



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."*

25 Серпня, 2013

Volume 58 No. 34

August 25, 2013

Служби Божі/Divine Liturgies

В Неділю/Sunday

8:30 am partially sung

10:30 am sung

У Свята/Holy Day of Obligation

10:30 am and 7:00 pm

Щодня/Daily Scheduled

8:15 am in church

**First Friday - 8:15 am Divine Liturgy and
Moleben to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Сповіді/Confessions:

- 1/2 години *перед* Службою Божою
- 1/2 hour before Divine Liturgy
- Або наперед домовитися під час тиждня
- Or by appointment during the week

**Baptism by appointment - membership in
Parish is required**

**Anointing of the Sick /Hospital Visits/
Eucharist for the sick - any time**

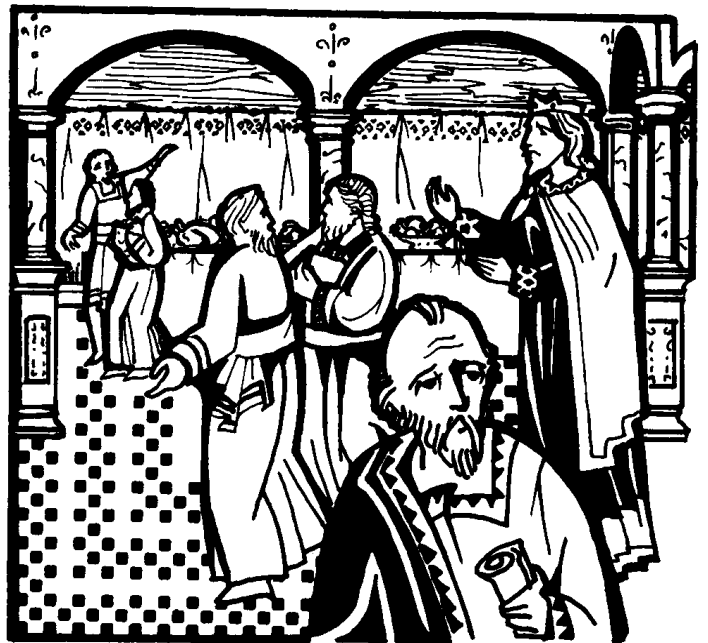
**Marriages by appointment made at least six
months in advance. Membership in Parish is
required**

Funerals by arrangement in the Parish Office

**оо. Василян/ Basilian Fathers serving the
Parish**

- Father Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Pastor
Email: pastor@stmarysbc.com
- Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM
Bishop Emeritus

**14 Неділя по Зісланні Святого Духа
Маття 22:1-14**



**14 Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 22:1-14**

**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: Щоб батьки виховники допомагали молодим поколінням зростати в доброму сумлінні і послідовності.

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

- Тропарі і читання в рожевій книжці на стор. 10 і 11.

- 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, заохуємо 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, 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.

Неділя, 8 Вересня:

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

- Річний Парафіяльний Пікнік почнетя о год. 12-ій полудня. На обід буде подаватися: "Гамбургер" і "Гот дог", ярина і напитки, і морожене на дезерт. Для розваги будуть різні гри для молоді і дітей. Пожертви вільні.

Четвер, 12 Вересня:

- 7:00 вечора – Поширення зрозуміння нашої віри у вітальні під церквою.

Субота, 14 Вересня: Воздвиження Чесного Христа Ісуса Христа

- 8:15 і 10:30 ранку – Служба Божа.

- Сьогодні здержуємося від м'ясних страв

Неділя, 15 Вересня:

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

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: That parents and teachers may help the new generation to grow in upright conscience and life.

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

- **Tropar, Kondak & readings** in the pink booklet pages 10 and 11.

- **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 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.**

Sunday, September 8:

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

- **Annual Parish Picnic begins at 12 noon.** The meal will consist of Hamburgers and Hot dogs with all the trimmings, Lettuce salad, Potato salad, vegetables, coffee, tea and juices and ice cream for dessert. For entertainment, we have invited "Scruffles" the balloon maker, pony rides for the young and games for children of all ages. A donation for the meal will be accepted.

Thursday, September 12:

- **"THE CREED" A STUDY OF OUR FAITH** continues @ 7 pm - Fellowship Room.

Saturday, September 14: Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ

- **8:15 and 10:30 am - Divine Liturgy in Church.**

- **This day we abstain from meat**

Sunday, September 15:

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

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.

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.

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

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!

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.

ПРОСИМО щоб оголошення до наступного дво-місячного календаря треба подати до канцелярії не дальше як 20-го дня цього місяця.

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. **Please remember** in your prayers Bishop Cornelius Pasichny, OSBM, Emeritus as he celebrates his 60th Anniversary of Priesthood. Also remember Joseph and Mariya Lys who celebrate their first grandchild.

Please Visit: our Parishioners that are 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.

NOTICE TO ALL PARISHIONERS: The Divine Liturgy begins at 8:30 A.M. or at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday mornings. You have the responsibility to arrive before the church bells ring announcing the beginning of the Service. Realize that in order to have attended the Sunday Service you would have: received the Opening Blessing, listened to the Gospel, participated in the Consecration of the Holy Gifts, and following Holy Communion, would have received the Dismissal Blessing to strengthen you to proclaim the Good News throughout the week.

Church Etiquette: 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.

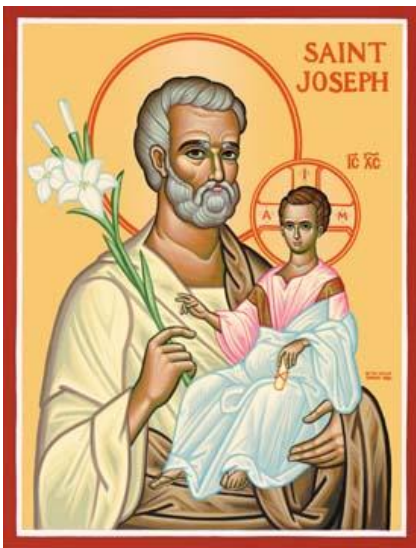
PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS - Almighty and Merciful God, inspire those You have chosen to hear and answer Your call to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Give them the courage to be the prophets for our times. Give them the wisdom and openness to live their personal call. Give them the strength to be ready 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.

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.

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 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.



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.

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.*

Bulletin Announcements must be in the office by Wednesday noon. It is your responsibility to notify the office, do not think that 'well they know', Father or the Secretary may know but do not always remember to put it in the bulletin!

Monthly Calendar Announcements for the next two months must be in the office by the 20th day of this month.

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 will soon be receiving Deacon/Lector Gold, Blue and Red vestments. **The Sisters corrected their mistake in quoting the price of Deacon vestments:** Each complete set costs \$1,000 (\$500/each). We will also be receiving one set of white vestments at a cost of \$1,300 (\$650/each). Also coming is one set of White Acolyte (Altar Server) vestments (for taller servers) at a cost of \$1,000 (\$500/each). **(Note: if more donations are received we will also purchase a complete set of green Deacon vestments.** The complete set will cost \$1,000 (\$500/each).) Total cost – \$5,300. (Plus \$1,00 for a green set of Deacon vestments).

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	800.
	Parishioners: Anonymous	420.
	John & Irene Sliziak	200.
	Parishioner: Anonymous	100.
	Ben & Bonny Marchinkow	100.
	Bessie Lashin	<u>100.</u>
Total donations to date:		4,420.

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 history of your church clearly shows the world the possibility of the unity of Christ’s followers,” – Cardinal Audrys Juozas Bačkis

On the eve of his visit to Kyiv for the celebration of the 1025th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus–Ukraine, the special emissary of Pope Francis, Cardinal Audrys Juozas Bačkis, Archbishop Emeritus of Vilnius (Lithuania), responded to questions posed by UGCC Department of Information.

Your Eminence, Pope Francis chose you as his delegate for the celebration of the 1025th anniversary of the Baptism of Kyiv Rus. What were the most important thoughts that the Holy Father expressed to you in the letter addressed to your Eminence on this occasion?

“As a special emissary of His Holiness Father Francis, the Pope of Rome and the Successor of St. Peter, I rejoice that I can be among you; that I can meet with the Catholic Church in Ukraine and bring to all of God’s people His Fatherly Apostolic Blessing.”

“In his letter, *Magnopere Ecclesia in Ucraina* [A Monumental Church in Ukraine] dated June 15, 2013, addressed to me, the Pope particularly notes the fact that the joyful commemoration of the Baptism of Kyivan Rus unites the whole large Catholic family – Greek–Catholics and Roman–Catholics with different Church rites. We are all called upon, to bear witness to unity in love, rejoicing in the common spiritual graces, since they are a gift from the Holy Spirit who ‘gives them, dividing among all, that which he wants’ (1 Cor. 12, 11).

Pope Francis accentuates unity in love, which should permeate our relationships and our daily life. The Holy Father urges all priests, monks and nuns, and all faithful that through communal and renewed strength, they proclaim to the current society Christ’s Gospel, that they experience joyfully the grace of the Baptism and that they express our faith through charitable initiatives and deeds.”

How important was the Act of Baptism of Kyivan Rus?

“I think that today we should spiritually dive into the waters of the Dnipro River, thank God for the gift of Baptism, which tens of centuries ago gave life to the Church of Kyivan Rus and renew our Baptismal vows. Baptism is a gift which grants us supernatural life and makes us children of God. It is not a gift which is given to a special person, but through it we all become the body of the great family of God, that is, Christ’s Church.

Through the Baptism of St. Volodymyr, Christ entered the history of the people of Kyivan Rus, permeating its culture. Beginning in Kyiv, Christianity lit with its rays the neighbouring lands and people where there developed Churches who also celebrate this great Jubilee and discover their spiritual roots in the Baptism of Kyivan Rus.”

Your Eminence, what are Your wishes for the Christians in Ukraine, especially the faithful of the Ukrainian Greek–Catholic Church on the occasion of the celebration of the 1025th anniversary of the Baptism of Kyivan Rus?

“Christ glorified your Church not only through the testimony of the martyrs but also through a great many other signs, the most valuable of which is the being in union with the Successor of St. Peter to whom Christ entrusted his Church. A triumphant affirmation of this existence in being in union was the Brest Union of 1596 when the hierarchs of the Kyiv Church proclaimed and acknowledged in the person of the Bishop of Rome the successor of St. Peter and the guarantor of this being in union of the only Church of Christ. Disregarding the historical caprices, the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church lasted and immovably remains today in union with the Bishop of Rome. The history of your Church clearly demonstrates to the world the possibility of the unity of Christ’s followers, just as Christ prayed for it before his sufferings.”

“In thanking for the gift of Baptism, received 1025 years ago, I urge you to look with hope towards the future. This Jubilee coincides with the Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI which the Catholic Church celebrates throughout the world. The gift of faith should be preserved in its purity and strength; thus all of us are called to increase our efforts to know better the truths of faith, to live fully through this faith, listening and contemplating the Word of God, glorifying God in the Divine Liturgy and in private prayer, receiving the Holy Sacraments. In responding to the appeal of Pope Francis, let us exert efforts in order to fulfill the commandment of love to our neighbor which was left for us by Christ – a love which is the fruit of faith. Love and faith are the most precious gifts which is necessary to pass on to one’s children. The Gospel of Christ, who resurrected and conquered sin and death, should be proclaimed to all: ***‘Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost’*** (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15
Source: <http://news.ugcc.org.ua>

“Together, we all form the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. That is why all of us need to be “living stones” as we build our parish community, through which the Church is present where we live. Therefore, I encourage all of you: open the doors of your hearts and your homes to Christ, allow His Holy Spirit to transform you, purify and strengthen you in God’s love! And I invite all – laity, religious, and clergy – to the renewal of our church life on our native lands and abroad. Let us move forward, strengthened in God’s grace, and trusting in His Holy Providence, which guides our Church through the ages!” **His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav** (pastoral letter "The Vibrant Parish the place to encounter the Living Christ!")

POPE FRANCIS ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

The path of Mary towards Heaven began with that “yes” pronounced in Nazareth, in response to the celestial Messenger who announced the will of God for her. And in reality it is just like that: every “yes” to God is a step towards Heaven, towards eternal life. Because this is what the Lord wants: that all his children have life in abundance! God wants everyone with Him, in his house!

Unfortunately, painful news has come from Egypt. I wish to ensure my prayers

for all the victims and their families, the injured and all those who are suffering. Let us pray together for peace, dialogue and reconciliation in that dear nation and throughout the world. Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us. Let's all say it, Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

I wish to recall the 25th anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Mulieris dignitatem*, of Blessed Pope John Paul II, on the dignity and vocation of women. This document is full of ideas that deserve to be taken up and developed; it is at the base of all that is the figure of Mary, in fact it was released on the occasion of a Marian Year. Let us make our prayer placed at the end of this Apostolic Letter (cfr. n.31) so that, meditating the biblical mystery of the woman, condensed in Mary, all women will find themselves and the fullness of their vocation, and in the whole Church may deepen and understand more the great and important role of women. I wish you a happy feast today!

HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV CEREMONIOUSLY ANNOUNCED THE BEGINNING OF THE WORK OF THE 2013 UGCC SYNOD OF BISHOPS

His Beatitude Sviatoslav emphasized that the Synod begins “at a historic moment which will never repeat itself.” We pray in the Patriarchal Cathedral as if a bride before the nuptial ceremony – awaiting one’s blessing. Look how bright and white it is,” – turns the Church Primate to the bishops and the laity.

In talking about the topic of the Synod, UCC Head noted that the central issue will be “how to make a contemporary person see, how to share faith, how we, the faithful of the 21st century, can carry on the Word of God in the current culture. His Beatitude Sviatoslav asked the Greek– Catholic faithful to pray for the Synod. “Let us pray that the Holy Spirit, regardless of our sins and weaknesses, acts at this gathering of the bishops so that we can pass good resolutions of the Synod, that this meeting of the bishops be a time of the special presence among us of the Resurrected Christ – that Christ whose mosaic we see on the façade of the Patriarchal Cathedral.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary be our teacher and leader in the sermons of the Word of God to the current man,” said the preacher. According to him, the Synod will pray to Jesus Christ, so that he blesses us, our people, our Church, our nation, so that we become believers fully with the words of faith to our neighbours.

The Apostolic Nuncio to Ukraine Thomas Edward Gallickson noted that as a representative of the Pope he has the honour to stand next to the Greek–Catholic faithful before the throne of God’s Greatness in order to beseech for the gift of the presence of the Holy Spirit for the discussions of the Synod issues which begins today. He also “assured all of the blessings of the Holy Father,” all the Greek–Catholics, the work of the Synod, the celebration of the 1025th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus–Ukraine and the Blessing of the Patriarchal Cathedral.

The main topic of the Synod – “Ukrainian Greek–Catholic Church and the New Evangelization.”

POPE FRANCIS URGES BOTH CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS TO PROMOTE MUTUAL RESPECT

Pope Francis on Sunday urged Christians and Muslims to promote mutual respect, especially through the education of new generations. His remarks came at the end of his Angelus address when he sent greetings to Muslims throughout the world who have just celebrated the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Addressing the pilgrims directly, Pope Francis asked them two questions, "do you have a heart with a wish or do you have a closed heart, a sleeping heart, a heart that is anesthetized." His second question for the pilgrims was: "Where is your treasure", what for you is the most important and precious reality that attracts your heart like a magnet?" "Is it" he asked, "God's love which is the desire to do good to others and live for the Lord?" Pope Francis went on to describe how God's love keeps a family united and gives meaning to our daily tasks and also helps us to face up to the big challenges. This, he declared, is the true treasure for mankind. God's love is not something vague and generic, "it has a name and a face, Jesus Christ." The Pope said, "God's love gives value and beauty to every human activity" and it gives meaning to negative experiences. That is because God's love allows us to move beyond those experiences and not remain prisoners of evil but also be open to hope and the final destination of our pilgrimage.

September 1 – The Beginning of the Church Year

The First Ecumenical Council [Nicaea, 325] decreed that the Church year should begin on September 1. The month of September was, for the Hebrews, the beginning of the civil year (Exodus 23:16), the month of gathering the harvest and of the offering of thanks to God. It was on this feast that the Lord Jesus entered the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:16–21), opened the book of the Prophet Isaiah and read the words: The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn (Isaiah 61:1–2).

The month of September is also important in the history of Christianity, because Emperor Constantine the Great was victorious over Maxentius, the enemy of the Christian Faith, in September. Following this victory, Constantine granted freedom of confession to the Christian Faith throughout the Roman Empire. For a long time, the civil year in the Christian world followed the Church year, with its beginning on September 1. The civil year was later changed, and its beginning transferred to January 1. This occurred first in Western Europe, and later in Ukraine, under Peter the Great.

The Liturgical Year and Its Purpose

The Church has its own calendar, or year, called the Liturgical Year. The Liturgical Year is the annual cycle of sacred seasons and feasts, Sundays and ferial (week) days, in the form of public worship, centered in the Holy Sacrifice of the Liturgy and the

Divine Office. This yearly cycle, called also the Ecclesiastical or Church Year, presents the story of our redemption in dramatic form. The Church, with the faithful as participants re-enacts the life of Christ and, at the same time, unfolds a summary of our entire faith.

The sacred drama of the Liturgical Year presents the history of God's eternal love and the human race. It reminds us of the events of the Old and New Testaments, of the coming of the Holy Spirit, and of the founding of the Church. It traces the life and suffering of the Church to the end of the world, to Christ's second coming, and into eternity.

Jesus Christ is the Central Figure of the Liturgical Year

Jesus Christ is the central figure of the Ecclesiastical Year; hence besides the many holidays, every Sunday is dedicated to our Divine Saviour. The holiest of all people after our Lord is the Blessed Virgin Mary; hence, we have many holidays in her honour. Easter is the greatest event in the life of Christ; hence, every Sunday is dedicated to His glorious Resurrection.

The Saints Prove that Everyone Can Become a Saint

The other days of the year are dedicated to the saints, who were and are benefactors of the Church; because, through their intercessions before God, they obtain graces for their brothers and sisters on earth.

The Church wishes to recall their lives and deeds to induce the faithful to imitate them in their everyday lives; so that, they, in this manner, may conform their lives to the Divine Exemplar or perfection, Jesus Christ. By imitating the saints, the faithful become living images of the Son of God, to Whom all must be conformed, if they wish to save their souls and merit eternal life.

All Christians are Called to Holiness

"Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48) By these words of Christ, we are commanded to be holy. If He commanded it, then it must be possible; for God cannot command us to do the impossible. These words were not meant for priests and religious only, but for all Christians, without discrimination. The saints of every walk of life have proven that all can be holy. Saint Augustine, one of the great teachers of the Church, said the examples of the saints inspired him to strive for perfection, and to overcome his unruly passions. He said, "If they could do it, so can I!" And he did, and so can we!

DO YOU LIVE IN GREATER VANCOUVER?

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? HAS IT BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU WERE HERE? Do not hesitate to introduce yourselves to Fr. Josaphat.

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