

PARISH NEWS - March 1st, 2020

1st Sunday of Lent
1-ша неділя Посту

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: \$795.00 (22 envelopes)

Special donation to the church: \$220.00

In memory of + Donald Vandentop: \$100.00

Thank You for Your Generosity! Дякуємо за вашу щедрість!

~ Parish and Community Announcement ~

Coffee and Fellowship After Divine Liturgy - Come join us!

Blessing of Icons, Crosses and Medals - Today 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.

Next Sunday, March 8th, 2020

Remember to turn your clocks

AHEAD ONE HOUR before going to bed!

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.

Once again we've entered into the Season of Lent. May this Lent be a time of blessing - a time when you will be renewed in God's grace, a time when you will experience new hope, greater peace and new joy in the Lord's goodness and love.

Make These 40 Days Holy!

Once again, we have entered into the blessed season of Lent. Once again, God, through His Church calls us to a closer relationship with Him. He invites us to spend extra time every day to be with Him, sit with Him, speak with Him, listen to Him. If only we could know what a privilege that is! How blessed we are, as God's children, to come to Him – not with fear, not out of compulsion, but freely, joyfully, gratefully as a child comes to the parent whom he loves and trusts. True, there are things we have done of which we are ashamed, things for which we deserve punishment. And yet, in faith, we know that our heavenly Father, is not out to punish or condemn us. He looks only for the opportunity to spend time in loving communion with us. He is anxious to fill our hearts with joy, peace and hope. He desires to set us free from the anxieties, fears and doubts which burden us daily. He longs to fill us with His blessings and gifts. During Lent, we meditate on the loving sacrifice of Christ; we meditate on the Stations of the Cross which remind us of the effects of our sins. But let us not forget all that Christ did, all that He endured for us. Let us never lose sight of the fact that the story does not end with the crucifixion; it continues to the resurrection – Christ's Resurrection and our own.

May this Lent indeed be a time of blessing – a time when you will be renewed in God's grace, a time when you will experience a new hope, a greater inner peace and a new joy in the Lord's goodness and love.

1st SUNDAY OF LENT - SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

The first Sunday of the Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy. What do we mean by "orthodoxy"? The word "orthodoxy" stems from the Greek word "orthodoxia" (orthos - right; doksa - faith, opinion) which signifies the true faith and the true worship of God. We are not speaking here of orthodoxy as we understand it today as being opposed to the Catholic Church, but orthodoxy, as applied to the whole Church of Christ until the schism between the Eastern and Western Churches which occurred in the eleventh century under the patriarch Cerularius (1054). The orthodoxy that we celebrate this Sunday is universal - catholic orthodoxy, professed by the entire Church of Christ of the first centuries in the battle against the heresy of Iconoclasm (Greek eikon - image; klastes - a breaker; - an image breaking heresy). The Sunday of Orthodoxy is a festival for the whole Church, both Eastern and Western. It is the festive celebration of the decisive victory over Iconoclasm and other heresies. The Council of Constantinople in the year 842 instituted the Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy and decreed that it be celebrated yearly. The purpose of this feast is to pay solemn public homage and veneration to the holy icons of Jesus Christ, the Blessed Mother of God, and all the Saints. The first celebration of Orthodoxy, that is, the first public veneration of holy icons after the condemnation of the heresy of Iconoclasm, occurred on the first Sunday of Lent in 842 A.D. This Sunday, even today, is called the Sunday of the Veneration of Holy Icons, although this feast bears no relation to the Great Fast. Let us examine closely the history of Iconoclasm and the reason for instituting the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: John 1: 43–51

Serving God Requires Perseverance...Those who are prepared to meet Christ discover in him a great treasure that they cannot keep to themselves. This time, Philip encounters Christ and shares this discovery with Nathaniel. When Nathaniel reacts skeptically, Philip doesn't give up. He knows that personal experience is more powerful than words, so he brings Nathaniel to meet Jesus. If we try to bring others to Christ, we could run into similar obstacles: hesitation, skepticism, lack of interest.... Do we give in too easily, or do we try to engage others more actively?

Jesus Wants Us...When Nathaniel does meet Jesus, he is surprised to discover that Jesus knows him and appreciates him for who he is. There is probably more background to Jesus' simple words than the Gospel tells us because they win Nathaniel over instantly. Perhaps we sometimes forget that Jesus, as God, is our creator, and when he calls a person (and in one way or another he calls every person), he does it knowing exactly whom he is calling. It is not a general altar call: It is a personal, direct call to our hearts, rooted in a real understanding of us as we are. He knows and loves us better than any mere human being ever could. When we experience that and help others to do so too, then his call becomes irresistible.

Learning to See the Greater Works of God... Jesus promises Nathaniel that he will see "greater things" in the future; in fact, he will witness most of the miracles of Jesus first-hand and will see many manifestations of the Father's love for the Son. Indeed, this is often the way Jesus works with all of us. We may be won over by an impressive

experience of God, but as our relationship with God deepens, we see “greater things” – not necessarily more spectacular things. As our appreciation for spiritual things grows, we become more attuned to God’s work, and we can pick up on the work of grace in our lives and the lives of others. That profound transformation is much greater than any miraculous physical healing or any merely sentimental experience. We need faith and trust and attentiveness to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit – plus a healthy dose of patience – if we want to see how God works, but the wait will be worth it.

Sunday, March 1, 2020

First Sunday of the Great fast - Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Holy Venerable-Martyr Eudocia (98-117)

Great Fast Day 7

Troparion, Tone 5: Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word,* co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,* and born of the Virgin for our salvation.* For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death* and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Troparion, Tone 2: We bow before Your most pure image, O kind Lord,* and beg pardon for our sins, O Christ our God.* Of Your own will You consented to ascend the Cross in the flesh to free Your handiwork from enslavement to the enemy.* In thanksgiving we cry aloud to You:* by coming to save the world, our Saviour, You filled all things with joy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 8: The uncircumscribed Word of the Father* became circumscribed when He took flesh of you, O Mother of God,* and when He restored the divine image to its ancient glory,* He suffused it with the beauty of God.* Therefore, confessing our salvation in deed and word,* we portray it in images.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4

Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,* and praised and glorified is Your Name for ever.

verse: For You are righteous in everything You have done to us. (*Daniel 3:26,27*)

Epistle - Hebrews 11:24-26,32-40; 12:1-2

Alleluia, Tone 4

verse: Moses and Aaron are among His priests and Samuel among those who call upon His name.

verse: They called on the Lord, and He heard them. (*Psalms 98:6*)

Gospel - John 1:43-51

Hymn to the Mother of God

In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angelic ranks and all the human race. Sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, virgins’ pride and boast, from whom God is made flesh and became a little Child; and He who is our God before all ages, He made your womb a throne, and He made it wider than all the heavens. In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest. (*Psalms 148:1*)* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;* praise befits the righteous.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. (*Psalms 32:1*)

Lent is a faithful caretaker of the soul, a loyal friend of the body, and a weapon for those who are struggling. Lent drives away temptation, encourages devotion, and is a friend of moderation and purity.
It helps a Christian to become a saint.

Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. (*Great Prostration, which is kneeling and touching the forehead to the floor, then standing and making the Sign of the Cross*). But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. (*Making a prostration*). Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen. (*Making a third prostration*)

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).