



**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.”*

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**31 грудня, 2023**

**Volume 67 No. 44**

**December 31, 2023**

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**Служби Божі/Divine Liturgies**

Неділя/Sunday: 8:30 am English

10:30 am Ukrainian

**У Свята/Holy Day of Obligation**

10:00 am

**Щодня/Daily (Mon-Sat)**

7:00 am in Chapel

**Сповідь/Confessions**

Before both Sunday Divine Liturgies

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

Fr. Josafat Oliinyk, OSBM - Assistant

**Неділя по Різдві**



**Sunday after Christmas**

Galatians 1:11-19

Matthew 2:13-23

**Welcome! The Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish welcomes everyone to our Divine Liturgy. Thank you for worshipping with us today.**

As today is the last day of 2023 we will celebrate a "Devotion for the End of the Year" (after both Divine Liturgies), along with a blessing with the Blessed Sacrament.

In honour of the Feast of St. Basil the Great which falls on January 1st, the Fathers invite you for sandwiches, coffee and sweets following the 8:30 and 10:30 am Divine Liturgies. Please join us.

**Thank you** to all parishioners for your generosity and kindness at Christmas time. May Our Lord bless you abundantly.

**Eternal Memory!** We extend our sincerest condolences to the Family of the late Merrie Evans. Funeral arrangements pending. Вічна Пам'ять!

### **Hymns at 10:30 Divine Liturgy**

Opening: page 28: Бог Предвічний; Boh predvichnyi

Communion: page 38: В Вифеємі новина; V Vyfleyemi novyna

Closing: page 28: Бог Предвічний (last verse)

**Понеділок, 1 січня: Обрізання Господа і Спаса Нашого Ісуса Христа  
Святого Отця Василя Великого й Новий Рік**

10:00 ранку - Служба Божа (у двох мовах)

**П'ятниця, 5 січня: Навечір'я Богоявління (піст)**

10:00 ранку - Служба Божа (у двох мовах) й Водосвяття

**Субота, 6 січня: Богоявління - Йордан (обов'язкове свято)**

10:00 ранку - Служба Божа (у двох мовах) й Водосвяття

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

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy (bilingual)

**Friday, January 5: Eve of Theophany** (Day of abstinence from meat products)

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy (bilingual) and Blessing of water

**Saturday, January 6: Feast of Theophany - Jordan** (Holy Day of Obligation)

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy (bilingual) and Blessing of water

### **Holy Water for the Feast of Theophany**

Once again, we ask that parishioners not bring their own jars/containers for the water that will be blessed on the Feast of Theophany. Rather, the Parish will provide these jars. Jars of holy water will be available in the church vestibule as of January 6.

**Home Blessings:** If you wish to have your home blessed please contact the parish office.

**Tickets for our Parish Christmas Dinner** (Sunday, January 14) will be available in the church vestibule following both Divine Liturgies.

The **2024 Parish donation envelopes** and **2024 Parish Calendars** are available in the church vestibule.

### **Year End Contributions**

Thank you to all parishioners for your generous donations throughout the year. For any donations that you want included on your 2023 tax receipt: **ALL contributions must be received in the parish office, and your cheques dated no later than TODAY, December 31, 2023 - this includes any donations for "Aid to Ukraine".**

### **Parish Christmas Dinner**

**Sunday, January 14, 2024**

Divine Liturgies: 8:30 am & 10:30 am

**12:00 Noon: Parish Dinner in the Auditorium**

Catered Dinner - 125 person limit

**Tickets: Advance purchase only**

Weekday - Parish Office: 604.879.5830

Sunday - following the Divine Liturgies on December 31, January 7

Cut-off date for ticket purchase: January 11, 2024

**Adults: \$15 / Seniors (60+): \$10 / Children 7-12: \$10**

**Children 6 & under: no charge**

No walk-ins at the door

### **Knights of Columbus**

**Are You a Brother Knight?** A survey is being taken to determine which men in our Parish are members of the Knights of Columbus or may be interested in joining. Depending on numbers, interest and approval from the Parish Administrator, a Round Table could be formed to hold spiritual activities and give support to our Clergy and Parish.

Please let the parish office ([office@stmarysbc.com](mailto:office@stmarysbc.com)) or PGK Adrian ([adk.bckofc@gmail.com](mailto:adk.bckofc@gmail.com)) know of your name and your home Council and/or Assembly numbers by January 31/2024.

For more information about joining, please ask Adrian or go [online](#) and enter the Promo Code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY to join for free.

### **Saint Basil the Great - Feast Day - January 1st Bishop and Doctor of the Church (329-379)**

Saint Basil was born in Asia Minor in 329. Two of his brothers became bishops, and with his mother and his sister, are honoured as Saints. He studied with great success in Athens, where he formed a tender and perpetual friendship with Saint Gregory Nazianzen. He then taught oratory. The study of philosophy had already raised him

above all worldly ambition, and dreading the honours of the world, he gave up all things to become the father of monastic life in the East. His older sister, Saint Macrina, encouraged him when he abandoned the greater part of his inheritance.

He retired into Pontus, where his sister was Superior of a convent, into which his mother also had entered; there he founded a monastery on the opposite side of the river from the convent, and governed it for four years, from 358 to 362. He founded several other religious houses in the same region, both for men and for women. It was for them that he composed his ascetic works, including his famous Rule, still followed by the monks of the Orient.

He then resigned, leaving his office to his brother, Saint Peter of Sebastus, to retire in prayer. Saint Gregory came to join his friend for a time, in response to his invitation. Ever afterwards, Basil would recall with regret the peace and happiness they had enjoyed, singing Psalms, studying Scripture, keeping vigil in prayer, and disciplining their flesh by manual work. It was only in 363 that this holy hermit was ordained a priest by Eusebius of Caesarea in Cappadocia.

The Arian heretics, supported by the court, were then persecuting the Church, and Basil was summoned from his retirement by his bishop to give aid against them. His energy and zeal soon mitigated the disorders of the Church, and his solid and eloquent words silenced the heretics. On the death of Eusebius, he was chosen Bishop of Caesarea. His commanding character, his firmness and energy, his learning and eloquence, seconded by his humility and the great austerity of his life, made him a model for bishops. He founded in Caesarea a vast hospital, which Saint Gregory called a new city and which remained in existence for long decades. He went there often to console the suffering, and help them to make good use of their pains.

When Saint Basil was summoned by the emperor Valentius to admit the Arians to Communion, the prefect in charge, finding that soft words had no effect, said to him, "Are you mad, that you resist the will before which the whole world bows? Do you not dread the wrath of the emperor, nor exile, nor death?" "No," said Basil calmly; "he who has nothing to lose need not dread loss of goods; you cannot exile me, for the whole earth is my home; as for death, it would be the greatest kindness you could bestow upon me; torments cannot harm me; one blow would end both my frail life and my sufferings." The prefect answered, "Never has anyone dared to address me thus." "Perhaps," suggested Basil, "you never before measured your strength with a Christian bishop." The emperor desisted from his commands.

Saint Basil's entire life was one of suffering, both physical and moral; he lived amidst jealousies, misunderstandings and seeming disappointments. But he sowed the seed which bore good fruit in the future generations. He was God's instrument to resist the Arian and other heretics in the East, and to restore the spirit of discipline and fervor in the Church. He died peacefully in 379 at the age of fifty-one, and is venerated as a Doctor of the Church.

[https://sanctoral.com/en/saints/saint\\_basil\\_the\\_great.html](https://sanctoral.com/en/saints/saint_basil_the_great.html)