

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

1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8 Tel.: 250-860-7295

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



**Українська Католицька Церква
Успення Пресвятої Богородиці**

Email: dormitionkelowna@gmail.com

31st Sunday after Pentecost

January 19th, 2020 A. D.



‘How many kinds of moral and material poverty we face today as a result of denying God and putting so many idols in His place!’ – teaches us Pope Francis I today

**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: Christ Is Born! – Let us glorify Him!

Chrystos Rozhdaieť’sia! – Slavimo Yoho!

Христос Рождається! - Славімо Його! Christ is among us! - He is and will be!



Liturgical and Sacramental Celebrations:

Mon., Jan. 20th - **9:30 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *God’s blessings for The Hadden’s Family*

(service requested by Rev. Fr. Andrew L’Heureux)

- **6:15 p.m.** Moleben to Merciful Christ

Wed., Jan. 22nd - **9:30 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *God’s blessings for Mr. Roman Myts and Family*

Thurs., Jan. 23rd - **9:30 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *repose of the soul of Mrs. Larissa Fearn*

(memorial service requested by Mr. Steven and Mrs. Irene Popyk)

Fri., Jan. 24th - **9:30 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *repose of the souls of Mr. John Gilbride family and friends*

(memorial service requested by Mr. John Gilbride)

Sat., Jan. 25th - **3:40 p.m.** Lectio Divina Bible Studies (**Service in Penticton, BC**)

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

Sunday, Jan. 26th - **8:15 a.m.** Rosary: (**Service in Kelowna, BC**)

- **9:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *God’s blessings for all parishioners* (in English)

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

Please contact Fr. Pavlo if you want to have the Divine Liturgies celebrated in your special intentions, such as: In Thanksgiving for Favours Received, the Infirm, General Intentions, Repose of the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, Students, Workers, etc. If you would like to meet with the parish priest at the church or parish office, or want him to visit you, your relative or friend at their home, hospital or care home, please, call or email the pastor in advance to arrange time and a day.

Liturgical Propers in English language:

Tone 7, text from book “*The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*”; pages 103-105

Epistle: **A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:** (1 Timothy 1:15-17)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.



Gospel: (Luke 18:35-43)

At that time, as Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

Літургійні частини Українською мовою:

Глас 7, текст з книги "Божественна Літургія Святого Івана Золотоустого"; ст. 102-104

Апостол: До Тимотея перше послання Святого Апостола Павла читання: (1 Тм. 1,15-17)

Сину Тимотею, вірне це слово й повного довір'я гідне, що Христос Ісус прийшов у світ, щоб спасти грішних, з яких я – перший. Але я був на те помилуваний, щоб Ісус Христос на мені першим показав усю свою довготерпеливість, на приклад тим, що мають увірувати в нього на вічне життя. Цареві ж віків, нетлінному, невидимому, єдиному Богу честь і слава на віки вічні! Амінь.



Євангеліє: (Лк. 18,35-43)

У той час, як Ісус наближався до Єрихону, один сліпий сидів край дороги й просив милостині. Почувши, що народ іде мимо, він спитався, що б воно могло бути. Йому сказали, що це Ісус Назарянин проходить. І він почав голосно кричати: "Ісусе, Сину Давидів, змилуйся надо мною!" Ті, що йшли попереду, сварилися на нього, щоб замовчав, та він кричав ще дужче: "Сину Давидів, змилуйся надо мною!" Ісус зупинився і звелів привести його до себе. І коли той наблизився до нього, спитав: "Що хочеш, щоб я зробив тобі?" "Господи", – сказав той, – "щоб я прозрів!" Ісус сказав до нього: "Прозри! Віра твоя спасла тебе." І вмить прозрів той і пішов за Ісусом, славлячи Бога. І весь народ, побачивши те, віддає хвалу Богові.

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.**

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, talents and treasures, every person who knowingly and unknowingly for the other people thoughtfully make donations, care and help our parish community to share unity by keeping and sharing missionary spirit, parishioners welcoming our guests and visitors, prayerfully participate at the church services, actively participate at different parish projects and programs, cleaning at the parish, looking after and graciously supporting our Christian, Catholic Church community! May the Almighty God bless and abundantly reward your time, care and generosity!

➤ Holy Resurrection Parish in Penticton: Sunday (Jan. 12th) Divine Liturgy donation was \$ 173.00

➤ Dormition of The Mother of God Parish in Kelowna: Sunday (Jan. 12th) Divine Liturgies donation was \$ 533.00

"Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor.

Send down Your mercy upon all of us!" (A Prayer from the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to Mr. John and Mrs. Valerie Zuk on their wedding anniversary (Jan. 21st), Oleksandr (Sasha) Sora on his birthday (Jan. 22nd), Mr. Edward Kaskiw on his birthday (Jan. 24th), and to all those parishioners who celebrate their birthdays, heavenly patron's /saint's name-days, wedding anniversaries, Christmas time, Theophany and Jordan celebrations and any other special anniversaries this week – Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!

**NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR PARISHIONERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WHO HAVE JOINED US IN THIS DIVINE LITURGY.

YOU FAITHFULLY FULFILLED GOD'S COMMANDMENT AND YOUR CHRISTIAN OBLIGATION.

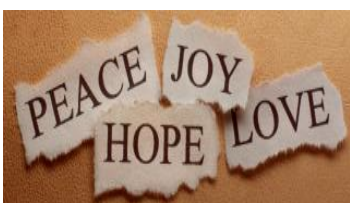
THANK YOU FOR PRAYING WITH US AT THE CHUCH TODAY! EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME TO COME AND PARTICIPATE IN OUR PARISH FELLOWSHIP AT THE CHURCH HALL AFTER THE SERVICES TODAY!

Wishing you and all your dear ones to be guided by the Holy Spirit, blessed with joy, peace and Christian love always!

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., Danny M, Jordan M., Kit C., Shirley C., Peter Dranchuk, Olga Kuzyk, Anthony Huziak, George and Mary Dashkewtych, Olga Romanyshyn, Myron Stec, Kay Ilnitski, Kalyna

Kociuba, William Shuya, Maria Pylypchuk, Bronie Huska, Peter Huska, Stanley and Roma Nowakowski (Bishop Ken's parents), Barbara and Vincent Pasternak, Lorraine Turcotte, Dr. Nadia Popil, the Hillman Family, John and Ann Bulych, Joseph Stetch, Rosa Maria Santos, Anita N., Ron and Verna Shoemaker, Jonas and Anne, Alyssa and Adam, Mark and Asia, Karen Feniuk, Volodymyr Melnyk, Leonard Proskow, Marilyn Daulat and Family, Shelley Zemliak, 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; your spiritual fathers, 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 or 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 his or her 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.

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 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 Твоюю спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світилом евангельського слова, молитви і добрих діл, що кличе кожного до участі в Божественному житті, щоб славилосся, Спасе, Твоє Ім'я з безначальним Твоїм Отцем та пресвятим, благим і животворящим Твоїм Духом нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.



Bishop Ken Nowakowski

**To the Reverend Clergy, the Venerable Religious,
and the Lay-Faithful of the Eparchy of New Westminster,**

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Today, the Holy See of Rome and His Beatitude Sviatoslav on behalf of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church have announced my appointment as the new bishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, with its Cathedral in the City of Westminster, England. This means that as of today, I am no longer the Bishop of the Eparchy of New Westminster. Most Reverend Bishop David Motiuk the Bishop of Edmonton has been appointed Apostolic Administrator. He will be in charge of the Eparchy until my successor has been appointed. Please keep him in your daily prayers and commemorate him at the Liturgical celebrations.

I have been your bishop for almost twelve and a half years. In this time, I have come to know most of the faithful of the Eparchy and have had the wonderful opportunity of journeying in faith together with you - our clergy, religious and the lay-faithful. The years have truly gone by very quickly for me. Although I am a prairie boy, I have come to love the ocean, the mountains and the cities and towns where our parishes are located.

In my first homily at Holy Eucharist Cathedral as Bishop of the Eparchy, I emphasized that in order for me to serve as your bishop, I would need your help and support. I want to thank you not only for your help and support, but also for the love you have shown me and the many prayers you have offered for me and my ministry. The direction that we have taken over the last decade has been to ensure that we are an ever-vibrant Eparchy, with vibrant parishes, dedicated clergy and active lay-faithful. In the words of Saint Paul, "For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory." (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)

As I prepare to take up my new assignment in the United Kingdom, I would like to ask you to continue to pray for me. Over the next few weeks I will need to address many challenges related to my move from New Westminster to Westminster proper in the city of London. On my part, I assure you of my continued prayers for you. And if in your travels you find yourself in London, please let me know so that I can welcome you!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my own predecessor Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, who over these years has provided me with advice and prayerful support. I would like to thank my brother Ukrainian Catholic Bishops in Canada for their fraternal understanding, cooperation and fellowship. Also, I wish to acknowledge the support and kindness that our Eparchy and I personally received from my neighbours and brothers in faith, the Roman Catholic Bishops of British Columbia and Yukon.

Many of you know that I have been very active over the years with the Knights of Columbus, and was privileged to serve for three years as State Chaplain for British Columbia and the Yukon. Over the years and in various ways the Knights have supported our Eparchy, our parishes, and especially our Summer Youth Camp, for which I am truly grateful. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the UCWLC Eparchial Executive and indeed to all of the UCWLC parish branches for your good work in the Eparchy.

Catholic Missions in Canada has been one of our Eparchy's greatest benefactors over the years and because of their support we have been able to provide good pastoral care in our parishes throughout British Columbia. May God bless Catholic Missions in Canada and all of the benefactors who have been so generous.

To the clergy who have served and are currently serving in our Eparchy, I also want to let you know how very dear you are to me and that I am proud of each of you. May God continue to bless your pastoral ministry.

Our Eparchy was established in 1974, and since that time we have received pastoral care from many dedicated priests, both eparchial and religious, in particular, the Basilian Fathers. We have greatly benefited from the prayerful dedication of many Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. I believe that the Eparchy of New Westminster has been built on solid ground, and that it will continue to do the Lord's work under the prayerful protection of the first bishop of the Eparchy of New Westminster, Bishop Jerome Chimy, OSBM, of blessed memory.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, "guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (see Philippians 4:7). Placing you and the new Apostolic Administrator under the Protection of our Holy Mother of God and Every Virgin Mary, I remain,

Prayerfully Your Brother in the Lord,

+Ken Nowakowski

New Westminster, January 15, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Holy Eucharist Cathedral parish would like to invite you on February 29, 2020 to a farewell reception for Bishop Ken that will begin with Divine Liturgy at 11:00 AM with reception to follow. *Let us take this opportunity to celebrate Bishop Ken's new appointment as Bishop of the Holy Family of London Eparchy and most importantly his 12 years of dedicated service, enthusiastic leadership and prayerful ministry in the Eparchy of New Westminster.*

Parish Council Meeting is at 7:00 pm on Monday of Jan. 20th, 2020 A.D

Bible Studies: 'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible' (session three: PATRIARCHS. Genesis 12-50) at the parish hall at 7 pm on Monday, Jan. 27th, 2020 A.D.

Volunteers help is needed to make perogies starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday of January 25th, 2019 A.D. It is a good time to help our parish fundraisers and socialize together. Invite your relatives, friends and neighbours! More helpers come – easier and faster the work is done! Please, come to help!

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!

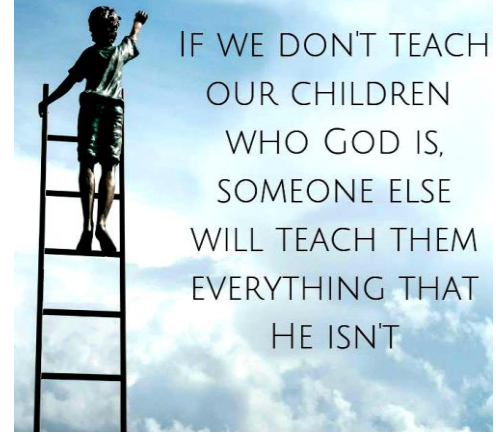


✚ **Traditional Delicious Ukrainian Food is available for sale at our parish:** Perogies cooked and frozen – \$ 6.00 per dozen, Cabbage Rolls cooked – \$ 6.00 per dozen. If you need more information, please contact Mrs. Alice Pelechaty at 250-763-4870 or Mrs. Olena Fedorov at 778-821-0759.



✚ **Volunteers for Sunday coffee socials and clean-ups are needed** – please put your name on the calendar posted in the church hall. **It is not fare and it is not right that the same couple of parishioners always organize and do all the cleaning all the time.** If you can help out, please, be responsible and thoughtful! Your help by volunteering is truly appreciated!

✚ **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 Mrs. Yvonne Crawford or Fr. Pavlo for more information. You will be amazed how "BEING" can make a difference at our spiritual, parish life! **Every parishioner is personally responsible before God for our spiritual home-parish church!**



✚ **NOTE:** If you wish to place your message or announcement into our weekly parish bulletin, please sent it by email to the office at dormitionkelowna@gmail.com **by no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday.**

✚ **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, or wish to volunteer and help, please, do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Marilyn Daulat or Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts.

✚ **If you wish to help or have any questions, suggestions, ideas about our parish community life, please, contact our parish executive council chairperson Mrs. Yvonne Crawford.** Email: Donoharmclinic@gmail.com or phone: 250-212-4899

✚ **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, positive and generous!**

✚ **Rachel's Corner:** *"Who is a God like you, who removes guilt and pardons sin for the remnant of his inheritance; Who does not persist in anger forever, but instead delights in mercy, and will again have compassion on us, treading underfoot our iniquities? You will cast into the depths of the sea all our sins."*

- Micah 7:18-19

Perhaps you have a hard time accepting that you can be forgiven for your role in the abortion decision; understanding that God sees you with love and mercy and wants you to be free of the burden you are carrying. Come on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat of Healing and see what that is all about. God is inviting you. Will you respond? www.RachelsVineyardKelowna.com info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com 250-762-2273 Like us on Facebook: [Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna](https://www.facebook.com/RachelsVineyardKelowna)

✚ **Theophany/Jordan Home Blessing and Pastoral Annual Visitations** sign up list to arrange the actual date between January 9th and January 31st. 2020 is available at the entrance to the church in the vestibule and at the parish hall.

Why Do We Bless Homes? The blessing of homes constitutes an invocative blessing, meaning



Lord
Bless our home
as we come and go.
Bless our home
as our children grow.
Bless our families
as they gather in;
Bless our home
with love and friends.

that by his prayer and by the sprinkling of Holy Water the priest invokes God's blessings and protection upon the home and those living in it. We bless homes for many reasons:


- to reveal the home as what God had created it to be, a way to Heaven
- to rid the home of every evil † to show that the family is a small Church unit in Christ
- to consecrate the home and all activity in it to God † to fill the home and all who live in it with the fullness of God

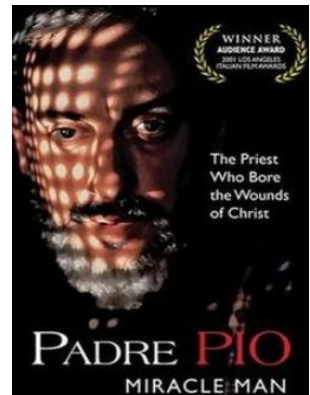
Traditionally, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our homes we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings.

Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants. As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective.

What should we do during a home blessing? As we welcome our priest during the holy season of Theophany to bless our home, let us be mindful that he is bringing to us the "blessing of the Jordan," and that unless God protects and blesses our home, we "labour in vain." (Ps. 12 7:1)

Each family is considered a small church and the family table is the home altar. When the priest comes, have as many family members there as possible. If you do not have an icon corner, ensure that you set up a place for prayer either at the kitchen or dining table. On the table include an icon and a lit candle. You may also include anything that you may want to have blessed (i.e. icon, cross, personal item, etc.) Make sure that the lights are on in every room. The priest will begin the blessing at the icon corner or table. If you have children, they may lead the priest, while holding a candle, to each room in the house. This is also a wonderful time for you and your priest to visit and to get to know each other better.

 **Movie: "Padre Pio" Miracle man** will be in two parts on January 20 and Feb 3. @ 7:00 pm in the hall of Saint Charles Garnier Roman Catholic Church. The poor Italian peasant boy Francesco already has visions of Jesus and Mary as a child, but the Devil visits him too. He, Francesco, is quite certain that he will become a priest. After entering the Capuchin Order it becomes clear that Padre Pio has powers which can not be explained rationally: he heals the sick, knows the names, problems and future of complete strangers.



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