



1948-2018 - celebrating its 70 years

Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church



Українська Католицька Церква Успення Пресвятої Богородиці

1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8

Tel.: 250-860-7295 Email: dormitionkelowna@gmail.com

Parish web-site: <http://kelowna.nweparchy.ca/> Pastor: Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts / о. Павло Миць

Facebook page: **DormitionKelowna Parish**: <https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>

If you need to meet with the parish priest, please, call or email in advance to arrange time and a day.

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster: www.nweparchy.ca



7th Sunday after Pentecost, - July 8th, 2018 A.D

**THE VIBRANT PARISH - A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST:
Through the Word, the Holy Mysteries & Prayer, Serving One's
Neighbour, Leadership, Fostering & Serving Unity and Missionary
Spirit** – Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk

Today's Gospel reading tells of the healing of two blind men. Every Gospel narrative, just as every word of the Gospel, conceals immeasurable meaning. This is because the Gospel speaks of eternal and timeless truths, of the eternal truth of life in God, eternal truths that are of great importance to our everyday lives. It speaks of the love of God for man and of the love of man for God; of the fact that God never leaves us without His merciful assistance. Whatever may befall us, God will never leave us in either trouble or woe – if only we remain with Him through our faith in Him, our love for Him, and our fidelity to Him in our lives.

Let us not despair and lose heart in the darkness of sin and evil that envelops our souls. Let us not imagine that darkness, sin, and evil – and the grief that accompanies them – are our inescapable destiny. No! "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (James 4:6). Let us endeavor to possess humility, and then God's power will certainly raise us from the lowest depressions of our fallings into sins. Let us try to acquire at least this one Christian virtue, and then we are bound to feel the wondrous action of His grace-filled energy illuminating our souls. Let us believe Jesus Christ, as the two blind men believed Him. Let us be faithful like them in our faith and love for Him.

"...Open the doors of your hearts and your homes to Christ, allow His Holy Spirit to transform you, purify and strengthen you in God's love!"

– Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk "The Vibrant Parish"

"...Відчиніть двері своїх душ і домівок Христові, дозвольте Його Святому Духові вас перемінити, очистити і скріпити Божою любов'ю!" – Пастирський Лист Блаженнішого Святослава Шевчука "Жива Парафія"

**Christian Greetings: Glory to Jesus Christ! – Glory to Him Forever! Slava Isusu Chrystu! – Slava na Viky!
Слава Ісусу Христу! – Слава на Віку! Christ is among us! – He is and will be!**



Liturgical and Sacramental celebrations during this week:

Mon., July 9th – 6:15 p.m. Acathistos to Saint Mother Theresa of Calcuta

Tue., July 10rd – 10:30 a.m. The Funeral Day Divine Liturgy: **Mr. Edward Holick** (Service in Penticton, BC)

Wed., July 11th – 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy:

Thurs., July 12th – 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy:

Fri., July 13th – 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy:

Saturday, July 14th – 4:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners** (Service in Penticton, BC)

Sunday, July 15th, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners.** (Eng./Ukr.)

Blessings of cars and other motor-vehicles will be held following the Divine Liturgy

Pastoral and Sacramental Ministry:

Baptisms: by appointment

Funerals and Memorials: by appointment.

Marriages: six months' notice should be given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made.

Holy Unction (Anointing of the Sick): Those anticipating surgery, hospitalization or treatments and who would like to receive anointing (by appointment, any time)

Reconciliation: on Sundays and Holy Days: before Liturgies and other days, by appointment.

Holy Communion: for the sick, by appointment, any time * **Please, contact Fr. Pavlo if you want to have the Divine Liturgies celebrated in your special (such as: In thanksgiving for favours received, the Infirm, General Intentions, the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, etc.) intentions.**



Liturgical Propers in English language:

Tone 6, text from book "*The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*"; pages 101-103

Epistle: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans: (Romans 15:1-7)

Brothers and Sisters, we who are strong in faith should be patient with the scruples of those whose faith is weak; we must not be selfish. Each should please his neighbor as to do him good by building up his spirit. Thus, in accord with Scripture, Christ did not please, himself: "The reproaches they uttered against you fell on me." Everything written before our time was written for our instruction, that we might derive hope from the lessons of patience and the words of encouragement, in the Scriptures. May God, the source of all patience and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the spirit of Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and voice you may glorify God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, as Christ accepted you, for the glory of God.



Gospel: (Matthew 9:27-35)

At that time as Jesus moved on from there, two blind men came after him crying out, "Son of David, have pity on us!" When he got to the house, the blind men caught up with him. Jesus said to them, "Are you confident I can do this?" "Yes, Lord," they told him. At that he touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith it shall be done to you"; and they recovered their sight. Then Jesus warned them sternly, "See to it that no one knows of this." But they went off and spread word of him through the whole area. As they were leaving, suddenly some people brought him a mute who was possessed by a demon. Once the demon was expelled the mute began to speak, to the great surprise of the crowds. "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!" they exclaimed. But the Pharisees were saying, "He casts out demons through the prince of demons." Jesus continued his tour of all the towns and villages. He taught in their synagogues, he proclaimed the good news of God's reign, and he cured every sickness and disease.

Our Eparch, Bishop Ken is requesting that at the conclusion of every Divine Liturgy we say an additional prayer for Peace in Ukraine until the end of the war. **For peace in Ukraine, let us pray: Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.**



VIBRANT PARISH PRAYER: O Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, as you once gathered lost sheep that they might hear Your voice and be your flock, so also today graciously look down from heaven upon our parish community, and send down on it your Holy Spirit, that it might be a place to receive the joy of Your Good News. Strengthen us with your presence, and always gather us together in prayer. Grant us the spirit of serving others, so that in our parish all might encounter You, the merciful God. Bless our spiritual leaders with Your wisdom, and inspire us to generously give of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of Your Kingdom. Unite us in peace and harmony, as befits Your community of love. Instill in us a missionary spirit, and let our parish community shine with the light of the Gospel, with prayer and good works, inviting all to share in the divine life, so that Your Name, O Saviour, may be praised, together with Your eternal Father, and Your most-holy, good and life-giving Spirit. Amen.

❖ **Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion:** You are a member of the Catholic Church (faithful of the Orthodox churches are very welcome to receive Holy Communion); 2) You have participated in the Sacrament of Confession at least during the Easter or Christmas seasons this past year if not more frequently; 3) You attend Divine Services regularly; 4) Your lifestyle is consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church; 5) You have kept the Liturgical fast – no food at least one hour prior to the Divine Liturgy (water and medicine does not break the fast). 6) You have been in church from the beginning of the service, or at least heard the Gospel. 7) To the best of your ability, you are in the state of Grace. *If for any of these or other reasons you cannot receive Holy Communion, you are very welcome to come for a blessing. Please indicate to the priest that you would like to receive his blessing.*

Літургійні частини Українською мовою:



Глас 6, текст "Божественна Літургія Святого Івана Золотоустого"; сторінки 100-102

Апостол: *До Римлян послання Святого Апостола Павла читання:* (Рм. 15,1-7)

Браття і Сестри, ми, сильні, мусимо нести немочі безсильних, а не собі догоджати. Кожний із нас нехай намагається догодити ближньому: на добро, для збудування. Бо й Христос не собі догоджав, а як написано: «Зневажи тих, що тебе зневажають, упали на мене.» Все бо, що було написано давніше, написано нам на науку, щоб ми мали надію через терпеливість й утіху, про які нас Письмо навчає. Бог же терпеливості й утіхи, за прикладом Христа Ісуса, нехай дасть вам, щоб ви між собою однаково думали за Христом Ісусом; щоб ви однодушно, одними устами славили Бога й Отця Господа нашого Ісуса Христа. Тому приймайте один одного, як і Христос прийняв вас у Божу славу.



Євангеліє: (Мт. 9, 27-35)

У той час, як Ісус відходив звідти, слідом за ним пустилися два сліпці й кричали: "Помилуй нас, сину Давидів!" І коли він увійшов до хати, сліпці приступили до нього, а він спитав їх: "Чи віруєте, що я можу це зробити?" – "Так, Господи!" – кажуть йому ті. Тоді він доторкнувся до їхніх очей, мовивши: "Нехай вам станеться за вашою вірою!" І відкрились їхні очі. Ісус же суворо наказав їм: "Глядіть, щоб ніхто не знав про це." Та ті, вийшовши, розголосили про нього чутку по всій країні. А як вони виходили, приведено до нього німого, що був біснுவатий. Коли ж він вигнав біса, німий почав говорити, і люди дивувалися, кажучи: "Ніколи щось таке не об'являлося в Ізраїлі!" Фарисеї ж говорили: "Він виганяє бісів князем бісівським!" Ісус обходив усі міста і села, навчаючи в їхніх синагогах, проповідуючи Євангелію царства та вигоюючи всяку хворобу й недугу.



Молитва Живої Парафії: Господи Ісусе Христе, Пастирю Добрий, як колись Ти пригорнув заблуканих овечок, щоб вони пізнали Твій голос і були Твоїм стадом, так і сьогодні глянь ласкаво з небесних висот на нашу парафію та зішли на неї Твого Святого Духа, щоб вона була місцем пізнання радості Доброї Новини. Скріплюй нас Твоєю присутністю та єднай нас кожночасно в молитві. Даруй нам духа служіння ближньому, щоб у нашій парафії кожний міг зустріти Тебе, милостивого Бога. Благослови наш духовний провід Твоєю мудрістю і дай, щоб ніхто з нас не шкодував ні часу, ні талантів, ні матеріальних дібр для розбудови Твого царства. Єднай нас у мирі та злагоді, щоб ми були Твоєю спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світилом євангельського слова, молитви і добрих діл, що кличе кожного до участі в Божественному житті, щоб славилася, Спасе, Твоє Ім'я з безначальним Твоїм Отцем та пресвятим, благим і животворящим Твоїм Духом нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.



>>>>>>>>>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH! ЩИРО ВАМ ДЯКУЄМО! <<<<<<<<<<<<

❖ **Gratitudes to all our parishioners, guests, visitors and all people of the good will** who by their kindness share time, volunteer and organize coffee and socials, make donations, knowingly and unknowingly for the other people thoughtfully care and help our parish community, attended church services during the week, volunteered sharing time and care helping at the coffee-socials, cleaning and organizing, cutting parish lawn and spaying weeds, and helping at other parish projects, looking after and graciously

supporting our Christian, Catholic Church community! May the Almighty God bless and abundantly reward your time, care and generosity! **“Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us!”** (A Prayer from the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

❖ **May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation** in many, happy and blessed years of life to Mr. Peter Bihun on his birthday (July 8th), and to all who celebrate their birthdays, heavenly patron’s name-days, wedding anniversaries and any other special anniversaries and Canada Day this week – Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ **WARM WELCOME TO HIS EXCELLENCY OUR EPARCH MOST REVEREND BISHOP KEN NOWAKOWSKI, REVEREND DEACON ANDRIY MALYSH, OUR PARISHIONERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WHO HAVE JOINED US IN THIS DIVINE LITURGY. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING WITH US AT THE CHUCH TODAY! WISHING YOU A BLESSED, RESTFUL WEEKEND AND FRUITFUL, HEALTHY AND SAFE WEEK! EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME TO COME AND PARTICIPATE IN OUR PARISH COFFEE-SOCIAL AT THE CHURCH HALL TODAY.**

❖ We also pray for the people of Ukraine, that with the help of the Holy Spirit, they may obtain social peace, political harmony and economic stability: Lord, hear us and have mercy.

❖ **REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:** yourselves, Most Reverend Bishop-Emeritus Severian Yakymyshyn, Fr. Mark Fesniak., Lucy D., Edward Holick, Janet F., Alex R., Volodymyr P., Ivan L., Fr. Edward Ewanko., Ray Saranchuk, Cameron V., Rose Ostopowich, Keyton A., Ric B., Shirley C., Peter Dranchuk, Sandra Sh., Patricia U., Olga Kuzyk, Antholy and Victoria Huziak, George and Mary Dashkewytch, Carlos Chernesky, Kalyna Kociuba, Bronie Huska, Peter Huska, Stanley and Roma Nowakowski (Bishop Ken’s parents), Barbara and Vincent Pasternak, Dorothy Scott, Lorraine Turcotte, all members of our parish and those who are not able to join actively in our community, your families, relatives, friends; governments and armed forces, especially the shut-in or those in the hospitals, traveling, working or studying, nursing and senior homes, those seeking God’s answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God’s answer; those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; widows and widowers, orphans, homeless and all people who have asked us pray for them. Please, also in your kindness keep praying daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Remember to ask for special blessings to all Christian families!

REMINDER for families of individuals, who are admitted to hospital - If you or a family member is admitted to hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call our parish rectory office to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation.

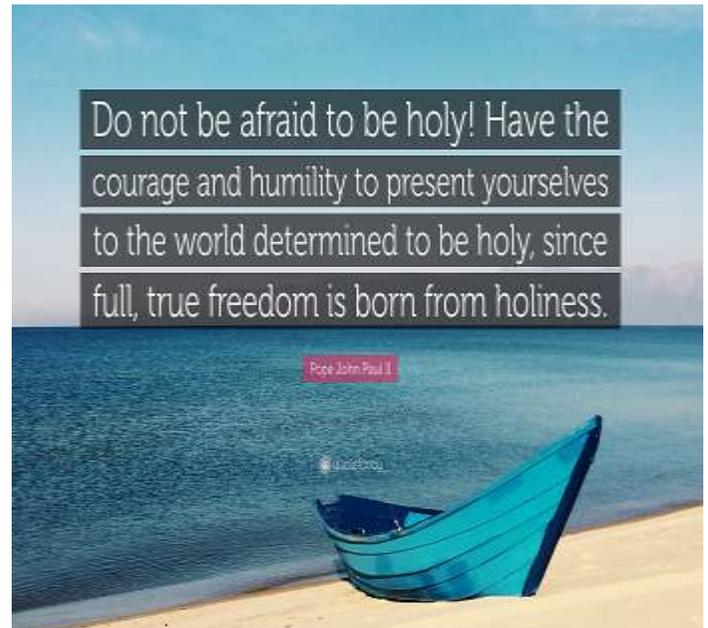
SPIRIT OF CHRISTIAN AWARENESS: Dear parishioners, if our brother / sister in Christ, who usually sits next to you, is not in the Church today, please phone him / her and ask how he / she is doing. Let him /her know that our parish community misses him / her very much!

❖ **On behalf of our church Christian family**, assurance of our prayers and deepest sympathy are to Mrs. Martha Holick, her children and grandchildren, relatives and friends! *May our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ place Mr. Edward Holick’s soul in the place where all the saints abide, and may his memory be everlasting with the Lord and our prayers!* – *Vichnaya Pamyat’!*

❖ **PARISH 70th ANNIVERSARY COMETEE MEETING** is at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 9th, 2018 A.D.

❖ Please, see our parish May 2018 Financial Statement presented at the church vestibule and parish hall.

❖ **Please, share to Kelowna Food Bank.** A special box is located at the entrance to the church.



❖ **JOIN OUR CHOIR:** Do you enjoy singing? Please consider joining our Dormition Parish Choir and remember that we are looking for new members! Contact Mrs. Lesia Achtymichuk for more information and details.

❖ **Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church Praznyk/Feast Day and 70th Parish Anniversary will be celebrated on Saturday, August 18th, 2018 A.D.** The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m. Banquet/Reception to follow at the church hall. (Clergy and Religious – FREE, Adults - \$30, Youth (age 12-18) - \$15, Children (11 years of age under) - FREE). Please, let us know about your participation.

Please RSVP - call or email one of the following contacts if you plan to attend:

Mrs. Ann Boitson - Tel.: 250-763-2419, Email: wboitson@shaw.ca

Mrs. Mary Cacchioni - Tel.: 250-765-3419, Email: marycacchioni@gmail.com

Dormition Parish office - Tel.: 250-860-7295, Email: dormitionkelowna@gmail.com

We are looking forward to pray, welcome and share the blessings and joy of this wonderful parish celebration with all of you!

❖ **Celebrations! Three important events to celebrate at our Holy Eucharist Cathedral in New Westminster!**

- On 16 May Bishop Ken celebrated his 60th Birthday (*in lieu of gifts Bishop Ken asks that donations would be made to the beautification of our Cathedral*).

- Andriy Malysh was ordained to the subdiaconate (May 14) and diaconate (May 20) for our Eparchy by Bishop Ken in Lviv. (*Personal gifts may be presented directly to Deacon Andriy at this time*).

- Holy Eucharist Cathedral Parish has hosted three very talented iconographers (Oleksii, Serhii and Dmytro) from Lviv who have now completed several new icons in our Cathedral.

To celebrate we would like to invite you to a Vespers service and the official unveiling of our icons at the Cathedral on Saturday 14 July 6:00 PM to be followed by supper. Donations will be welcome for the supper and no advance tickets are required but please RSVP (to cathedral.nwe@gmail.com) your attendance by Sunday 8th June so we can be prepared to host you.



Traditional and Very Delicious Ukrainian Food is available for sale at our parish: Perogies – \$ 6.00 per dozen, Cabbage Rolls – \$ 6.00 per dozen uncooked and \$ 6.00 per dozen cooked, Borshch – \$ 7.00 per a jar, Pies – \$ 9.00. For more information, please contact Mrs. Alice Pelechaty at 250-763-4870.

❖ **A SPECIAL REQUEST:** After each Divine Liturgy and every church service, please, keep silence in the House of the Lord as some of the faithful are still praying at the church. As well, please, do not forget close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or any other material in the pews. Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church building clean and neat. Thank you very much!

❖ **BOX FOR USED CHURCH BULLETINS** – since our Sunday bulletins contain Sacred Scripture readings & icons, they need to be disposed of properly/respectfully after use. Please do not throw them into the garbage but recycle them after shredding if possible. In order to assist with this request, we have provided a special box for used bulletins at the church entrance.

CAMP SAINTVOLODYMYR on August 19-26, 2018 A.D.

Start planning your summer holidays now! Come join us to celebrate our 35th year of camp for children in our Eparchy! Camp St. Volodymyr is a great place to be physically active, build self-confidence and self-esteem, develop life-long skills while reconnecting with nature and building friendships. Our camp is also a wonderful opportunity to experience God through nature and the companionship of others.

Campers will learn about the Ukrainian language and culture along with games, hiking, sports, arts and crafts, camp fires, water activities and much more!

If you are between the ages of 7-15 this is a summer must do! Registration is \$380. Book by July 4 to save \$50. Bus transportation is also available to and from New Westminster. Register online using Eventbrite. Search “Camp

St. Volodymyr BC 2018.” For more information contact Jennifer Caldwell @ 604.220.0584 or jennsawka@hotmail.com.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR CAMP: Camp St. Volodymyr is a nonprofit camp, run on a volunteer basis. Please contact Jennifer if you are interested in helping. **VOLUNTEER as a Camp Counsellor:** We are seeking between 8-10 individuals to help plan and organize our camp activities. Apply online using Eventbrite. Search “Camp St. Volodymyr BC 2018.” Applications due May 15, 2018. All volunteers will be subject to a criminal record check and must sign the camp code of conduct. **VOLUNTEER as a Camp Chef:** We are seeking between 4-6 individuals to help us each day in the kitchen. It is your opportunity to get creative and be a part of the campers top 5 things at camp; The Food! **VOLUNTEER as our Camp Nurse:** We are looking for an individual to be our camp nurse. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the children in our Eparchy. This position would require valid first aid and nursing certification. Responsibilities would include administering medications brought by campers/staff as well as recording all incidents and treatments. Supplies and medications are provided by the camp.

DONATE Food: We are always happy to accept food donations of fresh fruits and vegetables, breakfast items; cereal, syrup, pancake mix, jam, Nutella, lunch items; chicken soup, Kraft dinner, cheese, drinks; juice boxes, powdered drinks, brownie/cake mixes, Jello, snack bars, cookies or treats. Gift certificates to Superstore and Costco are also welcomed. **DONATE Monetarily:** Each year the Eparchy sponsors several children to attend. You can help send a deserving child to camp through your donations. Donation can be made through the Eparchy or online at our Eventbrite page. Tax receipts can be issued for donations of \$25 or more. **Visit our website:** www.nweparchy.ca

❖ **BE A STEWARD:** Have you ever wondered what more can you do to help our parish? Here are some suggestions: Steward of property security; Steward of grounds cleaning; Steward of cleaning church; Steward of church linen; Steward of outreach; Steward of caring; Steward of prayer; Steward of service. Quite often, our homebound or senior members, once active in their younger years, want to find purpose in their senior years. It's not only about doing but about “BEING” present to others! **Please, feel very welcome to participate in our church choir singing, reading of the Epistles and others inspiring Bible texts, holding the candles during the Gospels readings, processions, welcoming, parish cleaning, projects, etc. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** to help out with weekly cleaning in the church and organizing of coffee social after the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, work-bees, etc. If you can help out, please, let us know. Please, Contact Mr. Neil Lalach or Fr. Pavlo for more information. You will be amazed how “BEING” can make a difference at our spiritual, parish life!



❖ **Sunday Coffee Co-ordinators:**

July 8: Lise Pedé & Ivan Krznaric

July 15: Dana Bodnar & Marilyn Daulet

July 22: Maria Karolcik & Sofia Sookochoff

July 29: **PLEASE, Help**.....

August 5: **PLEASE, Help**.....

August 12: Sandra Vedress & Nadia Pobran

August 19: **PLEASE, Help**.....

August 26: **PLEASE, Help**.....



❖ **Glasses Prescription Box for Ukraine** is placed and located at the left side by the entrance to the parish hall. Please, feel free to participate in and support this important project.

Rachel's Corner: *“In the Bible we hear that everyone who ran from God, ended up in the wilderness. God sought them out and brought them back and helped them face what they had run from.”* - Joyce Meyer

How many times have you tried to run from God when the shame and regret have been too overwhelming? God is calling you to allow Him to help you face what has hurt so much inside since the day of your abortion. Let Him hold you in His merciful embrace on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat.

Come on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat and let him show you His merciful love. **Healing after Abortion Ministry** 250-762-2273 info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com or information and registration visit: www.rachelsvineyardkelowna.com, Facebook: **Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna** Strict confidentiality assured.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat: Our next retreat, for anyone suffering from an abortion experience, will take place October 12, 2018. It is not too early to register. Please contact us at info@rachelvineyardkelowna.com, 250-762-2273. Strict confidence assured.

❖ **FAITHFUL GIVING** ... Please, remember that we never take a day off or a vacation from God, or from our obligation to attend Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days. **When traveling, working, participating in different sport's tournaments, activities or studying, please, make sure you check out the service schedule for the area churches at our eparchial website: www.nweparchy.ca and attend the Divine Liturgy.** Remember as well, that while parishioners may be away and on vacation, the parish-church is not. Expenses continue as they do throughout the year. Please, remain consistent in your gifts to parish. Your weekly Sunday offering is important to our financial well-being. If you are away, we appreciate it when you forward your "make-up" donations. The financial stability of the parish counts on regular Sunday contributions. Please, continue to be supportive and generous! **"Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us!"** (*Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*)

POPE TO UKRAINIAN GREEK-CATHOLIC CHURCH: THANKS FOR YOUR WITNESS TO UNITY OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

To share in Christ's anointing, on the other hand, means to share in his glory, which is his cross: Father, glorify your Son... "FathePope Francis met with His Beatitude Sviatoslav the morning of July 3, 2018, at Casa Santa Marta in the Vatican. The meeting was held at the request of the Head of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC), on the occasion of the celebration of the 1030th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus'-Ukraine.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav has told the Pope that the road travelled by the UGCC was a path of martyrdom, a "testimony of the unity that Christ's Church enjoyed in the First Millennium, at the time of the Baptism of Saint Volodymyr, and a particular witness of martyrs and confessors for Church unity, – in the 20th century." "Our Church's path of martyrdom consists in a recognition of the particular mission of the Successors of the Apostle Peter as visible servants of the unity of Christ's Church," the Head of the UGCC declared in his conversation with the Holy Father. His Beatitude drew particular attention to the UGCC's relations with those other Churches that were heirs to the Baptism by Saint Volodymyr. He told to the Holy Father that it is a painful reality that the Orthodox Churches in Ukraine are divided. He also recounted several "shameful incidents where the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), in particular the Mystery of Holy Baptism, had been used to humiliate or deny the Christian identity of faithful belonging to certain denominations."

His Beatitude Sviatoslav once again expressed to the Holy Father the position of the UGCC, regarding the discussions taking place between the Orthodox Churches and the Ecumenical Patriarch, for healing divisions and uniting Ukrainian Orthodoxy: "We look positively upon the efforts to overcome the divisions in Ukrainian Orthodoxy, according to the ancient principal *salus animarum lex suprema est* (the salvation of souls is the highest law). At the same time, we regard these processes as internal Orthodox matters and, – on no account, – do we ever interfere in them or take part in them. We believe that the civil authority must ensure that conditions exist that allow for the freedom of all churches, in our country. We also believe that is unacceptable for the state, – to treat any Church as an official state church.

During the discussion, the Head of the UGCC touched upon the topic of so-called "uniatism." He recalled that, already in 1993, the UGCC had already undergone the process of reception of the Balamand Agreement. Accordingly, it rejects "uniatism" as a method for achieving the unity of Christ's Church. "In particular, – he declared, it is obvious that the ultimate act of uniatism, in the 20th century, was the 1946 Lviv pseudo-council. Accusations of uniatism directed at the UGCC, due of its active ecumenical position and its invitation to seek paths of unity with the Orthodox, are nothing less than a manipulation of the facts. The Eastern Catholic Churches, in and of themselves, are not "some sort of method," but are living members of Christ's Church, which not only have the right to exist but are also called to engage in mission and in the work of evangelization," – His Beatitude stressed.

Pope Francis, for his part, thanked the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church for its martyrdom "as a confession of the Christian Faith and a testimony that the Successor of Peter the Apostle has a special mission of service to Christian unity." He assured the UGCC of his support and expressed gratitude for its dynamic development and ecumenical openness. The Holy Father agreed that any accusations of uniatism against the UGCC are absolutely without foundation. He also thanked the UGCC for its active participation in rebuilding Ukrainian society based on the

principles of Catholic Social teaching doctrine, while not interfering in the political process. He thanked the Church for its promotion of authentic Christian patriotism which, under no circumstances, should be used or manipulated for particular ecclesiastical or ideological goals. Pope Francis placed great value on the fact that the UGCC had shunned nationalism, and that it condemned xenophobia and racism.

The Holy Father also expressed his closeness to the Ukrainian nation which, as the victim of unjust aggression, is living through a painful period of its history. He assured His Beatitude that he constantly thought of and prayed for Ukraine.

Pope Francis drew particular attention to the issue of Polish-Ukrainian reconciliation, especially this year when both nations are celebrating the centenary of their restoration of statehood, and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Volyn Tragedy. He thanked His Beatitude Sviatoslav for the the book "Dialogue Heals Wounds," which the Pope



considered to be an important step in healing old wounds, – in the relations between the two nations. The Pope supported the idea of the Roman Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Catholic Church, in Poland and Ukraine, issuing a joint pastoral letter, and declaring Pope Saint John Paul II patron saint of Ukrainian-Polish reconciliation. His Beatitude assured the Holy Father that the UGCC will unite itself with him and with all the participants of the joint ecumenical act of prayer for peace in the Middle East, due to take place on July 7 in Bari (southern Italy). The Pope promised that, during this prayer, he will also remember Ukraine. Pope Francis was in full agreement with His Beatitude's idea to organize, next year in Rome, a meeting of Eastern Catholic bishops

of Europe (COCE). The Pope promised to participate at this gathering, of which the main theme will be "The Ecumenical Mission of the Eastern Catholic Churches of Europe Today." At the conclusion of the audience, the Father and Head of the UGCC presented Pope with the book "Persecuted for the Truth", published by the Ukrainian Catholic University, and asked for the Apostolic Blessing upon the Ukrainian nation.

Source: www.zenit.org



*** Bequests and Wills:** *In your kindness please remember Resurrection of Jesus Christ Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Penticton, BC and Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kelowna, BC in your bequests and wills. If anyone wishes to make such a bequest in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church at 1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8 or to Resurrection of Jesus Christ Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Penticton, BC, the sum of \$_____ (or ____% of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the church/parish and it's needs and pastoral ministry.*

