

Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ukrainian Catholic Parish

LIVE.BVMP.ca

Українська Греко-Католицька Парафія Покрови Пресвятої Діви Марії

BVMChurch@gmail.com website: <u>BlessedVirginMary.ca</u>

BVMChurch 204-582-7535 (hall: 582-4466)

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

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to our Parish! Вітаємо Вас у нашій парафії October 22, 2023

21-а неділя по Зісланні св. Духа

СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ! GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

Dear Parishioners!

In many ways, life at our parish and my life as a priest is going on as usual.

Here at the parish - the prayers and services are continuing daily, the office is functioning, the finance team deals with the collections and the books, the perogy operation happened this past week (thank you to all the volunteers!). This coming week we are going to Fred Douglas Lodge for the Liturgy that the residents look forward to, etc. However, also in the background (and becoming a bit louder every day) is the voice that also tells us -- all of us - that some changes are on the horizon. Are they massive, revolutionary changes? Well, to that we might respond: "We should be so blessed!" However, in all likelihood we will take the changes calmly in stride. Our Blessed Virgin Mary Parish has been around for just over a century now and has seen many changes in the past: priests coming and going; waves of immigration, individuals and families coming and going. BVM has made it through the changes and will continue to do so as long as we keep our eyes on the goal. The goal, of course is a full thriving life in Christ as a parish family that strives to grow while also making sure that everyone who comes knows that he is welcome. Oh, there are teachings and rules of the faith and there are parish traditions as well, but those who come to us and are willing to understand this, should know that as they strive to "learn the ropes" they are not only tolerated, but are members of the family. That way, our parish will grow before our very eyes.



God bless our new Premier. Keep him and his government in your prayer! photo: Mikaela Mackenzie

So, even after having said that which I know to be true, I will admit that I am experiencing moments of nostalgia and even heartbreak as I know that my days are becoming numbered. The comforts of parish events, like dinners or teas, and our fellowships. The peace and happiness at a daily or Sunday **Divine Liturgy**, well-prayed, when one senses that there are no spectators or *rather-be-elsewheres*, but where everyone knows that he is in the real presence of our God and our Lord is right there among us, loving us and blessing us. I will miss the members of parish council, and the many volunteers who do so much around the church and tend to our parish needs and our parish-related events. I will miss those who have stayed with their parish *through thick and thin* and who support their parish in ways that only they and the Lord (and perhaps one or two others) will ever know.

Can you miss a parish for things that haven't happened yet? Surely. I am a bit saddened that I will only hear from afar the news about the future success of BVM, and will no longer be directly involved in the efforts, the bold projects and new missions (except by my continuous prayer for BVM). However, as I look back over the recent two+ years that I have been here now and the 6+ years that I spent here at BVM "back in the day" as a newly-ordained priest, I am truly hopeful. The parishioners of this Parish have always had a great deal of potential. Among our numbers there is so much skill and talent. Some have said "not as much as we used to" or "Well, we're getting older now". True, but the goodwill and spirit of hope is still there. As new parishioners come in and are shown the ways and "trained" if you will and, especially shown that they are welcome, they will take up the torches and take up the reins of various operations within our parish.

This is a long message, but the point of the message is probably this: Please know that **you will be in my prayer**! Please **keep me in your prayer**, especially in these days leading up to my Episcopal Consecration ... and into the future. But... while we're still together, let us keep our parish moving forward as always. God is with us abundantly blessing us and, our Blessed Mother, our patroness, is watching over us and will protect us. If we ask her in prayer, she will obtain for us all the grace that we need from her Son for a great life and for our

Salvation!

Fr. Michael

Parish News & Events:

1. Fred Douglas Divine Liturgy -- this Wednesday, Oct. 25th -- we begin at 10:30 A.M. Please come and smile at the residents -- you make their day when you come!

2. 62 Ib. of food was donated to **Winnipeg Harvest** last week. Thank you to all who donated, and to Greg Yakimischak who made the delivery.

3. Be sure to come downstairs next Sunday as it is our monthly happy "Coffee and Fellowship"!

4. We are sure you are planning to attend the episcopal consecration of Fr. Michael on Nov. 8th, **but be sure to pick up your tickets for the Gala Banquet for the next day (Nov. 9th).** We still have a few in our parish office. The sooner you pick yours up, the better chance you have of sitting together with your friends!

News & Events Elsewhere:

5. Next Sunday, all are invited to a Fall Tea by the UCWL of Ss. Vladimir & Olga Cathedral, starting at 1 PM. Tickets may be purchased at the door: \$20/adults, \$10 children up to 12.

6. IHM Lubov Nursery FUNDRAISER Order now! Naleway Perogies: Frozen Potato Cheddar: 3 Dozen \$9.00 Kolbassa: Coarse (Ham style) \$11.00; Fine \$10.00. Bothwell Cheese \$15.00/unit (a unit = 2 bricks 330g - 350g) \$10/bag of white or orange curds NEW Cheese Combos: Variety pack \$22 & Family combo \$35 each. Cheques payable to IHM Lubov Nursery School. Orders must be in by THURS. OCT 26th. Phone 204-669-1023 Pick up at 35 Marcie Street Wpg. Thank you for your support!

7. 40 Days for Life has begun: **Sept. 25-Nov. 5**. Can you spend an hour or two during this time, to walk silently and prayerfully outside the Women's Hospital (near Health Sciences Centre -- right on the corner of William and Sherbrook)? You can drop by anytime between 10 AM and 5 PM, and pick up a ready-made sign that slings over your head. Then all you do is walk back and forth, praying quietly for all abortion to end. Let us give witness to our firm belief that all mothers and children should and must be protected. Check out 40daysforlife.com/Winnipeg, or call Maria at 204-452-2459.

8. Holy Eucharist UCWLC Annual Fall Craft and Ukrainian Food Sale (perogies, perishke and cabbage rolls) will be held this Saturday, **October 28**, 2023 at Holy Eucharist Parish Centre, 460 Munroe Ave., Winnipeg, MB from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Admission: Adults - \$1.00; Children are free. Crafters can contact Susanne at 204-771-2075 or Pat at 204-453-4489 to reserve a table.

9. St. Basil the Great Parish "Project 2023 Fundraiser" will be held Saturday November 4th, 2023, at 202 Harcourt Street. Ticket prices are \$70.00 each for the dinner and draw, or you may purchase a draw ticket only for \$35.00. The dinner and draw ticket are inclusive of a dinner, all drinks, entertainment, and an elimination draw with prizes totalling \$2000. Cocktails start at 5:30 pm; draw at 8:30 pm. This is a wonderful evening of fellowship & friendship. For tickets, call: Parish Office – (204) 837-4180 or Harry Fediuk - (204) 832-0265.

10. St. Nicholas parish (corner of Arlington & Bannerman Ave.) invites all to its Christmas Craft and Vendor Sale on Saturday, November 18th, 2023 11am – 3pm Admission \$1 **The canteen will be open!**

11. A Johnny Cash-themed fundraiser (incl. music, lunch, cash bar) will be held on Fri., Nov. 24 & Sat. Nov. 25 at St. Joseph's Ukr. Cath. parish hall. Proceeds go towards winter gear and medical supplies for soldiers in Ukraine. Tickets are available at St. Joseph's parish office 250 Jefferson Ave. for \$30.

12. If you have free time and would like to help around the city, please remember these: Welcome Home (204-946-5352), and Bishop Velychkovsky Shrine (see notice to your right).

Also, Mother Teresa's **Missionaries of Charity** need help in their **soup kitchen** from 9:30-11:30. Call them at 204-582-2773.



Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine Volunteer Shrine Ministry

The Shrine and St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church is one of the few Churches in Winnipeg that is open daily for visitors. Keeping the doors open is possible because of those who generously offer their time, a few hours a month, as Shrine volunteers. We are very grateful to the community of Shrine volunteers.

However, we could use more help.



We invite you to consider being a Shrine volunteer and an ambassador to welcome visitors, promote the cause of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky and spend time in prayer. If you are interested in this ministry experience or for more information **contact Lesia Sianchuk at the Shrine office at 204-338-7321 or email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com**

Please pray for the sick and shut-in members of our Blessed Virgin Mary parish, 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 every one...." <u>River East Care Home:</u> Edward Holowich <u>Maples Care Home</u>: Anna Paslawsky, Eleanor Harik <u>Beacon</u> <u>Hill</u>: Helen Naherny <u>Riverview</u>: Helen Dolski <u>Seven Oaks Hospital</u>: Dmytro Sikora <u>Holy Family Home</u>: Lorraine Putasnick, Adam Romanchuk, Fr. Yakowchuk, Helena Dubik, Mary Kozelko



KARPATY MEATS & DELI Fresh Homemade Sausages 536 Bannerman Ave.@McGregor Winnipeg, MB R2W 0V6 Mon.: Closed Tues: 8 AM-5 PM Wed-Fri: 8 AM – 6 PM 204-586-1395	info@korba	907 Main St. Winnipeg, MB R2W 3P2 Tel: 204-956-2193 Serving the Ukrainian community for over 45 years anchapel.com panchapel.com	Seven Oaks Sadok Inc. Daycare provides quality, licensed childcare while preserving the Ukrainian language, culture, customs and religion. We welcome all chil- dren from all backgrounds & religions. denominations	
Ruslan Construction Professional Metal Roofing/Siding Manufacturing & Exterior Construction Locally-made products 204-294-7372 ruslanconstruction.com	FUNERAL CHAPEL Serving the Ukrainian C	"Independently Owned" 1442 Main St. Winnipeg, MB 1800 Day St. Transcona, MB Tel: 204-586-8044 ommunity for over 50 years tropo.com	religious denominations, offering: Full day Preschool (ages 2-5) Nursery School (ages 2-5) Morning Pro- gram: 9:00-11:20 After Kindergarten: 11:30-3:20 • Before & After School pro- grams (ages 6-12). Location: R.F. Morri- son School, Winnipeg. For more infor- mation or to register, call (204) 995-7614 or email cynthia sadok@live.ca	
		A 1375 Grant Ave. 1-850 Regent Ave. W. 310 Leila Ave (Leila branch also open Sat.) 10-2022 carpathia.ca	HELPFUL PARISH CONTACTS Office: 204-582-7535 Parish Priest: Rev. Dr. Michael Kwiatkowski <u>ext. 2</u> Auditorium: <u>ext. 3</u> Catechism area: <u>ext. 4</u> Facility Rentals: 204-582-7535	
This space is for <i>your</i> message. Call us! 204-582-7535	Tel: 204-334-4754 Collision, Glass replacement GALARNYK I 696 Mc Winnipeg, 204-5 M to F: 9 Sat.: 9	COLLISION CENTER Ivan Pecuh 811 Murray Ave. MB R2V 4S7 Fax: 204-338-3705 Fax: 204-338 Fax: 204-338 Fa	Parish Council: Irene Hanuta (co-chair) 204-297-7814 Catechism: Good-hearted volunteer needed! 204-582-7535call Father! Men's Club: E. John Natyna, president 204-339-9366 UCWLC: Janet Kuchma, president 204-582-5932 Perogy Making: Myron Fedoruk, president 204-338-7243	

CHRIST PURSUES US TO THE FAR ENDS OF THE WORLD WITH HIS LOVE!



Father John A. O'Brien tells a soul-touching story of something that happened when he stopped off in Cairo, Egypt, on returning from the Holy Land in the early 1950s.

"One evening a white-robed Egyptian boy came to the Rectory with the message that an American was dying and calling for a priest. I was delegated to bring the last sacraments to the dying man. It was in a little room above a cheap cafe in the slum section of the city that I found the patient. He had been for many years a soldier of fortune,

sailing on a trading vessel in the Indian sea. He was now in the last stages of that fatal malady of Egypt, the black fever. His face was emaciated and wan.

After I had heard his confession and given him Holy Communion, he said: "Father, I have been worried for weeks at the thought of dying here in this out-of-the-way corner of the world, friendless and alone, until I became almost delirious. But now," he continued, with tears in his eyes, "it doesn't matter. For I know I'll meet them all again. For Christ toiled to bring me safely home." Before I left, he said: "Isn't it wonderful, Father, to think that I have received the same Christ here in Africa that I received when I made my first Holy Communion twenty years ago in San Jose in Southern California?"

I went out into the dark crooked streets of the ancient city. There on the hill overlooking the city loomed up the rock-ribbed citadel built by Napoleon in conquering the city. Over in the East rose up under the pale light of the moon, the sphinx of Egypt and the great pyramids of Ghizeh, erected by the Pharaohs over five thousand years ago. Their vast armies have now been sleeping for fifty centuries beneath the sands of the Sahara. Along the streets loomed up into the night the figures of the mosques of Mohammed. The words of the dying man came back to me. San Jose, California, and Cairo, Egypt, stood suddenly side by side! The chasm of the

centuries was spanned. The intervening stretch of eight thousand miles across land and sea was annihilated by the power of the Divine love that knows no limitations of time or space, "border, nor breed nor race."

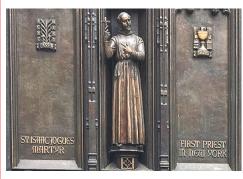
Truly Indeed is the Holy Eucharist the golden bond by which an Omnipotent Being unites Himself With His children on earth and gives to them a foretaste of that ineffable union."

excerpt from "The Faith of Millions" by Fr. John A. O'Brien



We Are Proud of our Catholic Heritage... and our Martyrs:

We are Canadians, and as such should learn to love those holy people who lived and perhaps died on Canadian soil. There is the **Martyrs' Shrine in Ontario** that honours many of the first Catholic clergy who came to Canada to teach the indigenous and the early French settlers about Jesus.



You know that. BUT... here are some things you perhaps didn't know:

1. St. Isaac Jogues (pictured on the left on a door of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York!) is counted as one of the Canadian Martyrs, but he with his fellow Jesuits

moved freely between the two countries at that time. New York claims him as its very first priest!

2. Many paintings/statues of St. Isaac Jogues show him with **some fingers missing**. When Mohawks had caught some of his brother priests, Jogues tried to slip into the "prison" to comfort them. He was caught as well (as we say wryly, "no good deed goes unpunished") and now he, too, was tortured with beatings, then had his fingernails torn out, then the Mohawks chewed his fingers to the bone. One imprisoned Algonquin woman apparently tried to gain favour from the Mohawks by **chopping off Jogues' thumb**.

3. Priests (at that time) were forbidden to say Mass if unable to hold the Blessed Sacrament between thumb and forefinger. What now, for Father Jogues?... **was that the end of celebrating Mass?** Only a priest can understand this mental torture, and now he was tortured physically as well for a year, dragged around like a trophy wherever the Mohawks went. Finally, some sympathetic men helped him to escape, and got him onto a ship back to France. Once there, he wrote for and obtained special permission from the Pope (Urban VIII) to say Mass with his mutilated hand. The Pope was happy to give him this permission, considering him a "living martyr" already.

4. So what did Father Jogues do? Stay in France and die a peaceful death? No... he went right back to Canada/USA ("New France") in 1644, knowing that he would probably die a martyr's death... and actually eager for this to happen! The Mohawks were by now quite wary of the Jesuits -- and all newcomers -- believing that they were responsible for the new infectious diseases, and even crop failure, happening at the time. In 1646, on Oct. 18, he was beheaded with a tomahawk.

5. Guess what happened to his killer! The Mohawk who actually decapitated Father Jogues was captured later by some natives who were sympathetic to the French. This man was thrown into jail, and sentenced to death. While on death row, he asked to be baptized! and guess what name he chose as his new Christian name? **"Isaac Jogues"!**

TODAY IS

WORLD VOCATIONS DAY! Pray for all bishops, priests, brothers, sisters. They need so many more prayers, so that they can stay good, improve themselves, and then help others improve.



Set a goal: how many men and women will you approach to ask them if they have considered trying out the seminary/ convent? So many do not even consider it, simply because they have never been asked by another human. It's usually not enough to read about it; they have to hear it from another living person like you and me. The power of the spoken word is ... powerful!

Powerful Prayer for a Happy Death by St. Pompilio

On my journey toward eternity, dear Lord, I am surrounded by powerful enemies of my soul. I live in fear and trembling, especially at the thought of the hour of death, on which my eternity will depend, and of the fearful struggle that the devil will then have to wage against me, knowing that little time is left for him to accomplish my eternal ruin. I desire, therefore, O Lord, to prepare myself for it from this hour, by offering you now, in view of my last hour, my profession of faith and love for you, which is so effectual in rendering useless all the crafty and wicked schemes of the enemy and which I resolve to oppose to him at that moment of such grave consequence, even though he should dare alone to attack with his deceits the peace and tranquility of my spirit.

I, _____ (name)___

in the presence of the Most Holy Trinity, the blessed Virgin Mary, my holy Guardian Angel and the entire heavenly host, affirm that I wish to live and die under the standard of the Holy Cross.

I firmly believe everything that our Holy Mother, the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, believes and teaches. It is my steadfast intention to die in this holy faith, in which all the holy martyrs, confessors and virgins of Christ have died, as well as all those who have saved their souls.

If the devil should tempt me to despair because of my many and terrible sins, I affirm that from this day forth I firmly hope in the infinite mercy of God, which will not let itself be overcome by my sins, and in the Precious Blood of Jesus which has washed all my sins away.

If the devil should tempt me to presumption by reason of the small amount of good which by the help of God I may have been able to accomplish, I confess from this day forth that I deserve eternal separation from God a thousand times by my sins and I entrust myself entirely to the infinite goodness of God, through whose grace alone I am what I am.

Finally, if the evil spirit should suggest to me that the pains inflicted upon me by our Lord in that last hour of my life are too heavy to bear, I affirm now that all will be as nothing compared to the punishments I have deserved throughout life. In the bitterness of my soul I call to remembrance all my years; I see my iniquities, I confess them and detest them. Ashamed and sorrowful I turn to you, my God, my Creator and my Redeemer. Forgive me, O Lord, forgive your servant whom you have redeemed by your

Precious Blood. Jesus, my Lord, into Your hands I commend my spirit! May the Blessed Virgin Mary and my Guardian Angel accompany my soul into heaven. AMEN.

Major Historic Art Publication and the Connection with our Blessed Virgin Mary Parish!



When I was in Ukraine in mid-September, I spent most of the 5 days in the city of Lviv. I was able to meet several people with whom I had become acquainted over the 10 years that I spent there. One such person heard I was in town and gave me a call, asking me to meet at her place of work, the Andrew Sheptytsky National Museum of Art which is located right on Freedom Boulevard in the midst of theatres, the 'Vernissage' cultural market and other historic landmarks. Dr. Olesia Semchyshyn-Huzner [1] is an art expert who specializes in 19th and 20th century Ukrainian Art. One of the most famous modern Ukrainian artists is Modest Sosenko 1975-1920. Professor Semchvshvn-Huzner has dedicated her latest research to the person of Modest Sosenko and his influence on art in Ukraine - both religious and secular. She is surely the leading expert on the life and legacy of Sosenko and has recently published two huge volumes of her research. One is about his life and work [2] and the other is an actual 'catalogue of his works [3]. She wanted our Blessed Virgin Mary Parish to have copies of these works, because of the help that the parish gave her in researching one of the rare Sosenko works that is found outside of Ukraine - our beautiful, unique icon of the Protection of the Mother of God that we have enshrined in our church [4]! In the books (now located in our parish office) the author acknowledges our parish and mentions two of our favourite priests - Fr. **Volodymyr Bashutskyy** and Fr. **Michael Kwiatkowski** - for providing her with pictures of Modest Sosenko's Icons in our church and what is probably a print (albeit one of high quality) of an icon of Hieromartyr St. Josaphat in another Manitoba church.

Among the pages of history as to how one of Sosenko's Marian icons came to be at our church, the author writes, "The Icon of the Protection of the Theotokos may have been executed upon the request of [Blessed] **Nykyta Budka** around the autumn of 1912. Being assigned to go for a long period of time across the ocean, the newly-appointed bishop likely wanted to have with him an image of the Mother of God - the Protectress, a devotion that signified intercession, protection and defense. Accordingly, we can presume that, with the assistance of Metropolitan **A. Sheptytsky**, Bishop N. Budka commissioned an icon of the Protection of the Theotokos by Sosenko and brought it with him to Canada."

Professor Semchyshyn-Huzner wrote a note with the books [6], "(to the) **Church of** the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God UGCC in Winnipeg - with gratitude for the collaboration!"

P.S. You will notice a draft for a stained glass window [5], designed for the Church of the **Protection** of the Mother of God <u>in the city of Lviv</u>... has an image of the Mary the Protectress that is very similar to ours! Was Sosenko experimenting with this style at the time? Was this stained glass window actually made and installed? This is an opportunity for some research of our own!

When you get a chance, step into our Parish Office and take a look at the two large volumes of **over 700 pages in total**. They are written in Ukrainian, but even if Ukrainian is not your forte at present... like they say, "*a picture is worth a thousand words*" in what ever language you prefer.

