

**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

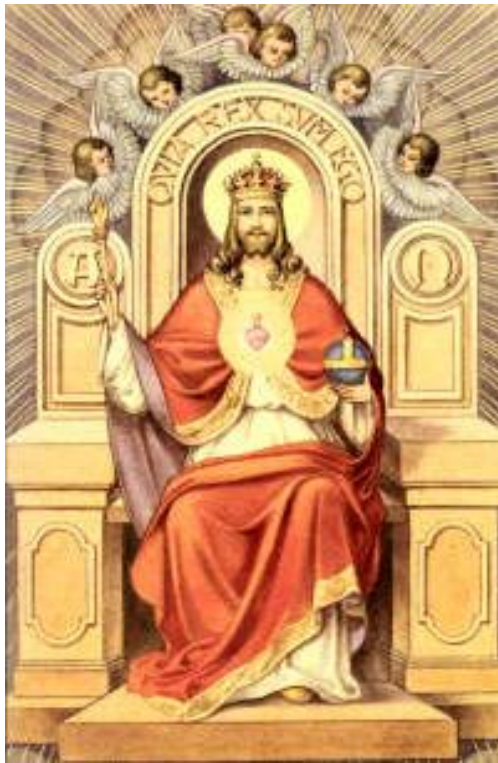
Facebook page: *DormitionKelowna Parish*: <https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>

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



**Українська Католицька Церква
Успення Пресвятої Богородиці**

Email: dormitionkelowna@gmail.com



20th SUNDAY after PENTECOST / 20^а Неділя по Зісланні Св. Духа

CHRIST THE KING - October 18th, 2020 A.D.

“Jesus’ reign is truly not of this world (cf. Jn 18:36); but for this reason, Saint Paul tells us that we find redemption and forgiveness (cf. Col. 1:13-14). For the grandeur of his kingdom is not power as defined by this world, but the love of God, a love capable of encountering and healing all things.

Christ lowered himself to us out of this love, he lived our human misery, he suffered the lowest point of our human condition: injustice, betrayal, abandonment; he experienced death, the tomb, hell. And so, our King went to the ends of the universe in order to embrace and save every living being. He did not condemn us, nor did he conquer us, and he never disregarded our freedom, but he paved the way with a humble love that forgives all things, hopes all things, sustains all things (cf. 1 Cor 13:7). This love alone overcame and continues to overcome our worst enemies: sin, death, fear.” - emphasises and teaches Pope Francis 1st 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



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

Prayer During the Coronavirus Outbreak:

Lord, Our God,
We thank you for the life that is your gift,
For the providence that sustains us,
And for your wisdom that directs the course of our days.
The threat of an infection of coronavirus is upon us today.
This disease causes fear among us and has claimed lives.
We humbly beg you, loving Lord,
Dispel our fear and deliver us from this and other diseases.
Heal those who are afflicted and stop the spread of the virus.
Strengthen us in charity to care for one another.
For You are a God of mercy, kindness, and love, and we glorify You Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Молитва у Часі Спалаху Коронавірусу:

Господи, Боже наш,
Дякуємо Тобі за життя, яке є Твоїм даром,
За провидіння, яке нас підтримує,
І за Твою мудрість, яка спрямовує хід наших днів.
Сьогодні перед нами загроза зараження коронавірусом.
Ця хвороба викликає страх серед нас і забирає життя.
Ми смирено просимо Тебе, люблячого Господа,
Розвій наш страх і позбав нас від цієї та усіх інших хвороб.
Вилікуй тих, хто страждає, і зупини поширення вірусу.
Зміцнюй нас у благодаті, щоб ми дбали одні про одних.
Бо Ти - Бог милосердя, доброти та любові, і ми прославляємо Тебе Отця, Сина і Святого Духа, нині, і повсякчас і на віки вічні. Амінь.

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. In case of emergency phone (250) 299-7249. If you would like to come to Confession, meet with the parish priest at the church or parish office, receive spiritual care and support via telephon or internet, want him to visit you, your relative or friend at their home, hospital or care homes, please, call or email the pastor in advance to arrange time and a day.

Liturgical propers in English language:

Tone 3, text from book **“The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom”**; pages 93-95

Epistle: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians: (Gal. 1:11-19)

Brothers and Sisters, I assure you, the gospel I proclaimed to you is no mere human invention. I did not receive it from any man, nor was schooled in it. It came by revelation from Jesus Christ. You have heard, I know, the story of my former way of life in Judaism. You know that I went to extremes in persecuting the Church of God and tried to destroy it; I made progress in Jewish observance far beyond most of my contemporaries, in my excess of zeal to live out all the traditions of my ancestors.



But the time came when he who had set me apart before I was born and called me by his favor chose to reveal his Son to me, that I might spread among the Gentiles the good tidings concerning him. Immediately, without seeking human advisers or even going to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me, I went off to Arabia later I returned to Damascus. Three years after that I went up to Jerusalem to get up to know Cephas, with whom I stayed fifteen days. I did not meet any other apostles except James, the brother of the Lord.

Gospel: (Luke 7: 11:16)

At that time, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he approached the gate of the town a dead man was being carried out, the only son of a widowed mother. A considerable crowd of townfolk were with her. The Lord was moved with pity upon seeing her and said to her, "Do not cry." Then he stepped forward and touched the litter; at this, the bearers halted. He said, "Young man, I bid you get up." The dead man sat up and began to speak. Then Jesus gave him back to his mother. Fear seized them all and they began to praise God. "A great prophet has risen among us," they said; and, "God has visited his people."

At the conclusion of every Divine Liturgy we say an additional prayer
for peace in Ukraine until the end of the war and in the whole World: **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 3, текст "Божественна Літургія Святого Івана Золотоустого"; сторінки 92-94

Апостол: До Галатів послання Святого Апостола Павла читання: (Гал. 1, 11-19)

Браття та Сестри, звістую вам, що Євангелія, яке я вам проповідував, не є за людською мірою; бо ж я його не прийняв, ані навчився від людини, лише – через об'явлення Ісуса Христа. Ви чули про мою поведінку колись у юдействі, про те, як я несамовито гонив Божу Церкву та руйнував її. Я перевищував у юдействі багатьох ровесників з мого роду, будши запеклим прихильником передань моїх предків. Та коли той, хто вибрав мене вже від утроби матері моєї і покликав своєю благодаттю, зволив об'явити в мені Сина свого, щоб я проповідував його між поганями, то я негайно, ні з ким не радившись, ані не подавшись в Єрусалим до тих, що були апостолами передо мною, пішов в Арабію, а потім знову повернувся в Дамаск. По трьох роках по тому пішов я у Єрусалим відвідати Кифу і перебув у нього п'ятнадцять днів. А іншого з апостолів я не бачив, крім Якова, брата Господнього.



Євангеліє: (Лк. 7,11-16)

В той час пішов Ісус у місто, що зветься Найн, а з ним ішли його учні й сила народу. Коли ж вони наблизились до міської брами, якраз виносили мертвого сина, єдиного в матері своєї, що була вдовою; і було з нею досить людей з міста. Побачивши її, Господь зглянувся над нею і сказав до неї: "Не плач." І приступивши, доторкнувся до мар, і що несли, зупинились. Тоді Ісус сказав: "Юначе, кажу тобі, встань!" І мертвий підвівся і почав говорити. І він віддав його матері. Страх огорнув усіх, і вони прославляли Бога та й говорили: "Великий пророк устав між нами", і: "Бог навідався до народу свого."

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, help to sanitize and clean at the parish after church services, helped to clear and prepare irrigation lines before Winter and volunteered to make perogies, every person who knowingly and unknowingly for the other people thoughtfully make donations, care and help our parish community in various ways and projects by keeping and sharing their Christian love, unity by 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 (Oct. 11th) Divine Liturgy donation was \$ 274.00
- Dormition of The Mother of God Parish in Kelowna: Sunday (Oct. 11th) Divine Liturgy donation was \$ 870.00

DONATIONS! Amid Covid-19 outbreak causing these challenging times we continue to rely on your generosity. **Please continue to support our parish financially by e-transfer** (it is a direct deposit, no security question is needed) via dormitiontransfer2020@gmail.com or mailing a cheque payable to **Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church** 1091 Coronation Ave., Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8 Thank you for your support and care at this uneasy time for us all.

"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!

ЩИРО ВАС ВІТАЄМО!

May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation for many, happy and blessed years of life to Mr. Justin Eisner on his birthday (Oct. 18th), Kevin Lalach on his birthday (Oct. 19th), Mr. Danylo Sora on his birthday (Oct. 20th), Mrs. Ann Wyshynsky on her birthday (Oct. 21st), Mr. Vsevolod Lynov on his birthday (Oct. 21st), Mrs. Iryna Posthumus on her birthday (Oct. 22nd), all our parishioners and family members who celebrate their birthdays, heavenly patron's /saint's name-days, wedding anniversaries and any other special anniversaries this week Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita / Many Blessed Years of Life!

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LIVE STREAMING of church services from Dormition of the Mother of God

Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kelowna, B.C.: <https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>

You can also view 24 / 7 many inspiring videos, articles, pictures, etc. are regularly published by the pastor. Please visit our parish Facebook page: **DormitionKelowna Parish:** <https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>

✚ Please also welcome to visit our Cathedral Facebook page for live-stream videos of the liturgical services at Holy Eucharist Cathedral. <https://www.facebook.com/holyeucharistcathedral/>

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING TO GOD AT THE CHURCH, YOUR HOMES AND ON-LINE TODAY!

Wishing you and all your dear ones to be blessed by God with health, hope, joy, peace and Christian love!



**Liturgical and Sacramental Services are celebrated
by your spiritual father-pastor at the church during this week:**

SUNDAY, October 18th at 8:15 a.m. Rosary: (Service in Kelowna, BC)

at 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings of all our parishioners, relatives and friends.* (in English language)

at 11:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings of all our parishioners, relatives and friends.* (in Ukrainian language)

Mon., Oct. 19th at 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for Mrs. Alice Pelechaty, her family members, all relatives and friends.*

at 6:15 p.m. Special Moleben during Covid-19 Pandemic

Tue., Oct. 20th at 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *Repose of the soul of Mr. Wilfried Bernard (requested by Mr. Steven and Mrs. Irene Popyk)*

Wed., Oct. 21st at 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *Repose of the soul of Mrs. Donna Melnychenko (requested by Mrs. Patricia and Ms. Anastasia Sawadsky)*

Fri., Oct. 23rd at 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for Mr. Edward and Mrs. Joanne Anhel, their family members, all relatives and friends.*

Sat., Oct. 24th at 3:40 p.m. Lectio Divina / Bible Studies: (Studies and Service in Penticton, BC)

at 4:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all parishioners* (in Eng.&Ukr.)

SUNDAY, October 25th at 8:15 a.m. Rosary: (Service in Kelowna, BC)

at 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all our parishioners, relatives and friends.* (in English language)

at 11:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all our parishioners, relatives and friends.* (in Ukrainian language)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR: Most Reverend Bishop-Emeritus Severian Yakymyshyn, Lucy D., Janet F., Volodymyr P., Ivan L., Ray Saranchuk, Cameron V., Rose Ostopowich, Keyton A., Danny M, Jordan M., Kit C., Shirley C., Olga Kuzyk, George Dashkewytch, Olga Romanyshyn, Myron Stec, Kay Ilnitski, Kalyna Kociuba, William Shuya, Maria Pylypchuk, Bronie Huska, Peter Huska, Roma Nowakowski, Barbara and Vincent Pasternak, Lorraine Turcotte, Dr. Nadia Popil, the Hillman Family, John 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, Marilyn Daulat and Family, Shelley Zemliak, Ron Horon, Adeline Sorochuk and all members of our parochial family and those who are not able to join actively in our community, your families, relatives, friends and neighbours; governments and armed forces, especially the shut-in or those in the hospitals, traveling, working or studying, nursing and senior homes, 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, those who love us and those who hate, use & hurt us; and all people who have asked us pray for them. Please, also in your kindness keep praying those daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Remember to ask for special blessings to all Christian families and yourselves! **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.

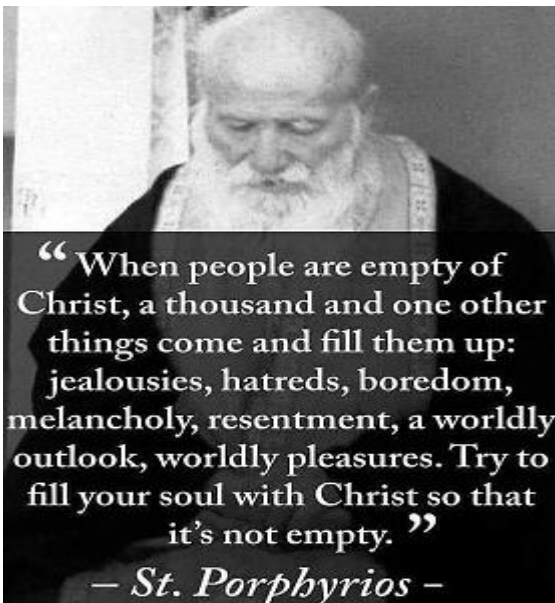
Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion: 1) You are a member of the Catholic Church (faithful of the Orthodox churches are very welcome to receive Holy Communion); 2) You have participated in the Sacrament of Confession at least during the Easter or Christmas seasons this past year if not more frequently; 3) You attend Divine Services regularly; 4) Your lifestyle is consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church; 5) You have kept the Liturgical fast – no food at least one hour prior to the Divine Liturgy (water and medicine does not break the fast). 6) You have been in church from the beginning of the service, or at least heard the Gospel. 7) To the best of your ability, you are in the state of Grace. *If for any of these or other reasons you cannot receive Holy Communion, you are very welcome to come for a blessing. Please indicate to the priest that you would like to receive his blessing.*

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:** 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.

YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPECT OF OTHERS: 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. In consideration of other Christians, please do not leave any items 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 safe and clean. Thank you very much for your understanding, help and care! **Please always remember that church is a house of prayer!**

Our Parish Executive Council Meeting is at 7 p.m. on Mon., Oct. 19th, 2020 A.D.

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: **250-212-489**



“When people are empty of Christ, a thousand and one other things come and fill them up: jealousies, hatreds, boredom, melancholy, resentment, a worldly outlook, worldly pleasures. Try to fill your soul with Christ so that it's not empty.”

– St. Porphyrios –

CATECHISM ANNOUNCEMENT: We will start catechism classes this Sunday, October 18 with 2 short classes each Sunday. The first session will go from 10 am (right after Communion) to 10:30 am and the second session will go from 10:45 am to 11:15 am. This will keep class numbers small and allow for sanitizing between classes. Children from the same family must sit together and 2 meters from other children. There will be no singing and all adults will wear masks. Thank you very much for the parents and other volunteers who have offered to help. We hope to provide a safe, fun, and spiritual experience for our Parish children.

UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE PARISH SCHOOL: If you want your child or grandchild to learn Ukrainian language during this 2020-2021 school year – please, contact Mrs. Olena Fedorov or Dobr. Mariia Myts.

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



Devotional Services to Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky: Every Wednesday at 7:00 pm, Live-Streaming on the YouTube Shrine Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Og0D2DhlpU> Website: Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine: <https://bvmartyrshrine.com/>

2 volunteers are needed each time before and right after Divine Liturgies on Sundays to welcome parishioners and follow all required COVID-19 safety rules and regulations, fill up Sign-In List/Questionnaire and clean by sanitizing the church after each service.

Volunteers' help is needed to make cabbage-rolls starting at 8 a.m. on Saturdays of Nov. 24th, 2020 A.D. Following Covid-19 protocols we help our parish fundraisers. If you feel healthy please come to help!

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 HELP IS ALWAYS NEEDED:** to help out with weekly cleaning in the church, cutting the grass and maintaining the lawn, 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.**

Express Depot Recycling: We have this set up for parishioners to use. They enter the church's phone number and place the sticker on the bag. All monies will then be able to be able to be etransfered (after \$10) or check (after \$50). It can help with donations for those unable to attend and financially support the church. <https://www.return-it.ca/express/>

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, possitive and generous!**

Stewardship Prayer

O God, the Father of every gift, all that we are and have comes from your hand.

In Jesus Christ, your Son, you have given us the greatest of all gifts.

Fill our hearts with his love, so that we may be parish communities of faithful, caring people.

Grant us the grace to be good stewards who, in the name and spirit of Jesus, share our gifts of time, talent and treasure for the building up of your Kingdom in our Diocese and throughout the world.

May we see Our Pilgrimage of Faith Appeal as our way to live gratefully and give generously for your honor and glory.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen



✚ **Traditional and Very Delicious Ukrainian Food is available for sale at our parish:** Perogies – \$ 7.00 per dozen. If you need more information or to place your order, please contact Mrs. Alice Pelechaty at 250-763-4870 or Mrs. Olena Fedorov at 778-821-0759.

✚ **An old, medium size deepfreezer is broken and must be replaced with a working one for our church kitchen use and future food sales.** If any person can donate a good, working deepfreezer or help to buy a new one it will be trully appreciated.

✚ **Rachel's Corner:** *“My past O Lord, to Your mercy; my present to Your love; my future to Your providence.”* - Saint Padre Pio

Has it been hard to even imagine a future when all you can think about is the pain, shame and regret from a past abortion decision? You are not alone. Give that past to our merciful Lord, on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat, and allow Him to love you as your wounds begin to heal.

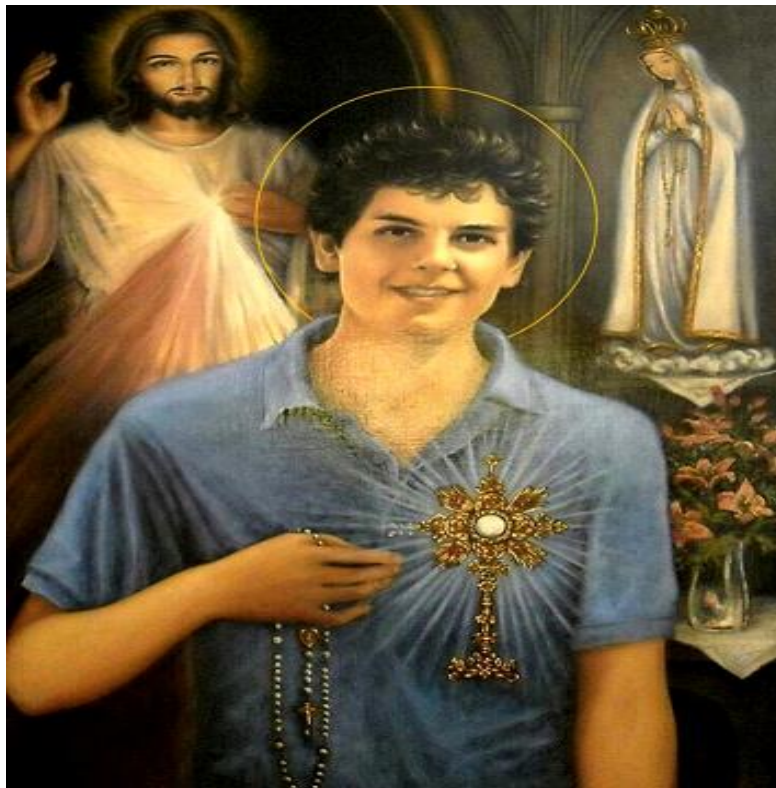
www.RachelsVineyardKelowna.com info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com Like us on Facebook: [Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna](https://www.facebook.com/RachelsVineyardKelowna)

✚ **Movie with Rev. Fr. Ron Dechant, OMI “Xavier” Missionary & Saint.** When: October 19th, 2020A.D. Where: at Saint Charles Garnier Roman Catholic Church Hall. Time: @ 7:00 pm. Covid-19 Protocols. Limited space available. Please sign up at the entrance.

Beatified teen showed that heaven is ‘attainable goal,’ cardinal says

Reported by Junno Arocho Esteves on Oct. 11, 2020 A.D.

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Clergy attend the beatification Mass of Carlo Acutis in the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi in Assisi, Italy, Oct. 10, 2020 A.D. (Credit: CNS photo/courtesy Diocese of Assisi-Nocera Umbra - Gualdo Tadino.)

ASSISI, Italy — Thousands sang and applauded as Italian teen Carlo Acutis was beatified in a town dear to him and to many Christians around the world: Assisi.

During the Oct. 10 beatification Mass, Italian Cardinal Agostino Vallini, the papal legate for the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Mary of the Angels in Assisi, read Pope Francis' apostolic letter proclaiming Acutis “blessed,” the step before canonization.

“With our apostolic authority, we grant that the venerable servant of God, Carlo Acutis, layman, who, with the enthusiasm of youth, cultivated a friendship with our Lord Jesus, placing the Eucharist and the witness of charity at the center of his life, henceforth shall be called blessed,” the pope decreed.

After the reading of the apostolic letter, the newly beatified teen's parents, Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano, processed toward the altar carrying a reliquary containing their son's heart.

The reliquary was engraved with one of the teen's well-known quotes: “The Eucharist is my highway to heaven.” Pilgrims flocked both to the Basilica of St. Francis for the beatification Mass as well as to the Shrine of the Renunciation at the Church of St. Mary Major, where the newly beatified teen's remains were on display for veneration.

Men and women, boys and girls passed by the tomb quietly, some stopping to pray the “Our Father.” A young toddler blew a kiss goodbye to the young blessed as she passed by.

Known as the site where a young St. Francis renounced his father's inheritance and embraced poverty, the shrine — like the city of Assisi and St. Francis himself — held a special place in Acutis's heart.

The teen loved St. Francis "very much," his mother, Antonia Salzano, told *Catholic News Service* Oct. 9. St. Francis "was a very Eucharistic soul who used to attend Mass twice a day," and her son sought to imitate that same Eucharistic devotion throughout his brief life.

Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino of Assisi reflected on the link between the two saintly figures, and proclaimed that by "providential design, (St.) Francis and (Blessed) Carlo are now inseparable."

"Carlo's life — always united to Jesus — his love for the Eucharist, his devotion to the Holy Virgin, his making friends with the poor, brought him closer to the spirituality of the Poor One," St. Francis, Sorrentino said at the end of Mass. "Both invite us to live according to the Gospel."

The liturgy was held inside the Basilica of St. Francis, but measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 meant that most of those attending sat outside on seats set three-feet apart, watching on big screens.

Many young men and women came to Assisi for the beatification. For many of them, the fact that a normal teen could be beatified was a source of hope and inspiration.

"With his life, Carlo made me see that despite the small or even great difficulties — like his illness — that we could live a full and happy life if we keep our eyes looking up toward heaven," said 19-year-old Rosanna, who was among those attending the beatification.

In his homily, Vallini said that Acutis's beatification "in the land of Francis of Assisi is good news, a strong proclamation that a young man of our time, one like many, was conquered by Christ and became a beacon of light for those who want to know him and follow his example."

Reflecting on the teen's life, Vallini said that like most young people his age, Carlo was a "normal, simple, spontaneous, friendly" teenager who used modern forms of communication to transmit the "values and beauty of the Gospel."

For him, "the internet was not just a means of escape, but a space for dialogue, knowledge, sharing and mutual respect that was to be used responsibly, without becoming slaves to it and rejecting digital bullying," the cardinal said.

Vallini said that Blessed Acutis was a model of virtue for young men and women today, reminding them not to seek "gratification only in ephemeral successes but in the perennial values that Jesus proposes in the Gospel."

"He gave witness that faith does not distance us from life but immerses us more deeply in it and showed us the concrete way to live the joy of the Gospel," the cardinal said. "It is up to us to follow it, attracted by the fascinating experience of Blessed Carlo, so that our lives may also shine with light and hope."

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