



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

Office secretary: Sister Michaila, SSJ

Confessions: before every Divine Liturgy *and* by appointment

Welcome to our Parish! Вітаємо Вас у нашій парафії

**Sunday of Holy
Forefathers**

December 11 , 2022

Неділя св. Праотців

"You said 'Thanks, but no thanks'!? Are you serious!?"

As we move rapidly toward the feast of the **Nativity** of our one and only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ the Son of God, the Church prescribes a Gospel reading where Jesus teaches with a parable about a banquet. A massive, eternal banquet has been prepared for us by God *[This is what He wanted for us from the beginning, but then we blew it through our greed and stupidity as exhibited by Adam and Eve.]* God the Father, sent many prophets over the ages to show His undiminished love and to assure us that we are still His and that He wants us to live in the joy of His grace no matter what *[This is described by Jesus in the parable of the vineyard (Matthew 21:33-41)].* Then, He sends His only-begotten Son Who, although being "One with God", agreed to take upon Himself the status of a servant *(and agrees to even die for us)*, because of the amazing love that God - the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - has for us. So, in the light of that, we might find the excuses that the invited guests give as rather shockingly shallow and unbelievable. The Lord tells this parable for us to take certain lessons to heart. We **have been invited** and now, we should be ready to join in the banquet. There is nothing more important in our lives than the banquet. If wealth, daily concerns, certain relationships, etc. might cause us to say, "well, not right now" or "no thanks", then we have missed the significance of the invitation *[or, worse, we are determinedly making a judgement call that the things of the Lord are not as important as the things of the world or of my little life in particular.]*

This parable in the Gospel of St. Matthew (22:1-14) is told with varying details (some Biblical scholars believe it to be similar, but really a different parable). Besides dwelling on what the state of affairs is at the time of Jesus' public earthly ministry, the parable in Matthew is even more clearly a message to us as well about the future judgement.

In Matthew it speaks of a guest who actually finally did come to the banquet, but came insincerely and disrespectfully. He thought he could "come as he is"

(this might work for A&W, but not for the Lord). We're not talking about wearing

one's "Sunday best", but about the fact that the guest didn't want to *change and better himself* and repent and be worthy of putting on the "wedding garment" of a new life. He thought he could walk in with his dirty old jeans and t-shirt of living life as *he* wants to, and not prepare himself to come in his best and show gratitude and respect to the host for inviting him to this amazing banquet which is not only the banquet of the century, but the only real banquet...

i.e. it is not a one-off major event, but it is the only eternal banquet of salvation with the Lord. He is

soon easily discovered *(as we would be at the heavenly banquet in the company of the saints and angels)* and is called out on his insolence - to which he has no possible answer - and he is tossed out.

As this banquet is eternal, he is tossed out into the darkness *(that he ultimately chose for himself)* for an eternity. For us what is the practical message!? Come on and let us prepare well for Christmas by taking **care of our souls** as much as our gift lists and filling our freezers with two-weeks of great food. **This Wednesday** we have a special **Confessions** and prayer evening from **6 to 8 PM**. With **visiting priests**. We also want to prepare the services and the carols well - to glorify the Newborn King in a manner He deserves. Thanks to our volunteers who have already decorated the Church inside and out in readiness for the holiday. **It's truly is starting to look a lot like Christmas!**





Proclaiming the Nativity of the Saviour in light and tranquility at Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Parish News:

1. This Saturday, a small group of parishioner volunteers swarmed into our church to set up the interior Christmas decorations, change the Altar linens and to clean as Christmas season is already here...They worked with such precision and speed that you would think that they were pulling off some well-rehearsed heist! Thank you to the men and women who did this!
2. Speaking of decorations - you have to come by in the evening to contemplate the glowing outdoor nativity scene donated to our Parish by Mrs. Florence Gregg.
3. Catechism every Sunday night at 7 PM via ZOOM link: please call Teresa at 204-334-4298.

4. Christmas **CONFESSIONS** this Wednesday night, Dec. 14th from 6 PM to 8 PM. Visiting priests will be available.

5. Ongoing: **Mary's Angels** are being sold after Divine Liturgy at the back of the church, as a project to commemorate our deceased loved ones at Christmastime. Each angel is \$5. Proceeds help our catechism program, as well as going to the Marian Hour on CKJS Radio. **A special Divine Liturgy will be**

celebrated, with the "Angel Tree" nearby, on Dec. 27 (St. Stephen's day) at 10 AM.

6. Calling all girls: The next **Children of Mary** meeting is scheduled for Wed. night, Dec. 21. 6:30 to 8 PM. All Boys to step forward to serve as **Altar Servers** at the various Christmas season services! And All **Singers** to also step forward to sing at all the Christmas/Yordan services and Carolling events!

Other Events/News:

7. Today at 3 PM: O. Koshetz Choir is sponsoring a **Christmas open house at Sts Vladimir and Olga Church Upper Hall**. There will be a short programme of the choir's Christmas music, followed by dainties in the Lower Hall. Cost: Silver Collection.

8. **Christmas Meat Holiday BINGO TODAY** in support of the Ukrainian Refugee Fund: from 1 PM to 5 PM. at St. Nicholas Church (on Bannerman). For tickets, call Jo-Jo Barkley 204-802-8141.

9. **Raffle tickets**: Knights of Columbus 4th degree Canon Luhovy Assembly will have a draw on the 12th at St. Anne's church. Proceeds go to Ukraine Humanitarian fund.

10. A free **Christmas Lights Drive-through** is being hosted by Grant Memorial Baptist Church every night from 6:30 PM to 8 PM. Lights, hot chocolate and snacks. All free! "From the warmth and comfort of your vehicle, by tuning your radio to 106.5 FM, you will experience an 8-minute drive around the Grant Memorial Church building and be amazed by a show of lights, videos and music telling the original story of Christmas. Everything starts just by the tallest Christmas tree in Manitoba." Starts at 877 Wilkes Ave. here in Winnipeg.

11. **Oseredok** holds its **Special General Meeting on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6 PM**. Documents are on their website. In the meantime, it has just opened an **amazing exhibit** that will run from now until next April, called "The Immersive World of Ukrainian Art". Do check it out! Free admission. Mon. to Sat., from 10 AM to 4 PM. 184 Alexander Ave. E.

12. This coming Saturday: **Handel's ALLELUIA CHORUS** WSO (Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra) Dec. 17 -- tickets from \$44. Buy online.

13. Plast Ukrainian Youth Association of Winnipeg is facilitating the **Bethlehem Peace Light 2022 – Вифлеємський Вогонь Миру** effort again this year. A lit flame will be brought to Winnipeg all the way from the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem to our Sts. Volodymyr & Olha Cathedral on **December 18th. NOT TO WORRY, representatives of our parish will bring that flame to OUR Parish Church, where it will remain lit at least until Christmas. You will be able to take that flame right to your own home to have that unique link to Bethlehem as you celebrate Christmas in your home.**



How is your design and plan for when you bring your **little baby Jesus** home with you on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day!? Use your imagination... use your heart so that **the place** that you make in your home will have a special meaning to you and to everyone that will see it. It should be a welcoming place—a place that says my home and all the people (and symbols?) gathered around, represent people who really want you to be at our home, in our family, in our souls - today, but also forever!

One idea that was suggested is a montage of old family photos pasted together in that special place so that all the family, wherever they are, can be gathered together, gathered around Jesus the newborn king!



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

Well, we were truly blessed to have a visit from the great "wonderworker" **St Nicholas** → last Sunday! He was passing through in preparation for his feast day on January 6th and stepped in to say "Hi", give us a message of encouragement, a blessing and to bring gifts for the children who came. Deacon **Antin Sloboda** ↓ was also on hand to serve and assist!



James 5:14-15

Time and again, people end this life in a superficial way... without holding the hand of the Lord that gave them life and Who died for them so they would have life eternal. No. They die surrounded by people who insist on lying to them and to themselves that the person will soon be back at the casino or they die in a coma, **too late to make a confession or receive the sacraments, make peace.** By the time anyone "calls the priest" it is for what? Don't die according to the culture of this faithless world, but by the faith in your soul!



Donations the week of December 4, 2022:

1. Sunday collections: **\$1600** (47 env.)
 2. Candles: **\$77.35**
 3. Seminary \$-
 4. Christmas carolling: **\$50**
 5. Vichna Lyampa. **\$10**
 6. Ukraine: **\$20**
 7. Christmas flowers **\$315**
 8. Expenses: **\$3647.76** (Hydro, Shaw, snow removal, church supplies, honoraria)
- Thank you for your generosity!**
Дякуємо за вашу щедрість!

.... Having said that, however, do please take a look at #1 and #8. Notice something a bit, well, alarming!? Now, we must also consider that such numbers, on average, are similar week after week... what does that tell us?

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Schedule of Services Dec. 11 - Dec. 18, 2022

Sun., Dec. 11 **Sunday of the Holy Forefathers Неділя св. Праотців**

о год. 8:00 - Служба Божа.... +William & Stella Demedash, by daughter Darlene Medwid & family
9:20 am - 3rd Hour & Rosary
10:00 am - Divine Liturgy (bilingual)... For all parishioners

Mon., Dec 12

7:20 a.m. - 1st Hour & Rosary

Venerable Spiridion & postfeast 8:00 a.m. - Divine LiturgyFor +Helen, +Sophia, +Volodymyr
by Dmytro Sikora

2 Timothy 2:20-25
Luke 19:37-44

Tues., Dec. 13

7:20 a.m. - 1st Hour & Rosary

Martyr Eustratius & postfeast 8:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy... For +Fr. Edward Kwiatkowski
by Ted Parzyjagla

Ephesians 6:10-17
Luke 21:12-28

Wed., Dec. 14

7:20 a.m. - 1st Hour & Rosary

Martyrs Thyrcas, others & postfeast 8:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy For a speedy recovery for Meagan Garrity
by Marion Garrity

2 Timothy 4: 9-22
Luke 20:1-8

6:00 PM—8:00 PM - Evening of Reconciliation **CONFESSIONS**

Visiting Priests! Christmas Confessions Now!

Thurs., Dec. 15

7:20 a.m. - 1st Hour & Rosary

Priest martyr Eleuterius & postfeast 8:00 a.m. - Divine LiturgyFor +Msgr Michael Buyachok
by John & Adeline Natyna

Titus 1:5-2:1
Luke 20:9-18

Fri., Dec. 16

7:20 a.m. - 1st Hour & Rosary

Prophet Haggai & postfeast 8:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy For +Jean Michasiw
by Jean Zalitch

Titus 1:15-2:10
Luke 20:19-26



With the prophets,
we await the Lord...

Sat., Dec. 17

7:20 a.m- 1st Hour & Rosary

Prophet Daniel 8:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy Blessings for Fr. Bohdan Borowiec
Ordained to the Priesthood 16 Dec 1984

Ephesians 1:16-23
Luke 12:32-40

Sun., Dec. 18 **Sunday before Christmas; & Holy Fathers НЕДІЛЯ ПЕРЕД РІЗДВОМ**

о год. 8:00 - Служба Божа ... For all parishioners

9:20 am - 3rd Hour & Rosary

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy...for those more lonely, hurt or forgotten than we are

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 (cards, short telephone conversations, visits).

"Lord God, please be present to all the ill, infirm and elderly of our parish. You love each and everyone and so do we, but we become busy with little things, help us to reach out to each of our fellow parishioners as best we can - certainly by our prayer, but also by human contact. Bless each of the following...."

Holy Family Home: Stephania Demkiw, Lorraine Putasnick, Adam Romanchuk, Fr. Victor Yakowchuk, Mary Henkewich

Maples Care Home: Anna Paslawsky, Eleanor Harik

Beacon Hill Lodge: Helen Naherny

River East Personal Care Home: Edward Holowich

VIGIL LAMPS

Sanctuary Lamp/Вічна Лямпа: awaiting your intention

Christ Icon – awaiting your intention

Mother of God Icon – For health and God's blessings for **Kenneth Stoyko** from family

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.



MLA Cathy Cox (who has roots at BVM!) brought an amazing poinsettia plant for our church as we prepare for Christmas! **THANK YOU!**