



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

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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

22nd Sunday after Pentecost - October 21st, 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 прикри 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:

Tue., Oct. 23rd – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: for good health of Leonard H. (requested by Mr. Robert Kiatkoski)

- 6:30 p.m. Moleben to Jesus Christ

Wed., Oct. 24th – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: for repose of the soul of Nestor Zemlak (requested by Ms. Shelly Zemlak)

Thurs., Oct. 25th – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: for repose of the soul of Brent Craig (requested by Mrs. Patricia and Ms. Anastasia Sawadsky)

Fri., Oct. 26th – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: for repose of the soul of Gerda Beretic (requested by Mrs. Manda Hill)

Saturday, Oct. 27th – 3:40 p.m. Lectio Divina / Bible Studies: (Studies and Service in Penticton, BC)

– 4:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all parishioners

Sunday, Oct. 28th – 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)

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 5, text from book “*The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*”; pages 97-99

Epistle: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians: (Gal 6:11-18)

Brothers and Sisters, see, I write to you in my own large handwriting! Those who are trying to force you to be circumcised are making a play for human approval – with an eye to escaping persecution for the cross of Christ. The every ones who accept circumcision do not follow the law themselves. They want you to be circumcised only that they may boast about your bodily observance.



May I never boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through it, the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. It means nothing whether one is circumcised or not. All that matters is that one is created anew. Peace and mercy on all who follow this rule of life, and on the Israel of God.

Henceforth, let no man trouble me, for I bear the brand marks of Jesus in my body. May the favor of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Gospel: (Lk 16: 19-31)

The Lord told this parable: “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen feasted splendidly every day. At his gate lay a beggar named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table. The dogs even came and licked his sores. Eventually the beggar died. He was carried by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man like-wise died and was buried. From the abode of the dead where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus resting in his bosom. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water to refresh my tongue, for I am tortured in these flames.’ ‘My child,’ replied Abraham, ‘remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now he has found consolation here, but you have found torment. And it is not all. Between you and us there is fixed a great abyss, so that those who might wish to cross from here to you cannot do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ ‘Father, I ask you, then,’ the rich man said, ‘send him to my father’s house where I have five brothers. Let him be a warning to them so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ Abraham answered, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let them hear them.’ ‘No, Father Abraham,’ replied the rich man. ‘But if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ Abraham said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if one should rise from the dead.’”

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 5, текст з книги "Божественна Літургія Святого Івана Золотоустого"; **стт. 96-98**

Апостол: *До Галатів послання Святого Апостола Павла читання:* (Гал. 6,11-18)

Браття і Сестри, гляньте, якими буквами пишу вам власною рукою. Ті, що хочуть показатися гарними тілом, – вони силують вас обрізатися, щоб тільки уникнути переслідування за хрест Христа. Бо й самі обрізані, не додержують закону, а хочуть, щоб ви обрізувалися, щоб їм хвалитися вашим тілом. Мене ж не доведи, Боже, чимсь хвалитися, як тільки хрестом Господа нашого Ісуса Христа, яким для мене світ розп'ятий, а я – світові; бо ані обрізання, ані необрізання є щось, лише – нове створіння. На тих, які поступають за цим правилом, мир на них і милосердя, а й на Ізраїля Божого. На майбутнє нехай ніхто мені не завдає клопоту, бо я ношу на моїм тілі рани Ісуса. Благодать Господа нашого Ісуса Христа нехай буде з вашим духом! Амінь.

Євангеліє: (Лк. 16,19-31)

Сказав Господь притчу оцю: Був один чоловік багатий, що одягавсь у кармазин та вісон та бенкетував щодня розкішно. Убогий же якийсь, на ім'я Лазар, лежав у нього при воротях, увесь струпами вкритий; він бажав насититися тим, що падало в багатого зо столу; ба навіть пси приходили й лизали рани його. Та сталося, що помер убогий, і ангели занесли його на лоно Авраама. Помер також багатий, і його поховали. В аді, терплячи тяжкі муки, зняв він очі й побачив здалека Авраама та Лазаря на його лоні, і він закричав уголос: Отче Аврааме, змилуйся надо мною і пошли Лазаря, нехай умочить у воду кінець пальця свого й прохолодить язик мій, бо я мучуся в полум'ї цім. Авраам же промовив: Згадай, мій сину, що ти одержав твої блага за життя свого, так само, як і Лазар свої лиха. Отже, тепер він тішиться тут, а ти мучишся. А крім того всього між нами й вами вирита велика пропасть, тож ті, що хотіли б перейти звідси до вас, не можуть; ані звідти до нас не переходять. Отче, сказав багатий, благаю ж тебе, пошли його в дім батька мого; я маю п'ять братів, нехай він їм скаже, щоб і вони також не прийшли в це місце муки. Авраам мовив: Мають Мойсея і пророків; нехай їх слухають. Той відповів: Ні, отче Аврааме, але коли до них прийде хто з мертвих, вони покаються. А той відозвався до нього: Як вони не слухають Мойсея і пророків, то навіть коли хто воскресне з мертвих, не повірять.



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 Твою 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 Твою 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 Твою 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 to make cabbage-rolls and with other parish projects and programs, 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)

Every parishioner is personally responsible for our spiritual home-parish-church!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to Mrs. Ann Wyshynsky on her birthday today (Oct. 21st), Mr. Lorne and Mrs. Gloria Dudych on their 51st wedding anniversary (Oct. 14th), Sofia Gudz on her birthday (Oct. 14th), Mrs. Mary Dashkewytch on her birthday (Oct.), and to all those who celebrate their birthdays, name-days, wedding anniversaries and any other special anniversaries this week – Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!



NEWS and

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WELCOME TO 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.

TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:

“Just as, when God expelled Adam from paradise, he settled him opposite the garden in order that the continual sight might renew his suffering and give him a clearer awareness of his fall from the good, so also He settled the rich man opposite Lazarus in order that he might see the good of which he had deprived himself. ‘I sent,’ he says, ‘the poor man Lazarus to your gate to teach you virtue and to receive your love; you ignored this benefit and declined to use his assistance toward your salvation. Hereafter you shall use him to bring yourself a greater punishment and retribution.’

From the poor man we learn that all who suffer curses and injustice among us will stand before us in that other life. Indeed, Lazarus suffered no injustice from the rich man; for the rich man did not take Lazarus’ money, but failed to share his own. If he is accused by the man he failed to pity because he did not share his own wealth, what pardon will the man receive who has stolen others’ goods, when he is surrounded by those whom he has wronged? In that world there is no need of witnesses, accusers, evidence, or proof; the deeds themselves just as we have done them appear before our eyes. ‘See the man,’ He says, ‘and his works: indeed, this also is theft, not to share one’s possessions.’ (Daily Readings from the Writings of Saint John Chrysostom, pg. 43)

❖ 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, Rev. Fr. Edward Ewanko., Lucy D., Janet F., Alex R., Volodymyr P., Ivan L., 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, Kay Ilnitski, Kalyna Kociuba, William Shuya, 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!**

❖ **If you need Bible, please, call or email your pastor.**

❖ **Recording Secretary position is vacant at our parish executive council.** This parishioner (sister or brother in Christ) is recording and keeping the minutes of all monthly Parish Council Meetings; together with the Pastor and the Chairperson signs the adopted minutes of the Council. **If you have a gift and wish to share it as a recording secretary, please contact Mr. Neil Lalach or Fr. Pavlo.**

❖ **UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE PARISH SCHOOL.** Come and learn (children from 5 years of age and older) at our parish Ukrainian language and culture classes every Friday at 4 pm at the church hall. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Olena Federov or Dob. Marichka Myts.

❖ **Parish KofC Round Table** will hold a meeting at 7 pm on Tuesday, Oct. 23rd, 2018 A.D.

Musical Keyboard, TV and Bluetooth Speaker are needed for our Church Youth Ministry Programs. If parishioners, your relatives or friends can donate those new or even used but working electronic items, it will be truly appreciated!

❖ **Saint Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church praznyk/feast day in Vernon, BC.** Please mark your calendars for Sunday, **November 11th, 2018** to celebrate Saint Josaphat's Praznyk. **Divine Liturgy at 11:30 AM** followed by banquet. Tickets: \$20.00 - adults; \$10.00 - children 6-12 years of age; children 5 years & under - free.

❖ **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: Perogies – \$ 6.00 per dozen, Cabbage-Rolls - \$ 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-church? 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](tel:604-617-7200)
- ❖ **Volunteers for Sunday coffee socials and clean-ups are needed** – please continue putting your name on the calendar posted in the church hall. If you can help out, please, let us know. Your help is truly appreciated!
- ❖ **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 finally admitted to what I did, faced it and feel forgiven. I was able to honor the life of my children, and have peace knowing they are in heaven. I feel like the burden is lifted, not totally, but lighter.*

I've given it all to God." - Testimonial

Acknowledging before God what your role was in the abortion decision is not easy. But it is one of the first steps to letting God help you with the regret and the burden you carry. Are you ready to

lay that burden down? The Rachel Team are ready to stand with you as you take those important steps. Come on a Rachel's Vineyard 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 is 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.

❖ **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!



Meet the young woman who's addicted to helping the poor

Susan Tendo grew up in poverty and, after great perseverance, heard the call to serve the needy herself.

I was born in Uganda, in a suburb of Kampala called Makindye, on August 28, 1990, the youngest of four girls.

My mother and father separated when I was 3 years old and this marked the beginning of our suffering. My mother was a housewife and had to find a job to earn a living. She began to go door to door washing peoples' clothes. Eventually we were chased out of the house we were living in and reached a point where we were eating leftovers my mother collected from restaurants. I grew up not knowing that people eat three meals a day. We moved to our grandmother's home, but she was also a poor old lady. My mother kept on looking for work and tried all kinds of casual jobs to help us survive.

The time came for me to start school, but there was no money for my tuition. People would tell my mother to drop us at our father's village and leave us there and come back and start a new life, but she refused.

One of the things I admire most about my mother is that she had great faith and hope in God. She used to take us with her on pilgrimages and we would walk on foot for about 9 miles, going to [Kiwamirembe Catholic Shrine](#) to pray the Rosary and imitate the way of the cross.

One day, after praying at Mother Mary's shrine, we met a lady named Sarah who said to my mother, "I always see you with your daughter ... isn't she in school?" I think this lady was an angel sent by God as she directed us to an organization that sponsored children. I received a sponsor from Switzerland by the name of Margret Springer. I still pray for this lady as she put the foundation of my education in place. May God bless her always.

During that time I was in the [Legion of Mary](#) group, which helped to form me into a responsible young woman. We did charity work in peoples' households like washing dishes, sweeping, and visiting the sick, among other small activities. I grew up knowing that it's good to help the needy.

The worst moment in my life, which I cannot forget, is when I was about to sit for my primary school examinations. All my friends at school were receiving congratulations cards from their parents. I asked my mother to contact my father and let him know that I was going to do my exams and my father promised to bring me a card and told me to wait for him on the road side near our home.

I remember it was a Sunday that I waited. I sat on the road side from 2:00 until 7:00 p.m., hoping he would come. My mother eventually came for me and brought me home. I still had hope that maybe he would come to see me, but it was in vain. The next morning I sat for my exams and from that day, I hated my father. He had abandoned us and we had suffered so much. But later when I grew up, after spiritual counseling, I forgave him.

After my primary school level, the charity that was supporting me closed down and I had no way to contact my sponsor so I lost hope of completing my education and began helping my mother again with the work of washing clothes. When we collected a little money, my mother learned to bake cakes and cookies and we switched to this as an income stream. We used to carry them on top of our heads. I did this for a year, gathering tuition to go back and study. After a year, there still wasn't enough money for school so I wrote a letter to the parish priest asking for help. He gave us some funds and I joined my O-level. I also joined the music, dance, and drama group. God had blessed me with talent in this field so I was given a scholarship to study for free — on the condition that I attend the boarding section of the school. There was much happiness but also tears, as I felt depressed living away from my mother. She was only allowed to visit me once a term.

Eventually I went to university and studied social work and community development because I loved helping vulnerable people, as well as people with disabilities. I had a dream of building a children's orphanage after my studies, though I haven't achieved this yet.

On campus I met Fr. Andrew Katende when he was still a deacon at a parish called St. Agnes in Makindye. We ministered together, visiting the sick and the elderly. After that, the fire of helping the poor and vulnerable increasingly burned within me. I began an internship with a small organization that served the poor and gained more experience. After finishing, I looked for a job, but failed to get one so I resumed helping my mother make cakes and

cookies. When I was home, Fr. Andrew contacted me about working with him at the Don Bosco Children's Foundation, whose mission is to love and care for the needy through collaboration. I began right away. I now work as the vice executive director of the Foundation and as its secretary. We needed others to help us so a woman named Lillian Nakirya and I now serve together.

To help make others aware of the extent of suffering here I began making posts on Facebook. The first was about the well where we fetch water. The water there is contaminated, but we still use it for drinking and cooking because the community lacks the funds to construct a proper well. The responses were so many, from different people. And although we still don't have the funds to construct it, this motivated me to keep going.

I wrote another post about Elizabeth and William, two elderly people who live under extreme poverty, and someone contacted me about helping them. There are many other stories I have shared which have inspired people to send donations.

So, I continue to write posts to show the world that if we join hands and collaborate we can make this world a better place to live for everyone.

The poor always pray for the people who have helped them. Whatever contribution someone makes makes a big impact in people's lives, helping them to know that someone loves them, that they have worth.

My work has drawn me closer to God. I believe nothing is impossible for Him and that He touches the hearts of those who help the poor. This work has also showed me that being poor is not the end of it all, but that having hope in God can lead you to reach your destiny regardless of poverty. We always find the poor smiling and still believing that God will come to their rescue.

I am now addicted to helping the poor. I can't get something and not share it with them. And when I have nothing to share, I can give them counseling and lift them up in my prayers.

I thank the Almighty God who enables me to serve in this way, and I am always praying for those who sacrifice the little they have to help others. To all those who have stood by me in my own times of need, I love you. May God bless you abundantly.

To find out more about Susan Tendo's work at the Don Bosco Children's Foundation visit them on Facebook. Donations to their work can be made here.

<https://aleteia.org/2018/07/24/meet-the-young-woman-whos-addicted-to-helping-the-poor/>



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