



550 West 14 Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 1P6

Українська Католицька Парафія
Покров Пресвятої Богородиці

Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Parish

E-Mail: office@stmarysbc.com

Phone: 604.879.5830

Fax: 604.874.2727

Website: www.stmarysbc.com

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

24 грудня, 2017

Volume 62 No. 52

December 24, 2017

Служби Божі/Divine Liturgies

Неділя/Sunday: 8:30 am in English

10:30 am (sung) in Ukrainian

У Свята/Holy Day of Obligation

10:30 am and 7:00 pm

Щодня/Daily Scheduled

7:30 am in Chapel

Сповідь/Confessions:-15 minutes before and
15 minutes in the beginning of the Divine
Liturgy - Or by appointment during the week

Baptism by appointment

Anointing of the Sick/Hospital Visits/

Eucharist for the sick - any time

Marriages - the arrangements with the priest
have to be made months before the marriage

Funerals - by arrangement

оо. Василіяни/Basilian Fathers serving the

Parish:- Father Serafym Grygoruk, OSBM

Administrator. Email: serh70@outlook.com

Father Joseph Pidskalny, OSBM - local Superior

Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM

Bishop-Emeritus

*Неділя перед Різдом. Неділя Святих
Отців*



**Sunday before Christmas. Sunday of
the Holy Fathers**

Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-12:2

Matthew 1:1; 17-25

**Парафія Покрови Пресвятої
Богородиці** вітає всіх гостей,
приятелів та парафіян, які беруть
участь у цій Службі Божі.

**The Protection of the Blessed
Virgin Mary Parish** welcomes all
guests, friends, and Parishioners
participating in this Divine Liturgy.

НИНІ: Неділя, 24 грудня.

Maintenance Work for the Exterior of the Church

The exterior of the church maintenance project is complete for this year. There are a number of issues that will be worked on in the spring, when the weather is more favourable. The parish contractual obligations with various contractors is complete except for 'holdback' on one contract.

Dear Parishioners and Friends. This is a major project for our Parish, at an overall cost that will surpass \$300,000.00. St. Mary's Parish is asking for your assistance in funding this project. Please help us to defray the cost of this most necessary renovation and maintenance project. All donations are tax-deductible. "*Convenience Envelopes*" can be found in the front entrance of the church.

To date we have received \$23,979.00 towards our renovation and maintenance project. Thank You!

>>**New Convenience Envelope:** There is a new "**Convenience Envelope**" that replaces the blue "*My Offering*" envelope that we have been using up until now. It also replaces the "*Church Renovation Fund*" envelope that has been in use for a few months. (The Church Renovation Fund has been renamed the Parish Maintenance Fund.) In future, when using our new convenience envelope please indicate whether your donation is a general donation towards the parish, or more specifically for our Parish Maintenance Fund.

>>**THE CENTENNIAL OF UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE (СТОЛІТТЯ НЕЗАЛЕЖНОСТІ УКРАЇНИ).** Banquet on 20 January 2018, at 6:00 PM. University Golf Club 5185 University Blvd. Vancouver, BC V6T 1X5. (\$100 per person). Call: Myroslav Petriw 604-936-6177; Natalia Jatskevich 778-899-8048. Please indicate special dietary requirements at time of ticket purchase vegetarian (V) or special (S) (detail)

>>Have you just moved into our parish? Are you registered in our parish? Has your phone number or address changed? For new parishioners, please let us know who you are so that we can better welcome you! Registration forms are available in the parish office. For Parishioners who have moved, help us to update our records by informing the parish office.

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

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.

Sunday Donation for December 17- \$1,876.00

TODAY: Sunday, December 24

>> **PLEASE NOTE (correction)** that the Parish Dinner is on Sun., Jan. 14, 2018. There was a mistake in the previous Bulletin, in the English side.

>>**2018 Parish Calendars** can be found in the church vestibule. Please take one calendar per family.

>>The **2018 Parish donation envelope** boxes are in the church vestibule. Please take a moment to find your box. (Please make sure that it is your box that you have taken).

>> The 2018 Almanac “Svitlo” is now available in the bookstore.

>>**Year End Contributions.** Thank you to all parishioners for your generous donations throughout the year. For any donations that you want included on your 2017 tax receipt **ALL contributions must be in the parish office and your cheques dated no later than December 31, 2017.**

Caritas Ukraine – Christmas Candle Appeal

Since 2012 our Eparchy has been collecting funds to help underprivileged and orphaned children in Ukraine through our Christmas Candle appeal. Our fundraising program is part of a larger global appeal sponsored by Caritas Ukraine. We have had great momentum over the last few years raising over \$20,000 with support from our BC Parishes as well as Parishes in other Provinces and parts of the United States.

The appeal is once again taking place for the month of December and we encourage everyone to remember these children during our Christmas season with a voluntary donation. Please place your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Candle, with your name and address and include it with the Sunday collection at any Ukrainian Catholic Church in BC. All donations over \$20 are eligible to receive a tax receipt if requested and cheques can be made out to your Parish with Christmas Candle Project in the Memo.

We thank you for your past support and generosity and ask that you again consider supporting this on-going appeal as part of your Christmas tradition. Caritas is an organization that is supported and approved by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk and His Excellency Bishop Ken Nowakowski. 100% of the proceeds go to Caritas Ukraine.

For more information, please contact the coordinators Dana Koren Lupynis or Natalia Lupynis at nweparchy.christmascandle@gmail.com .

Monthly Intentions of the Holy Father for DECEMBER

The Elderly. That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

**ПАРАФІЯ ПОКРОВА ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ
ПОРЯДОК РІЗДВ'ЯНИХ БОГОСЛУЖЕНЬ
ГРУДЕНЬ 2017**

Заохочуємо парафіян приступати до сповіді перед Різдвам

24 грудня, неділя: НАВЕЧІР'Я РІЗДВА (піст)

8:30 ранку – Служба Божа (як звичайно в неділю)

10:30 ранку – Служба Божа (як звичайно в неділю)

9:15 вечора – Повечір'я і зараз потім ТОРЖЕСТВЕННА СЛУЖБА БОЖА (Св. Василія); мирування

25 грудня, понеділок: РІЗДВО ХРИСТОВЕ (Обов'язкове Свято)

10:30 ранку – Служба Божа (Св. Василія); мирування

26 грудня, вівторок: Собор Пресвятої Богородиці і Св. Йосифа Обручника

10:30 ранку – Служба Божа

27 грудня, середа: Первомученика й Архидиякона Стефана

10:30 ранку – Служба Божа,

31 грудня, неділя: Закінчення Року

8:30 ранку – Служба Божа й “Тебе Бога Хвалимо”

10:30 ранку – Служба Божа й “Тебе Бога Хвалимо”

СІЧЕНЬ 2018

1 січня, понеділок: Обрізання Господа і Спаса Нашого Ісуса Христа, Святого Отця Василія Великого й Новий Рік

10:30 ранку – Служба Божа

5 січня, п'ятниця: Навечір'я БОГОЯВЛІННЯ (піст)

7:00 вечора – Служба Божа й Водосвяття

6 січня, субота: БОГОЯВЛІННЯ – ЙОРДАН (Обов'язкове Свято)

10:30 ранку – Служба Божа й Водосвяття

7:00 вечора – Служба Божа

7 січня, неділя: НЕДІЛЯ ПО БОГОЯВЛІННЮ – ЙОРДАНИ

8:30 ранку – Служба Божа

10:30 ранку – Служба Божа, співана

14 січня, неділя: 12:00 обіду – Парафіяльний Різдв'яний обід. Всі є запрошені!

**PROTECTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH
SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES
DECEMBER 2017**

We encourage Parishioners to make their Confession before Christmas
December 24, Sunday: Eve of Nativity of our Lord – CHRISTMAS EVE (*Day of Abstinence*)

8:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (Sunday schedule)

10:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (Sunday schedule)

9:15 p.m. – NATIVITY VIGIL SERVICE followed by

SOLEMN DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil; Blessing with Holy Oil

December 25, Monday: Nativity of our Lord – CHRISTMAS DAY
(*Holy Day of Obligation*)

10:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil; Blessing with Holy Oil

December 26, Tuesday: Synaxis of the Mother of God and St. Joseph

10:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

December 27, Wednesday: Holy First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen

10:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

December 31, Sunday: New Year's Eve

8:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy and “We praise you, O God”

10:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy and “We praise you, O God”

JANUARY 2018

**January 1, Monday: Feast of Circumcision of our Lord,
Feast of St. Basil the Great and New Year's Day**

10:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

January 5, Friday: Eve of the Feast of THEOPHANY (*Day of Abstinence*)

7:00 p.m. – Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Water

January 6, Saturday: Feast of THEOPHANY (*Holy Day of Obligation*)

10:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Water

7:00p.m. – Divine Liturgy

January 7, Sunday: Sunday after THEOPHANY

8:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

10:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

January 14, Sunday: 12:00 noon – Parish Christmas Dinner – Everyone is invited!

Prot. N. 17/455 ENG

**CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER
OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV**

**Most Reverend Archbishops and Metropolitans, God-loving Bishops,
Very Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, Dearly Beloved Brothers and
Sisters, in Ukraine and throughout the world**

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich,
yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

2 Cor. 8:9

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Beloved in Christ!

Today once again we share the unspeakable joy of the Holy Nativity, which fills the heart of each believer. The Son of God became one of us, having taken as His mother a Virgin from Nazareth. The Son of the Pre-eternal and Almighty God, the Creator of all that is visible and invisible, was born in a poor stable cave and personally experienced all human misery. This is not merely some historical event from long ago, this is our reality as well. In this event that took place in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago we recognize God's infinite love for the human race, for all time: "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).

Gazing upon the newborn Saviour, lying in a simple stable cave, on hay in a manger, we sense how Divine wisdom exceeds human wisdom. In the light of the Christmas star, human power, glory, and wealth seem empty, fleeting, and insignificant. Christ, the Son of God, became poor and helpless for us. He abandoned heavenly glory in order to be born among humans—deprived, having no place to lay His head, as we sing in our traditional carol: "not in a royal palace, but among cattle...." For us He becomes poor, having been rich, so that we might become rich in his poverty (see 2 Cor 8:9). Taking human misery and frailty upon Himself, the Son of God raises us poor humans to our Lord's grandeur. Indeed, the poor shepherds of the Bethlehem and its surroundings are the first to receive this good news of salvation, proclaimed to us today by the Angel of the Lord: "And this will be a sign for you: you

will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!’” (Lk 2:12-14). Christmas, it would seem, brings about an exchange of gifts: God descends from heaven to earth, so that mankind might ascend into heaven; the Son of God becomes poor, so that we might all be enriched.

Today we live in a world where, in the words of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, the pursuit of material enrichment frequently grows into a “new idolatry of money,” and “the economy lays bare... a lack of real concern for human beings; man being reduced to one of his needs alone: consumption” (*Evangelii gaudium*, 55). And yet, the angel of the Nativity directs his message to the poor and calls upon them, and us as well, to praise God, in Whom we find hidden the true and eternal wealth of humankind. In being united with Christ, “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col 2:3). Christians appear before the world “as poor, yet making many rich, as having nothing, yet possessing everything” (2 Cor 6:10)! And thus, in the Nativity, this wealth—a life with God and in God—comes to us and becomes a source of our joy and hope, which we exchange with one another..

In the midst of the misery and challenges of the present day, we should recognize that there are many forms of poverty—spiritual, cultural, educational, civilizational, and only then—material. The poverty of the present world is frequently not material, but spiritual. Thus, in a certain sense, today’s “new rich” in Ukraine may, in fact, be spiritually and culturally poorer than beggars. On the other hand, this spiritual poverty, that is, this distance of the powerful of this world from God, frequently creates social injustice, disastrous abuse of authority, corruption and misuse of resources, given for the common good.

In this situation it is not enough for the rich to share a portion of the crumbs from their table as a form of help for the poor. What is needed is a change of the human heart, an opening which will allow Divine light and grace to enter. For the one who claims to be a saviour of the poor, but does not have God in his or her heart—such a person carries empty ideologies which only exploit human suffering for political gain, but in reality, are unable to end it. In such circumstances the poor become poorer while the rich continue to prosper. Only those who have become rich in God can transform their own lives and contribute to the creation of a just society, having the human being at its centre rather than profit, the common good rather than egotistical interests of particular groups or clans.

In His Nativity Christ makes us all rich, fills us and raises us out of all forms of poverty, for Christ is born in Bethlehem in order to make every person His brother, His sister—a child of God and sharer of eternal divine blessings. That is why Christmas is the feast of solidarity for all humankind, even for those who cannot bear the gifts of

gold of this world, for it enriches all with “a gift more precious than myrrh: the faith of the heart and sincere love,” as we sing in our Ukrainian carol.

Beloved in Christ! In order that we may worthily celebrate Christmas, with those who suffer from all forms of poverty let us share of the riches that are ours—our spiritual gifts above all, and then material gifts. May our ancient carol-koliada, which greets the king in a poor stable cave, be a Divine covenant for us, to approach the poor and share with them the riches of our holy faith. Let us lean down before Christ, present in our impoverished brothers and sisters, allowing them to experience the closeness of God, Who embraces all with His endless mercy and unconditional love. Let us greet with carols our soldiers, wherever they may be—in their homes, having fulfilled their sacred duty to defend their country, in their military units, at the front. Let us visit those who were wounded in battle, let us receive into our hearts the pain of the poor and the needy, for in doing so we will receive Christ with the Most Holy Family, enriching our own homes, our families, and the society we live in with endless divine treasures, “where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal” (Mt 6:20). This is what the Holy Church encourages us to do in singing: “Let us meet Him with pure hearts and with good works. Let us prepare ourselves now through the Holy Spirit to greet Him who is coming to His own people as He himself had willed. He is being born in Bethlehem, so that through His compassion He might bring back all of those who were exiled from life in Paradise” (Sunday before the Nativity, Stikhera from Vespers).

Dear Brothers and Sisters, with a sincere heart I wish each of you, from the youngest to the oldest, from the richest in Divine gifts to the poorest, in Ukraine and abroad—the true joy of children of God, a tasty kutia, a Christmas full of cheer, and a happy, peaceful, and blessed New Year!

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

† SVIATOSLAV

*Given in Kyiv
at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ,
on the day of the Venerable Martyr Stephen the Younger and the Holy Martyr
Irenarchus,
the 11th of December (28th of November) in the 2017th Year of our Lord*