



Українська Католицька Парафія  
Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці

*Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Ukrainian Catholic Parish*

*The No. 1 priority for ... the church is evangelization:  
preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in today's world.*

9 Вересня, 2012

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September 9, 2012

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**Служби Божі / Divine Liturgies**

В Неділю / Sunday

8:30 am recited – Bilingual

10:30 am sung – Ukrainian

**У Свята / Holy Day of Obligation**

10:00 am and 7:00 pm

**Щодня / Daily Scheduled**

7:30 am Matins/Утреня in chapel

8:25 am in church

**First Friday - 8:25 am** Divine Liturgy followed by  
Moleben to the Sacred Heart of Jesus or  
Mother of God

**Сповіді** починаючи десять хвилин перед  
Службою Божою

**Confessions** begin ten minutes before the Divine  
Liturgy or by appointment

**Baptism** by appointment - membership in Parish is  
required

**Marriages** by appointment made at least six  
months in advance. Membership in Parish is  
required

**Funerals** by arrangement in the Parish Office

**оо. Василян/ Basilian Fathers**  
serving this Parish

Father Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Pastor  
Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM  
Bishop Emeritus

**15-а Неділя Після Зшестя Святого Духа**  
**Неділя перед Воздвиженням Чесного**  
**Хреста і Попразденство Різдва Пресв.**  
**Богородиці І Вседіви Марії,**  
**Йоана 3: 13-17**



**15 Sunday after Pentecost;**  
**Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross;**  
**And the Sunday after the Feast of Nativity of the**  
**Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**John 3:13-17**

**SPECIAL NOTICE – Do not park in the  
RESERVED stalls in front of St. Mary's  
Gardens when you come for the Sunday  
Divine Liturgy. Your car will be towed.**

**Місячний намір Святішого Отця Папи Римського – на Вересень**

**Загальний намір:** "Щоб політики завжди діяли чесно, інтегрально і з любов'ю до правди."

**Місійний намір:** "Щоб християнські спільноти, мали зростаюче бажання висилати місіонерів, священників, і мирян, разом із дійсними ресурсами до бідніших Церков."

- Тропарі і читання в рожевій книжці на стор. 3 і 4.

- Кава і солодке Сьогодні після Служби Божої о год 8:30 рано, у вітальні під церквою.

*Спеціальне прохання: після закінчення Служби Божої просимо замкнути молитвенники і співаники і поставити їх на відповідне місце. Рівнож просимо не залишайте бюлетенів і других матеріалів в лавках. Будьмо господарними в нашій церкві і допоможемо, щоби наші лавки були чисті й акуратні.*

**Сьогодні, Неділя, 9 Вересень:**

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.
- Річний Парафіяльний Пікнік почнеться о год. 12-ій полудня. Наші сусіди і співхристияни – наші Корейці також будуть брати участь. На обід буде подаватися: Корейські страви, "Гамбургер" і "Гот дог", ярина і напитки, і морожене на десерт. Для розваги будуть різні гри для молоді і дітей. Пожертви вільні.

*Просимо всіх Парафіян приносити продукти для потребуючих, які не псуються (non-perishable) в першу і третю неділю кожного місяця. Просимо допомагати!*

**Субота, 15 Вересень:**

- 9:30 ранку Сходини Л.У.К.Ж.К. пічнуться молебнем до Пречистої Діви Марії а відтак засідання у вітальні під церквою.

**Неділя, 16 Вересень:** – Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

**Понеділок, 17 Вересень:** – 7:00 вечора Сходини Парафіяльної Ради у Борд Румі.

**Неділя, 23 Вересень:**

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

**Неділя, 30 Вересень:**

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.
- ПАРАФІЯЛЬНИЙ ПРАЗНИК: Архиєрейська Свята Літургія відправиться о год. 10:30 рано. Після Святої Літургії запрошуємо всіх на Празничний Обід в нашій аудиторії.

September 9, 2012

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**Papal General Prayer Intention for September:** "Pray that politicians may always act with honesty, integrity, and love for the truth."

**Mission Intention for September:** "Pray that Christian communities may have a growing willingness to send missionaries, priests, and lay people, along with concrete resources, to the poorest Churches."

- Tropar, Kondak & readings for today in the pink booklet pages: 3 & 4.

- Coffee and sweets are available today following the 8:30 am Divine Liturgy in the Fellowship Room. All guests and parishioners are invited.

*A SPECIAL Request: At the conclusion of each Divine Liturgy, please close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or any other material in the pews. Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church pews clean and neat. Thank you.*

**TODAY, Sunday, September 9:**

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.
- **Annual Parish Picnic begins at 12 noon. Our neighbours and fellow Christians – the Korean Community within our Parish are also invited.** The meal will consist of Korean foods, Hamburgers and Hot dogs with all the trimmings, Lettuce salad, Potato salad, vegetables, coffee, tea and juices and ice cream for dessert. For entertainment, we have invited "Scruffles" the balloon maker, pony rides for the young and games for children of all ages. A donation for the meal will be accepted.

**Saturday, September 15:**

- **UCWLC Meeting begins at 9:30 am with Moleben** to the Mother of God followed by the monthly meeting in the Fellowship Room.

**Sunday, September 16:**

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

**Monday, September 17:** – 7:00 pm – Parish Council Meeting in the Board Room.

**Sunday, September 23:**

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

**Thursday, September 27:** – "Author's Night" sponsored by St. Mary's UCWLC at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Room. Launching of Roman Fudchuk's new book "Zhorna", a different look at the Ukrainian pioneer experience.

**Sunday, September 30:**

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.
- **PARISH PRAZNYK: Pontifical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 am. Dinner will follow in the Parish Auditorium.** Cost per ticket is \$15.00/adult; children 6 to 14 \$8.00. Children under 6 years free.

*Food Bank Donations: We encourage all parishioners to contribute to the Food Bank on the first and third Sundays of every month. PLEASE ADD YOUR SUPPORT.*

**Це пригадка для всіх вірних.** Просимо приходити вчасно на Службу Божу. Будьмо готові разом заспівати початковий гімн. Зрозумійте, якщо Ви прийдете до Церкви після Великого Входу, Ви пропустили більшу частину Служби Божої, і дійсно не вислухали приписаної Служби Божої на неділю.

**Церковна Етика:** Будьмо свідомі, що беручи участь у Св. Літургії ми мусимо одержати кінцеве Благословення перед тим як ми залишимо Службу Божу. Ми рівнож просимо не виходити з Церкви перед закінченням Служби Божої. Ми просимо Вас не спілкуватися в Церкві перед, під час і після Служби Божої. Прошу це робити в притворі Церкви або у Вітальні під церквою. Залишім наву (Nave) церкви для вірних які моляться.

**A SPECIAL NOTE to ALL PARISHIONERS:** Please come on time for the Divine Liturgy. Realize that when you come into the Church proper after the Great Entrance, you have missed most of the Divine Liturgy and have not really attended the prescribed service for a Sunday.

**Church Etiquette:** Be aware that to have attended the entire Divine Liturgy one must receive the Final Blessing before leaving the Church Service. We also ask that you do not visit in the main part of the Church before, during or after the service. Please use the Vestibule or the Fellowship room to conduct your conversations – leave the Church proper (the Nave) for those that want to pray.

### *PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS*

*Almighty and Merciful God, Inspire those You have chosen To hear and answer Your call to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Give them the courage to be the prophets for our times. Give them the wisdom and openness to live their personal call. Give them the strength to be ready witnesses of Your love and care for the world. May they find support and encouragement in our words and in our prayers. Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God and all the Saints. Amen.*



### **Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Metropolitan**

**Andrey:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, You always reward Your faithful servants, not only with special gifts of Your love, but also with the eternal reward of the saints in heaven, and in many cases You grant them the recognition of sanctity by Your Church here on earth. We humbly pray: grant that Your faithful servant Metropolitan Andrey be numbered among the saints. Throughout his just life, “full of suffering and trials,” he was a good shepherd for his flock and a great labourer for Christian unity. And through his beatification and intercession, grant our entire people the great gift of unity and love. Amen.

[www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca](http://www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca)

**Be ready to begin the Divine Liturgy when Father begins and not try to play catch-up.**

**Request for Prayers:** to pray for you, your family member, or friend – please submit the name to the Parish Office by phone 604.879.5830 or by written note on the collection plate.

**Пам'ятайте помолитися:** за Вашу родину, за членів Парафії, а особливо за тих які знаходяться в лікарнях, або тих що очікують Божої відповіді на їхні молитви, або радіють Божою відповіддю, або за тих які відзначають уродини, або роковини, або за тих що покликані до їхньої вічної винагороди, або за родину яку вони залишили.

**REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:** your family; your fellow parishioners; especially the shut-ins or those in the hospital; those seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer; those celebrating a birthday or anniversary; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; as well as any other need.

**Please remember in your prayers especially:** Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Fr. Vincent Prychidko, OSBM; Fr. Steven Basarab, Joseph Bayduza, Frances Bethune, Mary Earl, Catherine Hladij, Bohdan Karpinski, Karlo Kozy, Victoria Kuzik, Emily Kuzyk, Bodzie Lawryshyn, Oscar Lyseyko, Ben Marchinkow, Jason Obuck, Orest Obuck, John Pura, Mary Scott, Wasyl Saik, Kaiya Williams, Leon Woznow, and the Canadian Armed Forces on peacekeeping missions. Also remember the family of + **Olga Malenchuk**. Her funeral was last Wednesday and Thursday. May God grant her eternal memory.

**PLEASE VISIT** our Parishioners or phone those that are confined to their hospital beds or their homes. They need your visits, your phone calls, as well as your prayers.

**If there are Parishioners that you visit and we are not listing them for others to pray for them,** please call the Parish office with that information, or to request father to visit them.

**Please remember to pray daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.**

### **Food (or liquid) for thought**

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old University Professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress at work and in life.

Offering his guests coffee, the Professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups – porcelain, plastic, glass, some plain-looking and some expensive and exquisite, telling them to help themselves to hot coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the Professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice-looking, expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the better cups and are eyeing each other's cups."

"Now, if Life is coffee, then the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, but the quality of Life does not change."

Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee in it.

**BAZAAR NEWS - PARISH BAZAAR - NOVEMBER 24, 2012**

Наш Парафіяльний Базар зближається чим-раз ближче. Базаровий Комітет ласкаво просить Вас, якщо Ви приготуєте консерви цього літа, то просимо зробити декілька "екстра" на наш Базар. Ваша поміч буде оцінена.

1. **The Bazaar "Preserves and Baking" Committee** is requesting any extra **preserves** that you will be making over the summer. Please bring as many as you can spare to the Auditorium kitchen on Tuesdays. They will be sold **at our Parish Bazaar**. Your help is greatly appreciated.
2. **They are also** asking for **Home baking** such as brownies, breads and buns, pies, cakes, cinnamon buns, cookies and any other baking that does not include fillings such as cream or cheese or other dairy products.
3. **The Bazaar "Silent Auction" Committee** is asking for **donations** of all things (ie: Hockey tickets, dinners for two, wine box, etc.) to be bid on **at the Silent Auction**. Please bring them as soon as possible to the Parish Office or place them in the "Silent Auction" box in the Church Fellowship Room.
4. **The Bazaar "Paper Lottery" Committee** is asking for **donations of new items for the children and adult "Paper Lottery"**. Your help is greatly appreciated.
5. **The Bazaar "Crafts" Committee** is asking for **items for the Crafts Corner**; such as small wooden ornaments or boards, knitting, home decorated aprons and other such useful items, and things for scrapbooking. Drop them off at the Fellowship Room.
6. **The Bazaar "Rummage Sale" Committee** need items for the **Rummage Sale** such as clean slightly used clothing, clean kitchen utensils (pots and the like), household items (picture frames, ornaments and the like). Drop them off at the Fellowship Room. We will not accept used TVs, electronic devices, big living room furniture, or any other item that can carry unwanted creatures.
7. **Dates for "pyrohy making" for the Bazaar - start on Wednesday at 8 am:** Sept. 19; Sept. 26; Oct. 3 and Oct. 17. For more information, call Henriette Ukrainetz at 604.291.0087.

For any other information call the Parish Office or Dr. Michael Myckatyn, Bazaar Chairperson, so that we can direct your call to the right person.

**Bulletin Announcements** must be in the office by Wednesday noon. It is your responsibility to notify the office, do not think that 'well they know', Father or the Secretary may know but do not always remember to put it in the bulletin!

**Monthly Calendar Announcements** for the next two months must be in the office by the 20th day of this month.

**Note to All Parish Members:** Please be on time for the Divine Liturgy. The Fathers are punctual and start on time at 8:30 am or start incensing at 10:25 am.



*Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(St. Mary's)*

*Ukrainian Catholic Parish*

**Basilian Fathers**

550 West 14 Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1P6

Telephone: 604-879-5830

e-mail: office@stmarysbc.com

We will be offering a **Parish Young Persons Catechism Program** on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:30 a.m. and concluding 10:30 a.m. for children from ages 7 to 14 beginning October 7, 2012 and concluding in May 2013.

Classes for children 3 to 6 will continue to be offered during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy following the reading of the Gospel.

The Ukrainian Catholic Women's League - St. Mary's Branch, are the sponsors of this program.

**Please hand in this form to the Parish office or the UCWLC Executive**

=====

I would like to register my child (Children) for the Parish Young Persons Catechism Program

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents (guardian) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

## THANK YOU

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all who contributed their time and energy in the preparation of our Major Archbishop's visit on September 1, from cleaning the kneelers and pews to setting the tables in the hall, setting up the Recreation Centre and the Fellowship Room as well as securing the areas during the Service and so swiftly cleaning up after. Also, your presence at the Service in Church and the banquet following, has made this event a memorable one in the history of our Ukrainian Catholic Church and our parish.

**THANK YOU AND A FOND FAREWELL** to Sr. Ruth for all her support and contribution to our Parish. Her dedication in helping each of us, in whatever capacity, will never be forgotten. Sister deserves a warm thank you from each of us. May God bless Sister in her new posting in Winnipeg.

## THE POEM

All too often we try to keep God in church on Sunday ... We do like to have Him around during sickness ... And of course, at funerals. However, we do not have time, or room, for Him during work or play ... Because ... That is the part of our lives we think we can, and should, handle on our own. May God forgive me for ever thinking ... That ... there is a time or place where ... HE is not to be FIRST in my life. We should always have time to remember all HE has done for us in every situation.

I knelt to pray but not for long,  
I had too much to do.  
I had to hurry and get to work  
For bills would soon be due.

So I knelt and said a hurried prayer,  
And jumped up off my knees.  
My Christian duty was now done  
My soul could rest at ease.

All day long I had no time  
To spread a word of cheer.  
No time to speak of Christ to friends,  
They would laugh at me I had fear.

No time, no time, too much to do,  
That was my constant cry,  
No time to give to souls in need  
But at last the time, the time to die.

I went before the Lord,  
I came, I stood with downcast eyes.  
For in his hands God held a book;  
It was the book of life.

God looked into his book and said  
"Your name I cannot find.  
I once was going to write it down ...  
But never found the time"

## PRESENCE AND WITNESS OF GRANDPARENTS IN FAMILIES

VATICAN CITY, 3 APR 2008 (VIS) – "The presence and witness of grandparents in families" is the theme of the 18th plenary assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Family. More than 300 people will participate in the event, which begins today in the Vatican and will last to 5 April.

This morning, Archbishop Fernando Filoni, substitute of the Secretariat of State, addressed the gathering on the subject of the role of the elderly in the Church and in society.

Cardinal Secretary of State Tarcisio Bertone S.D.B. and Cardinal George Pell, archbishop of Sydney, Australia, will preside at the first two Eucharistic celebrations.

Among the lay participants who have been invited to bear witness to the role of grandparents in modern society are the Italian politicians Marcello Pera and Giulio Andreotti, as well as a large number of experts from five continents.

Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture will talk about grandparents as they appear in the Bible, whereas "the figure of grandparents in immigrant families" will be the subject of the contribution from Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples. For his part, Cardinal Carlo Caffarra, archbishop of Bologna, Italy, will speak on Pope Paul VI's Encyclical "Humanae vitae" forty years after its publication.

Finally, Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera, archbishop of Mexico, will inform the gathering on preparations for the 6th World Meeting of Families, which is due be held in Mexico City in 2009. CON-F/PLENARY ASSEMBLY GRANDPARENTS/...VIS 080403 (260)

### **GRANDPARENTS' EXPERIENCE TO COUNTER CRISIS IN FAMILIES**

VATICAN CITY, 5 APR 2008 (VIS) – At midday today in the Vatican's Clementine Hall, the Holy Father received participants in the 18th plenary assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Family, which was held from 3 to 5 April on the theme: "The presence and witness of grandparents in families".

After highlighting how the Church has always recognised grandparents' "great richness in human and social, religious and spiritual terms", the Pope recalled how "in the past grandparents played an important role in the life and growth of the family. Even as they got older, they continued to be present for their children, grandchildren and perhaps even great-grandchildren, providing a living witness of kindness, sacrifice and a daily and unreserved giving of self".

"Today, the economic and social evolution has brought about profound transformations in the lives of families", noted the Holy Father. Some elderly people feel "a burden to their family and prefer to live alone or in rest homes, with all the consequences such choices bring.

"Unfortunately", he added, "the 'culture of death' seems to be gaining ground on various sides, threatening even the period of old age. With growing insistence, euthanasia is even proposed as a solution to resolve certain difficult situations". Hence "it is necessary to react forcefully to that which dehumanises society. ... We must unite to defeat all forms of marginalisation together, because it is not just they (grandparents and the elderly) who are overwhelmed by the individualistic mentality, but everyone. If, as is often said, grandparents represent a valuable resource, it is important to make coherent choices in order to take full advantage of them".

The Pope called for grandparents to return as a "living presence in the family, in the Church and in society. ... May they continue to be witnesses of unity, of values founded on faithfulness to the one love that generates faith and the joy of life. The so-called new models of the family and rampant relativism have weakened these fundamental values of the family nucleus".

"Faced with the crisis of the family," the Holy Father asked, "is it not perhaps possible to start afresh from the presence and witness of people (grandparents) who have more robust values and projects? It is not, in fact, possible to plan the future without drawing on a past full of significant experiences and of points of spiritual and moral reference".

The Pope concluded his remarks by recalling that the 6th World Meeting of Families, is due to be held in Mexico in 2009. And he invited ecclesial communities, especially family groups, movements and associations "to prepare themselves spiritually for this event of grace". AC/GRANDPARENTS/ VIS 080407 (450)

## RAMBLINGS OF A SENIOR

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I cannot afford one. So, I am wearing my garage door opener.

I also made a cover for my hearing aid and now I have what they call blue teeth, I think.

You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people did not like me anyway.

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is 'when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.'

I thought about making a fitness movie for folks my age and call it 'Pumping Rust'....

I have gotten that dreaded furniture disease. That is when your chest is falling into your drawers!

When people see a cat's litter box, they always say, 'Oh, have you got a cat?' Just once I want to say, 'No, it is for company!'

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be notified in case of an emergency. I think you should write, 'A Good Doctor!'

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then, it dawned on me. They were cramming for their finals

### SMILE !

The most destructive habit	.....	Worry
The greatest Joy	.....	Giving
The greatest loss	.....	Loss of self-respect
The most satisfying work	.....	Helping others
The ugliest personality trait	.....	Selfishness
The most endangered species	.....	Dedicated leaders
Our greatest natural resource	.....	Our youth
The greatest "shot in the arm"	.....	Encouragement
The greatest problem to overcome	.....	Fear
The most effective sleeping pill	.....	Peace of mind
The most crippling failure disease	.....	Excuses
The most powerful force in life	.....	Love
The most dangerous pariah	.....	A gossip
The world's most incredible computer	.....	The brain
The worst thing to be without	.....	Hope
The deadliest weapon	.....	The tongue
The two most power-filled words	.....	"I Can"
The greatest asset	.....	Faith
The most worthless emotion	.....	Self-pity
The most beautiful attire	.....	SMILE!
The most prized possession	.....	Integrity
The most powerful channel of communication	.....	Prayer
The most contagious spirit	.....	Enthusiasm

## THE MYSTERY FLU

The day is over and as you are driving home you tune in your radio. You hear a little blurb about a little village in India where some villagers have died suddenly, strangely, of a flu that has never been seen before. It is not influenza, but three or four fellows are dead, and it is kind of interesting, and they are sending some doctors over there to investigate it.

You do not think much about it, but on Sunday, coming home from church, you hear another radio spot. Only they say it is not three villagers, it is 30,000 villagers in the back hills of this particular area of India, and it is on TV that night. CNN runs a little blurb; people are heading there from the disease center in Atlanta because this disease strain has never been seen before.

By Monday morning when you get up, it is the lead story. For it is not just India, it is Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and before you know it, you are hearing this story everywhere and they have coined it now as "the mystery flu". The President has made some comment that he and everyone are praying and hoping that all will go well over there. But everyone is wondering: "How are we going to contain it?" That is when the President of France makes an announcement that shocks Europe: He is closing their borders. No flights from India, Pakistan, or any of the countries where this thing has been seen.

And that is why that night when you are watching a little bit of CNN before going to bed, your jaw hits your chest when a weeping woman is translated from a French news program into English: "There is a man lying in a hospital in Paris dying of the mystery flu." It has come to Europe. Panic strikes. As best they can tell, once you get it, you have it for a week and you do not know it. Then you have four days of unbelievable symptoms. And then you die. Britain closes its borders, but it is too late. South Hampton, Liverpool, North Hampton.

It is Tuesday morning when the President of the United States makes the following announcement: "Due to a national security risk, all flights to and from Europe and Asia have been canceled. If your loved ones are overseas, I am sorry. They cannot come back until we find a cure for this thing."

Within four days our nation has been plunged into an unbelievable fear. People are selling little masks for your face. People are talking about what if it comes to this country, and preachers on Tuesday are saying, "It is the scourge of God."

It is Wednesday night and you are at a church prayer meeting when somebody runs in from the parking lot and says, "Turn on a radio, turn on a radio." And while the church listens to a little transistor radio with a microphone stuck up to it, the announcement is made. "Two women are lying in a Long Island hospital dying from the mystery flu." Within hours it seems, this thing just sweeps across the country. People are working around the clock trying to find an antidote. Nothing is working. California. Oregon. Arizona. Florida. Massachusetts. It is as though it is just sweeping in from the borders.

And then, all of a sudden the news comes out. The code has been broken. A cure can be found. A vaccine can be made. It is going to take the blood of somebody who has not been infected, and so, sure enough, all through the Midwest, through all those channels of emergency broadcasting, everyone is asked to do one simple thing: "Go to your downtown hospital and have your blood type taken. That is all we ask of you. And when you hear the sirens go off in your neighborhood, please make your way quickly, quietly, and safely to the hospitals."

Sure enough, when you and your family get down there late on that Friday night, there is a long line, and they have nurses and doctors coming out and pricking fingers and taking blood and putting labels on it. Your wife and your kids are out there, and they take your blood type and they say, "Wait here in the parking lot and if we call your name, you can be dismissed and go home."

You stand around scared with your neighbours, wondering what in the world is going on, and that this is the end of the world. Suddenly a young man comes running out of the hospital screaming. He is yelling a name and waving a clipboard. What? He yells it again! And your son tugs on your jacket and says, "Daddy, that is me."

Before you know it, they have grabbed your boy. "Wait a minute, hold it!" And they say, "It is okay, his blood is clean. His blood is pure. We want to make sure he does not have the disease. We think he has got the right type." Five tense minutes later, out come the doctors and nurses, crying and hugging one another – some are even laughing. It is the first time you have seen anybody laugh in a week, and an old doctor walks up to you and says, "Thank you, sir. Your son's blood type is perfect. It is clean, it is pure, and we can make the vaccine."

As the word begins to spread all across that parking lot full of folks, people are screaming and praying and laughing and crying. But then the gray-haired doctor pulls you and you wife aside and says, "May we see you for a moment? We did not realize that the donor would be a minor and we need ... we need you to sign a consent form."

You begin to sign and then you see that the number of pints of blood to be taken is empty. "H-h-h-how many pints?"

And, that is when the old doctor's smile fades and he says, "We had no idea it would be a little child. We were not prepared. We need it all!"

"But – but..."

"You do not understand. We are talking about the world here. Please sign. We – we need it all – we need it all!"

"But can you not give him a transfusion?"

"If we had clean blood we would. Can you sign? Would you sign?"

In numb silence you do. Then they say, "Would you like to have a moment with him before we begin?"

Can you walk back? Can you walk back to that room where he sits on a table saying, "Daddy? Mommy? What is going on?" Can you take his hands and say, "Son, your mommy and I love you, and we would never ever let anything happen to you that did not just have to be. Do you understand that?"

And when that old doctor comes back in and says, "I am sorry, we have – we have got to get started. People all over the world are dying." Can you leave? Can you walk out while he is saying, "Dad? Mom? Dad? Why – why have you forsaken me?"

And then next week, when they have the ceremony to honour your son, and some folks sleep through it, and some folks do not even come because they go to the lake, and some folks come with a pretentious smile and just pretend to care. Would you want to jump up and say, "MY SON DIED! DO YOU NOT CARE?"

Is that what He wants to say? "MY SON DIED. DO YOU NOT KNOW HOW MUCH I CARE?"

"Father, seeing it from your eyes breaks our hearts. Maybe now we can begin to comprehend the great love you have for us. Amen." Jesus loves you!