



1948-2018 - celebrating its 70 years
Dormition of the Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church



Українська Католицька Церква Успення Пресвятої Богородиці

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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



17th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfeast of the Exaltation of the Life-Giving Cross - September 16th, 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

“All the challenging circumstances of our life on earth – these are for us an invitation to active love, which is an expression of living faith!” - *Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk*

“The Vibrant Parish”

“Всі ці прикрі явища нашого земного життя – це для нас запрошення до чинної любові, яка є виявом живої віри.”

- *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 week:

Mon., Sept. 17th – 6:30 p.m. Moleben to Jesus Christ:

Tue., Sept. 18th – NO SERVICES

Wed., Sept. 19th – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: For spiritual and physical health of Irene and John Kalomiris
(requested by Mrs. Marilyn Daulat)

Thurs., Sept. 20th – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: For all students
(requested by Mr. Michael Luchkanych and Family)

Fri., Sept. 21st – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: For all students
(requested by Mr. Michael Luchkanych and Family)

Saturday, Sept. 22nd – 4:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all parishioners (**Service in Penticton, BC**)

Sunday, Sept. 23rd – 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all parishioners. (*in English language*)

– 11:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all parishioners (*in Ukrainian language*)

2nd Year Anniversary Panakhyda/Memorial Service: **Rest of the soul of Mr. Rondall (Randy) Horon**

(requested by Mrs. Olga Kuzyk)

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.**



First Antiphon: Verse 1: O God, my God, hear me; why have You forsaken me? The words of my transgressions put salvation far from me (Ps 21:2).

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.

Verse 2: O God, I will call to You by day but You will not listen; and by night, yet it will not be foolish of me (Ps 21:3).

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God O Saviour, save us.

Verse 3: But You, the praise of Israel, dwell in the holy place (Ps 21:4).

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God O Saviour, save us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Only-begotten Son...

Third Antiphon: Refrain after every verse: **Son of God, crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.**

Troparion (Tone 8): You came down from on high, O Merciful One, and accepted three days of burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory be to You.

Troparion (Tone 1): Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to Your faithful people against enemies and protect Your community by Your cross.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion (Tone 4): By Your own choice, O Christ our God, You were lifted on the cross. Grant Your mercies to Your new community that bears Your name. By Your power gladden the faithful people and grant them victory against enemies. May they have the help of Your instrument of peace, the invincible sign of victory.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion (Tone 8): When You rose from the tomb, You also raised the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Your resurrection, and the ends of the world celebrate Your rising from the dead, O most merciful One.

Prokimenon (Tone 8): Pray and give praise to the Lord our God (Ps 76:12)

Verse: In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel (Ps 76:12, 2)

Prokimenon (Tone 7): Exalt the Lord our God, and bow in worship at the footstool of His feet for it is holy (Ps 98:5)

Epistle: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians (Gal. 2:16-20)

Brothers and Sisters, knowing that a man is not justified by legal observance but by faith in Jesus Christ, we too have believed in Him in order to be justified by faith in Christ, not by observance of the law; for by works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we are shown to be sinners, does that mean that Christ is encouraging sin? Unthinkable! If, however, I were to build up the very things I had demolished, I should then indeed be a transgressor. It was through the law that I died to the law, to live for God. I have been crucified with Christ, and the life I live now is not my own; Christ is living in me. I still live my human life, but it is a life of faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.



Alleluia (Tone 8): Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior (Ps. 95:1). Let us come before His countenance with praise and acclaim Him with psalms (Ps 95:2). Remember Your congregation which You acquired from the beginning (Ps 73:2).

Gospel: (Mk. 8:34-9:1)

The Lord said: "If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and follow in my steps. Whoever would preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will preserve it. What profit does a man show who gains the whole world and destroys himself in the process? What can a man offer in exchange for his life? If anyone in this faithless and corrupt age is ashamed of me and my doctrine, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes with the holy angels in his Father's glory." He also said to them: "I assure you, among those standing here there are some who will not taste death until they see the reign of God established in power."

Instead of "It is truly...": **O my soul, magnify the most precious Cross of the Lord.** **Irmos** (Tone 8): You are a mystical Paradise, O Mother of God, who though untilled, have brought forth Christ. He has planted upon earth the life-giving Tree of the Cross. Therefore, today as we raise it on high we bow low and we magnify you.

Communion Verses: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest (Ps 148:1). Let the light of Your countenance, O Lord, shine upon us (Ps 4:7). Alleluia! (3x)

Upon completion of the Liturgy we venerate the Holy Cross: **To Your Cross, O Master, we bow in veneration, and we glorify Your holy Resurrection** (3x).

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:** 1) 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:

Антифон 1:

Стих 1: Боже, Боже мій, зваж на мене, чому Ти оставив мене? Далеко від спасення мого слова гріхопадінь моїх (Пс. 21,2).

Приспів: Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.

Стих 2: Боже мій, закличу вдень і не вислухаєш, і вночі, і не в безумство мені (Пс. 21,3).

Приспів: Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.

Стих 3: А Ти у святому живеш, хвало ізраїлева (Пс. 21,4).

Приспів: Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.

Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові, і нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.

Антифон 3:

Приспів: Спаси нас, Сину Божий, що плоттю розп'явся, співаємо Тобі: Алілуя.

Тропар (глас 8): З висоти зійшов Ти, Милосердний, погребення прийняв Ти тридневне, щоб нас визволити від страстей. Життя і воскресення наше, Господи, слава Тобі.

Тропар (глас 1): Спаси, Господи, людей Твоїх і благослови насліддя Твоє, перемоги благовірному народові на супротивників даруй і хрестом Твоїм охорони люд Твій.

Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові.

Кондак (глас 4): Вознісся Ти на хрест волею Своєю. Новому людові Твоєму, що Твоє ім'я носить, даруй щедроти Твої, Христе Боже. Возвесели силою Твоєю благовірний народ, перемоги на супротивників дай йому, що за посібник має Твоє оружжя миру, непоборну перемогу.

І нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

Кондак (глас 8): Воскресиш з гробу, умерлих воздвигнув Ти і Адама воскресив Ти, і Єва ликує в твоїм воскресенні, і світу кінці торжествують востання Твоє, Многомилостивий.

Прокімен (глас 8): Помоліться і воздайте Господеві, Богу нашому (Пс. 75, 12).

Стих: Відомий у Юдеї Бог, в Ізраїлі велике ім'я його (Пс. 75, 2).

Прокімен (глас 7): Возносіть Господа Бога нашого і поклоняйтеся підніжжю ніг Його, бо святе воно (Пс. 98,5).

Апостол: ДО ГАЛАТІВ ДО ПОСЛАННЯ СВ. АПОСТОЛА ПАВЛА ЧИТАННЯ (ГАЛ. 2,16-20):

Браття і Сестри, довідавшись, що людина оправдується не ділами закону, а через віру в Ісуса Христа, ми й увірували в Христа Ісуса, щоб оправдатися нам вірою в Христа, а не ділами закону; бо ніхто не оправдається ділами закону. Коли ж, шукаючи оправдання у



Христі, виявилось, що й ми самі грішники, – то невже Христос – служитель гріха? Жадним робом! Бо коли я знову відбудовую те, що зруйнував був, то я себе самого оголошую переступником. Я бо через закон для закону вмер, щоб для Бога жити: я –розп'ятий з Христом. Живу вже не я, а живе Христос у мені. А що живу тепер у тілі, то живу вірою в Божого Сина, який полюбив мене й видав себе за мене.

Алилуя (глас 8): Прийдіте, возрадуємося Господеві, воскликнім Богу, Спасителеві нашому (Пс. 94, 1). Ідім перед лицем його з ісповіданням і псалмами воскликнім йому (Пс. 94, 2). Пом'яни соньм Твій, що його придбав Ти іздавна (Пс. 73, 2).

Євангеліє: (Мр 8,34-9,1)

Сказав Господь: “Коли хтось хоче йти за мною, хай зречеться себе самого, візьме на себе хрест свій і йде слідом за мною. Бо хто хоче спасти свою душу, той її погубить; а хто погубить свою душу мене ради та Євангелії, той її спасе. Бо яка користь людині здобути світ увесь, а занепасти свою душу? Що бо людина може дати взамін за власну душу? Хто, отже, буде соромитися мене й моїх слів перед цим родом перелюбним та грішним, того посоромиться і Син Чоловічий, коли прийде у славі Отця свого з святими ангелами.” І сказав їм: “Істинно кажу вам: Є деякі з отут присутніх, що не зазнають смерти, аж поки не вздріють Царства Божого, що прийде у могутності.”

Замість Достойно співаємо: Величай, душе моя, Господа, пречесний хрест Господень.

Ірмос: Таїнственный рай Ти, Богородице, що неводільно виростила Христа. Він на землі насадив хресне життєносне древо. Йому, що Його нині возносять, поклоняючись, Тебе величаємо.

Причасний: Хваліте Господа з небес, хваліте Його на висотах (Пс 148,1). Знаманувалося на нас світло лица Твого, Господи (Пс 4,7). Алилуя (х3)

Після Літургії співаємо: **Хресту Твоєму поклоняємось, Владико, і святєє восекресіння Твоє слави́мо** (х3).



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 славилось, 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, welcomed guests and visitors, volunteered sharing time and care helping at the coffee-socials, cleaning and organizing, cutting parish lawn, helping with parish projects and programs, donated (with gratitude for many God's blessings Mrs. Mariya Matsychko and Family donated \$ 100 to our church), 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 all those who celebrate their birthdays, name-days, wedding anniversaries and any other special anniversaries this week – Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!



WELCOME TO OUR PARISHIONERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WHO HAVE JOINED US IN THIS DIVINE LITURGY. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING WITH US AT THE CHURCH 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.

❖ **CATECHISM ANNOUNCEMENT:** *"And they were bringing to Him also the infants, in order that He may be touching them; but after the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, Let alone the little children to come to Me, and cease hindering them; for of such is the kingdom of God."* (Matthew 19:14) We are happy to welcome all children to our Dormition of the Mother of God parish catechism program. We want your children to learn more about their orthodox faith in the Catholic Church, sacred scripture, feast days, icons, singing and religious practices and customs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. If you have any questions, please, do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Marilyn Daulat or Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts.

❖ **REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:** yourselves, Most Reverend Bishop-Emeritus Severian Yakymyshyn, Fr. Mark Fesniak., Lucy D., Janet F., Alex R., Volodymyr P., Ivan L., Fr. Edward Ewanko., Ray Saranchuk, Cameron V., Rose Ostopowich, Keyton A., Ric B., Rocio A., Kit C., Shirley C., Peter Dranchuk, Sandra Sh., Patricia U., Olga Kuzyk, Anthony and Victoria Huziak, George and Mary Dashkewytch, Olga Romanyshyn, Myron Stec, Victoria

Connor, Kay
Ilnitski, 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**

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

What is the most important investment you can make with your life? Jesus poses some probing questions to challenge our assumptions about what is most profitable and worthwhile.

In every decision of life we are making ourselves a certain kind of person. The kind of person we are, our character, determines to a large extent the kind of future we will face and live. It is possible that some can gain all the things they set their heart on, only to wake up suddenly and discover that they missed the most important things of all. Of what value are material things if they don't help you gain what truly lasts in eternity. Nowadays popular worshiping and desiring of attractive false idols such as money and possessions can not buy heaven!

Jesus asks very simple and at the same time very serious question: What will a person give in exchange for his or her life? Everything we have is an out-right gift from God. We owe him everything, including our very lives. It's possible to give God our money, but not ourselves, or to give him lip-service, but not our hearts. A true disciple gladly gives up all that he has in exchange for an unending life of joy and happiness with God.

God gives without measure. The joy he offers no sadness or loss can diminish. The cross of Christ leads to victory and freedom from sin and death. What is the cross which Jesus Christ commands me to take up each day? When my will crosses with his will, then his will must be done. Are you ready to lose all for Jesus Christ in order to gain all with Jesus Christ? "With your lives, you determine the outcome of Jesus' call to you. Will you accept it? It is a call to you and me. Every Christian soul is called to belong to God!" - Saint of the 20th century Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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!

- ❖ **UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE PARISH SCHOOL.** Please, come to a meeting and discussions about our parish Ukrainian language school at the church hall after the Divine Liturgy today.
- ❖ **Parish Executive Council** will hold a meeting at 7 pm on Monday, Sept. 17th, 2018 A.D.
- ❖ **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.



Traditional and Very Delicious Ukrainian Food is available for sale at our parish: Pierogies – \$ 6.00 per dozen, 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.



❖ **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!

❖ **PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE AND UKRAINE:** Sept. 4-22, 2019, an unforgettable experience with Sr. Angelica SSMI, brother & sister pilgrims. For details and price call Mrs. Myrna Arychuk at **604 - 617 - 7200**

❖ **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: *I took such a huge step in my healing journey by attending a Rachel retreat. It is exactly what I needed, even though I didn't know it. I experienced God's loving touch and grace on this weekend of healing. I am very grateful. I hope to return to serve on team.* - Testimonial

If the thoughts and feelings you have carried inside since the day of your participation in an abortion decision have burdened you with regret and remorse, come on a Rachel Retreat. **Healing after Abortion Ministry 250-762-2273**

info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com or information and registration visit:

www.rachelsvineyardkelowna.com, Facebook: **Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna** **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@rachelsvineyardkelowna.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*)

❖ **Home Blessing and Pastoral Annual Visitations** sign up list to arrange the actual date is available at the entrance to the church and at the church hall. Please assist Fr. Pavlo in planning these visits by letting him know your most convenient time and day. Thank you and may God bless you

❖ **Saint Pope Pius Xth Roman Catholic Parish** (Corner of Gordon and Fuller) **2018 Fall Bazaar on Saturday, September 29th 8:00 am – 2:00 pm.** Select from among: Needlecraft, Toys, Farmers Market, Used Books, Treasures, White Elephant, Jewellery & Religious Articles Treat yourself: Baked Goods, Barbecue, Tea Room. Come for Lunch! Join the Raffle for a Quilt Try your luck with the 50/50 Draws.

❖ **ATTENTION TEENS! grades 8-12, NET Encounter Retreat Day Saturday October 24th from 9am - 9pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Parish Centre (West Kelowna).** Theme: 2 Billion People! Our World has been influenced by many people who have gone before us. Martin Luther King had a dream and from that equal rights was born. Terry Fox was determined not to let his cancer trump his passion for life and so he ran for cancer awareness. Jesus Christ came to die for the Salvation of the world and from that 2 Billion People call themselves Christians today and have transformed the world. In a world that tries to wipe out Jesus' relevance, how can we begin to understand the magnitude of His sacrifice in our day-to-day lives? Join us and the other youth from the parishes from the North and South Okanagan for an awesome Retreat Day. There is a live band, fun and games, praise and worship, prayer, friends, mass celebration and guest speaker Fr. Ron Dechant and much more! Cost is \$30.00/participant includes, lunch, dinner and snacks. Registration forms are available [here](#) or from your church/school office. Join us!

Sviatoslav Shevchuk: From Soviet soldier to world religious leader

Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church brings multifaceted experience to project of evangelization.

The Cold War seems like ancient history now. The Soviet Union broke up more than 25 years ago, and world leaders who were the players then have been dead for several years: Andropov, Reagan, Thatcher, John Paul II ...



So, it's a surprise when 48-year-old Sviatoslav Shevchuk, major archbishop of the worldwide Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church says, "For half of my life I lived in the Soviet Union." For him and for many citizens of former Soviet nations, this history is still very much alive.

When Shevchuk was born in the small city of Stryi, south of Lviv in Western Ukraine, his nation was referred to as the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church had been suppressed since 1946, subsumed under the Russian Orthodox Church. The Ukrainian Church's leader was living in exile, and the faithful worshiped in secret.

Shevchuk spent four years in medical school, but was drafted into the Soviet army.

"I spent two years in the military, having experience of a very special way of being of the Soviet people," he said in an hourlong interview during the Knights of

Columbus convention in Baltimore Wednesday. “Because today, nobody knows, or doesn’t remember well, that the Soviet Union was a very aggressive country with a messianic vision. A new style of life—the communist idea—was supposed to conquer the whole world. So that messianic idea of the leaders of the Soviet Union was converted in many military actions, actions of the secret services, even instrumentalization of religion, especially the Russian Orthodox Church.”

Perhaps even more dangerous was the system’s manipulation of the human being.

“The goal of Soviet propaganda was to form the Soviet human person—homo Sovieticus. It was especially programmed to destroy the identity of particular nations which were in the territory of the Soviet Union and create a unified Soviet nation,” Shevchuk said.

Looking back on those days, the Ukrainian prelate considers his response to the tenor of the times to be “a story of resistance to those ideologies and those social technologies.”

“I was lucky enough to be born in a Christian family,” he said. “In the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was the biggest group of social opposition against the atheistic regime. Even the bloodshed and persecution of Stalin were unable to destroy that Church. We were lucky enough that a Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church never collaborated with the Soviet regime and was free of that kind of manipulation.”

Influenced by the example of prayer he saw in his parents and grandparents and the risks his family took, participating in the underground Church, he understood that being a Christian was “a way to maintain our identity,” he said. It was to have “a special inner spirit, not to be a part of that massified, faceless, collective society.” In the underground Church, priests visited homes under cover of night to administer sacraments. Even when Shevchuk’s great-grandfather died, the funeral had to be conducted in secret.

“The underground priest would come at night, celebrating Divine Liturgy, praying over the body of the deceased person and go away,” he recalled. “That was my image of the underground priest—men coming at night. But I saw how it was appreciated, [what the priest] meant to the people. It was how I approached him and those people who were in contact with that network of the underground Church. This is how I was involved in the underground Church because I was a singer, always reading the psalms during those celebrations.”

Shevchuk was invited to join a group of young men who were preparing to be priests.

Serving in the military at the same time, he realized he had something to share with fellow soldiers.

“Many young soldiers were just disappointed and almost lived the depression in the Soviet army because of the humiliation and disregard of human dignity in the Soviet army,” he said. There were tensions in military units among soldiers from the various nations that made up the vast USSR. “And I understood that in order to remain yourself, in order to be able to overcome this situation of humiliation, you have to be a Christian,” Shevchuk said. “And I started to just share my own religious beliefs with others.”

As Shevchuk related it, some soldiers—Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian—asked him, “*Where do you get that spirit that keeps a joy in you? Why do you not despair?*”

“*And I told them, ‘Because I pray.’*”

“*‘Really? You can pray, but what does it mean, pray?’*”

“*‘Talk to God.’*”

“*And does he really exist?’*”

“*And I answered, ‘Yes, because I exist. He’s the source of my life.’*”

When one particular soldier expressed his desire to become a Christian, Shevchuk recalled, “I was really apologizing with myself that in that moment I was not a priest, in order to serve him and administer the sacraments to him.”

But he finished his military service in 1991, providentially perhaps, the year the Soviet Union collapsed.

“When I came home from the military service, our Church came forth from the underground existence,” he recalled. And the head of our Church, Cardinal [Myroslav Ivan] Lubachivsky, returned from Rome to his episcopal see in the city of Lviv. Legal seminaries were reopened in Ukraine. So, I immediately entered into that group.”

He was sent to study in Argentina, of all places. A large Ukrainian emigrant community existed there, with immigration beginning before the First World War but also fueled by those escaping Soviet communism. Shevchuk arrived at a historic moment.

“We arrived in Buenos Aires in September [1991], and in December Ukraine proclaimed its independence,” he recalled. He and other Ukrainian seminarians joined a celebratory march in Buenos Aires, carrying a large Ukrainian flag. “I remember an old woman crying and walking beside me. I asked her, ‘Madam, what happened to you? May I

help you?’ And she showed me the Argentinian document, where the place of origin or nationality was written ‘Soviet Union.’ And she said ‘But I’m Ukrainian. Imagine, now I can change my document. And it will be written in my document that I am Ukrainian. And I will die as Ukrainian.’”

Shevchuk completed his studies in Lviv, and in 1994 was ordained a priest. The Church was in the midst of a huge revival, with some 350 seminarians preparing for priesthood. Because Shevchuk had learned Spanish, the major archbishop, Cardinal Lubachivsky, felt that he would be able to learn Italian more easily, so he sent the young priest to Rome to study for a doctorate in moral theology. The young priest returned to teach in the seminary in Lviv and at the Ukrainian Catholic University. It was a time of great change, when Ukrainian society was struggling to discard the Soviet mentality. Christian moral and anthropological teaching had a lot to offer in the way of guidance, and Shevchuk was well immersed in it.

He assumed he would live out the rest of his life as a priest-professor, but in 2009, he was elected to be bishop for the Ukrainians in Argentina. He was just 38 years old.

“When I arrived in Argentina, the president of the Conference of Catholic Bishops was Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, known by everybody today as Pope Francis,” he recalled. “He was the one who introduced me to my brother bishops. I remember that first meeting and those very solemn looking bishops who were turning their heads toward me and asking, ‘Well, who’s that altar boy? Did he receive his first Communion?’”

Turning serious, Shevchuk said “Cardinal Bergoglio himself was to me a good father, because I had no idea what does it mean to be an Eastern Catholic bishop in Latin American culture, in the social situation of Argentina. ... I remember some talks with Cardinal Bergoglio, and he taught me that being a bishop in today’s world, especially in Argentina, doesn’t mean anymore to be far away and a prince of the Church, but to be a humble servant and friend of the poor. So, I had to rethink all liturgical questions, all pastoral issues in order to be effective pastorally, a bishop for the Ukrainians in Argentina, who were disseminated throughout a big country, a huge county, six times bigger than Ukraine. And in that country, I had only 16 priests.”

But once again, just as he was settling into his new role, in 2011, Cardinal Lyubomyr Husar stepped down as major archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

“For some strange reason, my fellow bishops elected me, the youngest among them, as their primate,” Shevchuk said. “It was, again, a big change. The Lord told me to leave behind all your habits, all your personal projects, your way of incarnation into Latin American culture, come back home and lead the Church in the country which was entering into a very, very unstable moment of its existence. ... I never imagined that I would be the head of the Church which is supposed to lead not only the Church but even the Ukrainian people in a time of war. We never imagined that blood, persecution, tears, suffering, would knock again on our door.”

In 2013, he saw his old friend from Buenos Aires, Cardinal Bergoglio, elected Pope. Later that year and into the next, his Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was swept up into a movement that would once again reassert the identity of the Ukrainian people. What came to be known as the “Revolution of Dignity” led to the pro-Russian Ukrainian president fleeing Kyiv to Russia and the election of a new president and parliament. But events also led to a deadly police crackdown in the streets of the capital, the Russian annexation of the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea, and a pro-Russian independence movement in Eastern Ukraine, which is widely regarded as a Moscow-backed military action.

Shevchuk cannot help but see how Catholic social teaching, which he had taught in the seminary, has been central in the events since Ukrainian independence, especially in the last few years. That social teaching is based on four principles: human dignity, the common good, solidarity and subsidiarity.

“If we preach about the love of God, but we don’t defend the dignity of the human person as the first cornerstone of the social teaching of the Church, nobody would understand why God loves me. ‘Who am I that he should love me?’” he said. “And after the Soviet system of annihilation of human dignity, the affirmation and defense of human dignity was the first task of the Church in its work of evangelization: to be human, to defend the dignity of each citizen, regardless of his religious, ethnic, or political background.”

No coincidence, perhaps, that the protests that started in November 2013 on Kyiv’s Maidan Square came to be called the Revolution of Dignity.

That movement was, he said an expression of solidarity, another principle of Catholic social teaching. “People were united in the defense of Ukraine as a state, its integrity, as a common good” (yet another principle). “Suddenly, that solidarity enabled Ukrainian society to give an adequate response to a huge humanitarian catastrophe, which is going on right now in Ukraine. Just in a few months, we started to have millions of internally displaced persons,

when the Russian aggression started, when Russian army entered Ukrainian territory. People were supposed to leave behind them all their belongings and go out.”

Solidarity is expressed, he noted, In many villages of Central and Western Ukraine, when displaced persons cannot afford to buy food. Spontaneously, a system started where such people would write down the groceries they took on a list in the market, and locals who had the means would pay for them later.

“Nobody was asking, ‘Who are you? Which language do you speak? To which Church do you go? Only because you are in need, I will help you.’”

The fourth principle of Catholic social teaching, subsidiarity, is being exercised in the current conflict with Russia, he said.

“So, we will not wait until somebody comes and defends my country. It is my duty,” he said. “So, people felt finally responsible for their state, for their country, for the future of their children. And that was exactly the opposite of what was happening in the Soviet Union. Because government was responsible for everything.”

To illustrate his point, he reached back to his days as a Soviet soldier.

“An officer called a poor soldier in front of the standing line of the military unit and started to yell at him,” Shevchuk remembered. “And he tried to justify himself and he started to reply, ‘Well, but I thought that ...’ and he stopped him: ‘You have no right to think. You have only to faithfully and on time execute the orders.’ And people were afraid in the post-Soviet Ukraine to undertake private initiatives. ... But we have to educate people to be free.”

As he continues to shepherd a worldwide flock, with parishes in Ukraine, the United States and Canada, Latin America, and other countries, he strives to help people understand that although it is known as the Ukrainian Catholic Church, it is not only for Ukrainians. As a Catholic Church with a history going back to Constantinople, it is a universal Church, one that has a special appeal to those attracted to Byzantine liturgy and spirituality.

“I’m convinced,” he said, “especially after the period of the severe persecution in the Soviet Union, as a Church of Martyrs, we have much to share with the world today.”

Presented by John Burger for www.aleteia.org

Source: http://news.ugcc.ua/en/articles/sviatoslav_shevchuk_from_soviet_soldier_to_world_religious_leader_83538.html



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