

PARISH NEWS - May 31st, 2020

Descent of the Holy Spirit. Holy and Glorious Pentecost
ЗІСЛАННЯ СВ. ДУХА

Welcome! Bienvenue! Вітаємо! Welcome to St. George's Church!

Our mission is to know, love and serve our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ.

Here at St. George's Church, the center of our life is the Sunday and daily Divine Liturgy.

It is here where we come to know Christ in each other, in the Sacred Scriptures and through participation in the Holy Sacraments.

A life of Christian Catholic stewardship includes a strong commitment toward the sacramental life through prayer, Liturgy and active ministry.

We are called to become the image and likeness of Christ God in all we say and do.

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

Weekly Divine Liturgy - As the parishes are closed to the public, we will continue to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and feast days. These services will be available to the public through online sources such as the parish website. Each Sunday Divine Liturgy will be available on Saturday at 5:00 PM. We will work to provide other services and options of prayer during this time as well. We do invite everyone to search the internet and Facebook for other online services that are available. Before the pandemic and especially now, there are many parishes especially in Canada that have online services on a regular basis.

~ Parish and Community Announcement ~

Please Remember to Support Your Parish.

In these unusual times, we are joining the world with debit or credit card usage.

If your preference is to use a card, please find the [DONATE Link](#) on our website main page.

Mailing traditional Sunday Offering Envelopes is still a good option.

THANK YOU: We heartily thank everyone who has been able to support our church during this difficult time for all of us by sending your weekly offerings by mail.

May Our Lord reward you a hundredfold for your generosity. Дякуємо за вашу щедрість!

LAST WEEK COLLECTION

5 Envelopes - \$720.00



Saint George's COVID-19 Directives Re: Church Services

With the continued closure of the church services to the public, the faithful are reminded to follow the directives in compliance with restrictions given by the civic and health authorities and the Eparchy of Toronto.

Follow the link on parish website to view our pre-recorded current Sunday Liturgies.

We will be providing you with these videos until such a time as we are able to open the Church doors once again.

Confession - Those wishing to make their confession should make a Perfect Act of Contrition followed by a penitential prayer. Such a sincere "Perfect Act of Contrition" can permit a person to receive Holy Communion under the condition that the person sincerely desires to amend his/her life and at the first available opportunity must make a proper Sacramental Confession.

Communion - You may make a Spiritual Communion by which we unite ourselves in prayer with the Lord during the transmission of the Divine Liturgy. We express sorrow for our sins, pray the communion prayer and ask the Eucharistic Lord to come into our heart.

Pre-recorded Divine Liturgies on YouTube Channel

Saints George's will be posting a pre-recorded Liturgy for Sundays on Fr. Bohdan's YouTube channel.
Each Divine Liturgy will be posted each Saturday evening.

CLICK ON THIS LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoGSvtuIEjSAT7sWbjMIPvg/videos>

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and, O Good one, save our souls.

Царю Небесний, Утішителю, Душе істини, що всюди єси і все наповняєш, Скарбе добра і життя Подателю, Прийди і вселися в нас, і очисти нас від усякої скверни, і спаси, Благий, душі наші.

Divine Liturgies this week:

DATE	TIME	INTENTION	OFFERED BY
Saturday, May 30 th	11:00 AM	+ Michael Kapeluch	Fr. Bohdan
Sunday, May 31 st	10:00 AM	+ Zenon Petro Kaczala	Family

Liturgy Intentions

In this time when the Father Bohdan is having Liturgies in private, you can still request him to celebrate Liturgies for your intentions.
Please contact the parish office to book a Liturgy. The suggested stipend for a Divine Liturgy is \$20.

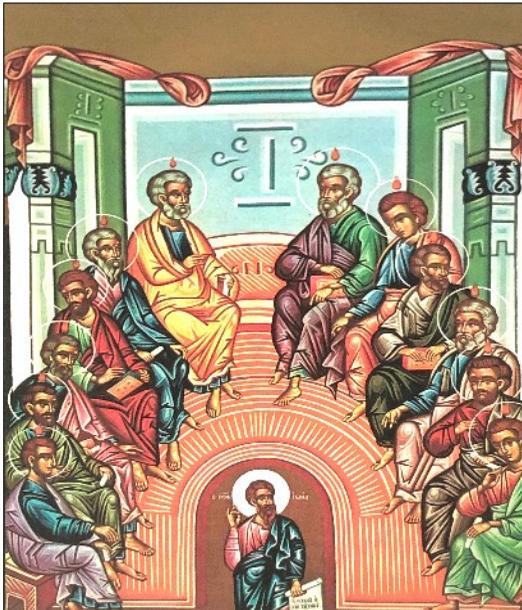


Act of Spiritual Communion

Did you know? - that Catholics can make an Act of Spiritual Communion?

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion means uniting one's self in prayer with Christ's sacrifice and worshiping Him in His Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Divine Liturgy. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily. When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the prayer below:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.



SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Pentecost means "the fifty days," and Pentecost is the fiftieth day after Pascha. People often attribute great significance to numbers, and many ancient peoples thought that "49" was a very important number, since there are seven days in a week and therefore "49" which is seven times seven, must be a week of weeks and thus symbolic of all time. For us Christians, Pentecost, the fiftieth day, teaches that Jesus Christ, by His Rising from the Dead, by His Ascension into Heaven, and by sending down the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles (and through them the whole Church) has begun a new time. Jesus Christ has inaugurate the new Creation.

On Pentecost, as on Pascha, we sing "All those who are Baptized in Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia." Thanks to our Baptism into Christ, we are living in His new time, in His new life, in His new Creation. The majority of the Sundays in our Church Calendar are called "Sundays after Pentecost." The reason for this name is that in actual fact, we are living now in the time after Pentecost, the time between the descent of the Holy Spirit on that first Pentecost Sunday, and the Second Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which we confidently and joyfully await.

The Icon of Pentecost is in contrast with the description of the Holy Spirit described in the Gospel. The Acts of the Apostles states that "suddenly from up in the sky there came a noise, like a strong driving wind which was heard all through the house where they were seated." In contrast, the icon is characterized by peace and composure. The posture of the Apostles reveals serenity. The gift of the Holy Spirit provides the inner life of grace. Pentecost forms the Church and is the inauguration of the Kingdom of God.

Text commentary by Bishop Michael Dudick

With faith there is always hope

During this Coronavirus pandemic, many are tempted to fear, anxiety and perhaps even despair. Some have lost their precious lives, some have lost those whom they love, some have suffered through the debilitating effects of this illness, some have lost their jobs, their income, and most have encountered much disruption to the normal flow of their daily lives.

Every crisis in life is also an opportunity to turn to our beloved Savior in trust and complete abandonment so as to rest in His merciful hands. To rest in the hands of God means we are secure, despite the uncertainty of life. It means we are free to love God and others, despite the challenges we face. It means we raise our eyes to Heaven, rather than look down in fear.



PENTECOST SUNDAY - GREEN SUNDAY

On this day, churches and private homes are decorated with green branches and green flowers – that is why today is also called “Green Holy Day” or “Green Sunday.” Green represents eternal life and reminds us that on this day our heavenly Father sent down into the world the Life-giving Spirit, who was first received by the Apostles and then passed on to us in baptism and chrismation. On Pentecost, we do not simply celebrate a past event, but also that which happens to us in the Church today. We, as baptized members of the Church, have received in the Sacrament of Chrismation, “the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit”. Pentecost happened to us! That means that we, like the apostles, are called to preach the Gospel. One way that we can do that is to live our daily lives according to Christ’s teachings.

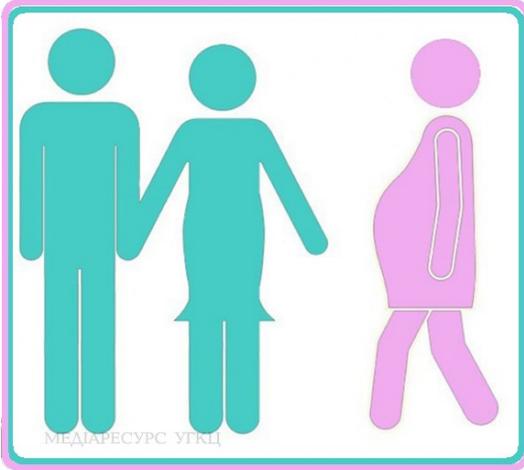
It is a custom for families to gather at the graves of their loved ones on this day to pray for those who have passed on to eternal life.

Pentecost Sunday falls this year on June 9th. But many people, including Christians, may not know why the day is special or what is celebrated. Unlike Easter and Christmas, when colorful eggs, Easter bunnies, Christmas trees and Santa Claus are harbingers of the upcoming Christian holidays, there are no such social markers by secular society ahead of Pentecost. For those who need a quick and basic understanding of what Pentecost Sunday is, below are listed 10 things you should know about the holiday.

1. Pentecost Sunday marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles.
2. Pentecost Sunday occurs 50 days after Easter.
3. The Bible records the Pentecost in Acts 2:1-13.
4. Pentecost comes 10 days after the Ascension of Jesus Christ.
5. Pentecost is also known as "the birthday of the Church".
6. Pentecost fulfills Jesus' promise to send the "Counselor" and "Spirit of Truth" in John 16:5-15.
7. Pentecost launches the large-scale spreading of the Gospel after Jesus' ascension. Act 2:41 records that after Peter spoke to the crowd after receiving the Holy Spirit, some 3,000 people were baptized.
8. The Pentecostal movement derives its name from the New Testament event in Acts 2.
9. Jews also celebrate Pentecost, but not for the same reason as Christians. The celebration by Jews of Pentecost is to observe God giving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai 50 days after the Exodus. The Pentecost in Jewish tradition takes place 50 days after Passover.
10. In Byzantine Churches, Pentecost is usually represented with the color green (red in Western Churches, which symbolize the fire of the Holy Spirit).

COMMUNICATING WITH OUR PARISHIONERS

The parish office and Fr. Bohdan would like to be able to communicate directly with our parishioners and let you know when important updates have been made to the parish website. *The trouble is we don't have a lot of our parishioners' email addresses.* Please send an email to winnicki@rogers.com with your email address so we can complete our records and send out emails to as many parishioners as possible.



While we were sheltering in place...?

The Head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, His Beatitude **Sviatoslav**, together with the lead Roman Catholic Bishop in Ukraine, issued a type of open letter to the government that deals with, what he refers to as one of several illnesses now infecting the world... You will find this interesting (*and kind of shocking*) The Coronavirus pandemic has brought to light many diseases in the life of contemporary society. One of these is surrogate motherhood, that is, treating people like merchandise which can be ordered, manufactured, and sold. Unfortunately, this is permitted by current Ukrainian legislation.

As religious leaders, we have repeatedly drawn the attention of the competent state authorities to this problem. Such trampling on human dignity compels us, the Catholic Bishops of Ukraine, to appeal to the Ukrainian authorities on all levels, once again, to condemn and ban this shameful phenomenon.

In recent days, we witnessed a video posted on the BioTexCom clinic page from the Venice Hotel in Kyiv, which shows a makeshift children's room and 46 crying babies in beds. **These newborns were in modern incubators, deprived of maternal touch, parental warmth, selfless care, and much-needed love.** They were shown as a purchased product for **no-show buyers**. Such a demonstration of

contempt for the dignity of the human person is difficult to contemplate. And all this is made possible by legalized surrogate motherhood.

Legalization of the so-called surrogate motherhood, which should never be called “motherhood,” not only involves the horrible phenomena recently shown on video, but also an underlying moral evil that brings immeasurable suffering and persecution to both the child and to the woman who bore it, to members of her family, and to those who produce children as if they were pets.

Of its essence, the practice of surrogate motherhood, its qualities, purpose, and means, are morally unacceptable. The same applies to the so-called altruistic surrogate motherhood, which has the same moral value. For even if the intention of the surrogate mother is good, the means and the object itself are bad. The commercial basis of surrogate motherhood deserves even harsher assessment, from a moral point of view, because it adds the moral evil of buying and selling functions of the body and of the person of the newborn child. No circumstances or consequences can justify the practice of surrogate motherhood.

Every child is a gift of God that should be gratefully accepted in married life. Every child has the right to be conceived naturally, and every child has the right to be born into a family and to be brought up in an atmosphere of love by father and mother. Surrogate motherhood severely violates these rights and makes it impossible for Ukraine to follow the path of development, the path of the great European heritage. Such a gap in Ukrainian legislation significantly destroys European integration efforts and discredits our country in the eyes of European society.

We stand in solidarity with the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Ukrainian Parliament's appeal to ban international child trafficking in Ukraine at the legislative level. We exhort and demand the banning of surrogate motherhood in any form (altruistic and commercial) and to assure to newborn children proper protection and the possibility to be adopted into families.

We reinforce this appeal by condemning a number of international institutions for this shameful phenomenon, which we present in the appendix to this letter.

We also demand that the state authority finally pays attention to family policy in Ukraine: that it creates an appropriate government body that could take care of Ukrainian families; that it ensures that Ukrainian mothers do not have to trade their bodies and the children they carry within for their own survival and that of their families.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav,

Major Archbishop of Kyiv-Halych,
Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church

Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki

Archbishop of L'viv

Interim Head of the Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops in Ukraine

***read more at: <http://www.news.ugcc.ua/en/>**



The Head of UGCC: the coronavirus pandemic is a radical call of God to people: Stop waging wars against each other

You can hear a lot if you listen to God and try to understand how a person can build a new culture and civilization in a new way. The key to building a “new world” is the commandment of love, which renews those who practice it and who live by it. This request was made by Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church His Beatitude Sviatoslav during the Open Church program on Zhyve TV. Sonia Koshkina, editor-in-chief of the online publication Liviv Bereh, took part in the conversation. Speaking about the reasons why and for what God allowed the situation with the pandemic, the Primate of the UGCC admitted that he does not have an answer to this question. However, he urged everyone to ask God about this every day, listen to His voice, and try to understand what He wants to tell us. His Beatitude Sviatoslav shared his own thoughts on the cause of the coronavirus pandemic. “If we analyze the situation with the virus,” says the Head of the Church, “we begin to see that we are living in a period of fundamental and global cataclysms and changes. The ecological crisis in the world is the basis for the mutation of this virus. We don’t know if there will be

another pandemic in the world after we overcome the coronavirus.” “Today we feel a deep shock in nature. There is a feeling that nature is beginning to defend itself against man. That is why it is important for us to rethink our attitude to the environment very seriously,” he said. He also added: “Perhaps this will also help us today to rethink global relations between different political centers and, finally, to stop fighting each other. Stop investing in weapons.” The Head of the Church drew attention to the fact that to this day Ukraine is at the epicentre of a new geopolitical game and is suffering from war. He also drew attention to the global consequence of the pandemic - the economic crisis. “We see that the sanitary crisis is creating an economic crisis. There is a lot of talk about the recession of the world economy, which may be worse than in the early twentieth century. We need to build a more harmonious economic system in the world. It is important for us to understand how to distribute our resources equitably,” he said. “I was very concerned about the statement of one of the UN spokesmen, who spoke about the dangers of world hunger. It says that there may be a famine on a biblical scale. We must hear not only those suffering from coronavirus, but also those who suffer from the unfair distribution of resources in the world,” stressed the Father and Head of the UGCC.

16 May 2020, 12:20—UGCC Department for Information

Prayer to Saint Joseph

Protect, O Holy Guardian, this our nation.

Enlighten those responsible for the common good, so that they might know – like you do – how to care for those entrusted to their responsibility.

Grant intelligence of knowledge to those seeking adequate means for the health and physical well – being of their brothers and sisters.

Sustain those who are spending themselves for those in need, even at the cost of their own safety: volunteers, nurses, doctors who are on the front lines in curing the sick.

Bless, O St Joseph, the Church: beginning with her ministers, make her the sign and instrument of your light and your goodness.

Accompany, O St Joseph, our families: with your prayerful silence, create harmony between parents and their children, in a special way with the youngest.

Preserve the elderly from loneliness: grant that no one might be left in desperation from abandonment and discouragement.

Comfort those who are the most frail, encourage those who falter, intercede for the poor.

With the Virgin Mother, beg the Lord to liberate the world from every form of pandemic.

Amen.

Sunday, May 31, 2020

Descent of the Holy Spirit. Holy and Glorious Pentecost;

The Holy Apostle Hermas; the Holy Martyr Hermes (138-61)

Great Feast. Holy day of obligation.

Antiphon 1

The heavens tell the glory of God, and the firmament declares the work of his hand.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

Day to day pours forth the message and night proclaims this knowledge to night.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

Their utterance has gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

Glory... Now... Only-begotten Son...

Antiphon 3

O Lord, by Your power the king shall rejoice and greatly exult in Your salvation.

Troparion, Tone 8: Blessed are You, O Christ our God who revealed the fishermen as most wise* by sending them the Holy Spirit;* through them You caught the entire world.* Loving Master, glory to You.

You gave him his heart's desire and did not deny the request of his lips.

Troparion, Tone 8: Blessed are You, O Christ our God who revealed the fishermen as most wise* by sending them the Holy Spirit;* through them You caught the entire world.* Loving Master, glory to You.

For You have gone before him with gracious blessings, you have placed upon his head a crown of precious stones.

Troparion, Tone 8: Blessed are You, O Christ our God who revealed the fishermen as most wise* by sending them the Holy Spirit;* through them You caught the entire world.* Loving Master, glory to You.

Entrance

Be exalted, O Lord, in Your strength; we will sing and make music to Your might.

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion, Tone 8: Blessed are You, O Christ our God who revealed the fishermen as most wise* by sending them the Holy Spirit;* through them You caught the entire world.* Loving Master, glory to You.

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

Kontakion, Tone 8: When the Most High came down and confused the tongues,* He parted the nations.* When He divided the tongues of fire,* He called all to unity;* thus with one voice* we glorify the all-Holy Spirit.

Instead of Holy God:

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia! **(3)**

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

You have put on Christ! Alleluia!

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia!

Prokeimenon, Tone 8

Their utterance has gone forth into all the earth,* and their words unto the ends of the world.

verse: The heavens tell the glory of God, and the firmament declares the work of His hand. (*Psalm 19:5,2*)

Epistle - Acts 2:1-11

In those days, when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

Alleluia, Tone 1

verse: By the Lord's words the heavens were established, and by the Breath of His mouth all their host.

verse: The Lord has looked down from heaven and beheld the whole human race.

Gospel - John 7:37-52; 8:12

On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ."

But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?"

The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."

Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?"

They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Hymn to the Mother of God

O my soul, magnify the one Divinity in three Persons.

and the Irmos: Rejoice, O Queen, boast of the virgins and mothers, for every tongue, though capable and eloquent, cannot hymn you as is your due, and every mind is confounded in seeking to comprehend the way in which you gave birth. Wherefore with one accord we glorify you.

Communion Hymn

Your good Spirit will lead me* to the land of righteousness.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. (*Psalm 142:10*)