



Українська Католицька Парафія  
Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці

*Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Ukrainian Catholic Parish*

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

5 Травня, 2013

Volume 58 No. 18

May 5, 2013

**Служби Божі/Divine Liturgies**

В Неділю/Sunday

8:30 am partially sung

10:30 am sung

**У Свята/Holy Day of Obligation**

10:00 am and 7:00 pm

**Щодня/Daily Scheduled**

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 - 30 хвилин перед** Службою Божою  
або наперед домовитися під час тижня

**Confessions - 30 minutes before** the Divine  
Liturgy or by appointment during the week

**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**

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

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

**Неділя про Сліпонародженого  
Йоана 9:1-38**



**Sunday of the Man Born Blind  
John 9:1-38**

**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.**

**Парафія Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці вітає всіх гостей, приятелів та рідних які зєдналися сьогодні разом брати участь в цій Службі Божі. Нехай наш Господь через заступництво Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці благословить Вас і Вашу родину.**

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

**Загальний намір:** Агенти справедливості. Щоб ті, що здійснюють справедливість, завжди діяли всесторонньо і з добрим сумлінням.

**Місійний намір:** Церкви - знак воскресіння. Щоб семінарії, особливо в місійних землях, виховували пастирів на зразок Христа, цілковито посвячених голошенню Євангелії.

- Тропарі і читання в синій книжці на стор. 4, 5 і 6

- Кава і солодке сьогодні після Служби Божої о год. 8:30 і 10:30 рано у вітальні під церквою.

**Люди не клякають під час освячення і перед і по Причастю від Воскресіння до Зіслання Святого Духа.**

**В цьому часі тільки один священик буде служити в парафії. Щоби вз'яти участь у Св. Сповіді, заохочуємо Вас приходити до церкви 30 хвилин скоріше перед Св. Літургію. Ви можете також наперед домовитися і прийти до Каплиці в нашій резиденції під час тиждня.**

**Сьогодні, 5 Травень, Неділя: *Неділя про Сліпонародженого***

- 9:50 ранку – Молебень до Пречистої Діви Марії.

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

**9 Травень, Четвер: *Свято Вознесіння***

- **Обов'язкове Свято** – в ці дні, кожний католик є зобов'язаний бути присутнім на Службі Божій так як це робимо в неділю.

- Служби Божі – 10-ій рано і 7-ій вечора.

**12 Травень, Неділя: *Святих Отців Нікейського Собору***

- 9:50 ранку – Молебень до Пречистої Діви Марії.

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

**16 Травень, Четвер:**

- 7:00 вечора – Поширення зрозуміння нашої віри у вітальні під церквою.

**19 Травень, Неділя: *Зіслання Святого Духа***

- 9:50 ранку – Молебень до Пречистої Діви Марії.

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

**23 Травень, Четвер:**

- 7:00 вечора – Поширення зрозуміння нашої віри у вітальні під церквою.

**FLEA MARKET – Saturday May 25:** Table rentals \$25. Call: Olga: 604-274-9804 or Mary: 604-271-1131 or Marlayne: 604-274-3164.

**26 Травень, Неділя: Перша Неділя по Зіс. Святого Духа - Всіх Святих**

– 9:50 ранку – Молебень до Пречистої Діви Марії.

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

**27 Травень, Понеділок:**

– 7:00 вечора – Сходини Парафіяльної Ради у Борд Румі.

**30 Травень, Четвер:**

– 7:00 вечора – Поширення зрозуміння нашої віри у вітальні під церквою.

**Saturday, June 1:**

– **Seventh Annual FAMILY NIGHT – from 5 pm to 11:30 pm – All families of the Parish are invited to participate.** Parents or adult family members must accompany all children. Light dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7 pm. Games for children, “limbo” and more! Dancing from 8 to 11 pm. TICKETS \$10/person; persons 18 & under: free. For tickets call 604.421.8977 or 604.879.5830

**HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV HAS INVITED YOU TO KYIV for a special Divine Liturgy to celebrate the 1,025th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivan-Rus (Ukraine) on Sunday August 18 2013!** Join the Bishops of Canada on an official pilgrimage to Ukraine 7-21 August. Beginning in Western Ukraine visiting Lviv, Zarvanytsia, and Ternopil before proceeding to Kyiv for the major celebrations. Solaway Travel has been commissioned to assist in arranging travel plans and accommodations. Please contact: Myrna Arychuk of Solaway Travel: 3819 Sunset Street, Burnaby, BC V5G 1T4 Tel: 604.430.6789 Fax: 604.430.2244. [myrna@solawaytravel.com](mailto:myrna@solawaytravel.com),

**PRAYER FOR EVANGELIZATION ‘YEAR OF FAITH’** - O God, who wills that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of truth, pour out Your Spirit upon us and grant that we may respond zealously to Your urgent call to lead back to the Church those who have strayed. Prepare their hearts and minds to be receptive to the saving Gospel of Your Son. Send us workers to gather in Your abundant harvest, so that all Your people, obedient to the Word and sustained by the power of the Sacraments, may advance in the way of Salvation and love. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**You may purchase a DVD of Major Archbishop Sviatoslav’s September 1 visit.** The cost of this commemorative DVD is \$10. This DVD contains the complete Divine Liturgy celebrating Bishop Budka’s hundredth anniversary of arrival to Canada. Please indicate how many copies you would like.

A quiet, studious parishioner in 4th year University student is looking for room and board close to or along a bus route to UBC for September. Please inform the parish office .

**The Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish** welcomes all guests, friends, visiting relatives and Parishioners in celebrating this Divine Liturgy together. **We especially welcome Father Joseph Pidskalny, OSBM who is covering for me while I am on retreat and visiting my mother.** May our Lord, through the intercession of our Blessed Lady, the Mother of God, bless you and your family!

### **Monthly Papal Intentions for MAY**

**General Intention:** - **Administrators of Justice** - That administrators of justice may act always with integrity and right conscience.

**Missionary Intention:** - **Seminaries** - That seminaries, especially those of mission churches, may form pastors after the Heart of Christ, fully dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel.

- **Tropar, Kondak & readings** in the blue booklet pages 4, 5 & 6
- **Coffee and sweets** are available today following the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Divine Liturgy in the Fellowship Room. All guests and parishioners are invited.

**WE DO NOT KNEEL** during the consecration as well as **before and after Holy Communion from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday inclusive. WE STAND WHILE EVERYONE COMES TO COMMUNION** - you sit only if you are elderly, weak or ill.

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE** - there will be only one priest serving the parish. To participate in the **Mystery of Reconciliation, (Confession)**, we are encouraging you to come 30 minutes before the Divine Liturgies. You may also make an appointment to come during the week to the chapel in the rectory.

**TODAY: Sunday, May 5: *Sunday of the Man Born Blind***

- 9:50 am Moleben to the Mother of God.
- Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schoolers during 10:30 am Divine Liturgy following the reading of the Gospel.

**Thursday, May 9 - *Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord***

- This is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION** - which means that we have the obligation to attend a Church Service on this day just as on Sundays. Yes, it is a serious (mortal) sin if we intentionally miss.
- Divine Liturgy in Church 10 am and 7 pm.

**Sunday, May 12: *Sunday of the Nicean Council Fathers***

- 9:50 am Moleben to the Mother of God.
- Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schoolers during 10:30 am Divine Liturgy following the reading of the Gospel.

**Thursday, May 16: "THE CREED" A STUDY OF OUR FAITH** at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room. Workbook - \$29.00 each. Other material will be provided.

**Sunday, May 19: *Descent of the Holy Spirit - Pentecost***

- 9:50 am Moleben to the Mother of God.
- Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schoolers during 10:30 am Divine Liturgy following the reading of the Gospel.

**Thursday, May 23: "THE CREED" A STUDY OF OUR FAITH** at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room. Workbook – \$29.00 each. Other material will be provided.

**FLEA MARKET – Saturday May 25:** Table rentals \$25. Call: Olga @ 604-274-9804 or Mary @ 604-271-1131 or Marlayne @ 604-274-3164.

**Sunday, May 26: *Sunday of All Saints***

– 9:50 am Moleben to the Mother of God.

– **Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schoolers** during 10:30 am Divine Liturgy following the reading of the Gospel.

**Monday, May 27:**

– **Parish Council Meeting** at 7 pm in the Board Room.

**Thursday, May 30: "THE CREED" A STUDY OF OUR FAITH** at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room. Workbook – \$29.00 each. Other material will be provided.

**Saturday, June 1:**

– **Seventh Annual FAMILY NIGHT – from 5 pm to 11:30 pm – All families of the Parish are invited to participate.** Parents or adult family members must accompany all children. Light dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7 pm. Games for children, "limbo" and more! Dancing from 8 to 11 pm. **TICKETS \$10/person; persons 18 & under: free.** For tickets call 604.421.8977 or 604.879.5830

PRAYER FOR A VIBRANT PARISH - O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth! Because of your indescribable love for us, you sent your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ - The Way, The Truth, and The Life - and our Salvation. In His name, we turn to You. Strengthen our hearts and minds in Christian love and in unity of purpose as we strive to build a Vibrant Parish. Give us the grace to model our lives according to the Word of God. Instill in us the desire to pray and to celebrate the Holy Mysteries as one Christian Family in our Parish Community. Inspire us to follow Your great command to be a servant to the less fortunate among us! Grant this, O Lord, through the mercies and love for mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Live-Giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen!

Special Petition for Vocations - We also pray for those in the religious and monastic or consecrated life and for those in vocation discernment, we pray to the Lord.

CANCER RELAY FOR LIFE - Our parish is once again participating in this annual fundraiser being held on Saturday June 8 at Mahon Park in North Vancouver from 10am-10pm. This is an excellent opportunity to support our church team by giving a donation and even coming out to walk a lap in honour of someone who is battling cancer. We do need your support and need at least 2 more members on our team. Contact Barbara Ballhorn (604-732-3166) for further details.

A quiet, Catholic female student from Mexico, fluent in Spanish, English, speaks intermediate French, and a little bit of German is looking for room and board in a Ukrainian Catholic family as soon as possible. If you can help please call the parish office.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE**

**“THE CREED” A NEW STUDY DURING THIS YEAR OF THE FAITH” on Thursday evening beginning at 7pm**

**This twelve (12) part series - “The Creed - is A Journey through the Catechism”**

**The Catechism of the Catholic Church comes alive**, showing you how your personal faith journey fits into the amazing story of salvation. **The Catechism** is far more than a list of “faith facts” it provides a map for you to easily navigate and enrich your life.

**In this Series - “THE CREED” - you will:**

- 1. Learn why the Catechism should be treated less like a fact book and more like a **roadmap for our faith journey.****
- 2. Learn what **God’s innermost secret** is and how we are called to participate in it.**
- 3. See that our journey of faith is a journey from *Blessing to Blessing*, that the God who made us **wills that we return to Him.****
- 4. Discover how the Catechism can be seen as a new Catechesis for the **New Evangelization.****
- 5. Learn how **what we believe** emerges from the **living story** of salvation history.**
- 6. Discover the role the angels play in aiding our salvation, and how they are truly present to us. .... and much more**

**Workbooks are available for the program - \$ 29.00/each - contact Susan Lazaruk or come to the Parish office.**

**To Request Prayers for:** yourself, your family, or a friend - please submit the name to the Parish Office or place a note and 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; fellow parishioners; those confined to their hospital beds or their homes; those seeking God’s guidance or rejoicing with God’s favour; or for those celebrating a birthday or anniversary; or have been called to their eternal reward or for the family they leave behind; as well as any other need.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Fr. Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Fr. Steven Basarab, Mary Balsevicius, Joseph Bayduza, Frances Bethune, Elizabeth Duda, Mary Earl, Quenten Fabiano, Catherine Hladij, Alice Humenick, Bohdan Karpinski, Emily Kuzyk, Bodzie and Shirley Lawryshyn, Ben Marchinkow, Joseph Nadelko, Roma Nowakowski, (Bishop Ken’s mother), Orest Obuck, John Pura, Mary Scott, Dave Shelast, Kaiya Williams, Tiny Zarski.

**Please Visit:** our Parishioners in their homes or in the hospital. They need your visit, your phone call, as well as your prayers.

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

**If there are people you visit requesting prayers, please inform the Parish office.**

**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: Just a reminder that to have attended the entire Divine Liturgy one must be in Church and have heard the reading of the Gospel as well as the homily, participated in the responses for the consecration and received the final Blessing before leaving the church. We also ask that you do not visit in the main part of the Church (the Nave) before during or after the Service. Please use the Vestibule or the Fellowship room to conduct your conversations - leave the Church proper for those that want to pray.

**Special Petition for Evangelization** – *Let us ask our Heavenly Father for His gifts of wisdom & courage in our efforts of spreading the Good News and building up God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.*

**CAMP ST. VOLODYMYR** August 18 – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Camp St. Volodymyr will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have been enriching campers in their Ukrainian Catholic Faith and Culture since 1983. Located in Kelowna campers spend a week participating in age tailored activities such as Ukrainian dancing, arts & crafts, singing, catechesis, sports and water activities. Camper fees: \$260 before July 4, \$310 after July 5. 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> child from same family is \$150 each. Bus transportation is available from New Westminster. Registration forms can be downloaded from the eparchial website at [www.nweparchy.ca/](http://www.nweparchy.ca/). For more information contact Jennifer Sawka @ 604.876.5691 [jennsawka@hotmail.com](mailto:jennsawka@hotmail.com). Register early. Space is limited!

**VOLUNTEER STAFF** Camp St. Volodymyr is again looking for counsellors to help with the planning, teaching, coordinating, and carrying out activities and guiding campers in their personal growth, and daily living skills. These positions are ideally suited for outgoing individuals who enjoy working with children and enjoy being outdoors. Counsellor application forms can be downloaded from the website and are due May 15, 2013. **This year we are looking for a volunteer to help us out with singing. Please contact us asap if you are interested.**

**Support our Camp!** Donations are always greatly appreciated. We are always happy to accept food donations of vegetables, fruits, cereals, and treats for children, as well as monetary donations. Tax receipts can be issued with donations of \$25 or more.



**The Sixth Paschal Sunday, known as The Sunday of the Man Born Blind  
'In the land of the sighted, the blind man is king.'**

**Acts 16:16–34; John 9:1–38.**



'Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy, For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not pass over it, and fools shall not err therein.' (Isaiah 35: 5–8)

No, I do not expect you to identify the quote from memory, though every Christian should. It is from the Prophecy of Isaiah; and, like most of the books of the prophets in the Old Testament, it is about two-thirds poetry; and, like most poetry, it can be very difficult to comprehend. But this one is fairly easy: "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped...." He is prophesying about the coming of the Messiah. And that is why Isaiah's prophecy is in the Bible: the eyes of the blind were opened, as we just read.

Like all of the figures presented to us during these post-Paschal Sundays, the man born blind we have visited before. There is a difference between going blind and being born blind. A person who goes blind retains mental images of things he once saw; and, while those images fade and become distorted over time, he still retains enough to help him visualize whatever may be described to him. But the person born blind has no such memories. You can describe something to him; but, depending on what it is, he may or may not be able to form a mental picture. The example I gave you last year was one of colour: Now, here is something that changes the appearance of a thing, but the texture and shape remain the same. A person who has gone blind knows what you are talking about when you say that something is red or green or blue; but what goes through the mind of the person born blind when you tell him that the sky is blue and the grass is green, or that



the moon tonight is a beautiful amber? How does he have any idea what you are talking about?

I remember quoting to you from Professor Alice Von Hildebrand's Philosophy of Religion, when she says that this is exactly what happens when you try to explain faith to someone who does not believe: you are speaking a language he does not understand. And I think we often have that same feeling today when we watch or read the news, and the reporter is talking or writing about our Catholic religion or the Pope or anything to do with the Church, and using the vocabulary of politics or sociology because he does not know the language of faith. It sounds strange to our ears and can make us feel isolated, almost as if we are sighted people who have wandered into the kingdom of the blind, where no one can understand what we are trying to tell them.

Of course, for St. John, who gives us this account from our Lord's life in his Gospel, there is a deeply symbolic meaning to our Lord's encounter with the man born blind. Remember that, in the very beginning of his Gospel, he speaks of man walking in darkness, being unable to see the light even though it is all around him. He describes Jesus as "The true light that enlightens every man" (John 1: 9); and, this encounter between Jesus and this blind man, which is a real one, took on a deep significance for him, which he tries to pass on to us. Darkness, of course, is sin; darkness from birth is Original Sin; and it is not a coincidence that the man's sight is restored by washing his eyes with water at the command of our Lord, since it is water that is used to wash away Original Sin in baptism. And the sequence of events after the man receives his sight is illustrative of the life of every serious Christian: one would think that blindness would tend to isolate someone from society; but the man here is actually isolated by his sight, by those who do not understand the gift he has received. They in fact, pursue him as if his newfound sight somehow threatens them. He points out to them their hypocrisy; but this only makes them angrier; so he is expelled from the synagogue and told he is a sinner. Hearing about this, our Lord tracks him down, where he then asks the quintessential question, the same question he asked the Samaritan woman last Sunday, and the paralyzed man the Sunday before: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" Do you believe in the Messiah? In all three cases, they ask him, "Who is he, Lord?" And in all three cases Jesus gives the same answer: "I who speak to you am he."

That statement, of course, has to be either accepted or rejected; and, in this sense, we can see how the Church on earth is the paralytic, is the Samaritan woman, is especially the man born blind: to each of these people Jesus claims to be God; and demonstrates the fact, and the Catholic Church is the sole entity on earth that claims to speak for him and dispense his grace. This angers people, not only today, but in all times down through the centuries. People are willing to tolerate God and those who believe in him if they keep him in the closet labelled "Personal Idiosyncrasies"; but when such people let God out of the closet and allow him to influence how they live their lives, how they raise their children, how they conduct their personal and public affairs, how they vote, or if a Christian

University wants to have a Law Department, then people are not so tolerant. And as we struggle each day to live lives motivated by faith in a faithless time, it is very easy for us to feel alone and isolated, and wonder if there might be something wrong with us. The reality is that we are the only healthy ones around; it is society that is gone blind; and when that blindness has become the norm, then the only person who can see becomes the odd man out; and the pressure to conform in order to get along becomes almost too great to bear. One remembers the words that the playwright Robert Bolt put into the mouth of St. Thomas More, when he was asked, "Can you not come along with us for the sake of fellowship?" and More replied, "When you go to heaven for doing your conscience and I go to hell for not doing mine, will you come along with me for the sake of fellowship?"

The man born blind, whom you would think would have been isolated by his blindness than by anything else, was actually more isolated by his sight, after he received it. He was tolerable in the synagogue so long as he remained blind and the status quo remain unchallenged. Once his eyes were opened, he was able to see the truth: that what was happening in the synagogue was useless, that Jesus is God, and the synagogue does not serve him. And so it will always be for those who have received the gift of faith. As for those who remain in darkness, we can only continue to ask them again and again, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" in the hope that, one day, finally weary and worn out by the pursuit of empty lives, they will ask us in return, "Who is he, that I, also, may believe in him."

### **DO YOU LIVE IN GREATER VANCOUVER?**

#### **HAVE YOU MOVED INTO GREATER VANCOUVER RECENTLY?**

**We encourage you to register your name and address and e-mail with the parish.** People come to arrange for baptisms, marriages, funerals, or special blessings. Only then do the fathers discover that they have been participating in the Liturgical Services for years but have not registered as Parishioners. We may recognize you, we may see you in church but we do not know your name or address. **Please print your name, address, telephone number, e-mail and postal code** on your donation envelope, or contact the Parish Office.

**REMEMBER:** To be considered a member of this Parish one must be registered in the Parish, attend the Divine Liturgy regularly and make regular contributions to maintain the Parish.

**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 допоможим, щоби наші лавки були чисті й акуратні.

***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.*

*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.*

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

### **The Most Beautiful Flower...**

The park was deserted as I sat down to read, beneath the long straggly branches of an old willow tree. Disillusioned by life, good reason to frown, I felt that the world was dragging me down. And then, if that were not enough to ruin my day, out of the blue, there stood a young boy, with his small head tilted down, excitedly saying,

*“Just look what I found!”*

In his hand he held a flower ... what a pitful sight with its petals all drooping from too little water or light. So, I faked a small smile, and then shifted aside, I wished most fervently that he would take his dead flower and go away. But no! It was not meant to be ... instead, he just sat right down beside me, and placing the flower under his nose ... he said, with great surprise, “It sure smells nice, and it is pretty, too! That is why I picked it ...”

*“Here, this is for you!”*

Well, the weed before me was either dying or dead – not a vibrant colour of orange or red – but I knew if I did not take it, he might never leave ... so, I reached for the flower, and faintly said, “It is just what I need ...” But instead of placing it into my hand, he just held it up in mid-air and it was then that I realized this little weed-toting boy could not see ... he was blind.

I heard my voice quiver, and my tears shone like the sun, as I thanked him profusely for picking me the very best one. “You are welcome,” he smiled, running off to play ... unaware of the impact he had had on my day. I sat and wondered how he had managed to see this self-pitying old woman beneath the tree ... how did he know of my self-indulged plight? Perhaps in his heart, he had been blessed with true sight. The eyes of this blind child, at last made me see that the problem was not the world ... the problem was me! And, right then and there, I vowed to see the world’s beauty, and appreciate all that was mine.

As I held that poor flower up to my nose, and breathed the lovely scent of a rose, I smiled as I watched that dear little boy – another weed in his hand ...

*About to change the life of an unsuspecting old man...*

### **THOUGHTS TO PONDER**

- \* Can you cry under water?
- \* How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?
- \* If money does not grow in trees then why do banks have branches?
- \* Since bread is square, then why is sandwich meat round?
- \* Why do you have to "put your two cents in"...but it is only a "penny for your thoughts?" Where is that extra penny going?

## Something To Think About

What a busy lot of people we are! We are so busy most of the time that we have no time for the most essential things in life. Do we have our priorities mixed up?

The Lord gave us seven days in a week and commanded us to work six of the seven days and rest with Him on the seventh day. What do we do?

When the seventh day, (Sunday) comes, some of us are so busy mowing the grass, painting the house, washing the car, sitting at the lake, that we have no time left for the Lord. We just have no time to go to church because of all we have to do.

Now we wonder: are the chores we do around home more important, that we cannot even give one hour to the Lord? Did the Lord lay down His life on the cross so that we could forget all about Him and strive to keep working seven days a week? But you claim you have no other time to do it. Maybe so!

Are you ever too busy on a Sunday morning to drive to the lake? If you want to drive to the lake, neither the grass nor the painting ever stops you. How come it stops you from going to church?

Now you will say that you need the sleep Sunday mornings and cannot get up that early to go to church. If you have a golf game early Sunday morning, are you too tired to go golfing? How come you are too tired to go to church?

Is it not strange also that we can drive across town to a social and not think that it is too far? We can drive hundreds of miles to go fishing, but a few blocks to church is too far. How come?

How hard it is to go to a service in our church during the week. Still we do not find it hard to go to a theatre. We have no problem in dressing up to go for a beer at the local pub, but find it so burdensome to go to church. Why?

When we think of how our Lord suffered for us, how He laid down His life for us in atonement for our sins, how can we think up excuses for not going to praise and worship Him on a Sunday morning? How can we find other things to do that seem more important?

Let us, with one accord, bow down to Him and ask for His forgiveness and answer His call! Think about it!

### THOUGHTS TO PONDER

- \* Once you are in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?
- \* Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- \* What disease did cured ham actually have?
- \* How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out that it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- \* Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake-up like every two hours?
- \* If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?
- \* If you drink Pepsi at work in the Coke factory, will they fire you?
- \* Why are you IN a movie, but you are ON TV?