

PARISH NEWS - February 23rd, 2020
Cheesefare Sunday (of Forgiveness)
Сирупусна Неділя

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS / ПРОСИМ О МОЛИТВУ ЗА ЗДОРОВ'Я

... all our parishioners who are in the hospitals, care homes, shut-ins and those who are not able to join us actively due to health reasons. Remember, if you would like a hospital or home visit, please call the parish office and let us know. Due to privacy laws, all requests must come from the individual or the immediate family.

Divine Liturgy:

Sunday 9:30 a.m. (English & Ukrainian)
Weekdays & Holy Days: Please see bulletin

Your Return Gift to God:

Last Sunday's Offering: \$510.00 (20 envelopes)
Special donation to the church: \$25.00
Thank You for Your Generosity! Щиро Вам Дякуємо!

~ Parish and Community Announcement ~

Coffee and Fellowship After Divine Liturgy - Come join us!

Lent begins on Monday of February 24th.

Take a few moments this month to consider how Lent can become a meaningful opportunity for renewal and spiritual growth.

The following are dispensed from the obligation of fasting: children up to 14 years, persons who have completed 60 years of age, those seriously ill, pregnant women, postpartum women who are lactating, travelers, (if the travel time exceeds eight hours); hard manual workers, those who eat from the table of others, the poor who live of charity.

FASTING DURING GREAT LENT TIME

1st day of Great Lent = no meat or dairy products
Good Friday = no meat or dairy products
No meat all Fridays of Great Lent

Lenten Memorial Services will begin on Friday, February 28th, at 6:00 p.m.

Please give Fr. Bohdan the names of those whom you wish to remember in these services.

Blessing of Icons, Crosses and Medals - First Sunday of Great Lent (March 1st) is the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Everyone is welcomed to bring their icons, crosses, medals, rosaries, or other holy items to church and have them blessed during the Liturgy. Please place on the Tetrapod.

Fr. Bohdan will be away from Sunday evening March 1st until Saturday March 14th.

Fr. Eugene Halitsky from Windsor will celebrate Divine Liturgy on March 8th.

For all weekly spiritual emergencies please contact Fr. Zbigniew Rodzinka, Queen of Peace Roman Catholic Church at 519-337-7943.

In case of all other emergencies please contact Fr. Tom Hrywna at 519- 890-0416 (Sts. Vladimir and Olga, Windsor Parish).

LENTEN MISSION AND CONFESSION

This year our Lenten Mission will be offered on: March 27th (Friday) - 6:00 PM and March 28th (Saturday) -10:00 AM. Please mark those days. Our Mission priest will be Fr. Bohdan Choly, a pastor at St. Sts. Cyril & Methodius Ukr. Cath. Church, St. Catharines, ON.

† DONALD JOSEPH HENRY VANDENTOP

We, as St. George's Parish Family, would like to express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of † Donald Vandentop who passed away on Tuesday February 18th 2020.

May the Lord God help and bless this grieving Family at this difficult time and may He accept the departed servant of God † DONALD VANDENTOP into the Heavenly Kingdom.

Everlasting Memory! Вічна пам'ять! Vichnaya Pam'yat'!

Panakhya at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday February 23, 2020 at Smith Funeral Home.

Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. on Monday February 24, 2020 at St. Georges Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Sympathy may be expressed through donations to St. George's Ukrainian Church and Diabetes Canada.

OUR TURN

Every minute, someone leaves this world. Even if we don't know about it we are already in line, waiting for our turn. We will never know how many people are ahead of us. We cannot go to the end of the line, and we cannot leave our place. We cannot miss our turn. So, while you are awaiting your turn, notice fine moments, define your priorities, value your time, show the world your inner gifts, recognize the value of other people, let the world hear your voice, turn little things into big things, make someone smile, create change, love, dream and create, be sure that your loved ones know that you love them, do not bemoan the past, and be sure that you are ready!

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Matt. 6:14-21

“If you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.” Matthew 6:14-15

This passage presents us with an ideal we must strive for. It also presents us with the consequences if we do not strive for this ideal.

It's important to note that forgiving another does not excuse their sin. Forgiveness does not mean that the sin did not happen or that it is OK that it happened. Rather, forgiving another does the opposite. Forgiving actually points to the sin, acknowledges it and makes it a central focus. This is important to understand. By identifying the sin that is to be forgiven, and then forgiving it, justice is done in a supernatural way. Justice is fulfilled by mercy. And the mercy offered has an even greater effect on the one offering mercy than the one it is offered to.

By offering mercy for the sin of another, we become freed of the effects of their sin. Mercy is a way for God to remove this hurt from our lives and free us to encounter His mercy all the more by the forgiveness of our own sins for which we could never deserve on our own effort.

It's also important to note that forgiving another does not necessarily result in reconciliation. *Reconciliation* between the two can only happen when the offender accepts the forgiveness offered after humbly admitting their sin. This humble and purifying act satisfies justice on a whole new level and enables these sins to be transformed into grace. And once transformed, they can even go so far as to deepen the bond of love between the two.

Cheese Fare Sunday (Forgiveness Sunday)

This Sunday is known by several names: Cheese-fare, Adam's Lament, and Forgiveness Sunday. Cheese-fare is derived from the past practice of fasting from all meat, egg and dairy products for 40 days. Today, we have two days (Monday, the 1st day of Lent and Good Friday) of a strict fast, which is abstinence from meat, eggs and dairy products and having ONE full meal on that day. This Sunday, the last of the preparatory Sundays before Great Lent, has two themes: it commemorates Adam's expulsion from Paradise, and it accentuates our need for forgiveness.

Adam's Lament – Focus is placed on the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, an event that shows us how far we have fallen in sin and separated ourselves from God. At the onset of Great Lent and a period of intense fasting, this Sunday reminds us of our need for God's forgiveness and guides our hearts, minds, and spiritual efforts on returning to Him in repentance.

Forgiveness Sunday – The second theme, that of forgiveness, is emphasized in the Gospel reading for this Sunday (Matthew 6:14-21) and in the special ceremony of mutual forgiveness at the end of the Vespers on Sunday evening. Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family. Our asceticism and fasting should not separate us from others, but should link us to them with ever-stronger bonds. The Sunday of Forgiveness also directs us to see that Great Lent is a journey of liberation from our enslavement to sin. The Gospel lesson sets the conditions for this liberation...

The first condition is fasting – the refusal to accept the desires and urges of our fallen nature as normal; the effort to free ourselves from the dictatorship of the flesh and matter over the spirit. To be effective, however, our fast must not be hypocritical, a “showing off.” We must “appear not unto men to fast but to our Father who is in secret”.

The second condition is forgiveness – “If you forgive men their trespasses, your Father in heaven will also forgive you”. The triumph of sin, the main sign of its rule over the world, is division, opposition, separation, hatred. Therefore, the first breakthrough this fortress of sin is forgiveness: the return to unity, solidarity, love. To forgive is to put between me and my “enemy” the forgiveness of God Himself. To forgive is to reject the hopeless “dead-ends” of human relations and to refer them to Christ. Forgiveness is truly a “breakthrough” of the Kingdom into this sinful and fallen world.

Sunday, February 23, 2020

Cheesefare Sunday (of Forgiveness)

The First and Second Finding of the Precious Head of the Holy, Glorious Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist

All-Night Vigil Feast.

The commemoration of John the Baptist is transferred from February 24 for this year.

Troparion, 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.”

Troparion, Tone 4: The head of the Forerunner has dawned from the earth* shedding rays of incorruption and healing on those who believe;* from on high it assembles the multitude of angels,* from below it summons the human race* to glorify Christ God with one voice.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion, Tone 2: O Forerunner of Grace and prophet of God,* having obtained your head from the earth like a sacred rose,* we always receive gifts of healing;* for again as of old you proclaim repentance in the world.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 6: O Master, Guide to Wisdom*, Bestower of prudent counsel,* Instructor of the foolish and Defender of the poor ones,* make firm my heart and give it understanding.* Give me a word, O Word of the Father:* Behold, I shall not stop my lips from crying out to You:* In Your mercy, have mercy on me who am fallen.

Prokeimenon, Tone 8

Pray and give praise to the Lord our God.* Pray and give praise to the Lord our God.

verse: In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel. (*Psalm 75:12,2*)

verse: The just man shall be glad in the Lord and shall hope in Him.

Epistle - Romans 13:11-14:4; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Alleluia, Tone 6

verse: It is good to give praise to the Lord, and to sing to Your name, O Most High.

verse: To announce Your mercy in the morning and Your truth every night. (*Psalm 91:2,3*)

verse: The just man shall flourish like the palm tree; and he shall grow like the cedar in Lebanon.

verse: They who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish the courts of our God. (*Psalm 91:13,14*)

Gospel - Matthew 6:14-21; Matthew 11:2-15

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest. (*Psalm 148:1*)* The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance;* of evil hearsay he shall have no fear.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. (*Psalm 111:6*)

DIVINE LITURGIES THIS WEEK:

<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>INTENTION</i>	<i>OFFERED BY</i>
Monday, February 24th	10:00 AM	+ Donald Vandentop - Funeral Mass	Family
Wednesday, February 26 th	9:00 AM	+ Nell Hrycak (3 rd anniversary)	Phil Hrycak
Sunday, March 1 st	9:30 AM	For our parishioners	Fr. Bohdan