



## *Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church*

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### *Celebration of the Holy Mysteries*

**RECITATION OF THE HOLY ROSARY AND CONFESSIONS:** ½ HR BEFORE DIVINE LITURGY

**BAPTISM & CHRISMATION / ANNOINTING OF THE SICK / COMMUNION CALLS & VISITATIONS:**  
CONTACT FR. IHOR TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION:**  
CONTACT FR. IHOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO SETTING THE ACTUAL WEDDING DATE

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN:**  
CONTACT MRS. CHRISTINA VOGEL AT (603) 686-2092 TO REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN

**SCHEDULE OF DIVINE LITURGIES:**  
SUNDAYS: 10 AM (September thru May)      MON THRU SAT: AS NOTED IN WEEKLY BULLETIN  
                  9 AM (June thru August)              HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: 7 PM

### **DIVINE LITURGY AND VESPERS SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF APRIL 21, 2024**

#### **Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday of the Paralytic**

Divine Liturgy: 10 AM

Propers: Festal Tones

Vestments: Bright

Epistle: Acts 9: 32-42

Gospel: St. John 5: 1-15

Intention: For all Parishioners

**Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> (7 PM):** Vespers Service

## ***Divine Liturgy Intentions and Vespers Service Schedule for April and May***

**Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> (10 AM):** For all Parishioners

**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> (7 PM):** Vespers Service

**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> (10 AM):** Julian Calendar Easter – For all Parishioners followed by blessing of Easter baskets

**Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> (7 PM):** Ascension Thursday (Holy Day of Obligation)

**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> (7 PM):** Vespers Service

**Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> (10 AM):** For all Parishioners

**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> (10 AM):** For the blessed repose of the soul of +Stefan Maksymowych with Panakhyda, offered by the Maksymowych Family

**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> (7 PM):** Vespers Service

**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> (10 AM):** For all Parishioners

**Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> (10 AM):** For the blessed repose of the soul of +Fr. Roman Dyky with Panakhyda, offered by PBVM Parish Family

**Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> (7 PM):** Vespers Service

**Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> (10 AM):** For all Parishioners

### **Saturday Services**

Fr. Ihor is celebrating Vesper services every Saturday at 7 PM. All parishioners are invited to attend this service. Those who wish to have a Divine Liturgy celebrated for a loved one whether living or deceased or for a private intention are still able to do so. Please request your Divine Liturgy by contacting Fr. Ihor at (860) 617-6357 or cantor Jaroslaw Maksymowych at (603) 627-2042. Please note that Saturday Divine Liturgies will now be celebrated only at 10 AM (9 AM June thru August) whenever they are requested. If no Divine Liturgy has been requested for a particular Saturday, then none will be celebrated on that day. The Divine Liturgy schedule in the bulletin will only show Divine Liturgies on Saturdays when they have been requested. If the bulletin does not show a Divine Liturgy for a given Saturday, then this means that particular Saturday is available for your request.

### **Суботні Богослужіння**

Отець Ігор святкує Вечірню кожної суботи у 7-мі годині вечером. Ласкаво просимо усіх парафіян до участі. Парафіяни які бажають замовити Божественну Літургію в суботу для померших або на особисті інтенції можуть дзвонити до о. Ігоря на номер (860) 617-6357 або до дяка п. Ярослава Максимовича на номер (603) 627-2042. Суботні Божественні Літургії будуть відслужені тільки о годині 10-тій ранком (9-тій ранку з червня по серпень) коли замовлені. Якщо Літургія в певну суботу не буде замовлена, то в цей день не буде жодна відправлена. Порядок Богослужін в бюлетені покаже тільки ті суботні Служби Божі які є замовлені. Якщо в бюлетені не відображається Божественна Літургія на дану суботу, то це означає, що ця субота доступна на Ваше замовлення.

## ***Liturgical Propers, Readings and Sermon for Sunday***

### **Liturgical Propers for Sunday of the Paralytic**

*The following Tropar is sung from Easter Sunday until the day before Ascension Thursday during the Divine Liturgy: "Christ is risen from the dead conquering death by death; and to those in the tombs, He granted life." In transliterated Ukrainian, "Khrystos voskres ee z mertvikh smertyu smert' podolaw, ee tim shcho v hrobakh, zhitya daruvaw."* Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував.

**Resurrectional Tropar: Tone 3**

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice!\* For the Lord has done mighty works with His arm.\* He trampled death by death to become the first-born of the dead.\* He rescued us from the pit of hell,\* and has shown great mercy to the world.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...

**Festal Kondak: Tone 3**

Just as You once raised the paralytic,\* now lift up my soul by Your power,\* for it is burdened with sins of every kind.\* Like the paralytic, it is unable to approach.\* I cry out to You: "Savior, O Christ so merciful,\* glory to Your power.

...now and always and forever. Amen.

**Resurrectional Kondak: Tone 8**

When You descended into the grave, O Deathless One,\* You destroyed the powers of hell.\* You rose victoriously from the dead, O Christ-God,\* announcing to the myrrh-bearing women "Rejoice!"\* You gave peace to your apostles\* and resurrection to those who had fallen.

**Prokimen: Tone 1**

May Your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, who have put our hope in You.  
VERSE: Exult in the Lord you just ones, for praise is fitting from the righteous.  
May Your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, who have put our hope in You.

**НЕДІЛЯ РОЗСЛАБЛЕНОГО****Апостол: Діянь святих апостолів читання. (Ді 9: 32-42)**

Тими днями, сталося, що Петро, обходячи всі околиці, прибув і до святих, що мешкали в Лідді. Там він знайшов одного чоловіка, на ім'я Еней, що лежав на ліжку вісім років і був паралітик. Петро сказав до нього: "Енею, Ісус Христос тебе оздоровляє. Встань і сам постели собі ліжко!" І вмить той підвівся. І бачили його всі мешканці Лідди та Сарону, і навернулися вони до Господа.

Була ж у Яффі одна учениця на ім'я Тавита, що значить у перекладі Дорка (Сарна). Вона була повна добрих діл та милостині, що чинила. І сталося тими днями, що вона занедужала й умерла. Обмили її і поклали в горниці. А що Лідда лежить близько Яффи, учні, почувши, що Петро там, послали двох чоловіків з просьбою до нього: "Не отягайся прийти аж до нас!" Петро негайно рушив з ними. І як прийшов, вони його повели наверх у горницю, де всі вдови оточили його з плачем, показуючи йому туніки й плащі, що їх робила Дорка, коли була з ними. Велівши всім вийти з хати, Петро упав на коліна й почав молитися, а повернувшись до тіла, мовив: "Тавито, встань!" І та відкрила свої очі й, побачивши Петра, сіла. Він же подав їй руку та й підвів її і, прикликавши святих та вдів, поставив її живою. Довідалась про це вся Яффа, і багато повірило у Господа.

**Epistle Reading for Sunday of the Paralytic Man (Acts 9: 32-42)**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

In those days, when Peter was making numerous journeys, he went – among other places – to God’s holy people living in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ cures you! Get up and make your bed.” The man got up at once. All the inhabitants of Lydda and Sharon, upon seeing him, were converted to the Lord.

Now in Joppa there was a certain woman convert named Tabitha (in Greek Dorcas, meaning a gazelle). Her life was marked by constant good deeds and acts of charity. At about that time she fell ill and died. They washed her body and laid it out in an upstairs room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples who had heard that Peter was there sent two men to him with the urgent request, “Please come over to us without delay.” Peter set out with them as they asked. Upon his arrival they took him upstairs to the room. All the widows came to him in tears, and showed him the various garments Dorcas had made when she was still with them. Peter first made everyone go outside; then he knelt down and prayed. Turning to the dead body, he said, “Tabitha, stand up.” She opened her eyes, then looked at Peter and sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her to her feet. The next thing he did was to call in those who were believers and the widows to show them that she was alive. This became known all over Joppa, and because of it, many came to believe in the Lord.

**Alleluia: Tone 5**

VERSE: The mercies of the Lord I will sing forever; I will show forth Your truth with my voice from generation to generation.

**Alleluia: Tone 5**

VERSE: It has been said that mercy shall be built up forever in the heavens. Your truth shall be prepared in them.

**Alleluia: Tone 5**

VERSE: Милості Твої, Господи, оспівуватиму повік, і з роду в рід.

**Alleluia: Tone 5**

Бо сказав Ти: Повік милість збудується, на небесах приготується істина Твоя.

**Alleluia: Tone 5**

**Євангелія: (Ів 5: 1-15)**

У той час, було свято юдейське, тож Ісус прибув до Єрусалиму. А є в Єрусалимі при овечих воротах купелеве місце, по-єврейському воно зветься Витесда, що має п’ять критих переходів. Лежала в них сила недужих, сліпих, кривих, усохлих, які чекали, коли то зрушиться вода: ангел бо Господній сходив час від часу в купелеве місце та й заколючував воду, і хто, отже, перший поринав по тому, як вода заколючувалася, то одужував - хоч яка б там була його хвороба.

Один чоловік там був, що нездужав тридцять і вісім років. Побачив Ісус, що він лежить, а довідавшись, що було воно вже дуже довго, каже до нього: “Бажаєш одужати?” “Не маю нікого, пане, - одрікає йому недужий, - хто б мене, коли ото вода зрушиться, та й пустив у купіль: бо ось тільки я прийду, а вже інший передо мною поринає.” Мовить Ісус до нього: “Устань, візьми ложе твоє і ходи!” Відразу ж і одужав той чоловік, і взяв ложе своє і почав ходити. Був же той день - субота. Юдеї і кажуть до одужалого: “Субота адже ж! Не личить тобі ложе носити!” А той їм у відповідь: “Візьми ложе твоє і ходи, - сказав мені, хто мене оздоровив.” Спитали його: “Хто він - той, що сказав тобі: Візьми і ходи?” Та одужалий не знав, хто він, бо Ісус зник у натовпі, що юрмився на тому місці. Щойно потім знайшов його Ісус у храмі і мовив до нього: “Оце ти видужав, - тож не гріши більше, щоб щось гірше тобі не сталось.” Чоловік пішов і оповів юдеям, мовляв, той, хто його оздоровив, Ісус.

**Gospel Reading for the Sunday of the Paralytic Man (St. John 5: 1-15)**

At that time, on the occasion of a Jewish feast, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Pool there is a place with the Hebrew name Bethesda. Its five porticoes were crowded with sick people lying there blind, lame or disabled waiting for the movement of the water. There was one man who had been sick for

thirty-eight years. Jesus, who knew he had been sick for a long time, said when He saw him lying there, “Do you want to be healed?” “Sir”, the sick man answered, “I do not have anyone to plunge me into the pool once the water has been stirred up. By the time I get there, someone else has gone in ahead of me. Jesus said to him, “Stand up! Pick up your mat and walk!” The man was immediately cured; he picked up his mat and began to walk.

The day was a Sabbath. Consequently, some of the Jews began telling the man who had been cured, “It is the Sabbath, and you are not allowed to carry that mat around.” He explained: “It was the man who cured me who told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’” “This person who told you to pick it up and walk,” they asked, “who is he?” The man who had been restored to health had no idea who it was. The crowd in that place was so great that Jesus had been able to slip away.

Later on, Jesus found him in the temple precincts and said to him: “Remember, now, you have been cured. Give up your sins so that something worse may not overtake you.” The man went off and informed the Jews that Jesus was the one who had cured him.

### **Sermon for the Sunday of the Paralytic Man**

Christ is Risen! My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

In the Gospel reading we just heard, the Evangelist John describes how a paralyzed man had been lying beside the pool of Bethesda waiting for the stirring of the waters by an angel so that he could be healed. His wait lasted not for an hour, or a few days, or even a few years, but **thirty-eight years**. As amazing as this man’s patience and perseverance may have been, perhaps what stands out even more is the fact that no one -- not a single person during the course of all these years had compassion on him and helped him into the pool. This aspect of the story is often forgotten, but it is important for us because we must never ignore the fact that situations of great suffering always exist in the world today. Countless people suffer everyday from different afflictions and many have no one to care for them. So for us, this Gospel message must be a call to action: we are all made in God’s image and as such, are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. All of us, therefore, are responsible for one another. This is part of our mission as followers of Christ.

But in caring for each other we must also be aware that a person’s suffering may not be as outwardly obvious to us as the affliction of the paralytic. If we imagine ourselves out and about during a regular day, and we look at the people around us---we have no way of knowing how broken they are, how much pain and agony there is in their lives, or how many broken hopes, how much fear and rejection and contempt bring them down. But even if we can’t see it, there is an illness inside them—a **spiritual struggle**, which we all share in common: the same disease, which is in all of us, namely, sin. So we can say then, that suffering is not only the outward physical, but also the inner, spiritual pain and suffering. And spiritual sickness is especially terrible because it harms our relationship with others and ultimately with God.

If we are to answer this call to help others, we must do some housekeeping of our own. So before we are able to help the other, we must first examine ourselves and see what sins are plaguing us. And it takes great courage to look inside, because when we do, we find things

that we don't like or don't want to accept. When we examine the causes of our own sufferings, we frequently try to find causes outside of ourselves. In short, we might try to place blame on someone or something other than ourselves instead of taking responsibility for our sins. But the truth is that the cause is inside us and cannot be avoided. And we must find the strength to face it, with God's help. We must also realize that in fighting our own spiritual battles, our sinful problems will not change overnight. Change takes a number of things including patience.

Consider the Paralytic, who after 38 years of suffering, could have complained when Christ arrived asking him "What took you so long?" but he didn't. Instead of an angry, bitter response to the Lord's question: Do you want to be healed? The paralytic responded, calmly and patiently. He was struggling, but never gave up hope. And we cannot give up hope either. In our darkest moments, when things may seem hopeless, we must never forget that God is with us and that He loves us. The paralytic suffered in loneliness because he had no one to help him. He could not bring about healing through his own efforts. So what did he do? He waited patiently for Christ. And we too, must follow this example when dealing with our afflictions.

The second thing change requires is a little work on our part. When the Lord commanded the Paralytic to "Rise, be made whole, take up your bed and walk" He was giving the paralytic a command. Picking up the bed and walking involves obedience and work. All of us received a command at baptism when we received the Holy Spirit Who enables us with the ability to follow the commandments and to become pure. Taking up the bed is like taking up our cross; it is our mission, to follow Christ's example of how He lived. This is a mission that we must continue to say "yes" to throughout our lives in spite of our times of spiritual struggle.

Thirdly, it is necessary to trust in God by taking our free-will and submitting it to God by placing our hope in Him— then we can begin to see our sufferings turn to healing and we can also help others who suffer, by letting Christ work through us. It is only then, that we can look at one another with a true understanding and with proper attention, so that we can reach out to each other and truly love our neighbor as ourselves.

Finally, the Gospel closes with a warning which Jesus expressed to the Paralytic after his healing, but also extends to all of us. Jesus says: "Sin no more, so that nothing worse happens to you." In other words, now you have been healed, be careful not to practice a sinful life, in order that nothing worse happens to you.

This is a warning to us. If we show no sign that we want to be healed; if we try to hide from our sins instead of facing them and taking responsibility for them; if we don't place our trust and hope in God and don't obey the command to rise and carry our cross, then we too will continue to lie in sickness, or fall into a worse spiritual sickness, which may make the Paralytic's 38 years seem like a short time.

So what is the way out? What is the solution? As a wise priest once wrote: The answer is given in today's Gospel. The way out is Christ, Who healed the paralytic. And we must be ready to receive Him as did the paralytic. We must be willing to trust God and let Him work through us. For Christ can heal physical illness and spiritual illness not only because He overcomes sin, but also because He can and did overcome the ultimate consequence of sin - death itself. Christ is Risen!

### **ПРОПОВІДЬ НА НЕДІЛЮ РОЗСЛАБЛЕНОГО**

Христос Воскрес! Дорогі в Христі браття і сестри!

Четверта неділя після Великодня присвячена спогадам про дивовижне зцілення Ісусом розслабленого (паралізованого) чоловіка, що 38 років не втрачав віри в Чудо. Про цю подію розповідає в своєму Євангелії святий Іоанн, який описував всі появи Господа під час свят в Єрусалимі і за звичаєм ми згадуємо це чудо.

Згадувати чудо над розслабленим належить тут і тому, що Христос вчинив його під час єврейської П'ятидесятниці. Прийшовши до Єрусалиму на свято, Він увійшов до купелі з п'ятьма критими ходами, яку побудував Соломон і яка називалася Овечою бо там мили овець, яких заколювали для жертвоприношення в храмі або тому, що всякий, хто входив туди першим, як тільки вода раз в році порушувалась ангелом, ставав здоровим. А оскільки була субота, юдеї докоряли йому, що він носить ложе, він же посилався на Того, Хто зцілив його, Який у суботу наказав йому йти, хоча й не знав, хто Він, бо Ісус, говорить євангелист, із-за народу, що зібрався там, відступив і сховався. Після того знаходить його Ісус у храмі і каже: Оце ти видужав, – тож не гріши більше, щоб щось гірше тобі не сталося (Йо 5,14).

Господь швидше за все вказав, що хвороба розслаблення трапилася з ним від гріхів. Втім, не всяка неміч буває від гріхів, а й від природної недуги, і від обжерливості, і від недбалості, і з інших причин. Розслаблений, достовірно дізнавшись, що Той, Хто зробив його здоровим, це Ісус, доводить це до відома юдеїв. А ті, розпалюючись помстою, шукають як убити Христа за те, що Він нібито суботу порушив. Христос багато з ними розмовляв, доводячи, що і в суботу добро робити – діло праве, і що Він, як Рівний Отцю, є Той, Хто повелів берегти день суботній, і що як Отець творить по сю пору, так і Він творить (пор. Йо 5,17).

Цей Євангельський уривок, вкотре, показує нам, що ми, люди, замість того, щоби шукати Бога та Його слово, шукаємо виконання своїх забаганок зовсім в інших місцях: шукаємо собі якихось святинь, якихось вудів, амулетів, оберегів, червони ниток, які можуть нас зцілити, але не шукаємо Бога. Ми бачимо, що Ісус знову робить перший крок назустріч

людині. Він підходить до хворого паралітика та запитує: «Бажаєш одужати?». Це ж питання сьогодні стосується кожного із нас: «Бажаєш одужати? Чи ви хочете бути здоровими». Або іншими словами: «Чи хочете ви, щоби Господь простив вам ваші гріхи? Чи ви хочете відновити свій зв'язок із Богом?». Життя цього нещасного паралітика було змінено в досить різкий та несподіваний для нього спосіб. Він всі свої надії та сподівання покладав на воду купальні, натомість Ісус перемінив його життя, зціливши його в зовсім інший спосіб.

Сьогодні Христос говорить до кожного з нас: «Задля тебе я став людиною, заради тебе я воплотився, а ти кажеш: – не маю нікого, хто допоміг би мені, хто зрозумів би мене, не маю нікого, хто вирішив би мої проблеми, хто би забрав від мене мій біль, не маю нікого... Заради тебе я витерпів страсті, смерть і погребення, а ти кажеш: – не можу більше нести свій хрест, не можу більше зносити труднощів життя, не можу більше так жити... Заради тебе я воскрес і дарував тобі вічність, а ти кажеш: — не маю часу, не маю можливостей, не маю бажання... Якщо, отже, ти залишаєшся у своїй недузі, перебуваючи розслабленим, що міг більше я для тебе зробити?». Неділя Розслабленого виявляє нам гріх як причину страждань і Христа, як Джерело сили і оздоровлення. У зціленні розслабленого ми бачимо благовість про силу і славу Христа розп'ятого і воскреслого, Який освітив всесвіт світлом свого Воскресення, і Який для всіх нас – «Божа сила і Божа мудрість» (1 Кор 1, 23-24). Христос воскрес!

**Hymn to the Mother of God:** *Anhel vopeeyashche Blahodatniy: Chistaya Deevo raduysya! Ee paki reku: Raduysya! Tvoy Sin voskresne tri dneven od hroba, ee mertviya vozdvihnuviy. Lyudeeye, veseleetisya! Sveetisya, sveetisya, noviy Yerusalime, slava bo Hospodnya na Tebee vozseeya. Likuy ninee ee veselisya Seeone a Ti, chistaya krasuysya Bohoroditse, o vostaneeyu Rozhdestva Tvoyeho.*

Ангел звістив Благодатній: Чиста Діво, радуйся! І знову кажу: Радуйся! Твій син воскрес на третій день із гробу, і мертвих воскресив. Люди, веселіться! Світися, світися, новий Єрусалиме! Слава бо Господня на тобі засяяла! Радій нині і веселися, Сіоне, а ти, чиста Богородице, втішайся воскресінням Сина твого.

**Hymn to the Mother of God:** An angel greeted you: "O full of grace, O purest virgin rejoice! And again, I say – 'Rejoice!' for after three days your Son has risen from the dead, and then raised the dead with Himself." People everywhere rejoice! Shine forth in splendor, New Jerusalem! For the glory of the Lord is risen on you. Proclaim the joyous festival, O Zion: and you purest Mother of God, rejoice in the resurrection of your Son!

**Communion Verse:** Тіло Христове прийміть; джерела безсмертного споживіть. Хваліть Господа з небес, хваліть Його на висотах. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Receive the Body of Christ, taste of the Source of Life. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## ***Parish Announcements***

### **We Welcome You!**

If you are visiting our church today, our parish family is delighted to welcome you here! Thank you and God bless you for visiting with us today! We welcome all our visitors and guests who worship at our parish. We invite families and individuals who wish to become members to register by calling Fr. Ihor at (860) 617-6357.



### **Вітаємо Вас!**

Якщо Ви відвідуєте нашу церкву сьогодні, наша парафіяльна громада рада вітати Вас тут! Щире спасибі Вам, і нехай Бог благословить Вас за Ваші відвідини з нами сьогодні! Ми запрошуємо сім'ї та осіб, які бажають стати членами, зареєструватися у нас по телефоні о. Ігоря на номер (860) 617-6357.

### **Easter Season**

On Easter Sunday, we enter into the Easter Season, which lasts for the next forty days until Ascension Thursday. During this time, our greeting changes from Slava Isusu Khrystu! (Glory to Jesus Christ!) to Khrystos Voskres! (Christ is Risen!), to which we respond Voeestinu Voskres! (Truly He is Risen!). We also do not kneel during these next forty days because kneeling is a sign of penance, but we now celebrate Christ's victory over death by His holy Resurrection, and so we remain standing during those times of the Divine Liturgy when we would normally kneel.

### **Please Pray for our Sick and Homebound Parishioners, Family Members and Friends**

Fr. Ihor Papka, Fr. Zbigniew Brzezicki, Stephen Atamanchuk, Oleh and Valentina Babski, Michaelle Baker, Rick Barr, Marylou Blaisdell, Tracy Crews, Carmel Horangic, Josephine Housty, Christine Kolagji, Helen Kucman, Martha and Ray Majkut, Karen and Jaroslaw Maksymowych, Jean Mandych, Sherri Martel, Katherine Masso, Jennifer McMillan, Katharine McNaughton, Jackie Morales, Lauren Morales, Jonathan Morales, Tanya and Ronald Morales, Elizabeth Mozina, Dean and Terri Nilson, Alan Pasicznyk, Lina Puciw, Billie Sheesley, Derek Stanley, Pauline Stanley, John Terninko, Elisha Wallace, Cindy Wilson, Dr. Mark Windt, Lenora Zelenski. Please contact Fr. Ihor if you would like to add a friend or loved one to this prayer list.

### **April Birthdays**

The following parishioners are celebrating a birthday this month:

April 6 – Mariya G.

April 6 – Hanna M.

April 10 – Roman H.

April 11 – Artem S.

April 13 – Eva L.

April 13 – Jaroslaw M.

April 18 – James H.

April 22 – Katherine S.

Our parish community wishes this month's birthday celebrants peace, joy, love and good health on their special day as well as throughout the coming year. May our dear Lord grant all of you many more healthy, happy and blessed years. Happy Birthday and На Многая літа! (Na Mnohaya Lita!).

### **2023 Parish Financial Summary Report**

The Trustees will be presenting a summary of the parish finances for the year 2023 today in the church hall after Divine Liturgy. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

### **March, 2024 Financial Summary**

Total Income from March Donations: \$4,686.00

Total Expenditures for March: \$3,409.70

Surplus for March: \$1,276.30

Average attendance in March: 67

Thank you and God bless you for your generous support of our parish

## ***Weekly Reflection:***

## Learning about our Catholic Faith – Contrasting Voices

*“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” John 10:27*

Jesus offers a clear contrast among shepherds. This would apply to priests, parents and all of us in our own unique way. The contrast He offers is between the ones who care deeply for those entrusted to their care, and those who are just going through the motions and are more motivated by selfishness than sacrificial love.

Jesus perfectly manifested sacrificial love as the Divine Shepherd. He was willing to go all the way for us, His sheep. He was willing to sacrifice everything. He did not let suffering, persecution, rejection and the like deter Him from His responsibility of caring for us in a total and complete way. It should inspire us, console us and encourage us to know how deep His love for us really is.

This love is seen, also, in the unwavering love of a parent, sibling, or dear friend. When the love one offers us is unwavering, especially in difficult times, this is a great support. And love offered to another like this forges a deep spiritual bond that is stronger than any hardship we may face. No matter what “wolf” comes our way, we must know of the unwavering support of the Divine Shepherd. And when we can see that love made manifest in the unwavering support of others, we are doubly blessed.

But the contrast should not be ignored either. Jesus gives the example of “a hired man who is not a shepherd” who sees the wolf coming and runs. It’s important to point out how damaging this man is to the people of God. When he runs from his responsibility and gives into selfish motivation, he leaves the flock untended and vulnerable to attack.

We should see in this hired man the temptation we all inevitably face in life. It’s hard to stick with it through the hard times. It’s hard to be there for those who need us when they need us. It’s hard to be faithful in all things and to never shy away in the face of the temptation of fear.

Jesus offers His unwavering love and support to us as our Shepherd, but He also wants us to return this gift to Him by offering this same unwavering commitment to one another.

Reflect today, on how well you imitate the Good Shepherd. Where you are lacking, let Him shepherd you so that you may shepherd others. Run to the Good Shepherd and trust in His perfect love for you.

Let us pray: *Jesus, our Good Shepherd, I thank You for Your unwavering support of me as my Shepherd. And I thank You for those who act as Your instruments of this deep love and commitment. Help me to fulfill my role of shepherding Your people, the people You have placed*

*in my life. May I never run from the glorious responsibility You have called me to. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.*