbor as yourself?

One of the ways to love God is to forgive. When your brother or sister or your even best friend hurts you, Jesus says

forgive them. Oh, that's hard, isn't it? Maybe you want to get back at them and make sure they hurt too, but Jesus says forgiving is better. He says that God will forgive the things you do when you forgive those who hurt you. Maybe you think what your sister did is just the most wrong thing that could ever be done. Doesn't matter...Jesus says do the hard thing. Forgive her.

Jesus says love your neighbour. Does that just mean the lady who lives down the street? No, the word neighbour means one who is nearby. Who is near you right now? That person is your neighbour. You will have lots of "neighbours" today. And God says to love them — even if you don't know them. You may have neighbours or friends who annoy you. Maybe they are loud or messy. Jesus says, "That doesn't matter -- love them anyway." If you get angry or hold a grudge against your neighbours, will you be loving them? Jesus asks you to do the hard thing. He says look beyond their noise and their messes. Forgive them. And as you forgive the hurts and bothers that others do to you, you will be loving them...as God loves you... with a forgiving love...even when you hurt or bother Him.

Source: www.sermons4kids.com

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