



Protection of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

Ukrainian Catholic Parish

Українська Греко-Католицька Парафія Покрови

Пресвятої Діви Марії

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Facebook: [BVMChurch](https://www.facebook.com/BVMChurch)

fax: 204-582-4647

☛ **Office Hours:** Mon, Wed, Fri from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Confessions: before every Divine Liturgy

31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

23 January 2022

31-а Неділя по Зіс. Св. Духа

We will try to accommodate everyone, but you will have to choose which service you and your family will attend. You would be wise to register in advance by email by sending a brief note to BVMWelcome@shaw.ca as to preferred time and the number of people in your group OR by leaving a message at 204-582-4466.

Dear Parishioners: Christ is born! Glorify Him! Христос Рождається! Славте Його!

Today's Gospel reading gives the dramatic account of the healing of the blind man. He knows of course that he has been struggling in blindness and here is the chance of a lifetime. The great teacher and healer Jesus is passing by right near him. He will not let the opportunity pass. He shouts and shouts louder. He will not be silenced. It is now or never. When we find ourselves in darkness... in the darkness of our own sin, or in the darkness of an increasingly godless culture or in the darkness of a harsh society. We too want to shout out when Jesus comes near, as He is the only one who can save us and heal us. The thing is.... Jesus is already near. He has come into the world and through our baptism he is with us always. Through the Holy Eucharist, He is as near and real to us as He was to that inspired blind man mentioned in today's Gospel. It is us that chooses to sit in our blindness. Miserable and lonely and ever uncertain and afraid in the darkness. Do we not want to see? Do we not want to be in the light for once and for all? Of course we do! So let us gather near to our Lord in His presence in the Holy Eucharist and shout! Jesus! Son of David have pity on me! on my children! on my parish! on the country! I want to see with the eyes of faith again! I want the brightness of Your face and your world to fill my life and soul again. Yes, we need to overcome our fears and the oppression of people and the society telling us to "shut up!" "Be quiet! stay home! Don't go to Church!" "Don't find that true unbridled joy of being in the presence of your God and becoming one with Him in Holy Communion!" "It is safer to stay in the darkness. Stay at home and away from Jesus. He doesn't have time for you anyway..." Lord, have mercy, and give us the sense of the blind man who wanted to be free from uncertainty and fear and who shouted out to You! Lord, come to us, each of us, and enlighten us with Your Holy Will for each of us and for all of us a parish!



"Lord that I may see" - a 1955 painting by famous Ukrainian-Canadian artist **William Kurelek** as he started his journey to the Catholic Faith (source: www.aci-iac.ca)

And.... I want to take this opportunity to say **Thanks, Дякую!** to all who gave a "Christmas gift for the clergy" over the holidays. Some of you gave a little something in the yellow envelopes (the contents of which will be shared with our Metropolitan); some gave other things, like chocolates and other goodies (those might not be shared.. 😊) Know, however, that I am extremely grateful for your goodness, and I remember you and your families in my prayer continuously.

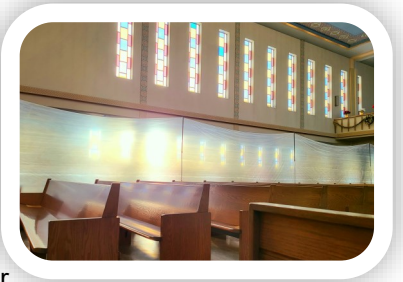
Fr. Michael Kwiatkowski

1. Our deepest sympathy and condolences are extended to the families and friends of **+Wolodymyr Hryndzio, +Mildred Kucher and +Vera Matwichyna** who entered recently into their eternal rest. Please keep their families in your prayers. May God grant them Eternal Rest! Вічна Пам'ять!

The popular **"I BELIEVE! – БІПІУ!"** series of discussions that Fr. Michael Kwiatkowski is leading every Wednesday night at 7 PM continue! These sessions have begun as focused discussions on articles of our Creed, but diverge into the main topics of the day, with question and answer time. It is an excellent way to brush up on our Faith, and to fill in the gaps we may have in our understanding of our holy Faith. These are open to all parishioners and will be help via online conference-call. Send an email with the heading **"I Believe"** to bvmchurch@gmail.com and the link will be forwarded to you. The basic (but not only) **theme this Wednesday** is, **"I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made."**

3. Just to keep you in the know: **The Synod on Synodality takes place in 2023**, and is a world-wide Catholic thing. If you remember, the two-year process of "getting ready" for it started this past October, and our Ukrainian Catholic church has already had a couple of online sessions since. Stay tuned for further information as to when you can take part. In the meantime, please look at the official synod website and especially read through the 44-page "Preparatory" document: www.synod.va/en.html

4. **We hope to see you in church soon!** In this photo, note the long plastic barrier that divides our church into two separate cohorts. Come, wear your mask, use the sanitizer, yes, but there is plenty of room and a reasonable expectation of "staying safe". Come and catch up... with confession, praying with your parish family, and receiving Our Lord Himself in Holy Communion!



5. Now that you have your new calendar, how about doing something wild and exciting this year? Take a marker, and CIRCLE the major feasts, and do your very best to come to church for Divine Liturgy that day! Here is a list... some are in honour of Our Lord, and some of His Mother Mary, but all are "major", so please come. **The ones in BOLD are actually obligatory.** Let's try to get our church lives back on track by coming at least for the bold!

January 6 – Theophany of Our Lord

February 2 – Encounter of Our Lord (bring candle to bless)

March 25 – Annunciation

May 26 – Ascension Thursday (40th day after Easter)

June 24 – Nativity of St. John the Baptist

June 29 – Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

August 6 – Transfiguration of Our Lord ("Spasa") (fruit blessing)

Aug. 15 -- Dormition of the Mother of God (bring flowers)

September 8 – Nativity of the Mother of God

September 14 – Exaltation of the Life-giving Cross

October 1 – Protection of the Mother of God (Pokrov)

November 21 – Presentation of the Mother of God

December 6 – Feast of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker

December 9 – Conception of St. Anne (Immaculate Conception)

December 25 – Nativity of Our Lord



Here is a lady who "gets it": she has no legs, and actually pulled herself along the ground every Sunday for 2.5 miles to get to Mass! until someone finally got her a wheelchair. That's how much we look forward to meeting with Our Lord! See her story at

[Young African woman crawls 2.5 miles to attend Sunday Mass | Catholic News Agency](#)

6. Our neighbour, **St. Nicholas** Ukrainian Catholic Parish is holding a **Lenten Mission: The Bible at a Glance**. It will be restricted to **25 people in the parish hall**. To pre-register, please call their parish office (204-582-6695). To allow 75 people to take part, Fr. Daniel Wach will repeat this Mission three times. Please register now. If the following dates are filled, more days will be added. The dates are: **Sat. March 12/22, 9:00am – 12:00pm...Sat. March 19/22 (KofC-sponsored) 9:00am – 12:00pm....and Sat. March 26/22, 9:00am – 12:00pm**

7. The annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity IS ON!** and continues around the world from January 18th – 25th . The 2022 theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him" (Mt 2:2), was prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches, based in Beirut, Lebanon. Visit [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#) | to learn more about the Week, Also - see our Archeparchial Website!

8. If you would like offertory envelopes for 2022, but did not receive them, please contact the parish office as soon as possible. If you are interested in signing up for preauthorized monthly automatic debit donations, please contact the parish office.



The Marriage Box

Every week, we will pull two new tips out of our box. (We have about 20 or so.) Try to follow each tip throughout the week and see what comes of it. If you and your spouse have any extra tips, let us know and we'll add them!

11. Get your priorities right. **God is your first priority** and should be the source of your life, not your spouse. Your spouse is never meant to provide all of your emotional and spiritual needs. Each of you should spend time alone with the Lord, every day. Your second priority is your spouse. Parents, kids, friends, hobbies, or sports never take precedence over your marriage. Many will have work to do in this regard.

12. Try never to make a major decision unless both sides are in agreement. God has given me my spouse for a reality check; he/she keeps me grounded. We help each other because there is no one who knows our strengths and weaknesses as we do. Our marriage works when we allow God to work His decision making process through our marriage. If your spouse isn't in agreement on an issue, let it go, and wait on God. If the Lord moves in your spouse's heart and brings a change of mind, fine. Otherwise, don't push it. (Of course, if it's truly a life-and-death issue, and you are the Head of the Family.... God will be the final judge of what transpires.)

9. Our Blazhennishyj Sviatoslav has asked us to pray a **special prayer (see enclosed) for Ukraine**. Please pray this daily, fervently and indefinitely for the land of our forefathers.

10. Pope Francis' **Prayer Intention for January 2022** - For true human fraternity: We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

DONATIONS - Week of Sunday Jan. 16: **\$1,377.00** (Envelopes 36)

(Some categories: Sunday – \$750; candles – \$37.00 , auditorium rental \$550)

Expenses: \$ 1,185.98 (catedraticum, snow removal)

Our Parish is always grateful for all donations – be they regular Sunday donations or in memoriam donations or special donations of any kind... this is what keeps our parish going and even able to plan for the future. God bless you for your generosity and thoughtfulness about the good of your parish!

Today is also the feast of the **Martyrs of Pratulyn!** It is a true story that both breaks your heart and inspires you at the same time. It breaks your heart that governments can be so heartless to their citizens just because they



have some agenda to realize and it inspires you that good salt-of-the-earth people can love their faith and their Church so much that they are willing to lay down their lives if need be. What happened? Well, the basic story is that the Ukrainian Catholic parish of the village of Pratulyn fell under the jurisdiction of the Russian Tsar. The Russian government declared that all eastern Catholic parishes needed to become Russian Orthodox. The priests were driven out or threatened etc. and a Russian priest was sent to take over. This happened in various parishes in that area. The parishioners of Pratulyn, who had already lost their priest, earned that a priest approved by the government was going to come and take over. They all came out that day. 500 parishioners. Some of the leaders in the parish had decided ahead that they would block the entrance and not surrender their church. The government police were given the order to shoot. They did. 13 parishioners were killed that day. They were: Dan, Luke, Bart, Onufriy, Philip, Constantine, Mykyta, Ignatius, Vince, John, Constantine, Max and Mike. For a longer account see <http://unici.pl/content/view/65.html>.

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The official feast day for the new martyrs declared "Blessed" by Pope St. John Paul in Ukraine in 2001 is **June 27th**, we also celebrate big dates in their lives. Today we remember the superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph **Blessed OLYMPIA Bida** who died under the Communists in a Siberian Gulag on Jan. 23, 1952 (yes, within the lifetime of some of us!) An example to us ... even in the impossible restrictions of a soviet prison, she continued to organized prayer life and mission work among the other Sisters and prisoners.

Schedule of Services Jan. 23 to Jan. 30, 2022

Come! or at least join us online: [Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church - YouTube](#)

Sun. January 23, 2022 31st Sunday after Pentecost
 8:00 am - Служба Божа — в наміренні всіх парафіян/ For all parishioners
 9:20 a.m. 3rd Hour & Rosary
 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy – for +Murray Balagus (1 yr.), by daughter Lisa Prost

Mon., Jan. 24 7:20 a.m. 1st Hour & Rosary
 Venerable Xenia 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy..... For birthday blessings (Jan. 20) for **Sylvia Prokopanko**
 James 2:14-26 by her Prayer Partner
 Mark 10:46-52

Tues., Jan. 25 7:20 a.m. - 1st Hour & Rosary
 St. Gregory, Theologian 8:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.....For **+Fr. Edward Kwiatkowski**
 1 Cor. 12:7-11 by Dr. Mary Egan
 John 10:9-16

Wed., Jan. 26 7:20 a.m. - 1st Hour & Rosary
 Venerable Xenophon 8:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.....For health of **Marian Garrity** (her children)
 James 3:11-4:6 9:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy..... For **+Peter Kuchma (15 yrs.)**
 Mark 11:23-26 by Pat, Janet & Ken

Thurs., Jan. 27 7:20 a.m. - 1st Hour & Rosary
 Transfer of relics of St. John Chrysostom 8:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy For **+Helen Moroz**
 Hebrews (7:26-8:2) by Ollie Eschuk
 John 10:9-16

Fri., Jan. 28 7:20 a.m. - 1st Hour & Rosary
 Venerable Ephrem 8:00 a.m. - Divine LiturgyFor **+Irene Prokop**
 1 Peter 1:1-2; 10-12; 2:6-10 by William Prokop
 Mark 12:1-12

Sat., Jan. 29 7:20 a.m. - 1st Hour & Rosary
 Translation of the relics of Ignatius 8:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (3 of 3)For the **Gorbay family**
 1 Thessalonians 5:14-23 by Maria Gorbay
 Luke 17:3-10 5:30 p.m. - Vespers

Sun., Jan. 30 32nd Sunday after Pentecost -- 32-а Неділя по Зіс. Св. Духа... 3 Holy Bishops
 8:00 am - Служба Божа – For health & blessings for children & grandchildren
 9:20 a.m. 3rd Hour & Rosary (Bogusia Rydzygowski)
 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy – в наміренні всіх парафіян / For all parishioners

SOME HELPFUL PARISH CONTACTS...

Pastor, Parish Priest: Rev. Michael Kwiatkowski, JCOD 204-582-7535
Parish Council Chair - Glen Henkewich 204-633-1502
UCWLC President - Janet Kuchma 204-582-5932
Men's Club President - John Natyna 204-339-9366
Perogy Committee President - Myron Fedoruk 204-338-7243
Catechism Coordinator - Teresa Hryndzio 204-334-4298
Church Auditorium Rental - 204-582-7535

Please pray for the sick and shut-in members of our Blessed Virgin Mary parish family, and be in touch with them when you can.

"O God Our Father, We ask You to restore to physical health those of our parishioners who are weakened with illness, give peace of mind to those troubled with worry and comfort to those discouraged with problems. Help them find in them the days of their strength, a faith and trust in You and a love for one another to guide them through any health challenges or troubles they may face. Amen."

Holy Family Home: Stephania Demkiw, Lorraine Putasnick,, Adam Romanchuk
Maples Care Home: Anna Paslawsky, Eleanor Harik

VIGIL LAMPS

Sanctuary Lamp - In loving memory of +Peter Kuchma, from children Pat, Janet and Ken Kuchma

Christ Icon – For health and blessings for the Kutcher family (from friends)

Mother of God Icon – For health and blessings for the Kutcher family (from a friend)

Please let us know your Vigil Lamp intention at least a week ahead of time. What a beautiful way of prayer, knowing that the candle burns for a week for your intention.

