



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

Parish Bulletin for the week of

Sunday before the Nativity **December 19th, 2021** Неділя перед Різдом - Св. Отців

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

ДОТРИМУЙТЕСЬ КУРСУ. МИ СКОРО ПРИБУДЕМО!



Джеймс Тіссо (1836–1902), «Подорож волхвів»

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021

Wednesday, December 22 – Christmas Confessions

6:30-7:30 pm – Opportunity for Confession

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve (Strict fast)

1. 5:00 pm - Christmas Divine Liturgy
2. 8:00 pm - Christmas Divine Liturgy
- 9:30 pm - Christmas Confessions
- 10:30 pm - Great Compline with Litiya
3. 11:00 pm - Midnight Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

Saturday, December 25 – Christmas Day

4. 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)
5. 12:00 Noon - Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

Sunday, December 26

Synaxis of the Mother of God and St. Joseph

- 8:00 am - Divine Liturgy
10:00 am - Divine Liturgy (Bilingual)

РІЗДВЯНІ БОГОСЛУЖІННЯ 2021

Середа, 22 грудня – Різдвяна Сповідь

6:30-7:30 вечора - Можливість для Сповіді

П'ятниця, 24 грудня - Навечір'я Різдва (піст)

1. 5:00 вечора - Різдвяна Служба Божа
2. 8:00 вечора - Різдвяна Служба Божа
- 9:30 вечора - Різдвяна Сповідь
- 10:30 вечора - Велике Повечір'я з Литією
3. 11:00 вечора - Святкова Різдвяна Служба Божа

Субота, 25 грудня - Різдво Христове

4. 10:00 ранку - Святкова Служба ` (двомовна)
5. 12:00 полудень - Святкова Служба Божа

Неділя, 26 грудня

Собор Пресв. Богородиці і св. Йосифа Обр.

- 8:00 ранку - Служба Божа
10:00 ранку - Служба Божа (двомовна)

Dear Parishioners:

Glory to Jesus Christ! Слава Ісусу Христу!

Some people may think that this is not going to be a very “fantastic” Christmas with all the pandemic concern and restrictions and fear of travelling and congregating, etc. Well, I say let’s redirect the famous words that Scrooge said in Dicken’s classic Christmas story not to Christmas, but toward that sort of talk and mindset and say **“Bah! Humbug!”** (cf. Mark 8:33) Some of the greatest and most inspiring Christmas stories from situations when God’s people are under duress and impoverished and on the brink of despair (...have you been following Sr. Michaila’s Pylipivka stories every morning?). On the contrary let us take this Christmas in which we have been *denied* the opportunity to shop-‘til-we-drop and for which we *may not have huge gatherings* for which to spend hours preparing huge suppers or dinners and use that time and energy for.... focusing on the essential meaning of Christmas! We can still gather in-person in our (beautiful) place of worship. We certainly can join in online. Let’s pre-register as needed, door-register when appropriate, sanitize and mask-up and give virtual hugs by waving with smiling eyes and a greeting from a distance. Let us especially prepare ourselves spiritually to welcome the newborn Christ anew into our lives and lets us joyfully, solemnly and boldly greet our Saviour as though nothing else is more important in our lives! Because... that’s actually the truth of our Faith!

Father Michael

1. Our **Christmas mailings** can be picked up at the back of the church today! If you don’t pick it up TODAY it will be mailed out to you to your home. The envelope contains this week’s bulletin, the Christmas schedule, calendar, etc. Please read these carefully, look at them often and come to pray and sing to Our Lord together!
2. Sincere thanks to those who have put up our **Christmas trees and decorations! What a beautiful soul-filling environment you have created at our church - inside and out!** Of course any Catholic Church needs no more decoration than very presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, but the icons, decorations, incense and music all help our human senses focus even more easily on the powerful real presence of Christ our God in the Holy Eucharist.
3. The **"Keep Christ in Christmas" NATIVITY FLOAT** was a wonderful success this past Saturday! The Knights of Columbus brought around the happy parade float. Our parishioners and even some neighbours came out to check it out and chat a bit and share a bit of Christmas goodwill. Speaking of goodwill – some donations were made cans of dry goods that will be taken to charities that help people in need – much appreciated especially in this Christmas season. God bless the Knights for arranging this! God bless everyone who came out!
4. Many of you have already picked up your **2022 Weekly Offering Envelopes** from the back of our church. Every person 18 years or over or married couple and family is traditionally registered and receives envelopes. The activity of our Parish is a service that we know is most essential and that’s why we support it. It also has a practical aspect... it requires support to operate. There are bills, maintenance, programs, wages, projects, repairs, plans for the future, etc. In times like this unforeseen coronavirus crisis we need to remain faithful in our support of our parish to keep it not only open and running in difficult circumstances, but also finding new ways to grow... If you did not receive Church envelopes, and would like to, please call the Church office at 204-582-7535 during regular office hours.
5. **COME** (and/or tune-in if you really can’t come) every morning for our morning prayer and Divine Liturgy which is also followed by a unique **Pylypiwka reading** and unique Christmas prayers.. Please stay, after having attended or tuned into the liturgy. Let’s meditate and pray as a parish family in preparation for Christmas.

6. We know that some parish families would really like to come to church this Christmas not only virtually, but in-person when possible. So, we have added a couple of services here and there to try to accommodate everyone. (You will have to choose which service your family will attend as numbers will be limited and divided into “cohorts” to accommodate as many as possible (which still isn’t that much according to the latest Manitoba Public Health Order. so... you would be wise to **register in advance** by email by sending a brief note to BVMWelcome@shaw.ca. as to **preferred time** (see the schedule on the cover



A mini forest of evergreen trees is now found in the northwest corner of our church... come this Christmas season to contemplate the wonderful peaceful scene in its midst!



and at the end of this bulletin) and the **number of people** in your group OR by leaving a message at 204-582-4466.

- Catechism** – Unless the children and their families are notified directly - Classes continue under the direction of **Theresa Stojanowicz Hryndzio** (204-334-4298) on Sunday and Tuesday nights. Please call to enroll your child
- Just a reminder that during the pandemic, our parish is willing to host events - *at least for our parishioners* - but there are particular well-being requirements. The church and the auditorium need to be **cleaned after events** where *large* numbers of people gather. So... **cleaners** come in Monday (*i.e. following Sunday services*) and after larger events (e.g. funerals). This means that besides any applicable service and rental fees, there are **additional cleaning/sanitizing fees** for the crew that comes in to the church and/or hall space. Check with the office.

9. VIGIL LAMPS-

Sanctuary Lamp - In memory of **+Wilfred Krawchuk** (by son Terry Krowchuk)

Christ Icon – For the conversion of the most hardened hearts by the love of the baby Jesus

Mother of God Icon – For those “left out in the cold” this Christmas by poverty, pain, rejection and especially by family disputes. May **Mary**, together **with our help**, draw them together into her loving motherly embrace.



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!

Collection - Week of Sunday December 5: \$ 1155.00
(Envelopes 39) (candles - \$98.50)

Expenses: \$ 175.34 (church supplies)

We are grateful for all donations to our parish, and thank God daily for your generosity of spirit. Whether by weekly envelope in the basket, or by e-transfer (sent to bvmchurch@gmail.com) or by EFT (electronic fund transfer -- call us for the form), we respect the words of St. Paul, who was so on fire with love for Christ and His Church: "Let each one give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver!"

Special Donations:

In memory of deceased Haligowski family:

Millie Haligowski \$100

In memory of +Helen Moroz:

Lorna Nelson \$ 25

Terry Krowchuk 100

Maria Gorbay 20

In memory of +Irene Prokop

Lorna Nelson \$ 20

Terry Krowchuk 100

Glenn & Anne Rusnak. 25

In memory of +Wilfred & Pauline Krawchuk:

Terry Krowchuk \$100

In memory of +John Gorbay (1 yr.)

Maria Gorbay & family \$200

Christmas Flowers \$ 215

(incl. \$100 in memory of Stella & William Demedash, from family)

Christmas Offering \$ 200

Christmas Carols \$40

Church Needs \$



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!

3. Be hard to offend. Dr. James Dobson once said that we should "keep our eyes wide open before marriage, and half shut afterwards". Don't let even a tiny

spark start a raging bonfire just because you are too thin-skinned. This doesn't mean you should put up with insults or cruelty, but just keep in mind that no one is perfect... so don't put unrealistic expectations on your spouse.

4. Never call your spouse degrading names... or jab with sharp, critical words ... or put them down. Your words have impact, and can hurt and tear down as easily as they can build up and encourage. Marion Bilokreli once said, "I wish I had understood years ago, how fragile people really are!" Words can slice and destroy. So, when you're angry... just don't say it!

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Three forms of Advent (a.k.a. Pylypiwka) forgiveness

Fr Robert McTeigue, SJ - published on 12/16/15 on <https://aleteia.org>

How do you know when it's time to take out the trash? "When the stink becomes unbearable" is a reliable, if inadequate, answer.

How do you know when it's time to take out the trash? "When the volume of trash leaves no room for any new good gift" is a less obvious but nonetheless accurate answer.

How do you know when it's time to take out the trash? "When the volume of trash makes the good things you already have impossible to find — or even to remember." That answer is more important than you might think.

Let's connect all of the above to Advent. The Scriptures of this season exhort us to "prepare the way of the Lord" and "make his paths straight." These exhortations can mean many different things, but I doubt they are meant to spur us on to more and more frenetic consumption of worldly (and often superfluous) goods. Nor can they be taken as a call to anxious activity readying ourselves for "Christmas celebrations" that have little or nothing to do with Christ. Whatever else they might mean, the Scriptures of the Advent season surely call us to forgiveness as a means of preparing the way of the Lord; that is, clearing the throne of our hearts so Christ the King may take his rightful place there.

Our first step in preparing the way of the Lord is to take out the stinking trash of our sin by asking forgiveness of God and neighbor. Unrepented sin blocks us from the fellowship with God and neighbor for which we were made. So let's begin our Advent project of preparation with the most obvious first

step: go to confession! Let's cooperate with the mission of Christ and accept the liberation from sin that he won of us with his own Blood. It would be madness not to. And where possible, let us be reconciled with our neighbor, asking for forgiveness and make amends for our own wrongdoing. The fifth step, eighth step and ninth step of the twelve-step recovery program can be a good guide for how to do just that.

To prepare the way of the Lord this Advent, we must clear the throne of our hearts so that Christ may exercise his reign over us from the center of our soul. That means we must eject as toxic trash any idols or usurpers we have allowed to accumulate in our hearts. In particular, we must reject the resentments and bitterness we may be harboring against those who have wronged us.



Chair of our Parish Pastoral Council **Glen ↑**
Henkewich thanks the city driver that came by to pick up the huge bin out back this past Friday

Now, I hasten to add that we do not have to be compliant victims or open ourselves to further abuse. We should, however, at least desire to be able to exercise forgiveness for those who have wronged us. (See the brief and brilliant article by Dr. Stephen Marmor to learn the distinction between exoneration, forbearance and release when speaking of forgiveness.)

I have known people who have cultivated, relished and worshipped their resentments for decades. Their beloved bitterness became terrible and jealous idols that will tolerate no love in the hearts of which they hold sway. Please take out the trash of resentment and strive to exercise forgiveness — for even Christ himself can work little benefit in a heart overflowing with bitterness.

I noted at the outset that trash can make the genuine goods in the heart difficult or impossible to find or even remember. Here we must speak of the problem of forgiving ourselves, and learning how to live forgiven. (That was a subject of a previous column of mine.) Yes, we must be candid and humble in the admission of our faults, for if we only play at being sinners, we can only play at being saved. Be sure of this: We blaspheme when we disfigure by self-loathing the image of Christ that God's grace has been forming in us. When, by exercising self-forgiveness we take out the trash of self-hatred, we can make easier to find and be grateful for the good work that God has already begun in us.

Advent is a time of forgiveness. Let's pray for the graces of profound forgiveness — repenting of our sin, extending mercy to others and even to ourselves. If we do that, then we can be confident that we have worked wisely and well to prepare the way of the Lord.

THINGS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY

1. We have a message from Ivas' Zulyniak: "Koliada! A group of carolers from three parishes in the Winnipeg Archeparchy will be going out starting the afternoon of December 27 to share the joy of Christmas and to carry on a wonderful tradition. Due to covid we will remain outdoors and carol at the front entrance. Donations are accepted but not required and will be given to the parish of your choosing. **To have carolers visit your place** or any questions please call 204 805-1151. **3 Різдвом Христовим!**"
2. Christmas Bazaar at the Cathedral - Come and buy your Christmas **FOODS TODAY!** from noon until 2 PM (last day) at Saints Volodymyr & Olga Cathedral. www.stsvladimirandolgacathedral.ca

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



Schedule of Services December 19 to 26, 2021

Come! or at least join us online:

[Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church - YouTube](#)

Sun. December 12, 2021. Sunday of the Holy Forefathers; post-feast of the Immaculate Conception

9:20 a.m. 3rd Hour & Rosary

10:00 am Divine Liturgy - Служба Божа - For all parishioners

Mon., Dec. 20 7:20 a.m. 1st Hour & Rosary
Priest Martyr Ignatius; **PRE-FESTIVE 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**.....For **+Helen Moroz (40 days)**
Hebrews 11:17-31 8:40 a.m. **Pylypivka Reflection** by Peter Moroz and family
Mark 9:42-10:1

Tues., Dec. 21 7:20 a.m. 1st Hour & Rosary
Martyr Juliana, **PRE-FESTIVE 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**..... For **+souls in Purgatory**
Hebrews 12:25-28,13:22-25 8:40 a.m. **Pylypivka Reflection** by Maria Gorbay
Mark 10:2-12

Wed., Dec.22 7:20 a.m. 1st Hour & Rosary
Great Martyr Anastasia, **PRE-FESTIVE 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**..... For **+Anna Stasiw**
James 1:1-18 8:40 a.m. **Pylypivka Reflection** by Bozena Basarab
Mark 10:11-16 6:30-7:30 p.m. Christmas Confessions

Thurs., Dec. 23 7:20 a.m. 1st Hour & Rosary
10 martyrs of Crete, **PRE-FESTIVE 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**..... For **+Wilfred Krawchuk**
James 1:19-27 8:40 a.m. **Pylypivka Reflection** by son Terry Krowchuk
Mark 10:17-27

NATIVITY of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST CHRISTMAS EVE!

Fri., Dec. 24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy (English)
8:00 p.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy
Christmas Eve 9:30 p.m. Christmas Confessions
Heb. 1:1-12 10:30 p.m. Christmas Complines ("povecheriye")
Luke 2:1-20 11:00 p.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy (bilingual)For all parishioners

NATIVITY of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST CHRISTMAS DAY!

Sat., Dec. 25 9:20 a.m. 1st Hour & Rosary
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (bilingual)
Gal. 4:4-7 12:00 Noon Divine Liturgy (bilingual)
Matthew 2:1-12

Sun., Dec. 26 **Sunday after the Nativity of Our Lord. Also, Synaxis of the BVM; and St. Joseph, her Spouse**
8:00 am Divine Liturgy - Служба Божа
10:00 am Divine Liturgy - Служба Божа - For all Parishioners

In the name of Covid, a new Public Health Order has once again "moved the goal posts" of public conduct that will affect the way we worship and manage activity here in our parish. We look forward to directives from our Archeparchy that will translate the PHO into everyday church life, but in the mean time, we will work out the best way by which our parishioners can safely and confidently attend Christmas services, by which we will respect the integrity of our Church - the living Body of Christ - and its teachings and, yes, live our Faith to the full in the spirit that the Apostle Paul so declared, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me."