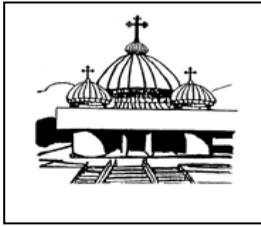


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St. Mary's Church Bulletin



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

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

Visitations & Anointing of the Sick: Please notify the office if a member of your family is in need of a visit.

Feb. 25, 2018

1-st Sunday of Lent / Неділя Православ'я

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24 - 26 see explanation on page 532

Gospel: John 1:43-51 see explanation on page 214

Propers for the Divine Liturgy: Tone 4 on Page 341 and 618

Prayer Intentions February (19-25)

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|---|
| Monday to Thursday | | No Divine Liturgy |
| Friday | 4:30 p.m. | Sorokousty |
| Saturday | 4:00 p.m. | Divine Liturgy – English +Harry Stupak – Mr. & Mrs. T. Pawluch |
| Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Divine Liturgy – Ukrainian – for parishioenrs |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy – English |

Book of Genesis – Story of Joseph

Joseph was in a tough spot. He was a slave in Egypt, having been sold by his brothers. But he made the best of it. We always have a choice to walk with God or choose another road. He kept at it and worked hard. His master was pleased, so he made him his personal servant. Later, when Joseph was falsely accused of a crime and thrown into jail, the jailer recognized

that Joseph had a special gift for understanding dreams. Eventually, he became governor of Egypt with power over many people – including his brothers.

Joseph could not have done it without God. He knew that God was everywhere, and he called on God for help. “The Lord was with Joseph and made him successful” (Genesis 39:2).

Do you ever feel like nothing is right?

Does it seem like you’ll never get ahead sometimes? Are you stressed and worried? DO what Joseph did: Persevere. That means keep on doing what you have to do. Do your best. Ask God for help. Someday you will look back at your tough times and say, “The Lord was with me and made me successful.” Genesis 39:1-6

ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS We have become so used to thinking of guilt as a negative and harmful emotion that we are prone to ignoring, even suppressing, every manifestation of it in ourselves. We cannot easily distinguish between "true" guilt - compunction - and the neurotic one. So, when we become aware of the wrongs we have done, we find it difficult to accept responsibility for them. We tend to justify our sinful actions as results of sins committed against us and, thus, strictly speaking, not our fault. We tend to believe that if we hate, it is because we have been hurt; if we cannot love, it is because we have not been loved; we resent, because we have never had our needs fulfilled. We prefer to think of ourselves as "wounded" - as victims of sin - rather than as sinners, and thus we do not often ask or want to be forgiven. To ask for forgiveness implies an admission that, in fact, we have done something wrong, that we are in the wrong, and that, in some essential way, we are answerable for it. To admit the need for forgiveness requires that we no longer think of ourselves as victims of what has been done to us, of our past, but that we claim responsibility for what we do and who we are. This is surprisingly difficult for us. Our every instinct, every habit of thought fights against it. Still, it is the first essential step on the path of conversion, the beginning of our healing from guilt.

But how and of whom should we ask forgiveness? First of all, of course, we must ask forgiveness directly and personally of all those, alive or dead, against whom we have sinned, as Christ told us to do. We cannot go any further on the way of repentance unless we at least try to do that. If, for whatever reason, this is impossible for us, we must pray for those we have harmed, ask God to heal them, and thus turn the evil we have done to their good. If they are unable or unwilling to forgive us, we must ceaselessly pray that this grace may be given to them - not for the relief of our conscience, primarily, but above all for the sake of their own healing and peace.

The need for forgiveness, however, is not limited to forgiveness from those we have harmed. We must also ask to be forgiven by God. In the most fundamental sense, only God can forgive sins (cf. Mark 2:7). When we offend our neighbour, we offend God, and when we offend God, we always affect others. This is why true forgiveness is impossible outside a relationship with God. It is always a gift of his mercy. It is not as if there were two kinds for forgiveness: one from God, one from those we have harmed. Forgiveness is one big movement of grace, one big outpouring of the healing mercy of God. Human forgiveness is, perhaps one can say, a "sacramental" sign of the forgiveness of God, and in some mysterious way its necessary condition. Or, at

least, our willingness to ask for the forgiveness of those against whom we have sinned seems to be a necessary condition of being able to receive the forgiveness of God.

I saw you under the fig tree. (John 1:48)

What a U-turn! One moment, Nathanael is sitting quietly under a fig tree, and the next moment he is confessing that Jesus is the “King of Israel” (John 1:49).

What happened? When Philip first told him about Jesus, Nathanael was skeptical. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” he asked. Still, he let Philip bring him to Jesus, so there must have been some openness. When he heard that Jesus saw him under the fig tree even before Philip called him, his heart was stirred. Sitting under a tree seemed like such a simple thing. Why would this rabbi from Nazareth even bother to take note of it? Somehow in the course of this exchange, Nathanael was able to sense that God cared about even the smallest details of his life.

God wants all of us to know that his eyes are always on us. He sees us in the midst of our everyday lives and calls out to us. No matter what we are doing, God is always ready to touch our hearts and open our eyes. We are so precious to him that he will never leave us!

As his heart was stirred, Nathanael let go of his skepticism. He wanted to hear more of what Jesus had to say. But it wasn’t the time for more insights or information. Instead, Jesus promised Nathanael something even better: he would see “angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man” (John 1:51). Not only did Jesus take an interest in Nathanael’s life, he would open his eyes to the very mysteries of heaven. It was as if Jesus were saying, “Yes, God knows you and loves you, but you are going to know him as well.”

This story tells us that God wants to stir our hearts, just as he stirred Nathanael’s heart. It tells us that he wants to speak to us and show us his love and his glory. We all have our own “fig tree” that God wants to call us out from so that we can stand in the light of his presence. So accept his invitation today, and let him open your eyes.

“Jesus, I say yes to your call. Thank you for promising to show yourself to me. Come, Lord, and open my eyes to what really matters.”

EASTER FLOWERS DONATIONS: Donations for St. Mary’s Easter Flowers may be made, “In Memory,” of your loved deceased family members by using a blue Special Donation envelope. The names will be published, “**In Memory in St Mary’s Easter Bulletin.**” Please indicate “Easter Flowers” on the envelope.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT – we welcome Dr. Fr. Roman Rytzar again will be our retreat master this weekend. We invite all to participate and take this opportunity to receive a sacrament of reconciliation (confession).

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS: Tax Receipts for 2017 were sent by mail.

ДУХОВНІ РЕКОЛЕКЦІЇ -витаємо о. Др. Романа Рицара який буде проповідувати сьогодні. Заохочуємо також скористати з нагоди до св. Сповіді.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Please pick up a copy of the bulletin at the church to view financial information.

Thank you very much for your generosity!
Жертводавцям складаємо щирю подяку!

Sunday, March 4 @ 2:00 p.m. "Shevchenko and Music"

Join us for an afternoon celebrating our great national poet Taras Shevchenko and his love of music, particularly the kobza/bandura.

Program will include a screening of the film "Music of Survival" documenting the triumphant story of the original 17 members of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus in the 1940's.

Неділя, 4 березня о 2:00 поп. "Шевченко та музика"

Запрошуємо всіх на свято вшанування нашого великого національного поета Тараса Шевченка і його любов до музики, зокрема кобза / бандура. В програмі показ фільму "Музика виживання", що документує триумфальну історію української Капели Бандуристів, у 1940-х роках.

Ukrainian Easter Egg (Pysanka) Workshops – February 25 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm, March 1, from 6:00 -8:00 pm. 130 Froot Road Sudbury, \$25 per person. All supplies provided. To pre-register, please call 705-698-9338 to confirm your spot! Ages 4 to adult!

Babas Workshop - Making Pelimany (Meat Perogies), March 21, 2018 from 6:00-8:00pm, \$25.00 per person. Call Luba 705-524-0217 or Carol 705-674-3357.



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We invite all men to join the Knights of Columbus and help support their parish and community. We are a fraternal organization who enjoys working together towards common goals. For more information please contact David Cook at 705-222-3474 or email: davidcook1984@hotmail.ca




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