

**Ukrainian Catholic Church  
of the Dormition of the Mother of God**

1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8 Tel.: 250-860-7295, Email: [dormitionkelowna@gmail.com](mailto: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>  
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster: [www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca)

**Українська Католицька Церква  
Успення Пресвятої Богородиці**



**SUNDAY of THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE - February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 A.D.**

**Tone 5; Martyr Charalampius.**

**'If you judge people, you have no time to love them!'**

*– teaches Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

**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 this week:**

Tue., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: Peaceful repose of the souls of Emmett, Margaret, Angus & Mary Brady

– 6:30 p.m. Moleben to the Merciful Christ

Wed., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all parishioners.

– 7:00 p.m. Moleben to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thurs., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

– 4:30 p.m. Moleben to Jesus Christ

Fri., Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

– 7:00 p.m. Akaphystos to Jesus Christ

Saturday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. Akaphystos to Blessed Virgin Mary

– 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, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. – 8:15 a.m. Rosary:

– 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)*

– 7:00 p.m. Moleben to Jesus Christ



**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 Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy** (2 Tim. 3:10-15)

*Timothy, my son: You have followed closely my teaching and my conduct. You have observed my resolution, fidelity, patience, love, and endurance, through persecutions and sufferings in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. You know what persecutions I have had to bear, and you know how the Lord saved me from them all. Anyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus can expect to be persecuted. But all the while evil men and charlatans will go from bad to worse, deceiving others, themselves deceived. You, for your part, must remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know who your teachers were. Likewise, from your infancy you have known the Sacred Scriptures, the source of the wisdom which through faith in Jesus Christ leads to salvation.*

**Gospel:** (Luke 18:10-14)

*The Lord told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray; the one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee with head unbowed prayed in this fashion: 'I give you thanks, O God, that I am not like the rest of men – grasping, crooked, adulterous – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I pay tithes on all I possess.'*

*The other man, however, kept his distance, not even daring to raise his eyes to heaven. All he did was beat his breast and say, 'O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.' Believe me, this man went home from the temple justified but the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled while he who humbles himself shall be exalted."*

**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.**



### Літургійні частини Українською мовою:

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

**Апостол: 3 другого послання до Тимотея Св. Апостола Павла читання:** (2 Тм. 3, 10-15)

*Сину Тимотею, ти ж слідував моїй науці, моїй поведінці, моїй настанові, вірі, довготерпеливості, любові, постійності, у переслідуваннях, у стражданнях, які були спіткали мене в Антіохії, в Іконії та в Лістрі. Яких то переслідувань не переніс я на собі! А від усіх Господь мене визволив! Та й усі, що побожно хочуть жити у Христі Ісусі, будуть переслідувані. А лихі люди й дурисвіти будуть чим далі, тим до гіршого посуватися, зводячи інших, і самі зведені. Ти ж тримайся того, чого навчився і в чому переконався. Відаєш бо, від кого ти навчився, і вже малку знаєш Святе Письмо, яке вірою у Христа Ісуса може тобі дати мудрість на спасіння.*

**Євангеліє:** (Лк 18, 10-14)

*Сказав Господь притчу оцю: "Два чоловіки зайшли в храм помолитись: один був фарисей, а другий – митар. Фарисей, ставши, молився так у собі: Боже, дякую тобі, що я не такий, як інші люди – грабіжники, неправедні, перелюбці, або як оцей митар. Пошу двічі на тиждень, з усіх моїх прибутків даю десятину. А митар, ставши здалека, не смів і очей звести до неба, тільки бив себе в груди, кажучи: Боже, змилиуйся надо мною грішним! Кажу вам: Цей повернувся виправданий до свого дому, а не той; бо кожний, хто виноситься, буде принижений, а хто принижується, – ввищений."*

### **THANK YOU VERY MUCH      ЩИРО ВАМ ДЯКУЄМО**

➤ **The new cooler that the parish purchased cost \$2,999.08 from Canadian Restaurant Supply, Kelowna. It is a brand new. The 2 other used but in good condition, working coolers have been procured for our parish kitchen, via Randy (Mr. Eldon Hnylycia's) work friend at no charge to our parish. One cooler was manufactured in 2001 and the other in 2008. Although repair is not anticipated - any repair would be arranged via Eldon. Randy delivered these FREE coolers right to our parish hall door and provided full installation with his equipment including the newly purchased cooler. The Company where the new cooler was purchased do not do any installation - they just deliver to the door. Randy and his equipment provided easy installation for all three coolers which made it all easy for Mr. Neil Lalach, Mr. Harvey Lalach, Mr. Eldon and Mrs. Elizabeth Hnylycia who helped and spent a good amount of time on Friday of February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 A.D. It would cost the parish \$100.00 for the new fridge to be delivered to the door - but with Randy & his Pepsi equipment - the 2 coolers were free to the parish and the installation was not strenuous. As our parish appreciation we gave Randy 10 dozen perogies, 4 dozen cabbage rolls and one pie for his generous gesture great help to our Christian parish community! Thank you very much!**

➤ **Sincerest thanks for a generous donation of \$ 3,170 made by Mr. Melvin and Mrs. Sandra Shynkaryk and Family toward our parish kitchen new refrigerator that was bought recently!**

➤ **Gratitudes to all our parishioners, guests, visitors and all people of the good will** who by their kindness share time, talents and treasures, volunteer and organize coffee and socials, make donations, anonymously donated a new wall clock to the parish hall, knowingly and unknowingly for the other people thoughtfully care and help our parish community, parishioners welcoming our guests and visitors, help with preparing and making cabbage-rolls, actively participate at different 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)

### **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to Mrs. Shelley Verhelst on her birthday (Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>), Marichka Fedorov on her birthday (Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>), Joelle Lalach on her birthday (Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>), and all those parishioners who celebrate their birthdays, heavenly patron's /saint's 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 COFFE AND FELLOWSHIP AT THE CHURCH HALL TODAY FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY!



**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.

**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 єдною 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 дїбр для розбудови Твого царства. Єдною нас у мирі та злагоді, щоб ми були Твою спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світлом 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.



❖ **PLEASE, REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:** yourselves, Most Reverend Bishop-Emeritus Severian Yakymyshyn, 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, Dr. Nadia Popil, the Hillman Family, Sandra Shynkaryk, John and Ann Bulych, Rosa Maria Santos, Anita N., Ron and Verna Shoemaker, Jonas and Anne, Alyssa and Adam, Mark and Asia, and all members of our parish family 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 or her know that our parish community misses this brother or sister at the church very much and prays for them daily!

*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.*

❖ **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.*

#### **Pastoral and Sacramental Ministry:**

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

**Reconciliation:** on Sundays and Holy Days: before Liturgies and other days, by appointment. **Holy Communion:** for the sick, by appointment, any time **Holy Unction** (Anointing of the Sick): Those anticipating surgery, hospitalization or treatments and who would like to receive anointing (by appointment, any time) **Funerals and Memorials:** by appointment.

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

❖ **2019 Annual Parish General Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 24, 2019 after the 9:00 am Divine Liturgy On that day there will be only one bilingual Divine Liturgy. We are now preparing for the election of the new Parish Council for the year 2019.**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we are inviting and encouraging parishioners (especially all our wise and experienced senior-parishioners) to volunteer and help Mrs. Olga Kuzyk to form the Nominating Committee and suggest candidates for replacement council. Until nomination committee finalized suggestions for candidates may be placed in the Suggestion Box located in our church hallway or personally passed to Council Chairperson Mr. Neil Lalach or pastor Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts.

Position of our Parish Council Officer is a blessing and wonderful opportunity to show your talents, knowledge, experience and care serving the best to the Almighty God in our spiritual, Christian family of the Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kelowna, BC!

Parish Constitution states saying: 'The Parish Council must be representative of the faithful of the parish and of the various parish-related organizations that exist within its boundaries. Potential members of the Parish Council should have certain basic qualifications such as a keen desire to help, as well the ability to listen, reflect, and express themselves with care.' (*Chapter III, Article 1, Sections 1 and 2*)

#### ***Descriptions of responsibilities and ministry (cf. Chapter III, Articles 2, 3, 4, 5,) of each officer-member of the parish council are:***

**Chairperson of the Parish Council** is elected at the Annual General Meeting. He/She is responsible for drawing up the agenda; calling for, directing and chairing parish council meetings; seeing that the program of activities decided upon and ratified by the pastor are implemented; is a signing officer, an ex-officio member of all parish committees. He/She prepares the chairperson's report for presentation at the AGM.

**Vice-Chairperson** is elected at the Annual General Meeting. He/She is presiding at the all Parish Council Meetings in the absence of the Chairperson; carrying out such duties as are assigned by the Parish Council, the Chairperson or Pastor.

**Recording Secretary** is elected at the Annual General Meeting. He/She is keeping the minutes of all Parish Council Meetings; together with the Pastor and the Chairperson signs the adopted minutes of the Council.

**Financial Secretary** is elected at the Annual General Meeting. He/She is monitoring all funds received by the parish and ensure that all such funds are deposited in the parish bank account; keeping accurate records of all income and expenditures; keeps in order and preserves documents, records and books of parish finances. He/She is a signing officer, together with the pastor, for property approved financial transactions. He/She presents at the AGM the statements of income and expenses, as well as the balance sheet, for the calendar year as prepared by him or her or, where necessary, by an independent accounting firm.

**Treasurer** is elected at the Annual General Meeting. He/She is greatly helping the financial secretary to monitor all funds received by the parish and ensure that all such funds are deposited in the parish bank account; keeping accurate records of all income and expenditures (paying all invoices-bills and reimbursements); keeps in order and preserves documents, records and books of parish finances. He/She is a signing officer, together with the pastor, for property approved financial transactions.

It is also very important to have active and carrying representatives (a leader and helpers) at different Parish Committees such as: Liturgical, Pastoral, Educational, Youth Ministry, Maintenance, Kitchen, Social, Public Relations.

❖ **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.

❖ **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! **Every parishioner is personally responsible before God for our spiritual home-parish-church!**

❖ **Monthly Parish Council Meeting** is at 7:00 pm on Tuesday of Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 A.D.

❖ **Volunteers help is needed to make pierogies starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday of Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** It is a good time to help our parish fundraisers and socialize together. More helpers come – easier and faster the work is done! Please, come to help!

❖ **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.

❖ **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!

❖ **Marian travelling icon will be presented at our Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church from Wednesday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> until Wedn. February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 A.D.** Everybody is very welcome to come and pray to the Almighty God before this wonderful, uniting Christian sign-travelling icon, spiritual event that is thoughtfully organized by Knights of Columbus.

❖ **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!

❖ **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](http://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*)

❖ **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.

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

❖ **Rachel's Corner:** "There is only one carpenter who can repair a torn apart heart. If I'm moved but choose not to respond, won't my heart soon harden? Unable to respond? When we touch, we must reach out or soon we stiffen, and nothing touches us and we feel nothing." - Ann Voskamp

Have you felt the tugging on your heart inviting you to receive God's healing after having suffered greatly from an abortion loss? Your Rachel's Vineyard™ team understands that need, as well as the fear to reach out for healing. Come join them on a retreat and let His merciful love touch and mend your broken heart. *Healing after Abortion Ministry*: 250-762-2273, info@rachelvineyardkelowna.com or information and registration visit: www.rachelvineyardkelowna.com, Facebook: Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna

❖ **Traditional, Delicious Ukrainian Food is available for sale at our parish:** Perogies – \$ 6.00 per dozen, Cabbage Rolls (and filled in with rise and buckwheat, cooked) – \$ 6.00 per dozen, Borshch – \$ 7.00 per a jar, for more information, please contact Mrs. Alice Pelechaty at 250-763-4870.

❖ **Movie Night with Fr. Ron Dechant, OMI will be on Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm in Saint Charles Garnier's Roman Catholic Church hall.** The movie is "I Can Only Imagine" - Dennis Quaid and Trace Adkins star in this inspiring true story behind MercyMe's beloved hit song. This is an uplifting, music-filled movie that beautifully illustrates the power of forgiveness and God's love.

❖ **Fundraising CONCERT ARNIE'S ANGELS PLUS ONE to Benefit our refugee families** is at 2 p.m. at Saint Charles Garnier Roman Catholic Church (3645 Benvoulin Rd. in Kelowna, BC) on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. By donations.

## **CATECHISM OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH: CHRIST – OUR PASCHA**

### **1. The Orders of the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom and of Saint Basil the Great**

# 395: The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom and that of Saint Basil the Great, named after these two great bishops of the Church, are identical as to their structure but differ in their Anaphoras and in some of the other prayers.

# 396: The Anaphora of the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is a precious narration of the history of salvation in biblical imagery. A particularity of this Anaphora is the initial prayer of thanksgiving. It begins with praise of God—revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - who is "ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible, always existing and ever the same." The priest renders thanks to God for all his good gifts: for bringing the human race from nothingness into being, raising it after its fall, leading it to heaven, and granting it the kingdom. He also renders thanks for this Liturgy, which God has deigned to accept.

# 397: In the Anaphora of the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, the community of the faithful praises the Father for his gift of the only-begotten Son, sent into the world so "that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16). In giving his Body and Blood at the Mystical Supper for the remission of sins, the Son of God gave himself for the life of the world. In the Eucharistic memorial we become participants of "all that was done for us:" the passion, the death on the cross, the burial, the Resurrection, the Ascension, the sitting at the right hand of the Father, the second and glorious coming. As a sign of this participation, the community offers itself and the gifts to God: "We offer to you, yours of your own." The priest then asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit "upon us and upon these Gifts here present." This is so "that they may sanctify us, that God who sanctified them may sanctify us through them." The Holy Spirit, descending on us and on the gifts, sanctifies all the communicants; and he makes of them one Body, the Church, which embraces the faithful of all generations, living and deceased.

# 398: In the Anaphora of the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, the Church contemplates the glory of the Most Holy Trinity—the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit: "Who can tell of all your acts of power, make all your praises heard, or recount all your wonders at every moment?" All creation, the nine choirs of angels and with them this liturgical community, ministers to the Lord and praises him for his gifts: for the creation of humanity, for paradise, for the promise of immortal life.

# 399: Further, the Anaphora of Saint Basil mentions that humankind, "led astray by the deception of the serpent," committed the sin of disobedience and thus lost paradise, becoming mortal. Yet the merciful God did not turn away from humankind but promised the coming salvation. He sent them the prophets, and "gave the law as a help ... appointed angels as guardians." In the fullness of time God spoke through his Son, who humbling himself, took on our human nature from the Virgin. In his flesh he condemned sin and granted new life. In our stead he offered himself unto death, "and rising on the third day and making a way for all flesh to the resurrection of the dead," he became "...the first-born of the dead ... ascended into heaven and took his seat at the right hand" of the Father. As a memorial of his passion he left us this offering of the gifts. He was the first who took bread and wine, named them his Body and Blood, and gave them to his disciples as food and drink. And he commanded us from that time onward to do the same. Today the liturgical community keeps this commandment, and the Holy Spirit sanctifies the gifts and shows them to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

**# 400:** The Holy Spirit unites the living and the dead into a single Church. In the Church's prayer, expressed in this Anaphora, we ask the Lord to remember those who have brought offerings, those labouring in spiritual struggles, our earthly nation, the government and the military, couples and families, those in need, those who have strayed from the Church, those troubled by unclean spirits, those travelling, widows and orphans, the imprisoned and the sick, those condemned and those persecuted, friends and foes. The Anaphora of the Liturgy of Saint Basil culminates in joyous certitude. It concludes with the conviction that the Lord, who gives us his kind gifts and mercies—good weather, rain in due season, and the harvest—will restrain the discord of Churches, the pride of nations, the rise of heresies, and will show us to be “children of the light and children of the day.”

## **New project helps guide couples in civil unions into sacramental marriages**

*Editor's Note: Mary-Rose and Ryan Verret are the founders of Witness to Love and the authors of Witness to Love: How to Help the Next Generation Build Marriages that Survive and Thrive. The Civil Marriage Initiative by Witness to Love is a project to equip parishes and dioceses who desire to seek out, support, and inspire couples in civil unions to enter sacramental marriages. They spoke to Charles Camosy via email about their work.]*

**Camosy: In a nutshell, what is Witness to Love and what is the new project you're launching this week?**

**Mary-Rose and Ryan Verret:** *Witness to Love* is a revolutionary, virtues-based, catechumenate model of marriage renewal and preparation that integrates modern principles of psychology and the virtues to help couples facilitate an authentic dialogue about their relationship. What makes *Witness to Love* unique is both “eyebrow-raising” and critical to evangelization. In *Witness to Love* the engaged or civilly married couple chooses their own mentor couple. This is a couple they both admire, trust, and have a relationship with.



This is not a “forced-fun” relationship with a total stranger but a two for one evangelization and formation path for both couples. The mentor couple they choose gives them a real connection to their parish community and is a witness, a friend and support to them over the years. The parish supports both couples and continues to provide formation and invitation to discipleship through the early years of their marriage and beyond. The new Witness to Love initiative that we're launching this week is a program specifically for civilly married couples, which will work to bring civilly married couples back in union with the Church.

**What motivated you to start thinking about this kind of project?**

As civilly married couples journeyed through the original version of *Witness to Love*, we soon came to realize the current program content was not specific to the needs of these couples and that there was currently no real resources for them. We were inspired to find a solution and saw that this was one of the most urgent needs in the Catholic Church today. *Witness to Love* joined forces with diocesan leaders from around the country and over the span of 9 months developed the format and content of what has become a revolutionary program in the history of the Church- The Civil Marriage Initiative by Witness to Love.

**Will your project also reach out to those who are cohabitating? Despite all the evidence which shows how bad it is for relationships, couples continue to choose this arrangement in large numbers.**

**Mary Rose:** This project is intended to reach civilly married Catholics who have a deeper level of commitment than the average cohabitating couple, however this project does impact the wider Catholic population of cohabitating couples. We have found that civilly married couples who go through the Witness to Love process understand that they are truly receiving a sacrament and not just a “pass through blessing” will invite all their friends, many of whom are cohabitating couples or other civilly married couples, to the Sacramental Marriage ceremony. This invitation brings couples to the church community and introduces them, often for the first time, to the beauty of sacramental marriage.

There are all kinds of studies that show this, and there are many reasons why couples choose cohabitation - money, convenience, their parent's divorce, fear, lack of commitment, etc. When couples get into a situation like this they don't know how to get back on track, and they can “slide” into marriage which may not be the best outcome for a particular couple. Marriage needs to be a committed decision and the more that cohabitating couples see the incredible fruit of commitment within the Sacrament of Marriage the more they will be drawn to it. Resolving this particular issue has been at the heart of *Witness to Love*. Sometimes it seems that converting, untwisting, and reorienting the sexual appetites is the most difficult area of Catechesis and Evangelization today. Intellectual formation, church documents and nudging

relatives are not enough to combat the apathy or fear of marriage that so many young people face today. The heroic witness of one couple living out the daily grit and joy of marriage can change the world.

**Ryan:** Conversations guided by Catholic reasoning and doctrine regarding intimate sexual topics are difficult to begin and sustain. This remains an ongoing challenge within a culture which accepts a claim that 98 percent of people use or approve of artificial contraception.<sup>[1]</sup> The secular redefining of the sexual act that took off so aggressively in the 1960s is obvious to all of us. As a Catholic couple that neither lives in nor surrenders to the 98 percent claim, we have experienced first-hand the joys and great opportunities of personal and relational growth. Tragically, the liberating and transformative invitation revealed by Christ to His own bride, the Catholic Church, has allowed some of us in marriage ministry to use these statistics as a sorting tool to identifying who is a bad Catholic and who is a good one.

It is said oftentimes that “the proof is in the pudding.” The proof and results that we experience and discovered in *Witness to Love* have transformed, renewed, and changed how we approached instruction regarding NFP and contraception. We also learned that it is a great disservice of evangelization and unnecessary probing into Divine Grace when we think we know who is a “good” or a “bad” Catholic. No one knows this except for God. We must continue to do our best to help set up people to hear and know the full, redeeming, and salvific teachings of the Church. Whether we like it or not, people will discover and make choices in their own way and time. They also have “other” couples that they trust and will go to when they need help... *Witness to Love* works well because we allow the engaged to bring to the Church these “trusted” married couples who in turn receive from us the faith formation and marriage prep they themselves probably never had.

**Younger people seem to be the ones most resistant to marriage, especially the idea of religiously-blessed marriage. Do you have any strategies for reaching out to them in particular?**

**Mary Rose and Ryan:** Yes, great question. The answer and the strategy builds on the previous question and answer. By extension, when we have an engaged couple bring to us a sacramentally married couple they admire, who regularly attend Mass, and have been married five years we (marriage champions within the Church), actually find another treasure in our parishes. They may not be within our 2 percent comfort zone of friends. These mentor couples may not have ever heard of *Humanae Vitae* or the Church’s teaching regarding sex and contraception. But they have heard and lived out commitment, dedication, and relational virtue that is primed for catechesis and grace. Grace builds upon nature and if a couple can bring out into the open today and in our culture the human qualities that are the essential matter of the Sacrament of Matrimony, we are moving in the right direction.

These couples for the most part are not ready for (what we refer to here as) 2 percent Catechesis but they are ready and deeply desiring to see ordinary couples, like themselves, active in the Church and help them to see that committed marriages are possible and alleviate their fear of divorce as well as skepticism of God and His Divine and Natural Laws. Our best example (and strategy) though remains that of Jesus Christ himself as Pope Saint Paul VI explains in his pastoral guidelines from *Humanae Vitae*: “The Church, in fact, cannot act differently toward men than did the Redeemer. She knows their weaknesses, she has compassion on the multitude, she welcomes sinners.”

**A specific call to have a marriage sacramentally recognized by the Catholic Church faces some significant headwinds, doesn’t it? Especially given that the overwhelming majority of contemporary Catholic headlines come from a generally hostile media.**

**Mary Rose** - There is such a lack of understanding of the sacrament of marriage in today’s culture, even among Catholics, that the starting point for understanding the sacrament of marriage has a different starting point in today’s media. As practicing Catholics we know that the grace of the sacraments are crucial to living a full and happy life. Especially the sacrament of marriage! Without the grace of the sacrament of marriage it is virtually impossible. People know that marriage is work and they know that it’s hard but they don’t understand the importance of the sacrament of marriage, but we’re trying to change that... in the public square, in communities, and even with the media.

The focus of much of our work has been the Catholic Church and Catholic media, but more and more we have found that non-Catholics and people of no religious affiliation at all understand the critical urgency of what we are doing. There is such isolation in today’s culture and a lack of virtue that there is a breakdown in real relationships. The focus of *Witness to Love* material is on relational virtue, the building up of community life, leaning on the witness of a married couple we admire, and doing so as Disciples of Christ. Statistics show that church involvement, couple prayer, being surrounded by other married friends and kindness to one’s spouse are key indicators of marital success.

We have been asked numerous times to create a non-denominational version of *Witness to Love* that can be used by any religious background. We have begun work on that exciting endeavor and look forward to sharing the beautiful fruits of this apostolate with couples of every background.

**Ryan:** Yes, we would surely agree with this point. Sacramental marriage rates are half of what they were in the 1990s and this drop does not seem to be plateauing at all. However, many are still feeling a calling to Sacramental Marriage. For our part at this time, commitment and obedience to objective truth is the foundation of authentic pastoral care. However, for most people, truth remains something that must be seen, as well as heard. Within a relationship where trust and

openness to conversion and renewal is welcomed, one encounters many opportunities to offer to the next generation of Catholics what was missing from their own family of origin.

In *Witness to Love*, we remain committed to never closing the doors of our own parish or domestic Church to anyone who comes to us today. We trust in the transforming and redeeming opportunities that mysteriously draw all men and women to know and reverence Jesus Christ. We know no better way to encourage each other than in echoing the words of Blessed Pope Paul VI's in his own challenge to priests in *Humanae Vitae*: So speak with full confidence, beloved sons, convinced that while the Holy Spirit of God is present to the magisterium proclaiming sound doctrine, He also illumines from within the hearts of the faithful and invites their assent. Teach married couples the necessary way of prayer and prepare them to approach more often with great faith the Sacraments of the Eucharist and of Penance. Let them never lose heart because of their weakness.

#### How might people who are interested in *Witness to Love* learn more about it?

**Mary Rose and Ryan:** Our website is the best place to start: [witnessstolove.org](http://witnessstolove.org) and for our new civil marriage initiative, please visit: [witnessstolove.org/civilmarriage](http://witnessstolove.org/civilmarriage)

We have resources here for dioceses, parishes, pastors and for marriage champions around the world, who want to strengthen marriages and renew Parish life. There are review materials and starter kits for this initiative that you can order and/or donate to your Parish, and/or share with someone who does marriage formation. You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. You can sign up for our newsletter and you can donate to this initiative. There is no more important and urgent evangelization need than inviting civilly married Catholics to receive formation for sacramental marriage! To date there has never been a collaborative grassroots effort to reach civilly married couples. This national, highly-researched initiative has been guided by diocesan leaders who sense the urgency of this outreach. Churches who participate in this revolutionary outreach receive comprehensive training and marketing materials to invite couples in civil unions to receive sacramental marriage formation.

Presented by Charles C. Camosy on Feb. 9, 2019 for <https://cruxnow.com/interviews/2019/02/09/new-project-helps-guide-couples-in-civil-unions-into-sacramental-marriages/>



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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."