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Parish web-site: <http://kelowna.nweparchy.ca/> Pastor: Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts / о. Павло Миць
Facebook page: *DormitionKelowna Parish*: <https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster: www.nweparchy.ca



19th SUNDAY after PENTECOST
19^{та} НЕДІЛЯ після ЗІСЛАННЯ СВЯТОГО ДУХА
October 3rd, 2021 A.D.

“All human persons – all of us – are important in God’s eyes!”

– teaches, reminds, and strongly emphasises Pope Francis 1st today

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 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 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:

Tone 2, text from book “*The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*”; pages 91-93

Epistle: A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: (2 Cor. 11:31:12:9)

Brothers and Sisters, The God and Father of the Lord Jesus knows – blessed be He forever – that I do not lie.

In Damascus the ethnarch of King Aretas was keeping a close watch on the city in order to arrest me, but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

I must go on boasting, however useless it may be, and speak of visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who, fourteen years ago, whether he was in or outside his body I cannot say, only God can say – a man who was snatched up to the third heaven. I know that this man – whether in or outside his body I do not know, God knows – was snatched up to Paradise to hear words which cannot be uttered, words which no man can speak. About this man I will boast; but I will do no boasting about myself unless it be about my weaknesses. And even if I were to boast it would not be folly in me because I would only be telling the truth.

But I refrain, lest anyone think more of me than what he sees in me or hears from my lips. As to the extraordinary revelations, in order that I might not become conceited I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and keep me from getting proud. Three times I begged the Lord that this might leave me. He said to me, “My grace is enough for you, for in weakness power reaches perfection.” And so, I willingly boast of my weaknesses instead, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Gospel: (Lk 6:31-36)

The Lord said, do to others what you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, how can you claim any credit? Sinners do as much. If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what merit is there in it for you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. Love your enemy and do good; lend without expecting repayment. Then will your recompense be great. You will rightly be called sons of the Most High, since he himself is good to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate.

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:

Глас 2, текст "Божественна Літургія Святого Івана Золотоустого"; сторінки 90-92

Апостол: До Коринтян другого послання Святого Апостола Павла читання: (2 Кор. 11, 31 - 12, 9)

Браття і Сестри, Знає Бог і Отець Господа нашого Ісуса Христа, а Він благословенний навіки, що я не говорю неправди. У Дамаску намісник царя Арети стеріг місто Дамаск, щоб схопити мене, але по мурі мене спущено в коші віконцем, і я з рук його втік! Не корисно хвалитись мені, бо я прийду до видіння і об'являю Господніх. Я знаю чоловіка в Христі, що він чотирнадцять років тому чи в тілі, не знаю, чи без тіла, не знаю, знає Бог був узятий до третього неба. І чоловіка я знаю такого, чи в тілі, чи без тіла, не знаю, знає Бог, що до раю був узятий, і чув він слова невимовні, що не можна людині їх висловити. Отаким похваляюся, а собою хвалитись не буду, хіба тільки своїми немочами. Бо коли я захочу хвалитись, то безумний не буду, бо правду казатиму; але стримуюсь я, щоб про мене хто більш не подумав, ніж бачить у мені або чує від мене. А щоб я через пребагато об'явлень не величався, то дано мені в тіло колючку, посланця сатани, щоб бив в обличчя мене, щоб я не величався. Про нього три рази благав я Господа, щоб він відступився від мене. І сказав Він мені: Досить тобі Моєї благодаті, бо сила Моя здійснюється в немочі. Отож, краще я буду хвалитись своїми немочами, щоб сила ристова вселилася в мене.



Євангеліє: (Лк. 6, 31-36)

Сказав Господь: бажаєте, щоб вам люди добро чинили, так само добро чиніть їм і ви. А коли любите тих, хто любить вас, яка вам за те ласка? Люблять бо й грішники тих, хто їх любить. І коли добре чините тим, хто добро чинить вам, яка вам за те ласка? Бо те саме і грішники роблять. А коли позичаєте тим, що й від них сподівається взяти, яка вам за те ласка? Позичають бо й грішники грішникам, щоб одержати стільки ж. Тож любіть своїх ворогів, робіть добро, позичайте, не ждучи нічого назад, і ваша за це нагорода буде великою, і синами Всевишнього станете ви, добрий бо Він до невдячних і злих! Будьте ж милосердні, як і Отець ваш милосердний!

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, 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:

September 13th – September 19th, 2021 A.D. 9:00am: \$1,145.00 11:00am: \$111.20 Etransfers: \$0.00
September 20th – September 26th, 2021 A.D. 9:00am: \$750.00 11:00am: \$145.00 Etransfers: \$350.00

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 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 Mrs. Danielle Godin-Calder on her birthday (Oct. 2nd), Mrs. Donna Dudych on her birthday (Oct. 5th), Mr. Roman Mykhnevych on his birthday (Oct. 7th), and to every person celebrating birthdays, name days / heavenly patron's feasts and any other special anniversaries this week Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita / Many Blessed Years of Life!

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 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>

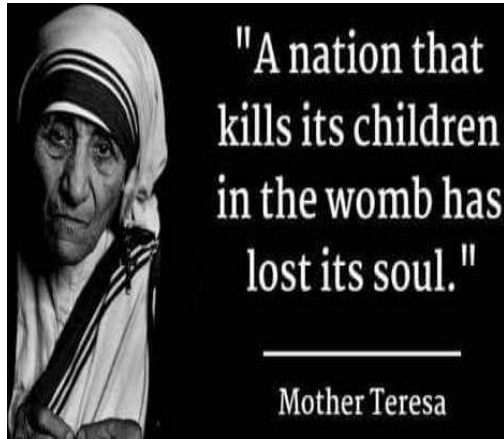
Please also welcome to visit our Cathedral Facebook page for live-stream videos of the liturgical services at Holy Eucharist Cathedral: <https://www.facebook.com/holyeucharistcathedral/>

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

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, October 3rd 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)

Mon., Oct. 4th at **5:00 p.m.** Mass: God's blessing in ministry of newly ordained deacons (**Service at the Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Kelowna, BC**)

Wed., Oct. 6th at **7:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for Mrs. Lidia Devonshire and The Family* (requested by Mrs. Lidia Devonshire and The Family)

Thurs., Oct. 7th at **9:30 a.m.** Mass: Thanksgiving to God for His graces and blessing upon Saint Joseph School Community (**Service at the Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Kelowna, BC**)

at **4:00 p.m.** Acathistos to Our Lord Jesus Christ and Christian Video Presentation with Reflections "WHO ARE YOU?"

Fri., Oct. 8th at **10:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *Repose of the soul of Mr. Nestor Zemlak* (requested by Ms. Sherry Zemlak)

Saturday, October 9th 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 10th at **8:15 a.m.** Rosary: (**Services in Kelowna, BC**)

at **9:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *Thanksgiving to The Almighty God for all His visible and invisible graces and blessings upon all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends* (Eng./Ukr.)

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 Dashkewytsch, 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.

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.

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster clergy study days and conferences are held via Zoom from Monday of Oct. 4th to Thursday of Oct. 7th, 2021 A.D.

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 Твоею 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 дінр 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 світилом євангельського слова, молитви і добрих діл, що кличе кожного до участі в Божественному житті, щоб славилось, Спасе, Твоє Ім'я з безначальним Твоїм Отцем та пресвятим, благим і животворящим Твоїм Духом нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.



Thanksgiving Day will be celebrated at our parish in Kelowna, BC on Sunday, October 10th, 2021 A.D. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at **9:00 a.m.** Potluck will be held after church service. Enjoying coffee social today please remember to write down your name at the list located at the parish hall. If you have any questions, suggestions and wish to help please contact Mrs. Lydia Pfof or Mrs. Olena Fedorov at 778-821-0759. We are looking forward to pray, welcome and share the blessings and joy of this wonderful parish celebration following all Covid-19 pandemic safety with you dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

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 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 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 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: "Yesterday was the last day of the past.

The best thing you can do is leave it there." - Dr. Amen

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Pope Francis reminds people about great importance to be merciful toward one another

Gospel According to Saint Evangelist Luke, chapters 3-6

Jesus' invitation to mercy is intended to draw us into a deeper imitation of God our Father: be merciful, as your Father is merciful. However, it is not easy to understand this willingness to show mercy, because we are accustomed to presenting the bill to others: you've done this, now you have to do this. In short, we judge, and we fail ... to leave space for understanding and mercy.

In order to be merciful, two attitudes are needed. The first is "self-knowledge". In today's first reading, Daniel recounts the humble prayer of the people before God and their acknowledgement that they are sinners: "We have sinned and done wrong, but to thee belongs righteousness, and to us shame". In the presence of a repentant people, God's justice is transformed into mercy and forgiveness.

This challenges us, by inviting us to make room for this same inner attitude. Therefore, to become merciful, we must first acknowledge that we have done many things wrong: we are sinners! We need to know how to say: Lord, I am ashamed of what I have done in life.

Even though none of us has ever killed anyone, nonetheless we still have committed many daily sins. Therefore, acknowledging that we have sinned against the Lord, and being

ashamed in his presence is a grace: the grace of knowing that one is a sinner! It is easy, and yet "so very difficult" to say: "I am a sinner, and I am ashamed of it before you and I ask for your forgiveness".

Our Father Adam gave us an example of what one should not do. For he blamed the woman for having eaten the fruit and he justified himself, saying: "I have not sinned; it is she who made me go down this road!". Eve then does the same thing, blaming the serpent. Yet one should acknowledge one's sin and one's need for God's forgiveness, and not look for excuses and load the blame onto others. Perhaps someone helped me to sin and opened the road: but I did it!

If we act in this way, how many good things will follow: we will truly be men. Furthermore, with this attitude of repentance we will be more capable of being merciful, because we will feel God's mercy for us. In the Our Father, in fact, we do not only pray: "forgive us our trespasses". We also pray "forgive us as we forgive those who trespass against us".

The second attitude we need is "an openness to expanding our hearts". It is precisely shame and repentance that expands a small, selfish heart, since they give space to God to forgive us. What does it mean to open and expand one's heart? First, it means

acknowledging ourselves to be sinners and not looking to what others have done. And from here, the basic question becomes: "Who am I to judge this? Who am I to gossip about this? Who am I, who have done the same things, or worse?"

The Lord says it in the Gospel: "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap". This is the "generosity of heart" that the Lord presents through the image of those going to collect grain who enlarged their aprons in order to receive more. In fact, you can receive far more if you have a big heart! A big heart doesn't get entangled in other people's lives, it doesn't condemn but forgives and forgets as "God has forgiven and forgotten my sins".

In order to be merciful we need to call upon the Lord's help, since "it is a grace". And we also need to "recognize our sins and be ashamed of them" and forgive and forget the offences of others. Men and women who are merciful have big, big hearts: they always excuse others and think more of their own sins. Were someone to say to them: 'but do you see what so and so did?', they respond in mercy saying: 'but I have enough to be concerned over with all I have done'. If all of us, all peoples, all families, all quarters had this attitude, how much peace there would be in the world, how much peace there would be in our hearts, for mercy brings us peace! Let us always remember: who am I to judge? To be ashamed of oneself and to open and expand one's heart, may the Lord give us this grace!

Internet source: <https://www.popefranchisomilies.com/luke-chapter-3-6>

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