



550 West 14 Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 1P6  
E-Mail: office@stmarysbc.com

Українська Католицька Парафія  
Покров Пресвятої Богородиці

Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Ukrainian Catholic Parish

Phone: 604.879.5830  
Fax: 604.874.2727  
Website: www.stmarysbc.com

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*“Today the Virgin stands before us in the temple,  
And together with the choirs of saints prays to God for us.”*

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20 грудня, 2020

Volume 65 No. 39

December 20, 2020

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**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*

**Щодня/Daily Scheduled**

*7:30 AM in Chapel*

**Сповідь/Confessions:** 30 minutes before  
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  
must be made at least 6 months before the  
marriage

**Funerals** - by arrangement

**Basilian Fathers serving the Parish:**

*Fr. Joseph Pidskalny, OSBM - Administrator*

*Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM  
Bishop-Emeritus*

**Неділя Перед Різдром  
Неділя Святих Отців**



**Sunday Before Christmas  
Sunday of the Holy Fathers**

Hebrews 11:24-26;32 - 12:2  
Matthew 1:1; 17-25

**TODAY: Sunday, December 20: Welcome!** The Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish welcomes all guests, friends, and Parishioners participating in this Divine Liturgy.

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

### **Public Health Orders - Province of British Columbia**

On December 7, 2020 our Provincial Health Officer extended the restrictions to help stem the tide of the pandemic that our world currently faces. Places of worship will continue to remain closed till at least January 8, 2021.

**St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church will remain closed until further notice.**

**Note:** During this time when the church remains closed, the Sunday Divine Liturgy will be pre-recorded on Saturday evening and posted on our parish website on Sunday morning.

### **Christmas Eve Complines and Divine Liturgy**

**Our Christmas Eve Complines Service and Divine Liturgy will be pre-recorded and posted on our parish website on December 24 by 9:00 PM PST.**

Thank you for your most generous donations and continued support. Please do not forget our parish and all its financial obligations during this time. May Our Lord bless and reward you!

### **The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December 2020**

**For a life of prayer:** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

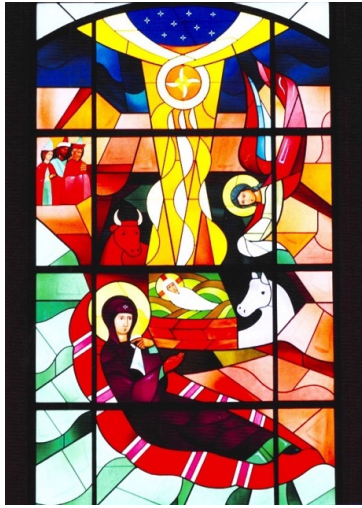
### **Prayer Petitions**

We pray for those who have contracted the Coronavirus, and their families and friends. Lord, grant them your healing, peace and hope. Lord, hear us and have mercy.

We pray for all health care professionals and caregivers who give of themselves for our physical and mental wellbeing. Lord, strengthen them in their work to help us. Lord, hear us and have mercy.

We pray for those who experience anxiety or mental illness, and for those who fear for their health and safety during this time of pandemic. Lord, grant them your consolation and peace. We pray, hear us and have mercy.

We also pray for all who have died from the Coronavirus, and for their family members and friends. May they find a place of light where there is no pain, sorrow or mourning, but only life without end. Lord, hear us and have mercy.



*“When the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, the magi, coming from the East, adored God made man, and unfolding their treasures, they brought precious gifts: the purest gold as to the eternal King; and incense as to the God of all; and myrrh as to the immortal dead of three days. Come all nations, let us adore Him Who is born to save our souls.”* (Vespers for the Nativity of Our Lord)

When you look at the stained glass window of the Nativity of Our Lord that is above the main entrance to our church (choir loft) you will notice the three Magi in the top left hand corner. Whatever happened to these wise men? They leave the biblical story as quickly as they enter it. They came from afar to worship the “Lord of Lords” and “King of Kings” and then we hear nothing more of them.

However, what the wise men saw in the stars prompted them to make an extremely difficult journey to seek out the Lord Jesus. Their journey led them to meet the Lord and their lives were never the same again. The light of Christ made its way into their hearts and they became new people.

You and I don’t need to cross deserts or mountains to find Jesus. We have traversed the most difficult of times in this pandemic. However, our hearts and minds must be opened to Him. And when we encounter the truth of Jesus, we will be transformed. Life will take on a new direction.

Christ being born into the world is a monumental event. *“God with us”* changes us. When we let Him into our lives and trust that He will guide us as we journey through life, then we will definitely become new people; a grateful and thankful people.

Though Christmas 2020 will be unique and unusual, we will still celebrate the central message of Christmas: that *“Christ is Born”* and that *“God is with us.”* May His light shine in us, and through us, to others. May we surrender the fears and doubts of what tomorrow might bring and trust that God will guide us.

On behalf of our Basilian community and our Parish Council I wish each of you, and your families a blessed and joyous Christmas. *“Emmanuel - God is with us.”* May His name be on our lips and His spirit live in our hearts - in the new year and always.

Христос Роддається! Славимо Його!

Christ is Born! Let us Praise Him!

Fr. Joseph

## **Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”**

With the Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021.

In the Apostolic Letter Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Holy Father wrote “Patris corde” against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence, who nonetheless played an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

The letter in its entirety may be found on the Vatican website. Please use this link:

**[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20201208\\_patris-corde.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html)**

At the conclusion of his Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis adds another prayer to St. Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son;

In you Mary placed her trust;

With you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,

Show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

**<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>**

## **Christmas Candle/Різдвяна Свічка**

Since 2012 the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster 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. 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 donation.

Donations can be made at any Ukrainian Catholic Parish in BC or mailed and payable to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster and clearly marked with “Christmas Candle Project” on the envelope and cheque. For more information, please contact Dana Koren Lupynis, Natalia Lupynis or Emelia Lupynis at [nweparchy.christmascandle@gmail.com](mailto:nweparchy.christmascandle@gmail.com) and follow us on Facebook at [Caritas “Christmas Candle/Різдвяна свічка” Campaign, sponsored by NWEparchy.](#)

## **Tropars and Readings for the Sunday Before Christmas - Holy Fathers**

### **Resurrection Tropar, tone 4:**

When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the glorious news of the resurrection and cast off the ancestral condemnation, they proudly told the apostles: "Death has been plundered! Christ our God is risen, granting to the world great mercy."

### **Tropar of the Fathers, tone 2:**

Great are the accomplishments of faith; Three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though in calm water. Daniel the prophet appeared as a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Tropar of the Pre-Feast, tone 4:**

Bethlehem, make ready, for Eden has been opened for all; Ephrata, be alert, for the Tree of Life has blossomed forth from the Virgin in a manger. Her womb has become a spiritual paradise wherein the divine Fruit was planted - and if we eat of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. Christ is coming forth to bring back to life the likeness that had been lost in the beginning.

**Prokimen, tone 4:** All honour and blessing to You, Lord, God of our ancestors, may your name be held glorious for ever.

*verse:* Your justice is apparent in all that You have done for us.

### **A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (11:24-26; 32 - 12:2)**

Brethren. After Moses grew up, his faith made him refuse to be called Pharaoh's grandson. He preferred to suffer with God's people rather than enjoy sin for a short time. Moses knew that the treasures of Egypt were not as wonderful as what he would receive from suffering for the Messiah, and he looked forward to his reward.

What else can I say? There is not enough time to speak of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Their faith helped them conquer kingdoms, and because they did right, God made promises to them. They closed the jaws of lions, put out raging fires and escaped from the swords of their enemies. Although they were weak, they were given the strength and power to chase away foreign armies.

Some women received their loved ones back from death. Many of these people were tortured, but they refused to be released. They were sure that they would get a better reward when the dead are raised to life. Others were made fun of and beaten with whips, and some were chained in jail. Still others were stoned to death or sawed in two or killed with swords. Some had nothing but sheep skins or goat skins to wear. They were poor, mistreated, and tortured. The world did not deserve these good people, who had to wander in deserts and on mountains and had to live in caves and holes in the ground.

All of them pleased God because of their faith! But still they died without being given what had been promised. This was because God had something better in store for us. And he did not want them to reach the goal of their faith without us.

Such a large crowd of witnesses is all around us! So we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that will not let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete.

### **Alleluia (3)**

verse: O God, we heard with our own ears, and our fathers related to us.

verse: You saved us from our enemies, and put to shame those who hated us.

### **A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew (1:1; 17-25)**

The origin of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham. From Abraham to David there were fourteen generations; from David to the exile in Babylon fourteen generations; and from the exile in Babylon to Christ fourteen generations.

This was how the birth of Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found that she was to have a child by the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately.

While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus - because he will save his people from their sins."

All this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, "A virgin will be with child and have a son, and he will be called Emmanuel, which means, God is with us."

Joseph arising from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took Mary as his wife. And he did not know her till she brought forth her firstborn son. And he called his name Jesus.

### **Communion Verse:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest.

Rejoice in the Lord. O you just; praise befits the righteous. Alleluia. (3)

### **Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in these Holy Gifts!

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot receive You now, I place before You my whole life and hope, O loving Master; and I ask, pray, and entreat You: Make me worthy to partake in a mystical way and with a pure conscience of Your awesome and heavenly Mysteries: for forgiveness of sins, for the pardon of offenses, for communion of the Holy Spirit, for the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven, for confidence before You, and not for judgment or condemnation.

I embrace You as You enter and abide in me, and I unite myself completely to You.

Permeate my soul and body, and never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.