



Українська Католицька Парафія
Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці

Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian
Catholic Parish

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*The No. 1 priority for ... the church is evangelization:
"Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in today's world."*

11 Серпня, 2013

Volume 58 No. 32

August 11, 2013

Служби Божі/Divine Liturgies

В Неділю/Sunday

8:30 am partially sung

10:30 am sung

У Свята/Holy Day of Obligation

10:00 am and 7:00 pm

Щодня/Daily Scheduled

8:15 am in church

First Friday - 8:15 am Divine Liturgy followed
by Moleben to the Sacred Heart of Jesus or
Mother of God

Сповіді - 30 хвилин перед Службою Божою
або наперед домовитися під час тижня

Confessions - 30 minutes before the Divine
Liturgy or by appointment during the week

Baptism by appointment - membership in
Parish is required

Marriages by appointment made at least six
months in advance. Membership in Parish is
required

Funerals by arrangement in the Parish Office

**оо. Василяни / Basilian Fathers serving this
Parish**

Father Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Pastor

Email: pastor@stmarysbc.com

Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM

Bishop Emeritus

**12 Неділя по Зісланні Святого Духа
Матія 19:16-26**



**12 Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 19:16-26**

**SPECIAL NOTICE – Do not park in the
RESERVED stalls in front of St. Mary's
Gardens when you come for the Sunday
Divine Liturgy. Your car will be towed.**

Парафія Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці вітає всіх гостей, приятелів та рідних які зєдналися сьогодні разом брати участь в цій Службі Божі. Нехай наш Господь через заступництво Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці благословить Вас і Вашу родину.

Місячний намір Святішого Отця Папи Римського – на Серпень

Загальний намір: Батьки і виховники. Щоб батьки виховники допомагали молодим поколінням зростати в доброму сумлінні і послідовності.

Місійний намір: Церкви Африки поширюють справедливість. Щоб Помісні Церкви Африки, вірні Євангелії, поширювали будову миру і справедливості.

- Тропарі і читання в рожевій книжці на стор. 3 до 5 .

- Кава і солодке сьогодні після неділі Служби Божої у вітальні під церквою.

В цьому часі тільки один священник служить в парафії. Щоби вз'яти участь у Св. Сповіді, заохочуємо Вас приходити до церкви 30 хвилин скоріше перед Св. Літургією. Ви можете також наперед домовитися і прийти до Каплиці в резиденції під час тиждня.

Спеціальне прохання: після закінчення Служби Божої просимо замкнути молитвенники і співаники і поставити їх на відповідне місце. Рівнож просимо не залишайте бюлетенів і других матеріалів в лавках. Будьмо господарними в нашій церкві і допоможим, щоби наші лавки були чисті й акуратні.

Сьогодні: Неділя, 11 Серпня:

- Парафіяльна Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

Четвер, 15 Серпня: Обов'язуюче Свято - Успіння Пресвятої Богородиці

- 10:00 год. ранку – Служба Божа і благословення зілля і квітів

- 7:00 год. вечора – Служба Божа і благословення зілля і квітів

Неділя, 18 Серпня:

- Парафіяльна Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

Неділя, 25 Серпня:

- Парафіяльна Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

Неділя, 1 Вересня:

- Парафіяльна Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

П'ятниця, 6 Вересня: - Перша П'ятниця

- 8:15 ранку – Служба Божа а від так Молебень до Серця Христового.

The Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish welcomes all guests, friends, visiting relatives and Parishioners in celebrating this Divine Liturgy together. May our Lord, through the intercession of our Blessed Lady, the Mother of God, bless you and your family!

Monthly Papal Intentions for August

General Intention: - Parents and Teachers - That parents and teachers may help the new generation to grow in upright conscience and life.

Missionary Intention: The Church in Africa - That the local Church in Africa, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel, may promote peace and justice.

- **Tropar, Kondak & readings** in the pink booklet pages 3 to 5.

- **Coffee and sweets** are available today **following the Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am Divine Liturgies** in the Fellowship Room. **All guests and parishioners are invited.**

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE - only one priest is serving the parish. To receive the Mystery of Reconciliation, (Confession), you are encouraged to come thirty (30) minutes before the Divine Liturgy. You may also make an appointment to come during the week to the chapel in the rectory.

A SPECIAL Request: At the conclusion of each Divine Liturgy, please close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or other reading material in the pews. Each and every participant is invited to do their part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church pew pockets and pews clean and neat. Thank you.

TODAY, Sunday, August 11:

- **Parish Catechism for Pre-Schooler's** during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Wednesday, August 14:

- Prayer Service for + Mary Oleksiew (Mother of Clifford Oleksiew) at 7 pm at Richmond Funeral Home, 8420 Cambie Road, Richmond.

Thursday, August 15: Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Day of Obligation

- 10:00 am **and** 7:00 pm - Divine Liturgy and **Blessing of Herbs and Flowers.** All able bodied persons are obliged to attend.

Sunday, August 18:

- **Parish Catechism for Pre-Schooler's** during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, August 25:

- **Parish Catechism for Pre-Schooler's** during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, September 1:

- **Parish Catechism for Pre-Schooler's** during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Friday, September 6: Feast of Christ the Lover of Mankind - First Friday

- **8:15 am** - Divine Liturgy **followed by Moleben to the Sacred Heart.**

Saturday, August 17, 2013 - Pilgrimage to the Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes, Fraser River Heritage Park, Mission, BC. - St. Joseph's Parish in Mission invite you to participate in the Divine Liturgy at 1:00 pm. celebrated by **Most Rev. J. Michael Miller, CSB, Archbishop of Vancouver** and assisting clergy. **Bring your own chairs for the services.**

Confessions are heard on site between 10:00 am and 1 pm. Following the Divine Liturgy the faithful will process to the Grotto where the Rosary is prayed, followed by Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. Picnic and Fellowship to follow! There are food concessions on site. **You may bring your own picnic lunch.** A poster with more details is on the Hallway Bill Board as you enter the Fellowship Room.

To Request Prayers for: yourself, your family, or a friend - please submit the name to the Parish Office or place a note on the collection plate.

Пам'ятайте помолитися: за Вашу родину, за членів Парафії, а особливо за тих які знаходяться в лікарнях, або тих що очікують Божої відповіді на їхні молитви, або радіють Божою відповіддю, або за тих які відзначають уродини, або роковини, або за тих що покликані до їхньої вічної винагороди, або за родину яку вони залишили.

Remember to pray for: your family; fellow parishioners; those confined to their hospital beds or their homes; those seeking God's guidance or rejoicing with God's favour; or for those celebrating a birthday or anniversary; or have been called to their eternal reward or for the family they leave behind; as well as any other need.

Please remember in your prayers: Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Fr. Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Fr. Steven Basarab, Mary Balsevicius, Joseph Bayduza, Frances Bethune, Elizabeth Duda, Mary Earl, Quenten Fabiano, Catherine Hladij, Alice Humenick, Bohdan Karpinski, Emily Kuzyk, Bodzie and Shirley Lawryshyn, Ben Marchinkow, Joseph Nadelko, Roma Nowakowski, (Bishop Ken's mother), Orest Obuck, John Pura, Mary Scott, Dave Shelast, Tiny Zarski. **Also remember in your prayers + Mary Oleksiew**, she past away last Saturday, and the Oleksiew Family that are left to mourn and remember her.

Please Visit: our Parishioners that in the hospital or have difficulty getting around in their homes. They need your visit, your phone call, as well as your prayers.

Please pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

If there are people you visit requesting prayers, or a visit from the Priest, please inform the Parish office so that father might know to visit them.

A SPECIAL NOTE to ALL PARISHIONERS: Please come on time for the Divine Liturgy. Realize that when you come into the Church proper after the Great Entrance, you have missed most of the Divine Liturgy and have not really attended the prescribed service for a Sunday.

Church Etiquette: Just a reminder that to have attended the entire Divine Liturgy one must be in Church and have heard the reading of the Gospel as well as the homily, participated in the responses for the consecration and received the final Blessing before leaving the church. We also ask that you do not visit in the main part of the Church (the Nave) before during or after the Service. Please use the Vestibule or the Fellowship room to conduct your conversations - leave the Church proper for those that want to pray.

Просимо всіх Парафіян приносити продукти для потребуючих, які не псуються (non-perishable) в першу і третю неділю кожного місяця.

Food Bank Donations: We encourage all parishioners to contribute to the Food Bank on the first and third Sundays of every month. PLEASE ADD YOUR SUPPORT.

Це пригадка для всіх вірних. Просимо приходити вчасно на Службу Божу. Будьмо готові разом заспівати початковий гімн. Зрозумійте, якщо Ви прийдете до Церкви після Великого Входу, Ви пропустили більшу частину Служби Божої, і дійсно не вислухали приписаної Служби Божої на неділю.

Церковна Етика: Будьмо свідомі, що беручи участь у Св. Літургії ми мусимо одержати кінцеве Благословення перед тим як ми залишимо Службу Божу. Ми рівнож просимо не виходити з Церкви перед закінченням Служби Божої. Ми просимо Вас не спілкуватися в Церкві перед, під час і після Служби Божої. Прошу це робити в притворі Церкви або у Вітальні під церквою. Залишім наву (Nave) церкви для вірних які моляться.

CAMP ST. VOLODYMYR August 18 – 25th, 2013 Camp St. Volodymyr will be celebrating its 30th anniversary. We have been enriching campers in their Ukrainian Catholic Faith and Culture since 1983. Located in Kelowna, campers spend a week participating in age tailored activities such as Ukrainian dancing, arts & crafts, singing, catechesis, sports and water activities. Camper fees: \$310 after July 5. 3rd/4th child from same family is \$150 each. Bus transportation is available from New Westminster. Registration forms can be downloaded from the eparchial website at www.nweparchy.ca/. For more information contact Jennifer Sawka @ 604.876.5691 jennsawka@hotmail.com. Register early. Space is limited!

Support our Camp! Donations are always greatly appreciated. We are always happy to accept food donations of vegetables, fruits, cereals, and treats for children, as well as monetary donations. Tax receipts can be issued with donations of \$25 or more.

YEAR OF FAITH Heavenly Father, we ask for Your blessings as we celebrate this Year of Faith that we may deepen our personal encounter with Christ, that we may be more able to share our faith with those around us; to share our love for the Church and its people as Christ showed His love for us. By this, we renew our baptismal call by living out our daily moments with faith, hope and love. We ask through the prayers of the Most Holy Mother of God and all the saints. Amen.

Special Petition for Evangelization – *Let us ask our Heavenly Father for His gifts of wisdom & courage in our efforts of spreading the Good News and building up God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.*

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Молитва Митрополита Андрея Шептицького за українську родину

Боже великий, Боже отців наших! Дай нашому народові якнайбільше добрих, святих християнських родин. Дай нам таких батьків, які голосно й відверто признавалися б до божественної Твоєї Євангелії і до Твоєї служби. Дай нам батьків, які для своїх дітей були б прикладом християнського життя, правдивими опікунами та добрими провідниками в житті. Дай нам таких матерів, що вміли б добре, по-християнськи виховувати своїх дітей, а для своїх чоловіків були б поміччю, потіхою та доброю радою. Дай нам таких дітей, які були б потіхою та славою батьків і красою свого народу. Благослови, всемогутній Боже, український нарід. Даруй йому ласку вірно Тобі служити і доступити колись вічної нагороди в небі, бо Тобі, Боже, у Святій Тройці єдиний, Отче, Сину і Духу Святий, належить вся слава, честь і поклін навіки вічні. Амінь.

Prayer by Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky for Ukrainian Families

God Almighty, O God of our Fathers! Grant to our nation many good and holy Christian families. Give us fathers who will loudly and openly confess your holy Gospel and be in Your service. Give us fathers who will be a good example of Christian life for their children, true protectors and good leaders in life. Grant us mothers who are capable of bringing up their children in a Christian way, and are a joy and help as well as good advisors for their husbands. Grant us children who will be the pride and joy of their parents and the splendour of their nation. Almighty God, bless our Ukrainian nation. Grant her the grace to faithfully serve You and one day to be granted the eternal reward in heaven. For You are a good and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS - Almighty and Merciful God, inspire those You have chosen to hear and answer Your call to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Give them the courage to be the prophets for our times. Give them the wisdom and openness to live their personal call. Give them the strength to be ready witnesses of Your love and care for the world. May they find support and encouragement in our words and in our prayers. Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God and all the Saints. Amen.

PRAYER FOR EVANGELIZATION 'YEAR OF FAITH' - O God, who wills that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of truth, pour out Your Spirit upon us and grant that we may respond zealously to Your urgent call to lead back to the Church those who have strayed. Prepare their hearts and minds to be receptive to the saving Gospel of Your Son. Send us workers to gather in Your abundant harvest, so that all Your people, obedient to the Word and sustained by the power of the Sacraments, may advance in the way of Salvation and love. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

You may purchase a DVD of Major Archbishop Sviatoslav's visit September 1, 2012. The cost of this commemorative DVD is \$10 each. This DVD contains the complete Divine Liturgy celebrating Bishop Budka's hundredth anniversary of arrival to Canada in our Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mar's) Parish. You can purchase copies of this DVD in in the Parish office.

When you make a donation towards the purchase of Deacon, Lector, and Acolyte vestments, you will be remembered in the prayers of the Acolyte/Lector/Deacon during every Divine Liturgy.

We are planning to purchase three sets of Deacon/Lector vestments in the following colours: Gold, Blue and Red: each set will cost \$800 (plus) and one set of white vestments at a cost of \$1,000 (plus). We also need to purchase one set of White Acolyte (Altar Server) vestments (for taller servers) at a cost of not more than \$1,000/set. **(Note: if more donations are received we will also be able to purchase two complete sets of green Deacon vestments.)** Total cost – \$4,500. **Plus/minus.**

Each time the Deacon, Lector or Altar Server vests, they include in their prayers the persons that have provided them with the vestment.

Your donation is greatly appreciated. May the Mother of God continue to intercede for you before the throne of God!

DONATIONS:	UCWLC	1,000.
	Parishioner: Anonymous	1,700.
	Parishioner: Anonymous	100.
	Ben & Bonny Marchinkow	100.
	Bessie Lashin	<u>100.</u>
Total donations to date:		3,000.

I am Asking for a favour: My friend and I are Brazilian seniors, looking for a Bed and Breakfast or a home to stay at during our three-week stay in Vancouver. We will need two rooms. As we do not know anyone in Canada, could you help? I am a Eucharistic minister in my Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Bauru/São Paulo, Brazil. We will be in Vancouver around August 26. God Bless you, thanks Barbara. **(If you can help please contact the office.)**



St. Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary, you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty. You supported the holy family of Nazareth with the work of your hands. Kindly protect our fathers who trustingly come to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, and their hopes. They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too knew trial, labour and weariness. But amid the worries of material life your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with God's Son entrusted to you and with Mary, his tender Mother. Assure those you protect that they do not labour alone. Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over them faithfully.

PRAYER FOR A VIBRANT PARISH - O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth! Because of your indescribable love for us, you sent your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ - The Way, The Truth, and The Life - and our Salvation. In His name, we turn to You. Strengthen our hearts and minds in Christian love and in unity of purpose as we strive to build a Vibrant Parish. Give us the grace to model our lives according to the Word of God. Instill in us the desire to pray and to celebrate the Holy Mysteries as one Christian Family in our Parish Community. Inspire us to follow Your great command to be a servant to the less fortunate among us! Grant this, O Lord, through the mercies and love for mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Life-Giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen!

DO YOU LIVE IN GREATER VANCOUVER?

HAVE YOU MOVED INTO GREATER VANCOUVER RECENTLY?

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? HAS IT BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU WERE HERE? After the service, do not hesitate to introduce yourselves to Fr. Josaphat and find out more information regarding St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Often the Pastor discovers that you have been participating in the Liturgical Services for years but have not registered as Parishioners. We may recognize you, we may see you in church but we do not know your name or address and when you come to arrange for baptisms, marriages, funerals, or special blessings we finally come to know who you are. **We encourage you to register your name, address, phone number and e-mail with the parish. Please print your name, address, telephone number, e-mail and postal code** on your donation envelope, or contact the Parish Office.

REMEMBER: To be considered a member of this Parish one must be registered in the Parish, attend the Divine Liturgy regularly and make regular contributions to maintain the Parish.

If Parishioners or visitors would like to arrange a meeting with the Pastor, please approach Rev. Fr. Josaphat after the Divine Liturgy or call him at 604-879-5830, or email him to: Pastor@stmarysbc.com. Fr. Josaphat would be pleased to meet with you to discuss: Home or Hospital visits to the sick, plan for your Marriage, Baptism, Funeral or help to prepare for any other Service. Or you may need Spiritual Support or help to be a full member of the Parish. What ever your need please approach Fr. Josaphat.

Reminder to Families or Individuals Admitted to Hospital - If you or a family member is admitted to a hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call the rectory at 604-879-5830, to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you or your loved one is in hospital. Remember privacy legislation restricts the information that can be given out by the hospital.

Please note: parish members requesting the celebration of a Divine Liturgy for a special intention (Thanksgiving, the Infirm, General Intentions, the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travellers, or any other intention) please see Fr. Josaphat following the Divine Liturgy or call the Parish office to arrange for it.



The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

By: Father Michael Venditti @ ByzantineCatholicPriest.com

The Divine Liturgy, Part Twelve

“The Prayer of the Cherubikon” – or,
Do You Prefer Your Priest “Nice” or Good?”



“No one who is bound to carnal desires and pleasures is worthy to approach You (come to You) or to draw near to You, or to minister to You, O King of Glory. For to serve You (minister to you) is great and awesome, even to the heavenly powers. And yet, because of your (ineffable and immeasurable) love for mankind - a love which cannot be expressed or measured - You became man, unchanged and unchanging. You were (designated) appointed our high priest, and, as Master of all, (entrusted) handed down to us the priestly ministry of this liturgical and unbloody sacrifice. You alone, O Lord, our God, (rule over all things) have dominion over heaven and earth. You are borne on the throne on the cherubic; You are Lord of the Seraphim and the King of Israel; You alone are holy and rest in the holies (Sanctuary). I implore You, therefore, who alone are good and ready to listen: look (favorably) upon me, your sinful and (unprofitable) useless servant; cleanse my heart and soul of the evil that lies on my conscience. By the power of Your Holy Spirit enable me,

who am clothed with the grace of the priesthood, to stand before this, Your holy table, and offer the sacrifice of Your Holy and Most Pure Body and Precious Blood. (Bowing) Bending my neck (head), I approach and I petition (implore You): Turn not Your face from me, nor reject me from among your children, but allow these gifts to be offered to you by me, your sinful and unworthy servant. For it is You Who offer and You Who are offered; it is You Who receive and You Who are given, O Christ our God; and we give glory to you, together with your eternal Father and Your Most-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.”

That prayer, which I just read to you, is called the “Prayer of the Cherubikon,” and, as the name suggests, it is recited silently by the priest during the singing

of the Cherubic Hymn with which you are all familiar: **“Let us who mystically represent the cherubim and sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating Trinity, now set aside all earthly cares.”** The Cherubim, of course, are one of the choirs of angels mentioned in Scripture; and, since they are mentioned in the hymn, the hymn takes its name from them. The hymn is typically repeated by the people while the priest prays the prayer I just read with his hands upraised, and then performs the incensation.

Now, there are a lot of silent prayers recited by the priest during the course of the Divine Liturgy. What makes this particular prayer unique is that it is strictly a personal prayer recited by the priest on behalf of himself. It is the only prayer of its kind in the Liturgy. All the other prayers said by the priest, either silently or out loud, are all prayers that he says on behalf of the people. This one is in the first person singular, with the priest addressing Christ directly on his own behalf.

The composition of this prayer has been attributed to St. Basil, though there is some disagreement about that. It certainly appears in the Liturgy of St. Basil before its first appearance in the Liturgy of John Chrysostom. But, whoever wrote it, it is a masterpiece of composition, and expresses the true essence of the priesthood very beautifully.

What the prayer essentially says is, “Lord, I, your humble priest, am unworthy to perform this great sacrifice of the Eucharist; but I must perform it because it is my duty and my obligation to the people here present; so, I beg you, Lord, to overlook my sins, and accept my sacrifice even though it comes from the hands of someone who is not worthy.” It expresses an important truth about the priesthood which is crucial to remember: the priest is the only one who can offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Eucharist, not because he, himself, is holier than everyone else — far from it; he may very well be the most vile sinner in the parish — but because he is a priest and has been given, by Christ through the Church, the power to stand in the place of Christ at the Holy Table and change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus. This is an important point to remember especially today when the news has been filled with stories of so many priests who have committed so many vile and sinful acts. If we fall into the trap of thinking that the priest does what he does —celebrates the Eucharist, forgives sins, blesses marriages, anoints the sick —because he is holier and better than everyone else, we miss the point of the priesthood. It is Christ who does all of these things; the priest is nothing more than an instrument; and Christ can use any instrument he wants, even a tainted one.

Now, certainly that is not the ideal; and Christ wants his priests to be holy and worthy of the great gift that has been given them; but it is comforting to know that, even when the priest fails to live up to the high standards of his vocation, his ability to function sacramentally as a priest remains unaffected. His preaching may not be edifying and his manner may not give good example; but his Liturgy still makes Jesus present to us, and his absolution still forgives our

sins. All of this, of course, you know. And I am sure that many of you have known, over the years, priests who were good and holy, and priests who were not so good and not so holy. But even the ones who were not holy you tolerated as long as you had to because, at least, they were priests; and a parish without a priest is not a parish at all.

And then, of course, there are all the priests in between: the ones who may be very good and very holy but who do not have a lot in the way of what we call “people skills.” Priests, for the most part, live alone; and when a man lives alone most of his life it is very easy to become a grumpy old man, even if he is only 40 or 50 years old. Then you have the really dangerous ones who are just the opposite: the ones who are very nice and kind on the surface, polished and cultured, and who are very popular with everyone, but whose private lives hide some terrible and dark secret. The sex abuse scandal of recent years has made us all aware of this sort of priest. The good effect of all of that, if there is one, may be that people are beginning to realize that it is not necessarily a nice priest that is the best priest for a parish. It is easy to be nice; it is not often easy to be good, and there is a big difference.

All of this is why I think the Prayer of the Cherubikon is an important part of the Divine Liturgy, in spite of the fact that you, the people, do not hear it. The priest, in praying this prayer, acknowledges to God that he is a sinner. That is important for everyone, but even more so for a priest. And he asks God to overlook his unworthiness so that he can offer the Holy Sacrifice for the people anyway, in spite of his sins. Hopefully, it will inspire the priest to address his sins and confess them and overcome them with God’s help. But even if he should fail to do that, God works through him anyway; and that is a good thing because we need our priests — good or bad, we need them — because without them there would be no Eucharist to nourish us, no absolution to take away our sins, no blessing to crown our marriages, no one to baptize our children, no anointing to heal us or welcome us into paradise.

So, when we are at the Divine Liturgy and we begin to sing the Cherubic Hymn which we all know so well, it would be a good thing to offer a silent prayer thanking God for the priest whose decision to follow Christ has made that Liturgy possible for you.



What is a “Vocation”?

A vocation means a “calling.” God is calling! He calls to each person. A vocation means a calling to and choosing of a state of life.

A prime consideration of each and every one of us can be summed up in two important questions: **What am I to do with my life? What is my life work going to be that will lead my life to glorify God?** For young men and women it is very important to discern God’s call. On deciding “what I am going to do with life?” rests one’s life-long peacefulness and joy as an individual.

God, made us with a purpose in mind. He has a special task for each one of us. So the question, “What am I to do with my life?” is more correctly stated, **“What does God want me to do with my life? What is His plan for me?”**

Life is serious. The question of decision is serious. Deliberation about the question is serious. The acceptance and fulfillment of the answer must be serious because it has eternal ramifications.

For men, some considerations for doing the will of God in a most unique way would be choosing the priesthood, or religious life, or the ministry of the diaconate or an apostolate within the church. For women, a consideration is the consecrated religious life or an apostolate within the church. In other words, everyone should ask, “What does God want me to do in special service to Him?”

Where are vocations to the priesthood and Religious life mainly fostered? They are fostered primarily in Christian families. When do these vocations flourish? They flourish when Christian families flourish. When do vocations wane? They wane when Christian family life is weak.

The family is the divinely instituted place for generosity, humility and charity to take root first and, with divine assistance, to be cultivated from infancy, through childhood and adolescence, into adult life.

Family prayer is just as important as is personal prayer. When we begin to praise God together, when two or more of us gather together to thank God for His blessings, there develops a closer or more intimate bond between us as well as with God. Not only that, but Christ, our Lord, Himself has said, “Again I tell you, if two of you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted you by My Father in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in their midst.” (Matthew 18:19–20)

The grace of vocations needs good soil in which to be planted, and proper conditions to develop under God's supernatural care. There is no soil more necessary and no condition more important than good family life.

Let us inspire new vocations by honouring the vocations of those serving us now!

While it is certainly true that good vocations have come from very unlikely backgrounds and in spite of the most adverse home situations, in the ordinary providence of God, however, we can expect to find healthy seeds of a vocation firmly rooted and watered by a family where generosity and self-sacrifice is shown to their children and required of them; where humility is a way of life; where authority is exercised with firmness and kindness; and where charity and the love of God is instilled in the children by the practice of prayer, respect for religion (one's faith) and, respect for the priests of the parish. This, then, becomes characteristic of a healthy family atmosphere.

To be continued next week ... “In closing, I would like to share with you a short article that emphasizes respect and love ... ”