

# Protection of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Ukrainian Catholic Parish** 

Українська Греко-Католицька Парафія Покрови Пресвятої Діви Марії

BVMChurch@gmail.com website: BlessedVirginMary.ca 204-582-7535 (hall: 582-4466) **BVMChurch** ▶ LIVE.BVMP.ca

Location & mail: 965 Boyd Avenue / Winnipeg, MB / R2X 0Z9 Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Parish Administrator: Rev. Fr. Vasyl Hoi Secretary - Sr. Michaila, SSJ **Confessions:** before every Divine Liturgy *and* by appointment

#### FOURTH SUNDAY of the Great Fast

Welcome to our Parish! Вітаємо Вас у нашій парафії

## ЧЕТВЕРТА НЕДІЛЯ Великого Посту

# Слава Icycy Христу! GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

March 10, 2024

#### Dear Parishioners:

#### Слава Ісусу Христу!

The Gospel lesson for the 4th Sunday of Great Lent, Mark 9:17-31, should be a message of hope for many of us.

Often, in the face of tragedy or problems, we feel hopeless, wringing our hands and worriedly asking, "what went wrong?" and "What should I do?" or "why me?"

We see the disciples in this condition in the Gospel lesson. A man brought his sick child to the disciples and asked them to heal his son. But try as they might, the disciples were not able to heal the boy. Jesus had given the disciples the power to exorcise demons (*Mark 3:15*), and they had had some success (Mark 6:7-13), but in this case they failed. Later, away from the prying ears of the crowd, they privately ask Jesus to explain to them why they couldn't heal the boy but Jesus was able.

Jesus tells them fasting and prayer are the activities needed to remedy the situation. But note Jesus does not tell them it was their lack of faith that led to their failure. Rather Jesus reminds them how to consciously stand in God's presence – through prayer and fasting. The disciples had in fact on another occasion requested that Jesus teach them to pray (*Luke 11:1-4*). Jesus complied to their request and taught them the Lord's prayer. Prayer always puts us in God's presence. And being in God's presence it turns out is the goal of the spiritual life. The goal is not getting all our prayers answered – we are not trying to turn God into our personal Amazon.com so that He delivers to our doorstep everything we request.



Prayer puts us into God's presence, and makes God present to us, which makes union with God possible. We are not just asking for gifts; we are asking to be with the giver of life. St. Paul says: "I seek not what is yours but you" (2 Corinthians 12:14). That precisely should be our attitude toward God – don't seek what He can give you, seek God the giver of every good and perfect gift.

There are plenty of things in our lives that come between us and God – our worries, our problems, our temptations, our disbeliefs, our selfishness, our lusts – all of these personal demons. Prayer and fasting cut through all of those things and put us back in the presence of God. The goal is to be not only mindful of God but united to God. We can only begin that journey by prayer and fasting. We have to lay aside all earthly cares and truly believe that the most important thing is to be in Cod's presence. God's presence. And that is true whether things are going good or bad, whether we are in a time of prosperity or poverty, wheth-er experiencing a blessing or a curse. Being in God's presence is the goal no matter what else is going on around us. Even if it is the moment of our death, if we are in God's presence, we are

#### where we need to be

Remember Satan does not tremble because the church has wonderful fellowship hours, or at church dinners, nor at church fund raisers, nor at church schedules. But **Satan is crushed by humble, heartfelt prayer** – by our standing in God's presence, by our submitting our lives to God's will. As we move into these last two weeks of Great Lent, make Christ Jesus the center of your life so that you al-

ways follow Him and you keep Him near you.

One last thing to remember, in ancient Israel, King Hezekiah when he launched his reforms to restore proper religion told the Levites: "My sons, do not now be negligent, for the LORD has chosen you to stand in his presence, to minister to him, and to be his ministers and burn incense to him." (2 Chronicles 29:11)

The task the priests of Israel were chosen for was to stand in God's presence! Now we come to the New Testament where the priesthood has been expanded to all believers. The Apostle Peter tells us: "Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ". (1 Peter 2:4-5)

Now it is the task of each of us and all of us – **not just the priests** – to stand in God's presence and to offer spiritual sacrifices. We all are to "liturgize" together to the glory of God. We are to make God present Father Vasyl

in every moment of our lives. Amen!

from frted wordpress com

# Parish News & Events:

**1.** We are happy to report that **a group of our parishioners will be gathering this coming Saturday, March 16 at noon, to bake pasky,** and later will sell them, with all funds going to the parish. Many thanks! (*Maybe come join them?*)



2. Men's Pancake Breakfast -- on Palm Sunday, March 24th... Bring the whole family! Also, our UCWLC Bake Sale will be held the same day. Palm Sunday, March 24. Donations of bakings from



Bake Sale will be held the same day, Palm Sunday, March 24. Donations of bakings from our parishioners would be appreciated. Thank you!

**Чоловічий млинцевий сніданок** -- у вербну неділю 24 березня... Приходьте всією родиною! Крім того, наш **розпродаж випічки UCWLC відбудеться того ж дня**, у Вербну неділю, 24 березня. Будемо вдячні за пожертвування випічки від наших парафіян. Дякуємо!

**3. Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Easter Dinner** will be held on **Sunday, April 7, 2024**. Advance tickets will be available for sale starting on March 17. More information to follow. Пасхальний **парафіяльний обід** -- відбудеться в Томину неділю, 7 квітня 2024 р. Попередній продаж квитків буде доступний з 17 березня. Більше інформації згодом.

4. Cabbage Rolls For Sale -- Blessed Virgin Mary Parish UCWLC will be making Cabbage Rolls on Thursday, March 21, 2024. \$9.00 per dozen (cooked or raw) <u>Order deadline: Sunday, March 17, 2024.</u> To order, call or email Frances @204-633-4662 or <u>francesbodnar@hotmail.com</u> Dick up times Friday March 22 between <u>11 am and 1/00 pm or Sunday</u> March 24 after the Divise Liturgy. We would ap

<u>Pick up times:</u> Friday, March 22 between 11 am. and 1:00 pm. or Sunday, March 24 after the Divine Liturgy. We would appreciate help from anyone who would like to join us on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 9:00 am. Thank you.

**Продаж голубців** — UCWLC при парафії готуватиме голубці у четвер, 21 березня 2024 р. \$9,00 за дюжину (варену або сиру). Кінцевий термін замовлення: неділя, 17 березня 2024 р. Щоб замовити, зателефонуйте або напишіть на адресу **Frances** @204-633-4662 або *francesbodnar*@hotmail.com.

Час прийому: п'ятниця, 22 березня з 11:00. та 13:00. або неділю 24 березня після Божественної Літургії. Будемо вдячні за допомогу від усіх, хто бажає приєднатися до нас у четвер, 21 березня 2024 року, о 9:00. Дякуємо!

**5.** Our Parish Mission is this weekend -- see poster elsewhere. ONE DL this Sunday. Come refresh your soul in preparation for Easter. Mission talks, reflection time, confessions... and LUNCH on Sunday.

6. Calling ALL who have the VOLUNTEER SPIRIT: Come help us make perogies this week, March 13<sup>th</sup> (peeling, 8 AM) & 14<sup>th</sup> (making the actual perogies), and again on April 17th & 18th. Просимо помагати робити пироги в цих днях.



## **Events Elsewhere in our Archeparchy**

7. If you get this bulletin on-line before the weekend, make sure you attend the Taras Shevchenko Concert on Saturday at Institute Prosvita, 777 Pritchard, beginning 1:30 PM. Якщо ви отримаєте цей бюлетень он-лайн, то ще маєте час відвідати концерт Тараса Шевченка в Інституті «Просвіта», Прітчард 777, початок о 13:30 в суботу.

8. The Knights of Columbus (Fr. Filipow Council) hosts its annual Easter Meat Bingo TO-DAY (SUNDAY) from noon-4pm. at St. Nicholas Church on Bannerman. Сьогодні з полудня до 16:00, Лицарі Колумба проводитиме щорічне пасхальне м'ясне бінго у





церкві Святого Миколая. Запрошаємо!

**9.** Join us in person for **Ukrainian Park Catholic Children's Camp 2024**: RIDDLES & CLUES! Explore the Ukrainian Catholic faith, have fun, and make lifelong memories! The **first week of camp is June 30 - July 6** for Grades 7 to 10. The second week is July 7 - 13 for Grade 1 to Grade 6. Cost is \$450/ week. Register online at archeparchy.ca under Ministries/Children's Camp. Interested in being a staff member or volunteer? Contact Sophia Korban, Camp Administrator, at 204-979-5924 or childrenscamp@archeparchy.ca.

**10.** Ukrainian Park Catholic Children's Camp is currently accepting staff applications for Cook, Dishwasher, Lifeguards, Counselors, and Counselors in Training. We are also looking for kitchen and program adult volunteers. Go to www.archeparchy.ca (Ministries/Children's Camp) for job descriptions and application forms or contact Sophia Korban, Camp Director, at 204-979-5924 or childrenscamp@archeparchy.ca. Apply by April 5th.

Католицький дитячий табір «Український парк» приймає заявки на посади кухаря, посудомийника, рятувальників, консультантів та консультантів у навчанні. Ми також шукаємо дорослих волонтерів для кухні та програм. Перейдіть на веб-сторінку www.archeparchy.ca (міністерства/ дитячий табір), щоб отримати опис роботи та форми заявки, або зверніться до Софії Корбан, директора табору, за телефоном 204-979-5924 або childrenscamp@archeparchy.ca. Подайте заявку до 5 квітня.



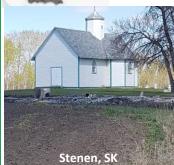
#### Family Atmosphere in our Parish Family

As true Christians, we should love and respect everyone, but especially those whom we see at church. They attend the same parish as we do. They love the same pyrohy and holubtsi, they love the same tunes, they await with anticipation those fantastic parish dinners. Most importantly, we praise God in the same Ukrainian Catholic way. Each of us is unique, but we belong to one family, and we are to be brothers and sisters towards one another. This causes our Guardian Angels to smile, and most of all, pleases Our Lord very much.

**The devil hates this.** The devil is real, and he has made as his only work in this world, to set us against each other... to quarrel, to fight, to avoid each other. This makes him rub his hands in glee... and unfortunately leads us further and further away from God.

I have a story for you, this time not from Manitoba but from our neighbors in Saskatchewan. It made me chuckle, but serves as a reminder about how the devil goes about "seeking those whom he may devour". If he can "get us mad", he has us pointed on the path to... well, certainly not to heaven!

"Another incident worth mentioning as an example of the hardships and inconveniences which the pioneers endured, was the one at a **church Praznyk in Stenen [SK]**. This church was built in the centre of a two-acre plot three miles north of Stenen. It was moved to the town



in the centre of a two-acre plot three miles north of Stenen. It was moved to the town in 1953. Our services were held once or sometimes two times a month. On Holy Days when we wanted to have a Praznyk, we had to overcome many problems. Following the Divine Liturgy, on Praznyk days, the women started to get dinner ready, having brought from home whatever they could. They covered the grass with white cloth, setting all food on the cloths on the ground. **Everyone was seated on the ground and the priest said the prayers, but no sooner had we sat down when a strong whirlwind blew in with such force that** it took everything with it, cloth and all. We all went home disappointed and hungry.

"The following year we improved: we had tables built, and so this time, following the Mass, we were to take part of the same traditional dinner. The priest said Grace, and we had started eating, when again a wind, like a tornado, blew in from a

black field, covering our food with dirt and grime. We had to leave without finishing our dinner. The third year we said, "This time we can't fail." Near the church was an empty house belonging to one of our parishioners, and he gladly let us have it for our Praznyk. We were so happy, as this meant that this year our dinner could be warm, as there was stove in the house. Following the morning Mass, everyone came into the house for dinner, our pastor said prayers... and all of a sudden

came into the house for dinner, our pastor said prayers... and all of a sudden the floor gave way and we all fell into the cellar! Some people were hurt, and had to visit the doctor.



"Three unfortunate happenings! But we decided that bad luck comes in threes, and indeed, after that, things ran better."

from **Blessed Endeavour** by Maria Kowcz-Baran p. 437

