

PARISH NEWS - February 9nd, 2020
Prodigal Son Sunday - Неділя Блудного Сина

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. (Eng. & Ukr)

Weekdays: Please see Divine Liturgy Intention Schedule

Your Return Gift to God:

Last Sunday's Offering: \$570.00 (20 envelopes)

Thank You for Your Generosity! Щиро Вам Дякуємо!

~ Parish and Community Announcement ~

Coffee and Fellowship After Divine Liturgy - Come join us!

SAVE THE DATE - 4TH ANNUAL KofC Spring Dinner Dance

Fundraiser for Coats for Kids, St Vincent de Paul and other charities. 7 pm - Sat, 25 April 2020 - Our Lady of Mercy Parish Hall. Semi-Formal, 5-course sit down dinner by the Giresis. DJ, Cash bar, Dancing, 50-50, Photo Booth, Gift Baskets and more. Details to follow.

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.

Сорокоусти - відправи за померлих членів наших родин відправлятимуться у кожен п'ятницю Великого Посту починаючи із п'ятниці 28-го лютого. Просимо подати імена членів родин, щоб виголосити їх в часі сорокоустих відправ.

Count Down to Lent - 2 weeks, February 24th

Today is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son and the Christian meaning of the parable is very clear: We all need to return to God in repentance and faith. He does not compel us, so it must be a personal decision. God's forgiveness is gained by repentance - through recognizing and admitting the ways we have moved apart from God and His Commandments. The price for our reconciliation with God is paid by Jesus Christ, through His death on the cross. The parable depicts God's amazing availability to forgive and restore us. His great love accepts us independently and it should give us courage to come to Him in repentance and faith, without fear and inherit personal communion with Him in His everlasting kingdom.

Why does the priest cense us?

During the services, the priest censes many things in church. He also censes the people. Why does he cense the people? As clouds of smoke from the burning incense rise up, we are reminded that we were created in the “image and likeness of God.” It is this image in us that the priest censes. Just as he censes the icons of the saints, he censes each of us. We are called to be saints. When we turn to God and tell Him we are sorry for our sins, He visits us and blesses us. He encourages us to grow and become more like Himself who is both holy and good. When the priest censes us, he reminds us to keep the divine image in us pure and God-like.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Luke 15; 11-32

Coming to his senses he thought, “How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.’” Lk. 15:17-19

Why do we cling to our sins? This passage comes from the story of the Prodigal Son. We should know that story well. The son decided to leave his father and take his future inheritance, spending it on a life of sin. When the money he had ran out, he was in desperate need. So what did he do? He came to his senses!

This line alone is worth our meditation. First, it reveals what happens to a person who falls into a life of sin. In this case, the son eventually reaped the fruit of his sin. He found that his sin left him destitute and alone. He didn’t know where to turn. And though our sins may not be to the extent of this son, we will all experience the empty effects of the sins we commit, just as this son did.

The profound insight we can gain from this son is that he did come around. Specifically, by “coming to his senses” he recognized two important things. First, he realized that he is worth more than a life of destitution. No one should have to live an impoverished and empty life. Therefore, by seeing his own dignity he came to realize that he was made for more. Secondly, he knew he could turn to his father. What a blessing it was for him to know this. The reason he knew he could turn to his father was that his father clearly loved him with an unconditional love. The mercy in the heart of the father was so strong that the son was aware of it and this awareness gave him confidence to turn to him.

Reflect, today, upon this twofold action. The son sees his misery and also sees his father as the person to whom he can confidently turn. We must strive to do the same in our own lives. The Father in Heaven will never reject us. No matter what we have done or how far we have turned away, the Father’s love is perfect, relentless, unconditional and always inviting. He is ready and willing to dismiss every wrong we have done if we only turn to Him in confidence. Come to your senses in regard to your sins! Let go of them, repent and trust in the mercy of God.

Guide to Receiving Holy Communion in the Ukrainian-Greco Catholic Church

Do you ever come up to receive Holy Communion during the Divine Liturgy and wonder if you are doing it right?

This quick guide will hopefully give you the tips and tricks you need to know to answer this question. It will help you and the priest who is distributing Holy Communion each week.

- It is important to approach the chalice with care and reverence.
- Don't make the Sign of the Cross or move abruptly anywhere near the priest - this could accidentally knock the chalice. Instead, make the Cross long before you receive, and move gently and carefully.
- Don't close your eyes. If you can't see, there is a tendency to try to move toward the chalice, which risks knocking it.
- Speak your name aloud so the priest can hear it; this way, the priest can prayerfully commune you by name (even if the priest knows you, he may forget in the midst of the Liturgy!)
- Open your mouth - WIDE! This may sound obvious, but in the process of receiving the Holy Mysteries it is often forgotten, making it difficult for the Holy Mysteries to be safely delivered to the mouth of the communicant. And leave your tongue in place. Do not stick it out, and do not curl it up.
- Center yourself in front of the chalice. There is no need to move to the side of the chalice.
- Know your height! Most times the clergy are up a step and thus are already higher than people. If you are at eye-level with the chalice already, there is no need to bend your knees and move lower. If you are tall enough to see flat over the head of the one giving you Holy Communion, then bend a bit, but it is not necessary.
- You as the communicant does not say the 'Amen' at the end. The 'Amen' is part of the prayer that the one distributing the Holy Communion says.
- In the Ukrainian-Greco Catholic Church, we observe the practice of receiving Holy Communion from the point of our baptism. This is of course up to the parents. If it is your practice, please mention to the priest whether or not your child of any age receives or not. If your child is an infant, please specify if they are to receive just the Precious Blood or both the Precious Body and Blood. All children start eating solids at different times.

Visiting our Parish? Just stepped in? Checking us out? Came with friends or family? That's great! **We are happy to have you with us today! Listen,** if you have questions or need help or just want to know more about us or want to join us formally just ask the person **beside you** and/or speak with our **Pastor, Fr. Bohdan** and/or contact the **Parish Office. [519-542-9903](tel:519-542-9903).**

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Leave-taking of the Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord

The Holy Martyr Nicephorus

Troparion, Tone 2: When You went down to death, O Life Immortal,* You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity.* When You raised the dead from the nether world,* all the powers of heaven cried out:* “O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory be to You!”

Troparion, Tone 1: Rejoice, full of grace, Virgin Mother of God!* From you there dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,* who enlightens those who dwell in darkness.* And you, O righteous Elder, be glad!* You received in your embrace* the Liberator of our souls,* who grants us resurrection.

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

Kontakion, Tone 3: Foolishly have I fled from Your glory, O Father,* wasting the wealth You gave me on vices.* Therefore, I offer You the words of the Prodigal.* Loving Father, I have sinned before You.* Take me, for I repent, and make me as one of Your hired hands.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 1: By Your birth, You sanctified a virgin womb* and fittingly blessed the hands of Simeon.* You have come also now and saved us, O Christ our God;* give peace to Your community in time of war,* and strengthen its rulers, whom You love,* for You alone,* are the Lover of mankind.

Prokeimenon, Tone 2

The Lord is my strength and my song of praise, and He has become my salvation.

verse: The Lord has indeed chastised me, but He has not delivered me to death. (*Psalm 117:14,18*)

verse: My soul magnifies the Lord,* and my spirit has rejoiced in God, My Saviour.

Epistle - 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Alleluia, Tone 2

verse: The Lord will hear you in the day of tribulation; the name of the God of Jacob will shield you.

verse: Lord, grant victory to the king and hear us in the day that we shall call upon You. (*Psalm 19:2,10*)

verse: Now, O Master, You dismiss Your servant in peace according to Your word.

verse: For my eyes have seen Your salvation, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people, Israel. (*Luke 2:29,32*)

Gospel - Luke 15:11-32

Hymn to the Mother of God

O God-bearing Virgin, hope of Christians, protect and guard and save all those who put their trust in you.

and the Irmos, Tone 3: In the law, the shadow, and the scriptures, we the faithful see a figure: every male child that opens the womb shall be sanctified to God. Therefore do we magnify the first-born Word and Son of the Father who is without beginning, the first-born Child of a Mother who had not known man.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest. (*Psalm 148:1*)* I will take the chalice of salvation;* and I will call upon the name of the Lord.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. (*Psalm 116:13*)

Divine Liturgies this week:

DATE	TIME	INTENTION	OFFERED BY
Monday, February 10 th	9:00 AM	+ For all souls	Emilienne Phillion
Wednesday, February 12 th	9:00 AM	+ Kateryna	Family
Sunday, February 16 th	9:30 AM	For our parishioners	Fr. Bohdan