



**Українська Католицька Парафія
Покров Пресвятої Богородиці**

**Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Parish**

550 West 14 Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1P6

Phone: 604.879.5830 Fax: 604.874.2727

E-Mail: office@stmarysbc.com

Website: www.stmarysbc.com

*“Today the Virgin stands before us in the temple,
And together with the choirs of saints prays to God for us.”*

5 січня, 2025

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January 5, 2025

Служби Божі/Divine Liturgies

Неділя/Sunday: 8:30 am English
10:30 am Ukrainian

У Свята/Holy Day of Obligation

10:00 am

Щодня/Daily (Mon-Sat)

7:30 am in Chapel

Сповідь/Confessions

Before both Sunday Divine Liturgies
By appointment during the week

Baptism by appointment

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

Marriages - the arrangements with the priest
must be made at least 6 months before the
marriage

Funerals - by arrangement

Basilian Fathers serving the Parish

Fr. Joseph Pidskalny, OSBM - Administrator

Неділя перед Богоявлінням



Sunday before Theophany

2 Timothy 4:5-8
Mark 1:1-8

Welcome! The Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish welcomes everyone to our Sunday Divine Liturgy. Thank you for worshipping with us today. Your presence is a blessing to us.

Blessing of water will take place at the conclusion of the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Coffee and sweets following the 8:30 and 10:30 am Divine Liturgies. Please join us.

Hymns at the 10:30 Divine Liturgy

Opening: page 52: Во Вифлеємі нині новина; Vo Vyfleyemi nuni novyna

Communion: page 68: На небі зірка; Na nebi zirka

Closing: page 120: Бог ся нам об'явив; Boh sia nam obyavyy

Tickets for our Parish Christmas Dinner (Sunday, January 12) will be available in the church vestibule following both Divine Liturgies. Cut-off date for tickets: January 8th.

Monday, January 6: Feast of Theophany - Jordan (Holy Day of Obligation)

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy and Blessing of water

Home Blessings: If you wish to have your home blessed please contact the parish office.

Mrs. Rose Ostopowich (Fr. Joe's mother) has recently been diagnosed with leukemia and is now in hospice care. Please keep the Ostopowich Family in your prayers.

In Appreciation

Christ is born! Христос Рождається!

This is to express my thanks to all who attended my ordination to the Subdiaconate on Sunday, December 29. Your prayers, cards, gifts and kind wishes marking this moment in my life are deeply appreciated.

I wish to especially thank Bishop Michael Kwiatkowski for conferring the Subdiaconate, Fr. Joseph for functioning as Archdeacon and presenting me to Bishop, Fr. Mykhaylo for making arrangements at Holy Eucharist Cathedral, and Subdeacon Ryan and Acolytes that stood beside me at the ceremony.

Thanks to the members of St. Mary's UCWLC, as well as, Brother Knights and Sir Knights, and family members and friends that were present or watched by live stream.

And most of all, to my dear sons and their wives - my heart is grateful for all of your love, understanding and encouragement sustaining me on the journey toward the Diaconate.

In Christ,
Adrian Kopystynski

UCWLC AGM Meeting

Saturday, January 18: 9:30 am: UCWLC AGM Meeting followed by a general meeting. All Executive must have written report ready. Committee heads to have reports-verbal or written.

Ladies, please try to attend as there are a few items to discuss and to elect a new executive. See you then. President: Marlayne Andrijaszyn

Parish Christmas Dinner

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Divine Liturgies: 8:30 am & 10:30 am

12:00 Noon: Parish Dinner in the Auditorium

Catered Dinner

Tickets: Advance purchase only

Weekday - Parish Office: 604.879.5830

Sunday - following the Divine Liturgies on January 5

Cut-off date for ticket purchase: January 8, 2025

Adults & Seniors (60+): \$25 / Children & Youth (6-19): \$15

Children 5 & under: no charge

No walk-ins at the door

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January 2025

For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Frozen Pyrohy (Perogies)

Frozen pyrohy (perogies) will be available for purchase after both Sunday Divine Liturgies in the Fellowship Room kitchen. \$10/dozen.

GO DRY January

Canadian Cancer Society Fundraiser St Mary's Church Team

"Go Dry January" is a cancer fundraiser that challenges you to go alcohol-free for 31 days. It is a good start to the year which helps you get healthy while also raising funds to make a difference for Canadians affected by cancer.

You can donate on-line at www.godry.ca or by making out a cheque to **CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY** and putting it in the Sunday collection plate, along with your name and address. Cash can be given in the same way. Tax receipts are issued for any donation \$20 or more. St Mary's team hopes to raise \$10,000. We need your continued support.

Blessing with Holy Water

Why do we use water to bless ourselves when we enter Church and to bless our homes, cars, places of business, etc.? We know that we need to use water for baptisms, but how did the Church start using separate, blessed holy water for these other things? After all, in the earliest times of the Church baptisms took place in rivers, streams, and lakes, so they didn't have large containers full of holy water in their churches. In fact, since Christianity was illegal, they didn't even have churches in most places.

The Church probably used holy water from the earliest days since water was used in Jewish homes for purification, and the earliest Christians were mostly Jews. However, the earliest recorded use of holy water is from the fourth century. It's a blessing of water to protect from disease, evil spirits, and all sickness or ailments. As soon as Christianity was legalized, churches began keeping the water from baptisms for people to use throughout the year. In the seventh century we begin to have records of churches keeping water at the entrance of the Church for people to bless themselves with or to take home with them.

Today, we use holy water for basically the same reasons. We bless ourselves, our homes, and our religious articles with holy water to ask God to purify them, to protect them from demonic influence, and to bestow His grace on them. When we bless ourselves with holy water whenever we enter Church, we are doing at least two things. First, we are reminding ourselves of our baptism, through which we first entered the Church and became children of God. Second, we are asking God to purify us of sin and fill us with His grace. We recognize that we are entering a holy place and ask God to make us worthy to enter his house.

Holy Water is a sacramental, not a sacrament. Sacraments, like baptism, work in and of themselves because of the power that God has given them. Sacramentals require the faith of the person using them to have an effect. If we just bless ourselves with holy water without really thinking about it, but just because that's what we always do, then it's not having much of an effect. So, every time you enter a Church and bless yourself with the holy water, ask God to stir up the graces of baptism in your soul, to forgive your sins, and to fill you with His lifegiving grace.

