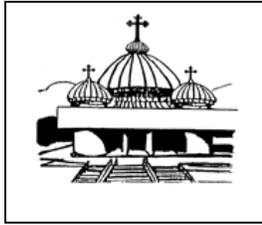


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St. Mary's Church Bulletin



40 Notre Dame Ave., Sudbury On, P3C 5K2
Parish Tel.675-8244

Website: www.saintmarysudbury.com

Email: stmaryssudbury@yahoo.ca

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysukrainiancatholicchurchsudbury>

Pastor: Fr. Petro (Peter) Bodnar

DIVINE LITURGY:

SUNDAY: 9:00 a.m. (Ukrainian) **SUNDAY** 10:30 a.m. (English)

SATURDAY : 4:00 pm (English)

Confession:

Baptisms & Marriages:

Visitations & Anointing of the Sick:

Before Divine Liturgies 9:00 am and 10:30 am on Sundays or anytime upon request.

By prior arrangement (at least 1 year before the marriage date), through the parish office.

Please notify the office if a member of your family is in need of a visit.

February 28, 2016 Sunday of Prodigal Son

Неділя про Блудного Сина

Epistle: 1 Corinthian 6:12-20 see explanation on page 385

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32 see explanation on page 179

Propers for the Divine Liturgy: tone 6

Prayer Intentions (Feb.28 – March 5)

Monday	10:00 am	Funeral +Nick Holunga
Tuesday	5:00 pm	Divine Liturgy
Wednesday		No Divine Liturgy
Thursday		No Divine Liturgy
Friday		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Deceased in family - Pawluch
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	For Parishioners
	10:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy

The Return to the Father Sunday of the Prodigal Son

We now come to the theme which is central to this Sunday. It is set out in the gospel read during the liturgy, and is the parable of the prodigal son.

Of all the gospel parables, that of the prodigal son (Luke 15. 11-31) is perhaps the best known and the most familiar. It is certainly one of the most touching. Possibly we do not always realise where the centre of the parable lies. Is it in the change of heart experienced by the young man who has left his father, squandered his inheritance in a life of debauchery, suffered such hunger that he envied the pigs who had husks to eat, and then decided to leave and return to his father? Certainly the young man's words: 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son' - indeed, these words are a deeply moving expression of repentance. The prodigal son's decision, 'I will arise and go to my father', throws a clear light on the importance of vigorous action, of an act of will (one cannot go to the Father without first getting up and setting off). All the same, the repentant young man is not the most attractive

figure in the parable. His repentance is neither the result of a totally disinterested change of heart, nor is it free from all self-interest: the prodigal son wants to escape from misery, and he chooses the only way open to him. The central figure in the parable is, rather, the person of the father. Here we are in the presence of a completely unselfish and freely given expression of tenderness. A tenderness which has waited and kept watch, which is on the look-out for the return of the prodigal, and which, when seeing him still far off, can no longer wait or restrain itself. The father, overwhelmed with compassion, runs out to meet his child, falls on his neck and kisses him warmly. (In the east, such behavior would be considered most unsuitable to the dignity of an old man.) And then the father, without voicing any reproach to the prodigal, gives orders that a ring be put on his finger (the sign of an heir), and shoes on his feet (the sign of a free man as distinct from a slave), and for the fatted calf to be killed, and a feast prepared. He has the 'best robe' brought and put on his son: we notice that it is not the best from among the robes that the prodigal might have possessed before his departure, but the best robe to be found in the house. God does not simply restore a repentant sinner to the grace he might have possessed before sinning: he bestows on him the greatest grace he could receive, a maximum of grace.

The story of the prodigal is our own story. The self-willed departure, the blameworthy life, the misery, then repentance, return and forgiveness: we have lived all that - and how many times! We can also look at the role played by a third person: the elder brother of the prodigal. In the parable, the elder son shows that he is jealous of his brother. He is annoyed that forgiveness should be granted so generously, and refuses, despite the entreaties of his father, to take part in the rejoicing. But this is just the opposite of what actually takes place when a sinner returns. Every prodigal son who returns does so at the prompting of the elder son, the son to whom the father says: 'Thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine' — the Lord Jesus — who takes the sinner by the hand and leads him to the Father with ardent affection.

Vespers and matins for this Sunday contain passages which are eloquent comments on the teachings of this parable. Here are some:

'I have wasted the wealth which the Father gave to me, and in my wretchedness I have fed with the dumb beasts and being hungry, desired their food . . . That is why I shall go back to my father, crying and saying to him: receive me as a hired servant, who kneels before Thy love for men Compassionate Saviour take pity on me, cleanse me ... and give me once more the finest
hp in Thy Kingdom'

Our desire, brethren, is to understand the power of this rrwstery For, when the prodigal son departed from sin and returned to his father's home, his loving father received him, embraced him and restored to him all the signs of glory.

CONDOLENCES: Our heartfelt condolences go to the family and friends of +Nick Holunga. May his soul rest in peace.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER IS FRIDAY MARCH 4, 2016 AT 1:30 P.M which is being hosted by St. Michael's Parish. The theme this year Receive children, Receive me (Cuba) Coffee and desserts will served at the Colonial Inn ALL ARE WELCOME:

Dear Parents and Students

Sunday March 6, right after Divine Liturgy/Sunday School--- we are gathering in the church hall once again for fellowship, for Pasta and fellowship. It's wonderful the friendships that have been formed over the year, so we invite the parents/grandparents to share in this fellowship....

*for those attending if you could please let me know, so as to set up*****

The children have been learning many things about the commandments, and sacraments which I hope they have been putting you to the test..... if there are still some of you who have photos for our board, and would love you to share them with us, please forward them to me or bring them for the board. Blessings have a wonderful week Mary

BLESSING HOMES - - will continue this week.

ALTAR BOY DALMATIC SPECIAL DONATIONS: As our church needs new dalmatics for the altar boys to wear when helping with Divine Liturgy, eight new dalmatics, "*Mother of God blue*, and also *gold*," have been ordered. The estimated cost for all the dalmatics will be \$4000.00. If you are interested in helping out by making a

special donation towards this project, we would greatly appreciate it. May God Bless you and your family abundantly for your generosity!

Is It Time To Move? We are accepting new applications for residency at the Ukrainian Seniors' Centre. Please call for further information 673-7404

Молитва на неділю про блудного сина

Обійми отцівські поспішиє мені відкрити, бо блудно провів я життя моє, але споглядаючи на невичерпне багатство щедрот твоїх, Спасе, не погорди нині моїм злиденним серцем, до тебе бо, Господи, смиренно кличу: Згрішив я, Отче, проти неба і перед тобою, – спаси мене!

Молитва до Пресвятої Богородиці

Нескверна, непорочна, нетлінна, пречиста Діво, богоневісто Владичице! Ти преславним своїм народженням Бога Слово з людьми з'єднала й впалу нашу природу з небесною злучила. Безнадійних – єдина надіє й допомога переможених; готове заступництво тим, що до тебе прибігають і всіх християн захисте. Не гидує нами грішними і скверними, що злими думками, словами й ділами вчинили себе цілком негідними й стали рабами похотей, недбальства й лінивства. Але, як Мати чоловіколюбного Бога, змилуйся чоловіколюбно над нами грішними й блудними, і прийми наше моління, що його приносимо тобі скверними устами. Обнявши твого Сина й нашого Владику і Господа з матерньою сміливістю, умоли його, щоб відкрив нам чоловіколюбне милосердя своєї доброти і, незважаючи на наші незліченні провини, на вернув нас на покаяння й учинив нас вмілими виконавцями твоїх заповідей. Будь при нас, як милостива й милосердна, і чоловіколюбна, завжди і в теперішньому житті, теплою заступницею й помічницею, відганяючи полки супротивників, наставляючи нас на спасіння; а в час відходу зберігай нашу окаянну душу; відганяй далеко від неї темні примари лукавих духів. У страшний день праведного суду визволь нас від вічної муки, вчиняючи спадкоємцями несказанної слави твого Сина й Бога нашого; щоб ми осягнули її, Владичице наша, пресвята Богородице, за твоїм заступництвом і поміччю, благодаттю і чоловіколюб'ям єдинородного твого Сина, Господа Бога й Спаса нашого Ісуса Христа, якому належить усяка слава, честь і поклоніння з безначальним його Отцем та з пресвятим і благим, і животворним його Духом, нині і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь

DR. DARREN KULIK B.Sc. DMD



1650 LaSalle Boulevard
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