

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS PARISH UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

13753 - 108TH AVENUE, SURREY, BC V3T 2K6
PARISH ADMINISTERED BY: REV. ANDRII CHORNENKYI

УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА ПАРАФІЯ ВОЗДВИЖЕННЯ ЧЕСНОГО ХРЕСТА

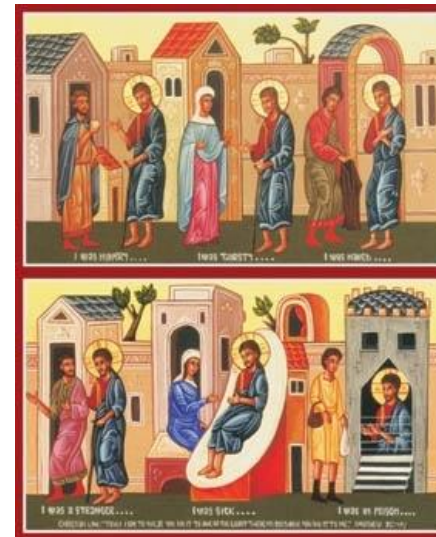
PARISH BULLETIN № 5. JANUARY 31, 2016 A.D.



SUNDAY OF MEATFARE

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

The Sunday of the Last Judgment gives the 3rd piece of important information to us in our preparation for Great Lent. We have learned that to be saved one must not judge others, and feel the weight of personal sins and ask God for mercy. We have seen the process of repentance, from the onset of sin, its destructive affects, self-realization of sin, and the importance process to "arise and go" to our Father, and the critical detail, without which we would never complete our repentance and be saved – our Father will go to us, as we are trying to change, and comfort us and empower us to complete the good work we have started.



Today's Gospel about the last judgment shows the end result of true repentance, and also the "flip side" – the outcome for those who do not repent. It is a frightening spectacle, and not a pleasant one to meditate upon, but absolute necessary for us to remember. Lets us talk about how Jesus Christ came the first time, how His second coming will be, and what we must do to hear the blessed words: " Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world".

This Sunday sets before us the eschatological dimension of Lent: the Great Fast is a preparation for the Second Coming of the Savior, for the eternal Passover in the Age to Come, a theme that is also the focus of the first three days of Holy Week. But the judgment is not only in the future. Here and now, each day and each hour, in hardening our hearts toward others and in failing to respond to the opportunities we are given of helping them, we are already passing judgment on ourselves.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY
COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP ARE IN OUR PARISH HALL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY

Troparion, Tone 3: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,* for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm.* He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead;* He saved us from the abyss of Hades* and granted great mercy to the world.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 1: When You come on earth, O God, in glory,* and the universe trembles,* while the river of fire flows before the seat of judgement,* and the books are opened and all secrets disclosed,* then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,* and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand,* O Judge who are most just.

Prokeimenon, Tone 3 Great is our Lord and great is His strength,* and of His knowledge there is no end.
verse: Praise the Lord, for a psalm is good; may praise be sweet to Him. (Psalm 146:5,1)

A Reading from the first Epistle of St Paul to the Corinthians (8:8-9:2) Brothers and Sisters, “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Alleluia, Tone 8:
verse: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Saviour.
verse: Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms. (Psalm 94:1,2)

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 The Lord said, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his

Тропар (глас 3): Нехай веселяться небеснії, нехай радуються земляни,* бо показав владу рукою Своєю Господь,* Він смертю смерть подолав,* первістоком з-поміж мертвих став,* визволив нас із глибин аду,* і подав світові велику милість.

Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові і нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

Кондак (глас 1): Коли прийдеш, Боже, на землю зо славою* і затрепече все,* а ріка вогненна потече перед судищем,* і книги розгортаються, і таємне з’являється,* – тоді ізбав мене від вогню негасимого* і сподоби мене праворуч тебе стати,* Судде найправедніший.

Прокімен (глас 3): Великий Господь наш і велика сила його,* і розумові його немає міри.
Стих: Хваліте Господа, бо благий псалом, Богові нашому нехай солодке буде хваління.

До Коринтян першого послання Св. Апостола Павла читання (8,8-9,2): Браття і Сестри, страва не зближує нас до Бога: коли не їмо, не втрачаємо нічого, ані коли їмо, не набуваємо нічого. Але глядіть, щоб оця ваша свобода не стала причиною падіння для слабких. Бо коли хтось побачить тебе, що маєш знання, як ти у капищі сів за стіл, то чи ж його сумління, бувши слабке, не буде заохочене їсти ідольські жертви? Таким то чином твоє знання погубить немічного брата, за якого Христос помер. Грішивши так проти братів і ранивши їх слабовите сумління, ви грішите проти Христа. Тому, якщо страва призводить брата мого до гріха, повік не буду їсти м’яса, щоб не спокушувати мого брата. Хіба я не вільний? Хіба я не апостол? Хіба я Ісуса, Господа нашого, не бачив? Хіба ви не моє діло у Господі? Коли іншим я не апостол, то бодай вам, бо ви, у Господі, є достовірним доказом мого апостольства.

Алилуя (глас 8):
Стих: Прийдіте, возрадуємося Господеві, воскликнім Богу, Спасителеві нашому (Пс 94,1).
Стих: Ідім перед лицем його з ісповіданням і псалмами воскликніть йому (Пс 94,2).

Євангеліє (Мт 25,31-46): Сказав Господь: “Якже прийде Син Чоловічий у своїй славі, й ангели всі з ним, тоді він сяде на престолі своєї слави. І зберуться перед ним усі народи, і він відлучить їх одних від одних, як пастух відлучує овець від козлів; і поставить овець праворуч себе, а козлів ліворуч. Тоді цар скаже тим, що праворуч нього: Прийдіть, благословенні Отця мого, візьміть у спадщину Царство, що було приготоване вам від створення світу. Бо я голодував, і ви дали мені їсти; мав спрагу, і ви мене напоїли; чужинцем був, і ви мене прийняли; нагий, і ви мене одягли; хворий, і ви навідались до мене; у тюрмі був, і ви прийшли до мене. Тоді озвуться праведні до нього: Господи, коли ми бачили тебе голодним і нагодували, спрагненим і напоїли? Коли ми бачили тебе чужинцем і прийняли, або нагим і одягнули? Коли ми бачили тебе недужим чи в тюрмі й прийшли до тебе? А цар, відповідаючи їм, скаже: Істинно кажу вам: усе, що ви зробили одному з моїх братів найменших – ви мені зробили. Тоді скаже й тим, що ліворуч: Ідіть від мене геть, прокляті, в вогонь вічний, приготований дияволіві й ангелам його; бо голодував я, і ви не дали мені їсти; мав спрагу, і ви мене не

angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Instead of: It is truly... O God-bearing Virgin, hope of Christians, protect and guard and save all those who put their trust in you.

Irmos, Tone 3: In the law, the shadow, and the scriptures, we the faithful see a figure: every male child that opens the womb shall be sanctified to God. Therefore do we magnify the first-born Word and Son of the Father who is without beginning, the firstborn Child of a Mother who had not known man.

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest. (Psalm 148:1)* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;* praise befits the righteous.* Alleluia (3x)..

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

✱ **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who came last Wednesday to help the Ladies with making perogies. May God reward you and your dear ones with many blessings!

✱ **LENTEN MISSION.** All are welcome for our Four-Parish Lower Mainland Lenten Mission with Right Reverend Lawrence George Stephen Gosselin. *Father Lawrence is a priest of the Melkite Greek-Catholic Eparchy of Newton in the United States and a hieromonk. He is a retired military chaplain and presently serves as the chaplain to the Romanian Greek-Catholic nuns of Holy Theophany Monastery in Olympia, Washington.*

SCHEDULE

Monday, February 15th, at the Dormition of the Mother of God parish, Richmond.

6:00pm - 6:30pm: Time for Confessions

6:30pm – 7:00pm: Vespers Service

7:00pm – 1st Session (Followed by refreshments)

Tuesday, February 16th, at the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish, Vancouver.

6:00pm - 6:30pm: Time for Confessions

6:30pm - 7:00pm: Akathist to the Sufferings of Jesus Christ

7:00pm – 2nd Session (Followed by refreshments)

Wednesday, February 17th, at the Exaltation of the Holy Cross parish, Surrey.

6:00pm – 7:00pm: Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (Confession during the Service)

7:00pm – 3rd Session (Followed by refreshments)

Thursday, February 18th, at the Holy Eucharist Cathedral, New Westminster.

6:00pm - 6:30pm: Time for Confessions

6:30pm - 7:00pm: Service of the 9th Hour

7:00pm – 4th Session (Followed by refreshments)

напоїли; був чужинцем, і ви мене не прийняли; нагим, і ви мене не одягнули; недужим і в тюрмі, і не навідались до мене. Тоді озвуться і ті, кажучи: Господи, коли ми бачили тебе голодним або спраглим, чужинцем або нагим, недужим або в тюрмі, і тобі не послужили? А він відповість їм: Істинно кажу вам: те, чого ви не зробили одному з моїх братів найменших – мені також ви того не зробили. І підуть ті на вічну кару, а праведники – на життя вічне.”

Замість Достойно: Богородице Діво, уповання християн, покрій, захорони і спаси тих, що на тебе уповають.

Ірмос (глас 3): В законі тіні і писання образ бачимо, вірні: кожний младець мужеського полу, що отвирає утробу – святий Богу. Тому первороджене Слово безначального Отця – Сина, що первородиться з матері, яка мужа не знає, – величаємо.

Причасний: Хваліте Господа з небес,* хваліте Його на висотах (Пс 148,1).* Радуйтеся, праведні, у Господі,* правим належить похвала (Пс 32,1). Алилуя (х3).

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



✱ **TODAY - ROSARY SUNDAY WITH THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.** All parishioners are invited to stay after the Divine Liturgy and pray the Rosary with the Knights of Columbus.

To help bring parishioners together in a spiritual activity and promote devotion to Mary, the Knights of Columbus Supreme council has announced a new church activity, the 5th Sunday Rosary Program. Knights, their families and other

parishioners are encouraged to pray the rosary every time a 5th Sunday occurs during a month.

✱ **ANNUAL PARISH GENERAL MEETING** will take place on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21TH, 2016.** The meeting will follow the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. **On that Sunday we will celebrate only one Divine Liturgy (Bilingual). PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING**

✱ **SUNDAYS DONATION:** January 17th, 2016 - \$ 421

✱ **SPECIAL PETITION DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY:** We also pray to be blessed with generous hearts to contribute to our Bishop’s initiatives and programmes, such as: the support of parishes, the education of parishioners, and the formation of seminarians, Lord hear us and have mercy.

✱ **BIG THANK YOU** to **ANNA BOHUTSKA** for two beautiful handmade embroidered rushnyky (towels) donated to our parish. May God reward Mrs. BOHUTSKA and her Family with many heavenly blessings!

✱ **PLEASE REMEMBER** the sick and infirmed of our Parish in your prayers: JANETTE OUCHARECK, JOE OSTROWERCHA, LANCE DE SILVA, HENRY MARTIN, MARY SHEMLEY, MIKE HAWKEN, VICTORIA HITCHIN, MARY LITWIN, PATRICIA and ERNEST PYLYPOW, STELLA SYRNYK, STELLA ANDRUSIAK and those who have asked us pray for them. Let us also remember our sisters and brothers in Ukraine, those throughout the world in our prayers and those who are celebrating birthdays in the month of January!

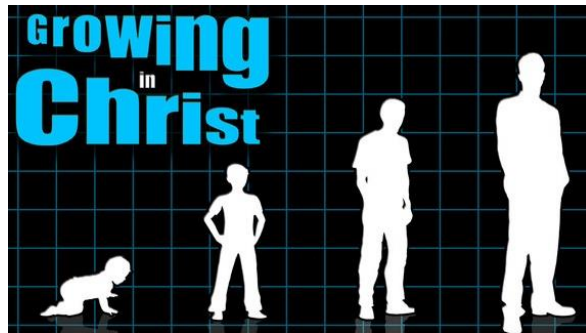
✿ **REMINDER FOR FAMILIES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.** If you or family member is admitted to hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call the rectory to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation restricts the information that can be given to him by the hospital.

✿ May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in Many Happy and Blessed Years of Life to **MONIQUE PYLYPOW** who celebrated her Birthday. Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!

✿ **TAX RECEIPT:** To ensure that you receive a tax receipt for your church donations please make sure you name or envelope number is put with your donation.

✿ **GREAT FAST 2016** – will begin on Monday, February 8th.

✿ **BEQUESTS AND WILLS:** Leaving a bequest is a process of giving a donation through your will. It is simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization through your last will and testament. It can be as small or as large a donation as you wish. It is important that you talk to your lawyer about the process. In your kindness please remember the Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in your bequests and wills. If anyone wishes to make such a bequest in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to the Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Parish - 13753 108 Ave, Surrey, BC., the sum of \$_ (or _% of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the parish and its pastoral activities."



**OFFICE OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
EPARCHY OF NEW WESTMINSTER**

INVITES

**RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST
SESSION 4 with LEAH SMIGEL**

GROWING IN CHRIST

We are to grow in our spiritual

relationship with Christ

just as we grow in our physical bodies

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2016

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS PARISH, SURREY

(13753 108 Avenue, Surrey BC, V3T 2K6)

FROM 7:00 PM TILL 8:30 PM

(refreshments available)

✿ **OLGC PRESCHOOL BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE** For kids 2 ½ to 12 years old at 10504 139th Street, Surrey. For more info, call Lenny at 604.581.3225

✿ **VALENTINE'S DINNER AND DANCE** Mark your calendars for Surrey Delta Pro-Life's Annual Valentine's Dinner and Dance taking place on Saturday, February 6, 2016, at the Cloverdale Catholic Parish Centre (17475 - 59 Ave, Surrey). The Dutchmans will be catering the event and entertainment will be provided again by The Pat Chessell Band. Tickets for this event are \$35 each for adults and \$20 each for university/college students. Tickets make a great birthday or anniversary gift. Contact SDPL at 604- 574-0225 to purchase or reserve your tickets.

NEWS



Office of the Bishop

**To the Very Rev. and Rev. Clergy, Religious
and Lay-Faithful of the Eparchy of New Westminster**

20 January 2016

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This more than a year ago our Eparchy held a special meeting – our Eparchial Sobor. Our Eparchial delegates examined how we can best live the spirit of the pastoral letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav titled "The Vibrant Parish – a place to encounter the Living Christ". Later on, delegates from all of our Eparchies in the world (including our own) gathered in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine to hold our world-wide Sobor. At both our Eparchial Sobor and the world-wide Sobor the six elements of the pastoral letter were discussed. One of the elements of the Vibrant Parish is of course "diakonia" or put in another way, service to others. In this letter about the Vibrant Parish His Beatitude reminds all of us about the Christian act of charity and to be in solidarity with those in need. He wrote that ...

"...an important element, which expresses the inner nature of the Church and reveals the vibrancy of a parish is diakonia, which means serving in love or performing "charitable activity." This service to our neighbor flows from our rootedness in Christ. Active love of neighbor is the vocation and task of each Christian without exception. It is only faith, acting in love, which leads us to salvation (see Gal. 5:6). Faith without works is dead (see James 2:26). "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mat. 25:40), – says the Lord Jesus.

On December 8th, last year, His Holiness Pope Francis proclaimed a special year of Jubilee for the world – a Year of Mercy. He has encouraged each bishop, each parish priest and every lay-faithful

to take this Jubilee Year of Mercy and find ways that we can express in real concrete ways God’s mercy, and that certainly means showing mercy to others.

Each year our Eparchy along with all the other Ukrainian Catholic Eparchies in North America receives requests from our Church in Ukraine for financial assistance for very worthy causes and endeavors in Ukraine. As has been our Eparchial custom for the last few years, during the Great Fast/Lent we take time to remember our sisters and brothers in Ukraine who are in need and though our donations we show that we stand in solidarity with them.

In St. John’s 1st Letter, he reminds the early Christian church that if anyone has the world’s goods and sees their brother or sister in need yet closes their heart against them, how does God’s live abide in them?

While there are no doubt many worthy causes to donate our funds to in Ukraine, our Eparchy has identified the following beneficiaries for our donations:

- **Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv** This is the only Ukrainian Catholic University in Ukraine. It is pivotal to the future needs of the leaders of Ukrainian society. Today more than ever, we need to support a free and honest educational endeavourer in Ukraine and certainly, the Ukrainian Catholic University is worthy of our support.
- **Caritas Ukraine** Caritas Ukraine continues to be the main charities organization of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine providing social care to the needy of Ukraine in the area of humanitarian aid, clothing distribution, street children’s assistance programs, HIV & AIDS programs, anti-trafficking in people programs, emergency aid, home-care programs and much more. Since the Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine and the invasion of Ukraine’s Eastern territories almost two million people have been internally displaced. Caritas Ukraine along with partner organizations is attempting to meet the challenges this has brought to Ukrainian society by providing housing, meals, and rehabilitation to these families.
- **Holy Resurrection Sobor in Kyiv** The building project is on going and the interior artwork has begun. This Cathedral is meant to be not just for our Ukrainian Catholics in Kyiv, but indeed the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral for all of us.
- **Andrew’s Pence** The Head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, our Patriarch has many requests for financial support from our Ukrainian Catholic communities of faithful in the poorest areas of Eastern Europe and in the East, in places like Kazakhstan, Siberia, etc. These communities are often located in areas where the local or national governments are not at all supportive. They rely heavily on assistance from their sisters and brothers in the other areas where our Church faithful live, like right here in British Columbia. Our donations to Andrew’s Pence assist the Patriarch in providing financial support for these far away and often desolate communities.
- **Synod Administration Fund** Each Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church throughout our world is asked to assist in the administrative and operational costs of the Synodal

Offices in Kyiv. As members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church our Eparchy is assessed a sum of around \$10.000 annually. Your contributions will assist us in our Synodal Administrative Fund assessment.

In order to assist you in deciding to how much you are able to donate to these worthy causes I have let you know something about them and what your donations will help with. The envelopes provided allow you to indicate the amount as well as to which fund(s) you would like your donation to be given to.

If you would like to receive a tax receipt for your donation, please make the cheque payable to your own parish (ie: Holy Eucharist Cathedral, or St. Nicholas Parish) and a tax receipt will be issued to you directly from your parish. Your parish treasurer will then send a cheque made out to the Eparchy of New Westminster for the total amount collected and indicate the amounts and to whom the collected amount is to be given to. The Eparchy will then add together the amounts collected from each parish and to whom/which organization the donation is to be given to.

I completely endorse and recommend to you dear Sisters and Brothers that the organizations listed above in this letter. They are truly worthy causes and those in charge will use wisely our donations. Along with your donations, I would ask for your prayerful support of those who work in the service of our Church in Ukraine, bringing the Good News of Our Lord’s love and salvation to them. So, Dearly Beloved in Christ, if you can find it in your heart and bank accounts to make a donation, please do so. May the blessing of Our Lord be upon you for your generosity.

I am designating the Sundays of February 21th and 28th of the Great Fast (Lent) for our Eparchial Collection in favour of the needs of our Church in Ukraine. I would ask that this letter along with special envelopes be distributed to our Faithful in our parish bulletins on Sundays February 7th and 14th so that they may prepare themselves for the donation. If for good reason they will be absent from the Divine Liturgy on February 21th and 28th they can make their contribution either prior to the general collection date or by the end of the Great Fast (Lent).

I would like to ask that our parishes provide the funds collected noting the amounts for the various projects be sent to our office no later than Monday 25 April so that we can send these funds to the appropriate organizations by the first week of May of this year.

I am uniting my prayers with those of yours in our journey through the Great Fast (Lent) to the joyful celebration of Our Lord’s Holy Resurrection on Easter Sunday!

Sincerely yours in the Lord,
+Ken
Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit." — D. Elton Trueblood, American author, educator, philosopher and theologian



POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On Mercy

Today we begin catecheses on *mercy according to the biblical perspective*, in order to learn mercy by listening to what God Himself teaches us with His Word. We begin from the *Old Testament*, which prepares and leads us to the full revelation of Jesus Christ who, in an accomplished way, reveals the Father's mercy.

The Lord is presented in Sacred Scriptures as "*merciful God*." And this is His name, through which He reveals to us, so to speak, His face and His heart. He Himself, as narrated in the Book of Exodus, on revealing Himself to Moses describes Himself

thus: "*The Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness*" (34:6). We find this formula also in other texts, with some variation, but always the stress is put on mercy and on the love of God who never tires of forgiving (cf. Jonah 4:2; Joel 2:13; *Psalm* 86:15; 103:8; *Nehemiah* 9:17). Let us look together, one by one, at these words of Sacred Scripture that speak to us of God.

The Lord is "*merciful*": this word evokes an attitude of tenderness as that of a mother in dealing with her child. In fact, the Hebrew term used by the Bible makes one think of the insides or even the maternal womb. Therefore, the image it suggests is that of a God that *is moved and becomes tender for us* as a mother when she takes her child in her arms, desirous only of loving, protecting, and helping, ready to give everything, even herself. This is the image that this term suggests. A love, therefore, that can be described as "visceral" in the good sense.

Written then is that the Lord is "*gracious*," in the sense that He gives grace, has compassion and, in His greatness, bends over one who is weak and poor, *always ready to receive, to understand, to forgive*. He is like the father of the parable reported in Luke's Gospel (cf. *Luke* 15:11-32): a father who does not shut himself in resentment because of the younger son's abandonment but, on the contrary, continues to wait for him — he has generated him. And then he runs to meet and embrace him, he does not even let him finish his confession — as if he covered his mouth — so great is his love and joy for having found him again. And then he also goes to call his older son, who is angry and does not want to celebrate, and yet the father bends over him and invites him to come in, he tries to open his heart to love, so that no one remains excluded from the celebration of mercy. Mercy is a celebration!

Said also of this merciful God is that He is "*slow to anger*," literally, "*in the long term*," that is wide-ranging in long suffering and the capacity to endure. God is able to wait, and His times are not the impatient ones of men. He is like the wise farmer that is able to wait, gives time to the good seed to grow, despite the darnel (cf. *Matthew* 13:24-30).

And, finally, the Lord proclaims Himself "*abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness*." How lovely is this description of God! Everything is here, because God is great and powerful, but His greatness and power are displayed in loving us, we who are so little, so incapable. The word "*love*" used here indicates *affection, grace and goodness*. It is not the love of soap operas ... It is love that takes the first step, which does not depend on human merits but is of immense gratuitousness. It is the divine solicitude that nothing can stop, not even sin, because it is able to go beyond sin, to overcome evil and forgive it.

A "*faithfulness*" without limits: here is the last word of God's revelation to Moses. God's faithfulness never fails. Because the Lord is the Guardian that, as the Psalm says, does not fall asleep but watches constantly over us to lead us to life:

"He will not allow your foot to slip; or your guardian to sleep.

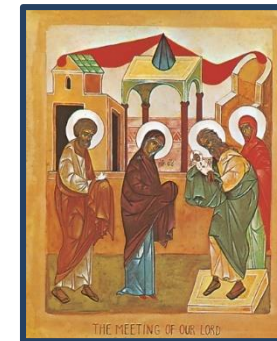
Behold, the guardian of Israel never slumbers nor sleeps.

[...]

The LORD will guard you from all evil; he will guard your soul.

The LORD will guard your coming and going both now and forever." (121:3-4.7-8).

And this merciful God is faithful in His mercy and Saint Paul says a lovely thing: if you are not faithful to Him, He will remain faithful because he cannot deny Himself. Faithfulness in mercy is proper to God's being. And therefore God is totally and always trustworthy — a solid and stable presence. This is the certainty of our faith. And then, in this Jubilee of Mercy, we entrust ourselves totally to Him, and experience the joy of being loved by this "God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."



FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER

Forty days after Christ was born he was presented to God in the Jerusalem Temple according to the Mosaic Law. At this time as well his mother Mary underwent the ritual purification and offered the sacrifices as prescribed in the Law. Thus, forty days after Christmas, on the second of February, the Church celebrates the feast of the presentation called the **Encounter** (or **Presentation** or **Reception**) of the Lord.

The meeting of Christ by the elder Simeon and the prophetess Anna is the main event of the feast of Christ's presentation in the Temple. It was "revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before

he had seen the Lord's Christ" and, inspired by the same Spirit, he came to the Temple where he met the new-born Messiah, took him in his arms and said the words which are now chanted each evening at the end of the Orthodox Vesper service: *Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel* (Lk 2:29-32).

Anna also was present and, giving thanks to God "she spoke of Jesus to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem". In the service of the feast of the Meeting of the Lord, the fact emphasized is that Christ, the Son and Word of God through whom the world was created, now is held as an infant in Simeon's hands; this same Son of God, the Giver of the Law, now himself fulfills the Law, carried in arms as a human child.

The celebration of the Meeting of the Lord in the Church is not merely an historical commemoration. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Simeon, and led by the same Spirit into the Church of the Messiah, the members of the Church also can claim their own "meeting" with the Lord, and so also can witness that they too can "depart in peace" since their eyes have seen the salvation of God in the person of his Christ.

It is customary in many churches to bless candles on the feast of the Meeting of the Lord.

PRAYER FOR THE 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 forever and ever. Amen!

HOLY MYSTERIES (SACRAMENTS)

CONFESSION:	on Sundays and Holy Days: 30 min before Liturgy other days, by appointment
HOLY COMMUNION:	for the sick, by appointment, any time
BAPTISM:	by appointment
MARRIAGES:	by appointment
FUNERALS:	by appointment

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK FEBRUARY 02 - FEBRUARY 07

TUE. FEB 02	09:00 AM	THE FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER
WED. FEB 03	09:00 AM	Beatrice Benoit
THR. FEB 04	09:00 AM	Rita Wheeler
FRI. FEB 05	09:00 AM	Rita Wheeler
SUN. FEB 07	08:30 AM	ROSERY (ENG)
	09:00 AM	DIVINE LITURGY (ENG)
	10:30 AM	JESUS PRAYER (UKR)
	11:00 AM	DIVINE LITURGY (UKR)

Please note: parish members requesting the celebration of a Divine Liturgy for a special intention (such as: Thanksgiving, the Infirm, General Intentions, the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, etc.), please see Fr. Andrii to arrange for it.

Big thanks to all our parishioners, guests, visitors and all people of the good will who by their kindness, time, generous donations, look after and support our parish.
May God bless you and your dear ones always!

CONTACT US

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