



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

Epistle ~ Acts 9: 32-42

Gospel ~ John 5: 1-15

Troparia & special texts are found on **page 8** of the white Easter Season booklets

Epistle Readers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Ann Opaski
 Sunday (10 a.m.): Alice Watral

Eucharistic Ministers

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

We hear today how Jesus demonstrates that He has the power to save people from their sins. In healing the paralytic man, He has removed the ravages of sin upon his life. This is the very purpose of His coming: not to judge but to heal. Jesus does warn, however, that those who reject His words, will find much worse punishment. Ironically, a lot of people want God to heal them from the consequences of their sin, but are not willing to give up the sin that has caused them the problem in the first place. God has come to heal us rather than judge us, but unless we are willing to give up the sin in our lives, the suffering will only come back worse. Just as the paralytic was not only healed, but had his full strength restored to him, so it will be for those who recognize and receive the touch of the great healer, Jesus.

~ from a sermon by Mark Holdcroft



Parish News and Events



The annual **Children of Chernobyl Panakhyda and Reception** will be held at Holy Cross on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. with the candlelight service in the church followed by a gathering/mini-concert in our hall. Door prizes and a light lunch will be provided. Admission is free. Everyone is invited to this commemoration.

Several parishioners have requested that we resume praying the Rosary before the Divine Liturgy. Therefore, we will need a little time to draw up a schedule for those who wish to lead or share the task on a rotating basis for the month of May (as a launch point). Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you are willing to take on this important responsibility.



Time is running out! Applications for St. George's Scholarship are in the narthex. All potential high school graduates, who are parishioners of Holy Cross, are encouraged to apply. The deadline is **Tuesday, May 1**. Note: late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Orders for the Golden Agers pyrohy making session on **Tuesday, May 29** are now **closed** — the limit has been reached. A 'waiting list' has been created, but there is no guarantee there will be enough extra product for those who did not pre-order. You are asked to call the church hall on that morning to inquire. *Thanks to all!*

THIS WEEK'S LITURGICAL SERVICES

MONDAY, APRIL 23

10:00 a.m. ~ **Holy & Glorious Great Martyr St. George**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

10:00 a.m. ~ **Wednesday of Mid-Pentecost**

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

5:00 p.m. ~ **Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**
 Epistle Reader: Evelyn Poleschuk

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

10:00 a.m. ~ **Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**
 Epistle Reader: Susan Soldan



True Words of Wisdom

*"In the Gospels, the only people
 who never got healed by Christ
 are those who never came to Him."*

~ Steve Bremner

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 April 14/15

Envelopes: **\$1,105.⁰⁰**

Mission Collection: **\$52.⁰⁵**

Special Projects: **\$175.⁰⁰**



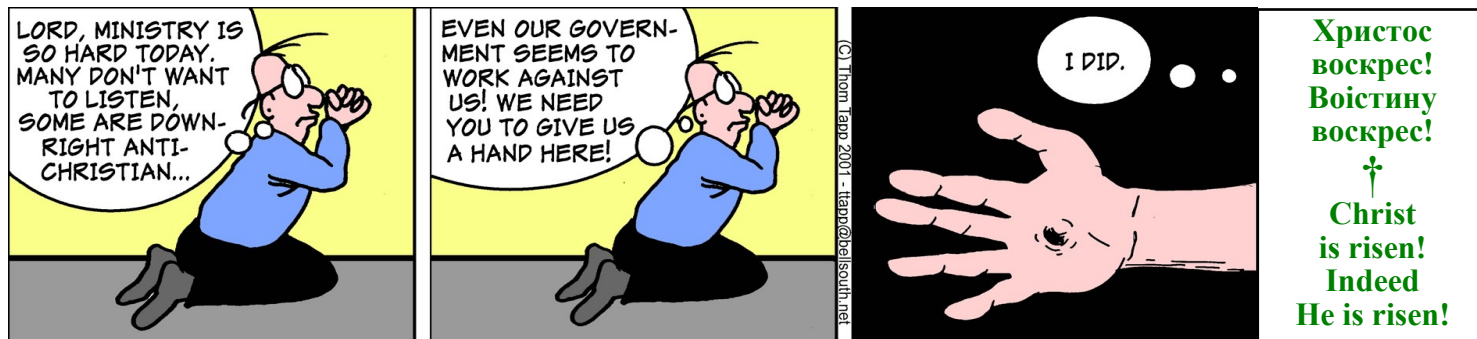
Thank you for your generosity! Щиро Вам дякуємо!

The Mission Collection for the month of April is designated for the **Salvation Army**, a Christian organization that gives hope and support to vulnerable people in 400 communities across Canada and in 128 countries. For more information, visit www.salvationarmy.ca.



THE BUS IS COMING BACK! If you missed it last June, or would like to see it again, here's your next opportunity to do so. The "Holodomor National Awareness Tour" Bus will be at Sir Winston Churchill

Collegiate field, 130 W. Churchill Dr., on **Tuesday, May 1** for free public viewing from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This state-of-the-art interactive mobile learning space seeks to engage and educate students and the public across Canada about the Holodomor. For more information about this important project, visit the website at www.holodomortour.ca.



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

Here are the dates for new volunteer training at Superior Shores Gaming Centre (from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.):

Sunday, May 6 and Sunday, June 3.

Dates for retraining of volunteers originally trained prior to February 2018 are as follows (from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.):

Sunday, April 22; Sunday, May 20; and Sunday, June 10.

Our next two bingo sessions are both matinées: **Wednesday, May 23** and **Wednesday, June 13**. Please speak with Gerry Bullock if you are able to volunteer on that date. Parishioners are most welcome to take the training and volunteer!

The 2018 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards ceremony is on **Sunday, April 29** at 2:00 p.m. at the Valhalla Inn Ballroom. The nominees should have received their invitations by now.

Our regular monthly meeting is also on **Sunday, April 29** starting at 7:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend. Hope to see many in attendance as there is much to discuss.

Love and Service to God since 1960!



HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

Our regular monthly meeting will take place this **Thursday, April 26** at 1:30 p.m. preceded by a mini shuffleboard tournament at 12:30 p.m. New members are still welcome to join; membership is just \$10/year and well worth it. Come see for yourself and become part of a great group of folks!

Orders for our pyrohy making session on **Tuesday, May 29** are now **closed** — the limit has been reached. We will, however, have a 'waiting list', but cannot guarantee there will be enough extra product for those who did not pre-order. You are asked to call the church hall on that morning to inquire. *Thanks to all!*



Readings for the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
(to help prepare for the nourishment of the Word of God at Liturgy)

Epistle: Acts 11: 19-26: 29-30

Gospel: John 4: 5-42



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's Happening In Our Community...



Night and Day - Now in its 62nd year, the Lakehead Choral Group is pleased to present its annual Spring Concert on **Wednesday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m.** at St. Agnes Church (Mary at Brown St). All the selections will be on the theme "Night and Day." As a special treat, one of the pieces will be performed with an ethereal accompaniment of tuned water glasses. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door. Speak with Susan Soldan to get your tickets.

Spring Yard Sale - **Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** sponsored by St. Agnes Church Youth. Have anything to offer? Donations are gratefully being accepted and can be dropped off at the rectory (1019 Brown St.) during office hours (Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). *Thank you for your support!*

An Evening of Colour & Energy for All! - Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group presents "*Beauty and the Beets Beats*", **Saturday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium. To get tickets, visit the TBCA box office, call 684-4444, or order online at www.tbca.com. This is a fun, family-friendly evening you won't want to miss. Help support Ukrainian culture and keep it alive and well in Thunder Bay!



Travel the World in 48 hours! - Thunder Bay Multicultural Association's 45th annual "*Folklore Festival*" on **Saturday, May 5 & Sunday, May 6** at the FW Gardens & Curling Club. Tantalizing international foods, imported wines & beers, incredible entertainment, 'shop-the-world' booths, an activity-packed Children's Area with all free activities, beautiful exhibits & displays, and local artists on site await you. Adults: \$5; Seniors/Students: \$3; Children (4-12): \$1, and those 4 and under: free. Win a fabulous "staycation" for 4 courtesy of Victoria Inn Hotel & Convention Centre. Visit the website at www.folklorefestival.ca for more info.



The Zorya Ukrainian Dance Association presents its 20th annual concert on **Saturday, May 12** at 7:00 p.m. at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium. With almost 90 dancers on stage, you will enjoy a wonderful evening of Ukrainian music, folklore and dance. Tickets available in person at the TBCA Box Office or you can call 684-4444 or order yours online at www.tbca.com. Fantastic entertainment for all ages and a great opportunity for a family evening on Mother's Day weekend.



"Rise, Take Up Your Bed and Walk"

Have you ever been in an impossible situation one that seemed helpless and hopeless? Our physical needs are obvious, but as we learn about the ministry of Jesus, we find ourselves in great need spiritually. We are sometimes so concerned about our bodies, how they feel and how they look, that we neglect our spiritual need for God to heal our heart from sin.

In today's Gospel, we hear of a man who needed healing and hope in his life. In many ways we are like him because we have a desperate need for healing within our heart from sin.

In Jerusalem, near the temple, there was a pool called "Bethesda" which contained five porches where sick people would lay waiting for an angel to stir up the water, for whoever stepped in first would be cured of his or her illness (this is what the people believed). A certain man who was there had been sick for 38 years (we're not really sure why), but he was unable to move into the pool fast enough after the water had been stirred up. Jesus saw the man and went to help him asking, "Do you want to be healed?" The man replied that he did not lack the desire to be healed, only the means, as he was weak and did not have anyone to help him.

Can you imagine the loneliness and despair this man experienced for 38 years? It was "every man for himself" as they competed for the waters at the moment they were stirred.

Jesus then said, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately, the man was made well, took up his mat and walked." Later on, Jesus said to the man, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, so that nothing worse will happen to you." Jesus knew the more serious problem was the crippling condition of sin in his heart. Jesus wanted to heal the man spiritually, to cleanse him from his sins.

What a wonderful feeling of excitement and relief this man must have experienced through this miracle. What a miracle it was to be healed from a lifetime of sickness! But he needed an even greater miracle, to have his sins forgiven. His healing was great, but he had to turn from his sins and seek God's forgiveness to be spiritually healed. It is God's forgiveness that will ultimately be the greatest gift we can ever receive, for this is our greatest need. Hopefully, this man realized that Jesus brings healing and hope to a troubled world.

Source: www.children.cccm.com

At the Pool of Bethesda

I've been lying here for another year
Feeling left all alone in my great fear.
So perhaps this time? You can never tell
Maybe it is my turn to be made well.

What's all the commotion that I can hear?
And why is this man coming over here?
It looks like He's heading towards my way.
And what is this that I've just heard him say?

'Do you want healing? ', To me He just said
Then 'Arise, walk now and take up your bed.'
Is this true and can it really be
That this great man is going to heal me?

Then entering this poor body of mine
Came such wondrous healing from the Divine.
No angel was required, no water stirred
Just from this man came the commanding word.

Then limbs for years that were lifeless and dead
Became alive at the words that He said.
Then I could stand up to my great delight
And others witnessed the amazing sight.

The leaders said that this should never be.
For it was on the Sabbath He'd healed me
And I did not know the wonderful name
Of this great Man who to Bethesda came.

So then I went to the temple to pray
And met Him again I am glad to say.
Then I found out His name and He told me
To stop sinning or much worse things would be.

So back to the leaders I went to tell
That it was Jesus who had made me well.
Why He had healed me, I can't really say
But I'm so glad that he healed me that day.

~ Roysten Allen

