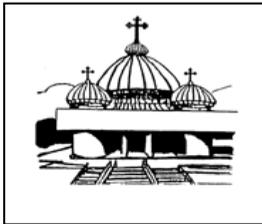


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St. Mary's Church Bulletin



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Pastor: Fr. Petro (Peter) Bodnar

DIVINE LITURGY:

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

December 20, 2020

29th Sunday after Pentecost - Gregorian

Prayer Intentions Dec. 20- Dec. 27

Saturday: 4:00 pm For Parishioners

Sunday: 9:00 am Mykolaj Kozlowski (father) – Mr. & Mrs. Szaryj

10:30 am Souls in purgatory – Barbara-Ann Spak

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Christmas Divine Liturgy

Friday, December 25 Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

10:30 am Divine Liturgy – Special Intention & health of Jean Gaba – Barbara-Ann Spak

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. For Parishioners

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. +Peter Woloshyn – Elenor Stasiuk

10:30 a.m. Special Intention for priests – Barbara-Ann Spak

December 30, 2020 – 9:30 am - 40th Day +Pauline Yawney

IMPORTANT NOTICE – Please be reminded that due to Covid 19 protocol, the church must be locked at the beginning of the service. Please, arrive at least 10 minutes before the service starts.

MASKS ARE NOW MANDATORY IN CHURCH.

E transfers are still accepted - Thank you to all who continually supported our parish during interesting times.

Help Needed for screening before Divine Liturgies. If you would like to volunteer, please send us an email or call the parish office. Thank You.

SUNDAY ENVELOPES AND WALL CALENDARS 2021: Sunday envelopes are ready for pick-up in the Church foyer. 2021 Wall calendars are also available. Please take only one per family, and make sure it is the one you prefer, Julian (red writing) or Gregorian (blue writing).

Your prayer has been heard. (Luke 1:13)

American baseball player Yogi Berra once described back-to-back astounding plays as “déjà vu all over again.” Extraordinary, astonishing, and repeated—that sounds like today’s Gospel! At least three other times in Scripture, God promised a barren woman a son. Sarah, Manoah’s wife, and Hannah each saw that promise fulfilled, just as Elizabeth did (Genesis 18:10-14; Judges 13:2-7; 1 Samuel 1:1-20). It’s only natural to wonder why God did something so wonderful.

The simple answer is that God hears the prayers of his people. Every. Single. Prayer. He heard the longing in the hearts of Sarah, Manoah’s wife, and Elizabeth. He heard Hannah’s tearful pleas in the shrine at Shiloh, and he hears your prayers, spoken and unspoken. God is neither deaf nor indifferent. Let that be the starting point as you tell him what’s on your heart. Engrave it in your mind: *When I pray, God hears.*

Sometimes we ask, “Why is God taking so long to give me an answer?” But it’s more helpful to ask, “What does Scripture say about who God is, and how does that apply to my situation?” Today’s readings reveal that God cares about what is on your heart. He cared about Elizabeth’s longing for a child, and he cares about your longings. He was faithful to Elizabeth, and he is faithful to you. He always prepares the way for his works, even if that preparation takes years—or most of a lifetime, as it did with Elizabeth. Even if it takes until the day you see him face-to-face, he *will* answer you.

God is always faithful. He always hears you. He always cares. Make that your bedrock, your unshakable position of faith. When the prophet Habakkuk complained that God seemed neither to hear nor answer, the Lord replied that what he had planned would come to pass: “If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come” (2:3). Or as Yogi Berra once claimed about a hopeless-looking baseball season, “It ain’t over till it’s over.”

“Father, help me to trust in your faithfulness and love.”

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, participants in this spiritual journey! We continue to reflect on the topic of faith, we continue to deepen our understanding of what it means to believe.

I would like to begin today's reflection with one question that we find in the various stories of the Holy Fathers. When the spiritual father met with his disciple, the young man asked, “Where can you meet God? Where can you get to know Him?” Over the centuries, many authors of different traditions, countries and peoples have unanimously answered: “God can be found in the Church. God can be known in a community of believers.”

The Church is not only a temple, the Church is a community of believers

When we hear that God can be found in the Church, we probably spontaneously imagine this Church as some visible structure that we can enter (even when no one is there), look at paintings, icons and feel something extraordinary, supernatural - to feel the eternal world in the space of the holy temple. And indeed, there is a very important truth in this. Because God sometimes invites us to visit a special place at a certain time in order to attract our attention. But when the Holy Fathers say that God can be found in the Church, they mean something else. God can be found primarily among believers. He can be found among those people who communicate with Him. That is why it is very important to find your way.

We need someone to help us get closer to that Master, to the God they know, the one they listen to, the one they have experienced and met.

The Church is a divine-human organism

The Church of Christ as a community of believers has two dimensions. This is a divine-human organism. It is obvious that the believer remains a person with all his inherent elements of humanity, with his limitations, declines, sins. But the believer, in addition to having the fullness of all that is human, is at the same time a temple of the Holy Spirit. [We said](#) that to believe is to allow God to dwell in us. And it is precisely this dwelling of God in man and with men that

constitutes the invisible, or Divine, element of the life of Christ's Church. Christ's Church imparts true knowledge and understanding of God.

The Church shares the experience of communion with God

[We have talked in past broadcasts](#) about God's Tradition. In fact, the community of the Church passes from generation to generation the experience of living communion with God. This community has given birth to and written down the books of Scripture, so now we can read, study, and hear the Word of God addressed to us today.

The Church is apostolic

St. Irenaeus of Lyons speaks very interestingly about the apostolic nature of the Tradition in the Church of Christ, about the way it is experienced. The Tradition passes from generation to generation, trying to preserve its fullness and not lose anything along the way. He explains this apostolic Tradition as a certain dynamism of the life of the Church.

The community of Christ's Church is a guarantee that our faith is true, correct. The Church of Christ, which continues to preach what the apostles preached from the beginning, is a guarantee that we understand the Scriptures correctly.

"Symbol of Faith" of Christ's Church

Interestingly, the Church of Christ as a community of people has a certain symbol of her faith. The "Symbol of Faith" is the key to understanding the true faith and the Scriptures. Therefore, those who partake of the Sacrament of Baptism, receive it in the Church in a solemn manner. Today we know the "Symbol of Faith" as "The Creed" prayer.

Without the "Creed" it is impossible to understand the authenticity of a personal act of faith.

Without comparing our personal experience of religious life with the experience of Christ's Church through the "Creed" it is impossible to meet, to know the living God present among us today.

We will talk about the Creed and how it explains and reveals God present among us in our next meetings.

Як зауважив раніше Папа Франциск, такого світу, який був до пандемії, вже не існує. І тепер саме на нас лежить відповідальність будувати нову цивілізацію, новий і кращий світ. Дуже важливо, щоб ми самі стали кращими. І унікальний шанс для цього ми маємо саме тепер. Ласкаво просимо в новий світ.

Таку думку висловив Блаженніший Святослав, Отець і Глава Української Греко-Католицької Церкви, у підсумковій програмі «Відкрита Церква» на «Живому телебаченні», яка вийшла в ефір сьогодні, 16 грудня. З Главою УГКЦ поспілкувалися відомі українські журналісти: Соня Кошкіна, Інна Кузнецова, Віталій Портников, Сакен Аймурзаєв, а також глядачі, які долучилися до зустрічі через зум.

Підбиваючи підсумки року, що минає, Предстоятель відзначив, що 2020-й був «ковідним роком». «Ми були змушені навчитися діяти, жити, молитися, навіть чинити діла милосердя по-іншому, ніж це було звичайно», – сказав він.