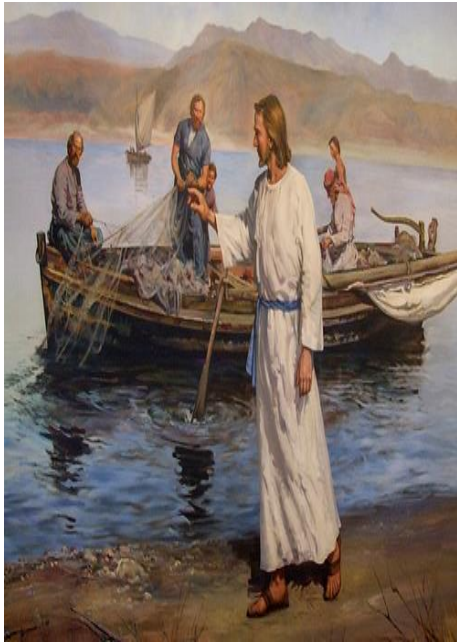




1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8 Tel.: 250-860-7295 Email: dormitionkelowna@gmail.com  
Parish web-site: <http://kelowna.nweparchy.ca/> Pastor: Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts / о. Павло Миць  
Facebook page: *DormitionKelowna Parish*: <https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>  
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster: [www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca)



**18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY after PENTECOST**

**The Passing of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian**

**18<sup>TA</sup> НЕДІЛЯ ПІСЛЯ ЗІСЛАННЯ СВЯТОГО ДУХА**

**Переставлення св. ап. і євангелиста Йоана Богослова**

**September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 A.D.**

**“Let us invite Jesus into the boat of our life. Like the disciples, we will realize that once he is on board, the winds die down and there can be no shipwreck.”** – teaches, reminds and strongly emphasises Pope Francis 1<sup>st</sup>

**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!**

**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

**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 смиренно 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 individually at the church or parish office, receive spiritual care and support via telephone 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:**

**Troparion, Tone 1:** Though the stone was sealed by the Judeans,\* and soldiers guarded Your most pure body,\* You arose, O Saviour, on the third day,\* and gave life to the world.\* And so the heavenly powers cried out to You, O Giver of Life:\* Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ!\* Glory to Your kingdom!\* Glory to Your saving plan,\* O only Lover of mankind.

**Troparion, Tone 2:** O beloved apostle of Christ our God,\* hasten, deliver a people without defense.\* He who received you when you leaned upon His breast accepts you as you bow in prayer.\* Implore Him, O Theologian, to scatter the cloud of nations that besets us,\* asking peace and great mercy.

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

**Kontakion, Tone 1:** You arose in glory from the tomb\* and with Yourself You raise the world.\* All humanity acclaim You as God.\* and death has vanished.\* Adam exults, O Master,\* and Eve, redeemed from bondage now, cries out for joy:\* “You are the One, O Christ, Who offer resurrection to all.”

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

**Kontakion, Tone 2:** O virgin apostle, who can recount your mighty works?\* For you pour out wonders and healings\* and you pray for our souls as Theologian and friend of Christ.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 1:** Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have hoped in You.

verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous. (Psalm 32:22,1)

**Prokeimenon, Tone 8:** Their utterance has gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.



**Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; 1 John 4:12-19 (NRSV)**

*Brothers and Sisters*, the point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.

*Beloved*, no one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

**Alleluia, Tone 1:** God gives me vindication, and has subdued people under me. (*Psalms 17:48*)

*verse:* Making great the salvation of the king, and showing mercy to His anointed, to David, and to His posterity forever. (*Psalms 17:51*)

*verse:* The heavens shall confess our wonders, O Lord, and Your truth in the church of the saints. (*Psalms 88:6*)

**Gospel: Luke 5:1-11; John 19:25-27; 21:24-25 (NRSV)**

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

At that time, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

**Communion Hymns:** Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest. (*Psalms 148:1*)\* Their utterance has gone forth into all the earth,\* and their word unto the ends of the world.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia. (*Psalms 18:5*)

**At the conclusion of every Divine Liturgy, we say an additional prayer for peace in Canada and in Ukraine, and healing of the World 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:**

**Тропар (глас 1):** Хоч запечатали камінь юдей\* і воїни стерегли пречисте тіло Твоє,\* воскрес Ти, Спасе, на третій день,\* даруючи життя світові.\* Тому сили небесні зивали до Тебе, Життєдавче:\* Слава воскресінню Твоєму, Христе,\* слава царству Твоєму,\* слава провидінню Твоєму,\* єдиний Чоловіколюбче!

**Тропар (г. 2):** Апостоле, Христом Богом возлюблений!\* Поспіши визволити людей, що не можуть виправдатися,\* бо приймає тебе той, хто прийняв тебе, як ти припав був йому на груди.\* Проси його, Богослове, щоб розігнав хмари невірних, які настають на нас,\* і випроси нам мир і велику милість.

**+Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові.**

**Кондак (глас 1):** Воскрес Ти у славі як Бог із гробу\* і світ із Собою воскресив;\* людське єство Тебе, як Бога, оспівує\* і смерть щезла.\* Адам же ликує, Владико,\* і Єва нині, з узів визволившись, радіє, зважаючи:\* Ти, Христе, Той, Хто всім подає воскресіння.

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

**Кондак, глас 2:** Величні діла твої, дівственнику, хто оповість?\* Даруєш бо чудеса і розливаєш оздоровлення,\* і молишся за душі наші як богослов і друг Христовий.

**Прокімен (глас 1):** Милість Твоя, Господи, хай буде над нами,\* бо ми надіялись на Тебе (Пс 32,22).

*Стих:* Радуйтеся, праведні, в Господі, правим належить похвала (Пс 32,1).

**Прокімен (глас 8):** На всю землю вийшло вістуння їх і до кінців вселенної глаголи їх (Пс.18,5).

**Апостол: (2 Коринтян 9, 6-11)**

**Браття і Сестри**, хто скупо сіє, скупо буде жати; хто ж щедро сіє, той щедро буде жати. 7. Нехай дає кожний, як дозволяє серце, не з жалю чи примусу: Бог любить того, хто дає радо. Бог може вщерт збагатити вас усякою благодаттю, щоб ви всього мали завжди подостатку та щоб вам ще зосталось на всяке добре діло, як написано: Розсипав, дав убогим; щедрість його триває вічно. Той, що дає насіння сіячеві і хліб на поживу, помножить і ваше насіння та зростить плоди вашої щедрости, щоб ви у всьому збагатилися всякою щедротою, яка через нас складає Богові дяку.

**(Перше Послання Івана Богослова 4, 12-19.)**

Улюблені, Бога ніхто ніколи не бачив. Коли ми любимо один одного, Бог у нас пробував, і його любов у нас досконала. Що ми пробуваємо і він – у нас, ми пізнаємо з того, що він дав нам від Духа свого. І ми бачили і свідчимо, що Отець послав Сина



як спасає світу. Хто визнає, що Ісус – Син Божий, у тому Бог пробуває і він – у Бозі. Ми пізнали й увірували в ту любов, яку Бог до нас має. Бог є любов, і хто пробуває в любові, той пробуває в Бозі, і Бог пробуває в ньому. Любов у нас досягає свою завершеність тим, що ми маємо довір'я в день суду, бо як він є, так і ми в цьому світі. Страхи нема в любові, але, навпаки, досконала любов проганяє геть страх, бо страх має в собі кару і хто боїться, той недосконалий у любові. Ми любимо, бо він перший возлюбив нас.

**Алилуя** (глас 1): Стих: Бог, що дає відплату мені, і покоровив народи мені (Пс 18,48).

Стих: Ти, що звеличуєш спасіння царя, і даєш милість помазаннику Своему Давидові і родові його повіки (Пс 18,51).

Стих: Ісповідять небеса чуди Твої, Господи, і істину Твою в церкві святих (Пс. 88,6).

**Свангеліє:** (Луки 5, 1-11)

Одного разу, коли стояв Ісус біля Генезаретського озера, побачив два човни, що стояли край озера; рибалки вийшли з них і полоскали сіті. Він увійшов в один з човнів, що належав Симонові, і попросив його відплисти трохи від землі, а сам, сівши, з човна почав народ навчати. Коли він перестав говорити, сказав до Симона: Відчали на глибіню і закиньте ваші сіті на ловитву. Озався Симон і каже: Наставнику, всю ніч ми трудилися і нічого не піймали, але на твоє слово закину сіті. Так вони й зробили, і піймали велику силу риби, і їхні сіті почали рватися. Тоді вони кивнули до своїх товаришів, що були в другім човні, щоб ті прийшли й допомогли їм. Прийшли вони й наповнили обидва човни, аж почали потопати. Побачивши це Симон Петро, припав до стіп Ісуса й каже: Іди від мене, Господи, бо я грішний чоловік. Жах бо великий огорнув його й усіх, що були з ним, від ловитви риб, що їх піймали, як також і Якова та Івана, синів Заведея, які були спільниками Симона. Ісус промовив до Симона: Не бійся! Віднині будеш ловити людей. І витягнувши човна на берег, кинули все й пішли слідом за ним.


(Йоана 19, 25-27; 21, 24-25.)

В той час при хресті Ісуса стояли його мати, сестра його матері, Марія Клеопова та Марія Магдалина. 26. Коли Ісус побачив матір і учня, якого він любив, що стояв біля неї, сказав до матері: Жено, ось син твій. Потім каже до учня: Ось мати твоя. І від тієї хвилини учень узяв її до себе. Це той учень, який те свідчить і який написав те і знаємо, що його свідчення правдиве. Є ще й багато іншого, що зробив Ісус, та якби воно було записане кожне зокрема, гадаю, що й самий світ не вмістив би написаних книг.

**Причасні:** Хваліте Господа з небес,\* хваліте Його на висотах (Пс 148,1). \* На всю землю вийшло вістуння їх \* і до кінців вселенної глаголи їх (Пс. 18). \* Алилуя (х3).

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

**ЩИРО ВАМ ДЯКУЄМО!**

 **Gratitudes to all our parishioners, guests, visitors and all Christian people of the good will** who by their kindness share time, talents and treasures, help to clean inside and outside our church building, cut the grass, volunteered making delicious cabagerolls, donated items, and every person who knowingly or unknowingly for the other people thoughtfully make donations, care and help our parish community in various ways and projects inside and outside our parish by keeping and sharing their Christian love, respect and unity in Christ by looking after and graciously supporting our Christian, Catholic Church communities!

➤ Donations to The Dormition of The Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Kelowna, BC:

August 30<sup>th</sup> – September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 A.D. 9:00am: \$490.00 11:00am: \$235.00 Etransfers: \$0.00

September 6<sup>th</sup> – September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 A.D. 9:00am: \$305.00 11:00am: \$524.00 Etransfers: \$70.00

**DONATIONS!** Amid Covid-19 outbreak causing these difficult and 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](mailto: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 in many, happy and blessed years of life to Larissa Verhelst on her birthday (Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>), and to every person celebrating birthdays, name days / heavenly patron's feastdays and any other special anniversaries this week Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita / Many Blessed Years of Life!

**NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Do to others  
as you would have  
them do to you.**

-Luke 6:31



**SUNDAY CATECHISM SCHOOL:** "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, tradition, singing and religious practices and customs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. "We will start catechism classes this Sunday, September 19 for ages 4 to 12. Older children are very welcome to volunteer their help with the younger children and their efforts will be recognized and rewarded. Each class will start after Communion during the English Liturgy and end just before the beginning of the Ukrainian Liturgy. We will be following protocols similar to those used in our elementary schools. Individual snacks and learning materials will be provided. We are looking forward to meeting our parish children and

providing a safe, fun, and interesting experience in learning about our Catholic faith. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Marilyn Daulat at [marilyn\\_daulat@hotmail.com](mailto:marilyn_daulat@hotmail.com) or call at 250-801-7538. Z Bohom! Marilyn Daulat" If you have any questions, please, do not hesitate to contact our parish catechism teacher Mrs. Marilyn Daulat or pastor Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts.



**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/>

Your spiritual father-pastor is praying privately for all of you daily! Please pray for one another and especially for those who are ill, suffering or being affected by disasters, following Covid-19 Pandemic safety plan, participate via facebook streamings and other on-line church services, stay healthy and safe! Let us be responsible to ensure that we all stay safe and healthy.

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions?utm\\_campaign=20201118\\_GCPE\\_AM\\_COVID\\_1\\_NOTIFICATION\\_BCGOV\\_BCGOV\\_EN\\_BC\\_NOTIFICATION#social-gatherings](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions?utm_campaign=20201118_GCPE_AM_COVID_1_NOTIFICATION_BCGOV_BCGOV_EN_BC_NOTIFICATION#social-gatherings)

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US BY PRAYING TO THE ALMIGHTY GOD AT THE CHURCH AND ON-LINE!** Wishing you and all

your dear ones to be guided by the Holy Spirit, blessed with joy, peace, good health, unity, and Christian love today and always!

### **Daily Liturgical and Sacramental Services celebrated during this week:**

Sunday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at **8:15 a.m.** Rosary: (**Services in Kelowna, BC**)

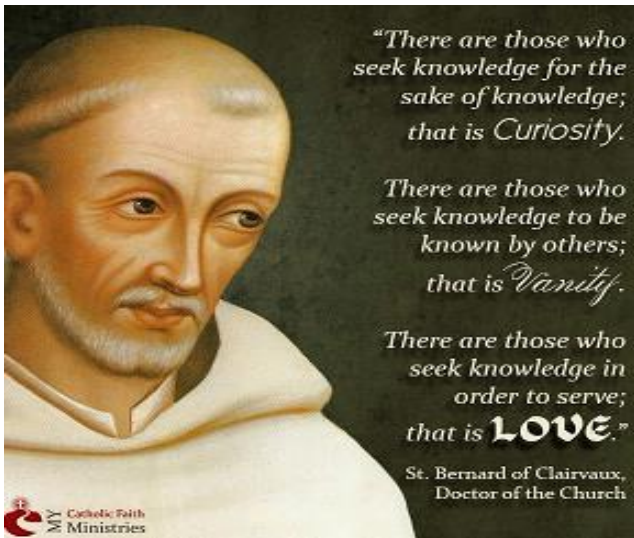
at **9:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends* (in English.)

**BLESSING OF CROSSES, ICONS / HOLY IMAGES after the Divine Liturgy today**

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

**BLESSING OF CROSSES, ICONS / HOLY IMAGES after the Divine Liturgy today**

Parastas / 5<sup>th</sup> Year Memorial Service: *Rest of the soul of Mr. Randall (Randy) Horon* (requested by *Mrs. Olga Kuzyk and The Family*)



Mon., Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at **10:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *repose of the soul of Metropolitan Stefan Sulyk* (requested by *Mrs. Lidia Devonshire and The Family*)

at **6:30 p.m.** Moleben to Our Lord Jesus Christ for Healing

Tue., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at **10:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for Mrs. Lidia Devonshire and The Family* (requested by *Mrs. Lidia Devonshire and The Family*)

Wed., Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> at **11:30 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *Funeral Day: Rest of the soul of Mr. John Bulych* (requested *The Family and Relatives*)

Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> (**PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**)

at **9:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends*

Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at **3:40 p.m.** Lectio Divina / Bible Studies:

(**Bible Studies and Church Services in Penticton, BC**)

at **4:00 p.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all our parishioners, relatives and friends.*

Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at **8:15 a.m.** Rosary: (**Services in Kelowna, BC**)

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

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

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:** Lucy D., Janet F., Volodymyr P., Ivan L., Ray Saranchuk, Cameron V., Rose Ostopowich,

Alix W., Keyton A., Shelley M., Kathleen S., Chelsea M., Carmella M., Bernard M., Darrin M., Kit C., Shirley C., Olga Kuzyk, George Dashkewytch, Olga Romanyshyn, 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, Joseph Stetch, Rosa Maria Santos, Anita N., Ron and Verna Shoemaker, Jonas and Anne, Alyssa and Adam, Mark and Asia, Karen Feniuk, Volodymyr Melnyk, Shelley Zemliak, Ron Horon, Adeline Sorochuk, Taras Hryb,

relatives of The Burachok Family, 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.



"How do you divide your love among four children?"

"I don't divide it. I multiply it."

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:** 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 we come together to the church to glorify Lord Our God and spiritually grow as a Christian community and church as house of prayer helps us during our temporal life journey.**

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



**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.



**МОЛИТА 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 Твоею 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 Твоею спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світлом евангельського 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.

**✚** On behalf of our Christian church family, assurance of our prayers and deepest sympathy are to relatives and friends of Mr. John Bulych! **May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ place our brother in Christ Mr. John Bulych's soul in the place where all the saints abide and may his memory be everlasting with the Lord and our prayers! – Vichnaya Pamyat'! / Everlasting Memory!**

**✚** **Our Parish Executive Council Meeting** is at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 A.D. Any parishioner who wishes to attend, be a listener and share Christian ideas at the meeting is very welcome!

**✚** **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 be aware and remember that your help is always appreciated, and we still need more parishioners to volunteer! Thank you for your support and care at this uneasy Covid-19 Pandemic 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)

**✚** **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 APPRECIATED:** 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](mailto:dormitionkelowna@gmail.com) **by no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday.**

✚ **Our Parish Hall / Ukrainian Catholic Centre is rented.** Please be aware, respect, cooperate and understand that no one during the church services and after the church services is allowed in the hall during this time. We must rent the hall to the organizations and raise funds to help our parish church pay bills and other operation expences.

✚ **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](mailto:Donoharmclinic@gmail.com) or phone: 250-212-4899



✚ **JOIN OUR CHURCH CHOIR:** Do you enjoy singing? Please consider joining our Dormition Parish Choir and remember that we are looking for new members! Contact Mrs. Lesia Achtymichuk for more information and details.

✚ **Traditional and Very Delicious Ukrainian Food is available for sale at our parish:** Kovbasa / Garlic Sausage - \$ 10.00 per 1-pound ring, Cabbage Rolls – \$ 7.00 per dozen. Pie - \$ 9.00. 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.

✚ **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, possitive and generous!**



**Rachel's Corner:** *"I am like the sick sheep that strays from the rest of the flock. Unless the Good Shepherd takes me on His shoulders and carries me back to His fold, my steps will falter, and in the very effort of rising, my feet will give way."* - Saint Jerome- feast day September 30

Have you felt isolated from life itself as you have struggled since the day of your abortion decision? Join us on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat and allow The Good Shepherd to scoop you up into His merciful embrace and carry you until you feel strong again. Come on a Rachel's Vineyard® Retreat and be free again.

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

**ARE YOU IN PRISON?** Many women, men and family members who suffer from an abortion decision remain locked in their own internal prison afraid of anyone knowing their deep secret. Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats are a beautiful opportunity for those who have struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. Come and experience the mercy and compassion of God and release feelings of shame, guilt, anger & grief. Join us and let the healing begin. October 29-31, 2021.

Contact Vicki [www.rachelsvineyardkelowna.com](http://www.rachelsvineyardkelowna.com), [info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com](mailto:info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com), 250-762-2273. Strict confidentiality assured.

## The Feast of Saint John The Evangelist Teaches Us the Secret to Living Faith

*Home is the place where that first love dwells and speaks gently to us. Prayer is the most concrete way to make our home in God. The heart of good theology, the fire that fuels living faith, is an ongoing encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, cultivated as an ongoing experience, through prayer. Without such an encounter I do not know how anyone can do theology at all. The God who is Love hungers for the communion of sons and daughters - and we hunger for communion with Him - because He made us this way. Nothing else will ever satisfy us. Origen, an early Church Father, once wrote: Every spiritual being is, by nature, a temple of God, created to receive into itself the glory of God.*



John the Beloved disciple resting his head on the Lord Jesus Christ at the Last Supper

By [Deacon Keith Fournier](https://www.catholic.org/news/national/story.php?id=53695) <https://www.catholic.org/news/national/story.php?id=53695>  
Catholic Online (<https://www.catholic.org>)

TYLER, TX (Catholic Online) - On this Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist, the readings at the Liturgy of the Western Catholic Church speak to us about our relationship with Jesus, who is Love Incarnate.

Every human love is a participation in God's love, fully manifested in Jesus Christ. Every human love is *perfected* (made complete) when it is joined to the fullness of Love which is given to us in Love Incarnate, Jesus Christ.

St. John is rightly called the beloved disciple in the Christian tradition for good reason. Our first reading at Holy Mass is a portion of his beautiful first letter to the early Church. (1 Jn. 1:1-4) These letters flowed from the deep theological content so evident in his Gospel account. The Gospel passage (Jn. 20:1a and 2-A) introduces us to the source of John's deep theology.

He was a witness to the Resurrection. Not only did he walk with the Lord, rest his head on the chest of Christ during the last meal, stand at the second tree, the Cross on Golgotha's Hill - right next to the Mother of the Lord - but he rushed to the tomb and witnessed the implications of the triumph of Love over death.

John is the disciple of that Love which is stronger than death, the love of the Risen and glorified Jesus Christ, Love Incarnate. His Gospel was the last to be written. It reflects the deepening theological reflection of the early Church on the meaning of the conception, nativity, life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus, the Christ.

That is why my very favorite Gospel of the numerous Christmas liturgies is the Gospel of the Mass of Christmas day taken from St. John. (John 1: 1-18)

The best definition of a theologian I have discovered is taken from the writings of an early Christian monk named Evagrius of Pontus. He wrote that a theologian is someone who "*rests his head on the chest of Christ.*" The image calls to mind the beloved disciple, John, depicted as doing just that in early Christian art. Evagrius also wrote that- *a theologian is one who prays and one who prays is a theologian.*

St. John, the beloved disciple, was just such a great theologian because he was in an ongoing intimate communion with Jesus. He really, really prayed. Do we? Well, it helps to dig deeper into what prayer really is. The kind of prayer which is rooted in encountering the Lord.

As someone who has pursued years of graduate theology, and am still trying to finish a doctoral degree, I am certainly not opposed to academic theological study.

However, the heart of good theology, the fire that fuels living faith, is an ongoing encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, cultivated as an ongoing experience, through prayer. Without such an encounter I do not know how anyone can do theology at all.

For John the Beloved, that communion continued after the Resurrection because Jesus is still truly present, in His glorified life, to all those who live in the encounter which lies at the heart of being a Christian.

The Risen Jesus comes to be with us in every Eucharist, in His Word, and in the intimate life of living prayer. John knew Jesus personally and lived in an intimate communion with the Lord; the kind that only comes through prayer.

We can do so as well. The choice is ours.

St John, the beloved disciple, shows us the way. He prayed. Do we pray? I mean really, really pray? Are we living in a communion of love with Love Incarnate. We really can live that way. That is the call of every Christian.

Christian Prayer is about living in such an ongoing dialogue and intimate communion with the God who is Love, that we begin to experience life in a naturally supernatural way. God fashioned men and women for such a relationship. He created us for communion, a relational conversation of life with Him.

However, at the heart of understanding what it means to be created *in His Image* is coming to understand the immense gift of human freedom - and realizing what happened to our capacity to choose, as a result of sin.

Our relationship with God was broken, separated and wounded through the first sin, what is called the *original sin* in the theology of the Western Church. That sin, like all sin since, is at root a misuse of human freedom infected by pride and self sufficiency.

Our ability to exercise our freedom rightly by directing our capacity for free choice always toward the good was impeded, diminished, wounded and broken through the fall. Our freedom was fractured. Only the splint of the Cross of Calvary can heal

The Good News is that through Jesus Christ, the way has been opened for an even fuller communion with God than our first parents had before the fall. Through the Incarnation, Saving life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ we are being re-created, re-fashioned and redeemed.

He comes to live in those who make a place for Him within the center of their lives. This - making a place - is the essence of Christian prayer and living in communion. John made such a place for Jesus. He calls us to do the same.

The Lord wants us to freely choose to respond to His continual invitations to love. John shows us the way to do just that. We need a Savior. We will only find our fulfillment as human persons by entering into the relationship that he had with Jesus.

This relationship is the meaning and purpose of our life. As we grow in faith through our participation in the life of grace, lived out in the Church, our capacity to respond to the Lord's loving invitation grows as well, through growing in the prayer of communion.

This kind of prayer is not about doing, but about being - in a loving communion with God. This kind of prayer is about falling in love with God. St. John was in love with God. He was, as the early Church fathers all were, a mystic.

Isaac of Ninevah was an early eighth century monk, Bishop and theologian. For centuries he was mostly revered in the Eastern Christian Church for his writings on prayer. In the last century the beauty of his insights on prayer are being embraced once again by both lungs, East and West, of the Church. He wrote these words in one of his many treatises on Prayer:

*When the Spirit dwells in a person, from the moment in which that person has become prayer, he never leaves him. For the Spirit himself never ceases to pray in him. Whether the person is asleep or awake, prayer never from then on departs from his soul. Whether he is eating or drinking or sleeping or whatever else he is doing, even in deepest sleep, the fragrance of prayer rises without effort in hid heart. Prayer never again deserts him.*

*At every moment of his life, even when it appears to stop, it is secretly at work in him continuously, one of the Fathers, the bearers of Christ, says that prayer is the silence of the pure. For their thoughts are divine motions. The movements of the heart and the intellect that have been purified are the voices full of sweetness with which such people never cease to sing in secret to the hidden God.*

The Christian revelation answers the existential questions that fill every human heart and hound every generation. Our hearts are indeed, as Augustine wrote so eloquently, *restless*, until they rest in God. Through His Incarnation - Saving Life, Death, and Resurrection - Jesus Christ opens up such a full communion with God the Father for all men and women.

Jesus leads us out of the emptiness and despair that is the rotted fruit of narcissism, nihilism and materialism. He leads us into a new way, the way of communion, of love, of life that never dies.

When we enter into the dialogue that is prayer, we can experience a progressive, dynamic and intimate relationship with God the Father as He transforms us from within by grace. We can actually "become prayer" as we empty ourselves in order to be filled with Him.

Through prayer, daily life takes on new meaning. It becomes a classroom of communion, life of love. In that classroom we learn the truth about who we are - and who we are becoming - in Jesus. Through prayer we receive new glasses through which we see the true landscape of life. Through prayer darkness is dispelled and the path of progress is illuminated.

Through prayer we begin to understand why this communion seems so elusive at times; as we struggle with our own disordered appetites, and live in a manner at odds with the beauty and order of the creation within which we dwell only to find a new beginning whenever we confess our sin and return to our first love.

Prayer opens us up to Revelation, expands our capacity to comprehend truth and equips us to change. This is true for all men and women, no matter what their state in life or specific vocation.

Through prayer we are drawn by Love into a deepening relationship with Jesus whose loving embrace on the hill of Golgotha bridged heaven with earth; His relationship with His Father is opened now to us; the same Spirit that raised Him from the dead begins to give us new life as we are converted, transfigured and made new.

Through prayer, heavenly wisdom is planted in the field of our hearts and we experience a deepening communion with the Trinitarian God. We become, in the words of the Apostle Peter "*partakers of the divine nature.*" (2 Peter 1:4)

That participation will only be fully complete when we are with Him in the fullness of His embrace, in Resurrected Bodies in a New Heaven and a New Earth, but it begins now, in the grace of this present moment, in prayer and communion.

The beloved disciple John became prayer. He wrote in the letter he penned in his later years:

*See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin commits lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness.* 1 John 3:1-4

Today's Feast of St. John invites each one of us to *become* prayer. It calls us to meet the same Risen Jesus who John knew - and knows - so well. This is not only a possibility, it is meant to become a reality as we learn to become prayer. The Feast of the Beloved Disciple John Invites Us to Live a Life of Communion with God through Prayer

Our daily life is a field of choice. We are made capable now, as we learn to cooperate with grace, of choosing the more excellent way of love of which the great Apostle Paul wrote. (1 Cor. 13) Pondering the implications of the exercise of our human freedom should become a regular part of our life, as we learn to "examine our conscience", repent of our sin and become joyful penitents.

Prayer provides the environment for such recollection as it exposes the darkness and helps us surrender it to the light of Love, the life of the Living God dwelling within us. Yes, living within us. (Jn. 14:23)

Becoming prayer is possible for all Christians, no matter their state in life or vocation, because God holds nothing back from those whom He loves. This relationship of communion is initiated by Him. Our part is to respond. That response should flow from a heart that beats in surrendered love, in the process of being freed from the entanglements that weigh us down.

The God who is Love hungers for the communion of sons and daughters - and we hunger for communion with Him - because He made us this way. Nothing else will ever satisfy us. The early Church Father Origen once wrote: *Every spiritual being is, by nature, a temple of God, created to receive into itself the glory of God.*

We were made in the image of God and are now being recreated into His Image in Jesus Christ, as we cooperate with grace. As we become prayer, that likeness begins to emerge. We give ourselves fully to the One who gave Himself to us and cry out with Jesus Christ - Abba Father.

No longer alienated, we participate in the inner life of God who now dwells within us. We also dwell in Him through His Spirit. This dwelling is prayer. It is not about doing or getting but about being, becoming, receiving, giving, and loving.

A wonderful spiritual writer of our own time, Henri Nouwen, understood the call to live in God. He wrote these words in his work entitled *Lifesigns*:

*"Jesus, in whom the fullness of God dwells, has become our home by making his home in us he allows us to make our home in him. By entering into the intimacy of our innermost self he offers us the opportunity to enter into his own intimacy with God. By choosing us as his preferred dwelling place, he invites us to choose him as our preferred dwelling place.*

*"This is the mystery of the incarnation. Here we come to see what discipline in the spiritual life means. It means a gradual process of coming home to where we belong and listening there to the voice which desires our attention. Home is the place where that first love dwells and speaks gently to us. Prayer is the most concrete way to make our home in God."*

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Deacon Keith A. Fournier is the Dean of Catholic Online School and Chaplain of Your Catholic Voice Foundation. He currently serves the Diocese of Tyler, Texas, under Bishop Strickland, as General Legal Counsel, Director of Deacon Formation and Dean of Catholic Identity at the Bishop Gorman

Catholic School. He and his wife Laurine have five grown children and seven grandchildren, He is also a human rights lawyer and public policy advocate who served as the first and founding Executive Director of the American Center for Law and Justice in the nineteen nineties. He holds his undergraduate (B.A.) and two Masters Degrees in Sacred Theology (M.T.S and M.Phil.) and is pursuing a Th.D. in Moral Theology.



## ТОБІ Є ЗА ЩО ДЯКУВАТИ БОГОВІ:

- †...За дітей, які шумлять вдома: це означає, що у тебе є сім'я.
- †...За посуд, який потрібно мити: значить, у тебе є їжа.
- †...За килими, які треба пилососити, вікна, які треба мити...: значить у тебе є житло.
- †...За промоклі від дощу черевики: значить, ти ще здатний ходити і тобі є, що взути.
- †...За пробки на дорогах: значить, у тебе є автомобіль.
- †...За уроки та іспити, до яких потрібно готуватися: значить, у тебе є можливість отримувати освіту.
- †...За начальника, який робить зауваження: значить у тебе є робота.
- †...За гору прання: значить, у тебе є одяг.
- †...За сльози і посмішки: значить, ти ще можеш відчувати.
- †...За тих, хто заподіює тобі біль: значить, ти можеш зрозуміти, як не потрібно чинити і подарувати у відповідь прощення і любов.
- †...За втому в кінці дня: значить, ти ще можеш активно працювати.
- †...За будильник, який будить вдосвіта: значить, Бог розбудив тебе до нового дня.

**Цінуй те, що маєш!  
Дякуй Богу частіше-адже багато хто мріє  
про таке життя, як у тебе!**



## Pope Francis encourages People Who Are Afraid Today

21.06.20 Angelus, St Peter's Square 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year A [Matthew 10: 26-33](#)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good day!

In this Sunday's Gospel (cf. Mt 10:26-33) the invitation Jesus addresses to His disciples resonates: to have no fear, to be strong and confident in the face of life's challenges, as He forewarns them of the adversities that await them. Today's passage is part of the [missionary](#) discourse, with which the Teacher prepares the Apostles for their first experience of proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Jesus persistently exhorts them "not to be [afraid](#)", "do not be afraid", and Jesus describes three tangible situations that they will find themselves facing.

First and foremost, the first, the hostility of those who would like to stifle the Word of God by sugar-coating it, by watering it down or by silencing those who proclaim it. In this case, Jesus encourages the Apostles to spread the message of salvation that He has entrusted to them. For the moment, He has transmitted it cautiously, somewhat covertly within the small group of the disciples. But they are to utter His Gospel "in the light", that

is, openly; and are to [proclaim](#) it "from the housetops" - as Jesus says - that is, publicly.

The second difficulty that Christ's missionaries will encounter is the physical threat against them, that is, direct [persecution](#) against them personally, to the point of being killed. Jesus's prophesy is fulfilled in every age: it is a painful reality, but it attests to the faithfulness of the witnesses. How many Christians are persecuted even today throughout the world! They suffer for the Gospel with love, they are the martyrs of our day. And we can say with certainty that there are more of them than the martyrs of the early times: so many martyrs, merely for the fact of being Christians. Jesus advises these disciples of yesterday and today who suffer persecution: "do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul" (v. 28). There is no need to be frightened of those who seek to extinguish the evangelizing force with arrogance and violence. Indeed, they can do nothing against the soul, that is, against their union with God: no one can take this away from the disciples, because it is a gift from God. The only fear that a disciple should have is to lose this

divine gift, this closeness to and friendship with God, to stop living according to the Gospel, thereby experiencing moral death, which is the effect of sin.

The third type of trial that Jesus indicates the Apostles will find themselves facing is the sensation, which some may feel, that God Himself has abandoned them, remaining distant and silent. Here too, Jesus exhorts them not to fear, because even while experiencing these and other pitfalls, the lives of the disciples rest firmly in the hands of God, who loves us and looks after us. They are like the three temptations: to sugar-coat the Gospel, to water it down; second, persecution; and third, the sensation that God has abandoned us. Even Jesus suffered this trial in the garden of olives and on the cross: "Father, why have you forsaken me?", says Jesus. At times one feels this spiritual aridness. We must not be afraid of it. The Father takes care of us, because we are greatly valued in His eyes. What is important is the frankness, the courage of our witness, of our witness of faith: "recognizing Jesus before others" and continuing to do good.

May Mary Most Holy, model of trust and abandonment in God in the hour of adversity and danger, help us never to surrender to **despair**, but rather always to entrust ourselves to Him and to His grace, since the grace of God is always more powerful than evil.

Internet source: <https://www.popefrancishomilies.com/afraid>

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