



**Українська Католицька Парафія
Покров Пресвятої Богородиці
Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Parish**

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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.”*

29 серпня, 2021

Volume 65 No. 35

August 29, 2021

Служби Божі/Divine Liturgies

Неділя/Sunday: 8:30 AM English

10:30 AM Ukrainian

**14-а Неділя по Зісланні Св. Духа
Усікновення Голови Івана Христителя**

У Свята/Holy Day of Obligation

10:00 AM

Щодня/Daily Scheduled

7:30 AM in Chapel

Сповідь/Confessions:

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



**14th Sunday after Pentecost
Beheading of John the Baptist**

2 Corinthians 1:21 - 2:4
Matthew 22:1-14

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

You are invited for coffee and fellowship the Fellowship Room after the 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy.

Last week Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM was admitted to St. John Hospice at UBC. Please keep Bishop Severian in your prayers.

In accordance the Provincial Health Order of August 25, 2021 masks are required in all public indoor settings for people born in 2009 or earlier (12+).

Therefore, masks must be worn while in Church for worship or downstairs in the Fellowship Room.

There are exemptions for:

- People with health conditions or with physical, cognitive or mental impairments who cannot wear one.
- People who cannot remove a mask on their own.
- Children under the age of 12.
- People who need to remove their masks to communicate due to another person's hearing impairment.

A face shield is not a substitute for a mask as it has an opening below the mouth.

Hymns at 10:30 Divine Liturgy

Opening: page 234: "В страсі і покорі" "V strasi i pokori"

Communion: page 258: "Тіло Христове" "Tilo Khrystove"

Closing: page 276: "В сильній надії" "V syl'niy nadiyi"

August 29 - Beheading of John the Baptist Day of Fasting

You may have noticed on the parish wall calendar that there is a fish for August 29. On this day we commemorate the beheading of John the Baptist.

The Byzantine Church keeps this day as a fast day (i.e.: no meat products) regardless of what day it falls on, including Sunday, as a reminder that we are to live a different style of life than Herod. Red vestments are worn at all liturgical services on this day.

In memory of this event, some Christians also keep the custom of not using dishes on this day, since John's head was served on a dish/platter. Instead, only bowls are used. Also, the food that is served on this day should not require the use of a knife, since a sharp instrument was used to behead him.

Thus, we are given three ways to remember St. John's beheading: fasting, using bowls, eating food that is not cut.

Divine Liturgy Intentions

If you would like to request a Divine Liturgy, please contact the parish office to book a date. If you are making an offering for this service by cheque, please make your cheque payable to "Basilian Fathers." The suggested offering for a Divine Liturgy is \$10.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation then please contact the Parish Office by phone at 604.879.5830 or email: office@stmarysbc.com to make an appointment.

Prayer to My Guardian Angel

O Angel of God, my holy guardian, given to me from heaven, enlighten me this day, and save me from all evil. Instruct me in doing good deeds, and set me on the path of salvation. Amen.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for August 2021

The Church: Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for September 2021

An environmentally sustainable lifestyle: We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

A Prayer by Pope Francis for the Year of Saint Joseph

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.

The Passion of Saint John the Baptist August 29

A desert-dwelling, locust-eating, weed-wearing, celibate ascetic dies for marriage

Saint John Vianney was so opposed to the dances held routinely in his small town of Ars that he dedicated a small chapel in his parish church to Saint John the Baptist. At its entrance was painted, perhaps somewhat tongue in cheek, a warning of the evil effects produced by lust and drink: "His head was the price of a dance."

Saint John the Baptist's head was, indeed, the wage rendered by an older man for the satisfaction of watching a young girl dance at his birthday party. More remotely, however, John's beheading was not caused by a suggestive dance. He paid with his head for poking the bear. John denounced King Herod Antipas, to his face, for divorcing his lawful wife and taking as his own Herodias, his sister-in-law, the wife of his still living half-brother Philip. (Convoluting family blood lines also made Herodias Herod's niece.) John the Baptist died a martyr for marriage.

Herod Antipas was a tetrarch - one of four rulers who co-governed ancient Palestine as client kings under the oversight of a Roman governor. Herod Antipas learned cruelty at home on his father's knee. His father, Herod the Great, had two of his own sons strangled to death, murdered his favorite wife, and ordered the slaughter of all the male babies of Bethlehem.

Herod Antipas' imprisonment and execution of John was more aggressive than his restrained interaction, a few years later, with John's cousin. Jesus had called Herod a "fox" when some pharisees told Jesus that Herod was plotting His death. Pontius Pilate later sent Jesus to Herod for interrogation after Pilate determined that the Jew's complaints about Jesus fell more under Herod's jurisdiction than Pilate's own. At this strange audience in Jerusalem between Herod and Jesus on Good Friday, Herod wanted Jesus to perform a miracle for him, as if Jesus were a mere magician who pulled rabbits out of hats. But Jesus said not a word to the man who killed His beloved cousin. Jesus, after all, did not come to provide bread and circuses to the curious. He performed miracles to elicit and to reward faith. So the fox sent Jesus back to Pilate for what always happened next.

Herod is to John the Baptist what Pilate is to Jesus. Neither Herod's nor Pilate's first choice was to order an execution. But cowardice and fear coalesced until commanding the death of an innocent man was more expedient than braving the ridicule and threats of subordinates. According to Saint Mark, "Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man. "When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him" (Mk 6:20) "Herod was deeply grieved" (Mk 6:26) that he had to order John's death. But he didn't actually have to order John's death. If he were truly grieved, he could have stood up in the midst of the happy crowd, said "I made a stupid promise which I now regret," and granted Salome (her name is not found in the Bible) some other handsome gift instead of a blood-splattered plate. Herod beheaded a man to save face, to avoid embarrassment, and to avoid having to say "I made a mistake."

The Passion, or Beheading, of Saint John the Baptist is one of the very oldest liturgical feasts on the Church's calendar. John's birth may be the oldest feast. Along with the feasts of Holy Week, the original event of John's death is right there on the surface of Holy Scripture, and so likely was commemorated as soon as the Church started commemorating anything. John the Baptist's colorful life on the edge of respectability came to an abrupt end due to the weakness of a weak man, Herod, and due to the revenge sought by the troubled conscience of Herodias, who despised John for mentioning the obvious. Saint Jerome writes that Herodias's rage was not satiated by the grisly head of her tormentor on a platter, but that she rabidly stabbed the tongue which had indicted her even after it was silenced.

Saint John the Baptist, your penitential life ended abruptly when you spoke the truth to power. You did not flinch, vacillate, or equivocate. You were imprisoned and then killed for defending the dignity of marriage. Help us to be as courageous and plainspoken as you.

<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/august-29the-beheading-of-st-john-the-baptist/>