

Св. Покрови Українська Католицька Церква
St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Ukrainian Church



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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.

April 18, 2021 - Myrrh-bearing Women

Prayer Intentions April 18

Saturday: 4:00 pm +Ilene Paul Rehaluk

Sunday: 9:00 am For Parishioners

10:30 am +Anna Stupak (anniv) - family

Tuesday 3:30 pm +Anna Kindrachuk – Pat and Linda

Friday: 6:00 pm Sorokousty / Prayer for the deceased.

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. Thanksgiving and health of Jaroslawa Pecheniuk –
Sonia Peczeniuk

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. For Parishioners

10:30 a.m. + Eva Niesyto

THANK YOU – to all parishioners who sent their Sunday's collection either by mail or e-transfer. May the good Lord bless your generosity.

Jesus had not yet come to them. (John 6:17)

Many of us can feel that the disciples had it easier than we do. After all, Jesus was physically there with them. But today's Gospel seems to speak directly to all of us who live after Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven. We find the disciples in deep water, both literally and figuratively. Jesus had slipped away from the crowd to go up into the hillside to pray, leaving the Twelve to take a boat back to Capernaum. So physically, they were far from the Lord when the storm hit and their boat began to pitch back and forth with the waves.

But even though they were separated from Jesus geographically, they were never separated from him spiritually. Jesus could still see them. He still cared about them and still felt for them. He had gone up the mountain to pray, and you can imagine him including these men in his prayers as he saw them struggling against the storm. Then, at just the right time, he came to them, calmed the sea, calmed their fears, and brought them safely to shore.

Many times we imagine that, like the disciples, we are left to deal with problems on our own while Jesus remains far off in heaven with his Father and the angels. But the storm-tossed disciples learned that Jesus is not limited by his physical absence, and we need to trust that as well. We are always in his mind and in his heart. He sees our struggles, and he continues to hold us close and to intercede for us before his Father.

If you have concerns for yourself or a loved one, take heart. Remember the disciples in the boat. Commit to memory this line from today's responsorial psalm: "The eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness" (33:18). He sees you. He has you in the palm of his hand. And he will act at just the right time.

"Jesus, help me to believe and trust that you will never take your eyes off of

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.

With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need. (Acts 4:32-35)

Reading this passage from the Book of Acts, it's hard to believe today those early Christians lived as of one heart and mind, holding everything in common, selling all and giving the proceeds to the apostles to distribute as they saw fit. It strikes us as extraordinary that they could have trusted the Lord that much to provide for them and to be cared for with mercy and loving kindness. Yet Scripture assures us they did. How many of us today would feel confident enough in the Lord to live such a life? How many of us believe at the core of our being that God wants more to have us with him for eternity than to punish us for our sins?

Consider the elderly gentleman facing surgery, terrified of what might happen if he doesn't survive the procedure. He has practiced his faith his whole life, and yet he still can't believe that Jesus would welcome him home. Wouldn't you want to encourage this man with the good news of God's mercy? What about those who have distanced themselves from God and indulged in sin and rebellion? Could there be mercy for them? Should they dare to trust after living such a self-destructive life? Absolutely!

The feast of Divine Mercy Sunday came at the urging of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, a Polish religious sister and visionary who lived at the beginning of the twentieth century. In her diary, she wrote how Jesus had told her: *"I will pour out a whole ocean of graces upon*

those souls who approach the fount of my mercy. . . . Let no one fear to draw near to me, even though their sins be as scarlet” (Diary, 699).

During the week after Easter, we are encouraged to celebrate Jesus’ loving kindness. We are reminded why Jesus rose from the dead: to shower the world with divine mercy. Now, unless we reject him outright, he will never deny us. Today of all days, don’t be afraid to draw near to the Lord. You may suffer trials, you may struggle against temptation, or you may fall into sin. But don’t worry. As St. Peter tells us, we may not see God now, but we can still rejoice because Jesus has done everything necessary to save us (1 Peter 1:8). That’s how merciful he is. So celebrate his mercy today—by receiving it!

As Peter walked through the streets of Jerusalem, many people brought their sick friends and relatives to him “in order that Peter’s shadow might fall on one or another of them. . . . And they were all cured” (Acts 5:15, 16). It was such a simple act, taking a friend to the side of the road, but it resulted in amazing miracles. Jesus didn’t wait for them to drum up heroic faith. All they needed was to take one small step, and he came running to them.

This is the message that God gave St. Faustina. “The graces of mercy,” Jesus once told her, “are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive.” Or to put it another way: Everyone who trusts—receives!

God has so much in store for us! If we simply go to meet him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we will find the divine mercy that we so deeply need. Jesus is waiting for us to take one step toward him, and he will rush in with his forgiveness, his healing, and his strength. His love is beyond words and, for the sake of his passion, he has mercy on us.