



**Українська Католицька Парафія
Покров Пресвятої Богородиці**

**Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Parish**

550 West 14 Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1P6

Phone: 604.879.5830 Fax: 604.874.2727

E-Mail: office@stmarysbc.com

Website: www.stmarysbc.com

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

4 січня, 2026

Volume 70 No. 01

January 4, 2026

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)

7:30 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 8 months before the
marriage

Funerals - by arrangement

Basilian Fathers serving the Parish

Fr. Joseph Pidskalny, OSBM - Administrator

Неділя перед Богоявлінням



Sunday before Theophany

2 Timothy 4:5-8
Mark 1:1-8

Welcome! The Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish welcomes everyone to our Sunday Divine Liturgy. Thank you for worshipping with us today. Your presence is a blessing to us.

Coffee and sweets following the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy. Please join us.

Tickets for our Parish Christmas Dinner (Sunday, January 11) will be available in the church vestibule following both Divine Liturgies.

Hymns at the 10:30 Divine Liturgy

Opening: page 38: В Вефліємі новина; V Vefleyemi novyna

Communion: page 95: Свята ніч; Sviata nich

Closing: page 54: Возвеселімся всі разом нині; Vozveselimsia vsi razom nyni

Monday, January 5: Eve of Theophany (Day of abstinence from meat products)
10:00 am - Divine Liturgy and Blessing of water.

Tuesday, January 6: Feast of Theophany - Jordan (Holy Day of Obligation)
10:00 am - Divine Liturgy and Blessing of water.

Понеділок, 5 січня: Навечір'я Богоявління (піст)
10:00 ранку - Служба Божа й Водосвяття

Вівторок, 6 січня: Богоявління - Йордан (обов'язкове свято)
10:00 ранку - Служба Божа й Водосвяття

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

Prayer for Sick Parishioners and their Families

Heavenly Father, look with mercy on all of our parishioners who suffer any kind of infirmity, sickness or injury, that they may be comforted. Let your hand of healing and protection be upon them, and upon their families who suffer along with them.

When they are fearful, ease their fear and anxieties.

When they are afraid, give them strength and courage.

When they feel alone, send them someone to listen and to care.

When they are confused, provide reassurance and direction.

When they are in pain, ease their suffering.

When they despair, give them hope.

May they experience your comfort and healing. We ask this in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed Mother Mary place them under your mantle of protection. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Parish Christmas Dinner

Sunday, January 11, 2026

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

12:00 Noon: Parish Dinner in the Auditorium

Catered Dinner

Tickets: Advance purchase only

Weekday - Parish Office: 604.879.5830

Sunday - following the Divine Liturgies on January 4

Cut-off date for ticket purchase: January 8, 2026

Adults: \$30 / Children & Youth (7-19): \$20

Children 6 & under: no charge

No walk-ins at the door

UCWLC AGM Meeting

Saturday, January 17: 9:30 am: UCWLC AGM Meeting followed by a general meeting. All Executive must have written report ready. Committee heads to have reports-verbal or written.

Ladies, **PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE** and try to attend as there are a few items to discuss and to elect a new executive. See you then. President: Marlayne Andrijaszyn

Frozen Pyrohy (Perogies)

Frozen pyrohy (perogies) will be available for purchase after both Sunday Divine Liturgies in the Fellowship Room kitchen. \$10/dozen.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January 2026

For prayer with the Word of God. Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

ALCOHOL FREE JANUARY

Canadian Cancer Society Fundraiser - St. Mary's Church Team

Starting January 1, 2026, our parish is participating again in the *Canadian Cancer Society* fundraiser "**Alcohol Free January Challenge.**" This fundraiser challenges you to go alcohol free for 31 days. It is a good start to the year which helps you get healthy while also raising funds to aid in cancer research.

You can donate on-line. **CLICK on the link**

<https://fundraisemyway.cancer.ca/teams/9165>

You may also donate by making out a cheque to the **Canadian Cancer Society** and putting it in the Sunday collection basket, along with your **name and address.** Cash can be given the same way. Tax receipts are issued for any donations \$20 or more.

Our St Mary's Team hopes to raise \$5000. We need your continued support.

Blessing with Holy Water

Why do we use water to bless ourselves when we enter Church and to bless our homes, cars, places of business, etc.? We know that we need to use water for baptisms, but how did the Church start using separate, blessed holy water for these other things? After all, in the earliest times of the Church baptisms took place in rivers, streams, and lakes, so they didn't have large containers full of holy water in their churches. In fact, since Christianity was illegal, they didn't even have churches in most places.

The Church probably used holy water from the earliest days since water was used in Jewish homes for purification, and the earliest Christians were mostly Jews. However, the earliest recorded use of holy water is from the fourth century. It's a blessing of water to protect from disease, evil spirits, and all sickness or ailments. As soon as Christianity was legalized, churches began keeping the water from baptisms for people to use throughout the year. In the seventh century we begin to have records of churches keeping water at the entrance of the Church for people to bless themselves with or to take home with them.

Today, we use holy water for basically the same reasons. We bless ourselves, our homes, and our religious articles with holy water to ask God to purify them, to protect them from demonic influence, and to bestow His grace on them. When we bless ourselves with holy water whenever we enter Church, we are doing at least two things. First, we are reminding ourselves of our baptism, through which we first entered the Church and became children of God. Second, we are asking God to purify us of sin and fill us with His grace. We recognize that we are entering a holy place and ask God to make us worthy to enter his house.

Holy Water is a sacramental, not a sacrament. Sacraments, like baptism, work in and of themselves because of the power that God has given them. Sacramentals require the faith of the person using them to have an effect. If we just bless ourselves with holy water without really thinking about it, but just because that's what we always do, then it's not having much of an effect. So, every time you enter a Church and bless yourself with the holy water, ask God to stir up the graces of baptism in your soul, to forgive your sins, and to fill you with His lifegiving grace.

