



550 West 14 Avenue
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Українська Католицька Парафія
Покров 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."*

23 грудня, 2018

Volume 63 No. 51

December 23, 2018

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/at
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

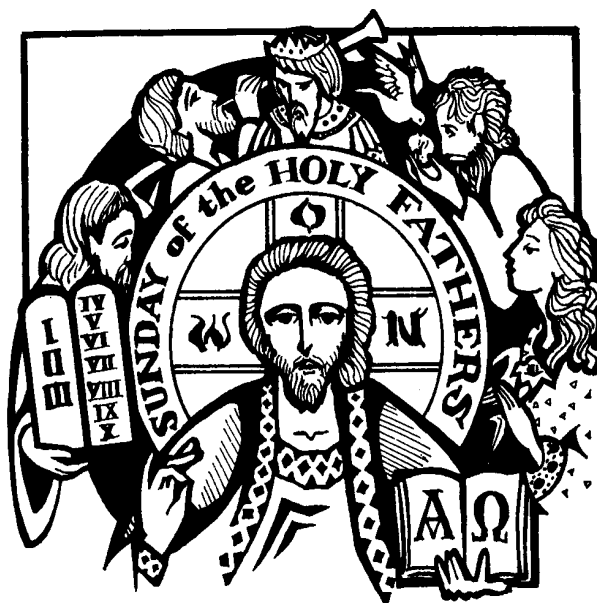
Marriages -the arrangements with the priest
have to be made months before the marriage

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 Різдвом. 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.

Songs at 10:30 Divine Liturgy: 1) **Opening:** on page 106 “Khto tam po dorozh”; 2) **at Communion:** page 244 “Vytai mizh namy”; 3) **Closing:** page 106 “Khto tam po dorozh”

НИНІ: Неділя, 23 грудня - Кава і солодке після Служби Божої о год 8:30 і 10:30 рано.

Нині о 10:00 год. – Третій Час (Молитва)

Щира подяка всім, хто помагав прикрасити різдвяну ялинку.

**ПАРАФІЯ ПОКРОВА ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ
ПОРЯДОК РІЗДВ'ЯНИХ БОГОСЛУЖЕНЬ
ГРУДЕНЬ 2018**

Заохочуємо парафіян приступати до сповіді перед Різдвом

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

-9:15 вечора - Повечір'я і зараз же **ТОРЖЕСТВЕННА СЛУЖБА БОЖА** (Св. Василія); мирування

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

-10:30 ранку - Служба Божа; мирування

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

-10:30 ранку - Служба Божа

27 грудня, четвер: Первомученика й Архидиякона Стефана

-10:30 ранку - Служба Божа,

СІЧЕНЬ 2019

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

-10:30 ранку - Служба Божа

5 січня, субота: Навечір'я БОГОЯВЛІННЯ (піст)

-7:00 вечора - Служба Божа й Водосвяття

6 січня, неділя: БОГОЯВЛІННЯ - ЙОРДАН

- 8:30 ранку - Служба Божа

- 10:30 ранку - Служба Божа й Водосвяття

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

Церковні календарі за 2019 р. знаходяться у притворі церкви. Просимо взяти один календар на родину.

Коробки з конвертками для пожертв за 2019 р. знаходяться у притворі церкви. Просимо уважно найти і взяти свої конвертки.

Пожертви і Кінець року. Подяка всім парафіянам за ваші щедрі пожертви на протязі року. За кожну пожертву, яку ви хочете включити до вашого податкового звіту за 2018 **ВСІ дані пожертв повинні бути в парафіяльному офісі, а ваші чеки за датою не пізніше 31 грудня, 2108.**

TODAY: December 23: Coffee and sweets available following the 8:30 and 10:30 Divine Liturgies.

- Today, at 10:00 AM – Third Hour Prayer

A very big **Thank You** to all who decorated decorated the Christmas tree and set up the manger scene in church. Baby Jesus blesses you!

**PROTECTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH
SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES
DECEMBER 2018**

We encourage Parishioners to make their Confession before Christmas

December 24, Monday: Eve of Nativity of our Lord – CHRISTMAS EVE (*Day of Abstinence*)

9:15 p.m. - NATIVITY VIGIL SERVICE followed by SOLEMN DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil; Blessing with Holy Oil

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

10:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy; Blessing with Holy Oil

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

10:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

December 27, Thursday: Holy First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen

10:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

JANUARY 2019

January 1, Tuesday: 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, Saturday: Eve of the Feast of THEOPHANY (*Day of Abstinence*)

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

January 6, Sunday: Feast of THEOPHANY

8:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

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

January 13, Sunday: 12:00 noon – Parish Christmas Dinner – Everyone is invited!

Sunday Donations: December 16, 2018 - \$1,307.00
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2019 Parish Calendars can be found in the church vestibule. Please take one calendar per family.

The **2019 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).

Maintenance Work for the Exterior of the Church

To date our parish has received \$63,134.00 to help us defray the costs of maintenance work done on the church exterior. All donations are tax-deductible. “*Convenience Envelopes*” can be found in the front entrance of the church. We are very grateful for your generosity. Thank You!

Year End Contributions. Thank you to all parishioners for your generous donations throughout the year. For any donations that you want included on your 2018 tax receipt **ALL contributions must be in the parish office and your cheques dated no later than December 31, 2018.**

A Request from the Parish Office

Please help us keep our records current:

- If you are new to our Parish and would like to receive offering envelopes please contact the Office.
- If you have recently moved or have a new phone number please contact the Office (604.879.5830).

Eparchial 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, “**Christmas Candle/Різдвяна свічка**” 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 the Christmas season with a voluntary donation. Please place your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Candle and include it with the Sunday collection at any Ukrainian Catholic Church in BC. 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 continue supporting this 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 and follow us on Facebook at Caritas “*Christmas Candle/Різдвяна свічка*” Campaign, sponsored by NWEparchy.

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

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ([Isaiah 9:5](#))

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Beloved in Christ!

Today heaven and earth is filled with the light of joy and peace. Angels and men, all creation welcomes Christ the Saviour born in human flesh. All of us together with the shepherds and wise men hasten to the poor stable-cave to join Mary and Joseph in venerating the incarnate God, who rests on hay in a manger. We hasten to receive the love and peace that the Lord brings into a world of hate and violence.

The Gospel narrative of the Nativity conveys to us the Good News proclaimed by the angel: “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger” ([Luke 2:12](#)). In the Christmas carols and services of this mystical night we hear of a mighty heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ([Luke 2:14](#)). All of humanity, in awaiting the birth of the Saviour, had hoped for the beginning of a new era in human history—a new time when the Messiah as Prince of Peace would restore harmony to human relations, would abolish all forms of violence of men against men; not as a victor in war, like his ancestor David, but as the Son of God, conquering the very reason for wars and hostility—human sin, that evil which is the greatest disfigurement of paradisiacal happiness.

Human beings are created by God for peace which is a sign of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit (see [Galatians 5:22-23](#)). In spite of our nature, fallen through sin, human beings invariably seek this peace, even though we may not always know how to achieve it. For this very reason our Divine Liturgy, after calling for the establishment and strengthening of the blessed Kingdom of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, immediately invites us to pray for peace from on high for the entire world and the well-being of God’s holy churches. Indeed, today’s feast proclaims to us that Christ is the Prince of Peace and that the might of God is revealed in peace.

When we hear the word “prince,” we immediately think of a person who has authority and power. We encounter many “princes,” good and bad, in various spheres of human life: politics, employment, family, and even church life. However, from the Gospel perspective and in light of the example of Christ as Prince of Peace, it becomes evident that divine authority is expressed through service, and divine power is found in the infinite and unconditional, faithful, and sacrificial love of the Lord for His creation.

A human being can live in peace and become a servant of peace only when he or she receives the Prince of Peace, newly-born today, into their hearts, into their internal spiritual world, into their personal and social life. Saint Paul writes in his epistle to the Ephesians: “He is our peace” ([Ephesians 2:14](#)). Therefore, the greatest

expression of God's universal might, the manner in which the Prince of Peace manifests His power and authority, is not in the humiliation of others through injustice and violence, but in serving others out of unconditional love for the sake of peace!

At times in our daily lives it may seem to us that the one who is powerful is the one who is able to humiliate another. However, in reality such an expression of power is violence. Therefore, standing before the manger of the Prince of Peace, we begin to understand that violence is always the argument of a weakling, of one who wishes to appear powerful. It is the behaviour of a coward, who simply fears the other, no matter how weak.

Christ endured violence from the very moment of His birth. King Herod, whom history calls great, in reality was a little coward: he feared for his authority, he perceived himself a failure in the face of God as a powerless Child. In order to retain authority and the riches entailed in it, he resorted to violence: commanding the death of the little ones of Bethlehem, the children of his own people! The peace of God, on the other hand, is always mightier than human violence, and that is why He is always victorious.

Only the powerless and weak in spirit adopt a strategy of insidious attack, aggression, or blind violence as a method of ensuring one's authority, being incapable of convincing or leading others any other way. In contrast, human frailty, vested in Divine power, often becomes the pledge of true victory and a lasting peace. Let us recall what the Lord revealed to the Apostle of the nations: "My power is made perfect in weakness" ([2 Corinthians 12:9](#)). The weakness of God is mightier than the appearance of human power. Herod was buried not long after the birth of our Lord Jesus, while Christ, the Prince of Peace, is alive—yesterday, today and forever! (see [Hebrews 13:8](#)).

Beloved in Christ! To celebrate Christmas is to be filled with peace from heaven and to say "no" to violence. Let us receive the newly-born Saviour as Prince of Peace in our families and become, following the example of St. Joseph and Mary the Theotokos, bearers and custodians of peace. Let us avoid all forms of violence—in word and deed—especially in our family circle, in relations between husband and wife or parents and children. Let us reject the culture of death which allows for the killing of the innocent unborn and, as we see in some countries of the world, encourages the gravely ill or elderly to shorten their life under the guise of a so-called "sweet death," which is nothing more than an offense against God and a crime against the sanctity and inviolability of human life.

Let our ancient Christmas carols resound in our schools and educational institutions, safeguarding our children from events of violence. In societies where we live, let us not permit the presence of blind physical or moral violence on the political battleground. Representatives of political forces who encourage violence and foment conflicts are in reality spiritual weaklings, and they will never be capable of serving the common good of our people. Wherever we live, whether in Ukraine, which in the near future will be electing a president and parliament, or in the countries where our people have settled, let us support those who aspire elected office not in order to rule others, but in order to serve. Let us support those who resist violence and seek to establish

the peace of God, a peace that is just and lasting.

Let us celebrate Christ's Nativity today and bring forth the joy and peace that comes from heaven. Let us conquer violence and fear, both in our personal lives, and on all the fronts of this war, whose consequences profoundly affect each and every one of us. Let us counter foreign aggression, as do those who defend our native land in Ukraine's East, with the sacrifice of our love, in active solidarity with the victims of aggression. Let us be persistent in prayer, calling for the peace of God upon our land, in our families and hearts! May the words of the prophet Isaiah be fulfilled for us: "Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise" ([Isaiah 60:18](#)).

Beloved Brothers and Sisters! With this Christmas letter I greet all of you who today, as domestic Church, receive the new-born Christ into your families—parents and children, the elderly and youth. I hasten to share the good news of joy and peace with those, who labour abroad—far away from their home and loved-ones. I embrace those brothers and sisters who have been forced to migrate, who miss their native lands, and all, who today carry on their bodies and in their hearts the wounds of war and violence.

With the Nativity of Christ, I especially greet our soldiers, the defenders of peace and victors of war. My thoughts and prayers go to the cold prisons, where our prisoners of war and of conscience continue to suffer; to the hospitals, where our wounded in battle for our nation regain their health; to the homes, where Ukrainians afflicted with grief mourn the loss of their loved-ones because of the war. The Lord of peace is with us! May the Christmas star shine upon us with its light, and in every home the words of our carol-song resound clearly:

Ангели співають: (The Angels sing:)

«Слава» восклицают, (Exclaiming "Glory!")

На небесах і на землі (In heaven and on earth)

Мир проповідують. (Proclaiming peace.)

I wish all of you the authentic joy that is given to the children of God, a cheerful celebration of Christ's Nativity, 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 our father St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the 19th (6th) of December in the 2018th Year of our Lord



**PASTORAL LETTER OF THE MOST REVEREND KEN NOWAKOWSKI,
BISHOP OF NEW WESTMINSTER ON THE OCCASION OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY
OF OUR LORD 2018**

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

The unapproachable God, out of mercy, wished to become visible for us. He comes in the flesh, to be born as a human being of the most pure Virgin, in the city of Bethlehem. Therefore, let us hasten with devotion to receive him.

[Sessional hymn, pre-feast of the Nativity]

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Where will you be for the Christmas holiday season? I know that this is a question many people ask one another: Are you staying in town, going to visit your family in Saskatchewan or heading off to some white sand beach resort? Often, we find ourselves planning our Christmas holidays months ahead of Christmas. We book tickets and hotel rooms, prepay meals and schedule activities typical for the location.

Then there's the question: Are you ready for Christmas? Usually that means: Did you get all your Christmas holiday shopping done? Are the outdoor lights up before the snow or rain comes? Have you finished baking for the holidays, wrapping and sending off your Christmas gifts? In our busy world these are not unusual questions.

We do need to plan ahead so that we can be with family or make the most of our vacation time away from work or school. But what if in asking ourselves about the where and what of Advent and Christmas, this is what we responded: During Advent I decided to donate to the local food bank, to a charity that really makes a difference in people's lives. I spent time at a retreat or made a day of spiritual renewal. I went to confession so that I can be ready to celebrate the birth of Our Lord. Oh, and where am I going to be on Christmas? In church, of course!

The "where" and "how" of our celebration depends on the "who and why" of Christmas. Our highly commercialized society tries to convince us that we will be fulfilled if we shop, till we drop, and go from party to party, pretending festive joy before the actual feast. We know better! Let's make sure that for us and our families "Jesus is the reason for the season!" Let the "Who" - our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, - the "why" - His entrance into human history at the Nativity, be the center of our celebration. Then the "where" and "how" will fall into place: Christ is born! Glorify Him!

With assurance of my prayerful best wishes and blessings to you and your family, I remain,

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+Ken Nowakowski

Bishop of New Westminster