



## *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 SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF JULY 16, 2023**

**Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost & Sunday of Holy Fathers of First Six Ecumenical Councils**

Divine Liturgy: **9 AM**    Propers: Tone 6    Vestments: Bright  
Epistle: Romans 15: 1-7    Gospel: St. Matthew 9: 27-35  
Intention: For all Parishioners

**Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> (7 PM):** Vespers Service

# ***Divine Liturgy and Vespers Service Schedule and Intentions for July and August***

**Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> (9 AM):** For all Parishioners

**Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> (7 PM):** Vespers Service

**Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> (9 AM):** For all Parishioners

**Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> (7 PM):** Vespers Service

**Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> (9 AM):** For all Parishioners (Feast of the Transfiguration); Blessing of First Fruits

**Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> (7 PM):** Vespers Service

**Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> (9 AM):** For all Parishioners

**Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> (7 PM):** **Feast of the Dormition (Holy Day of Obligation); Blessing of Flowers**

**Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> (9 AM):** For all Parishioners

**Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> (7 PM):** Vespers Service

**Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> (9 AM):** For all Parishioners

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

## **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 Богослужінь 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 the Seventh Sunday After Pentecost and Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils**

**Resurrectional Tropar: Tone 6** – Angelic powers stood by Your tomb.\* The guards fell as dead,\* Mary came seeking Your most pure body.\* You vanquished hell; it was no match for You.\* You went to meet the women,\* for You are the Giver of life.\* You are risen from the dead.\* Glory to You, O Lord!

**Festal Tropar: Tone 8** – O Christ our God, You are most glorified, for You established our fathers as lights to all the earth. Through them You led us to the true faith. O most merciful Lord, glory be to You! Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...

**Festal Kondak: Tone 8** – The preaching of the apostles and the decisions of the Fathers have established the true faith of the Church, which she wears as the garment of truth, fashioned from the theology on high. She justly governs and glorifies the great mystery of worship.

...now and always and forever. Amen.

**Resurrectional Kondak: Tone 6** – Christ, our God, the Giver of life\* raised the dead from the valley of gloom.\* With His own life creating hand,\* He gave resurrection to all mankind.\* For he is the Savior, the Resurrection,\* the life and the God of all.

**Prokimen: Tone 6** – Save your people, O Lord,\* and bless Your inheritance,\* and bless Your inheritance.

VERSE: To You I cry, O Lord my God; do not be deaf to my call.

**Prokimen: Tone 4** – Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, may Your name be glorified forever.

VERSE: You are just in everything You have done for us.

## **7-а НЕДІЛЯ ПО ЗІСЛАННІ СВ. ДУХА**

### **Апостоль: (Рим 15: 1-7)**

До Римлян послання св. апостола Павла читання.

Браття, ми сильні, мусимо нести немочі безсильних, а не собі догоджувати. Кожний із нас нехай намагається догодити ближньому; на добро, для збудування. Бо й Христос не собі догоджував, а як написано: “Зневаги тих, що тебе зневажають, упали на мене.” Все бо, що було написане давніше, написане нам на науку, щоб ми мали надію через терпеливість й утіху, про які нас Письмо навчає. Бог же терпеливості й утіхи, за прикладом Христа Ісуса, нехай дасть вам, щоб ви між собою однаково думали за Христом Ісусом; щоб ви однодушно, одними устами славили Бога й Отця Господа нашого Ісуса Христа. Тому приймайте один одного, як і Христос приймав вас у Божу славу.

### **Epistle Reading for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Romans 15: 1-7)**

Brethren: We who are strong in faith should be patient with the scruples of those whose faith is weak; we must not be selfish. Each should please his neighbor so as to do him good by building up his spirit. Thus, in accord with Scripture, Christ did not please Himself: “The reproaches they uttered against you fell on me.” Everything written before our time was written for our instruction, that we might derive hope from the lessons of patience and the words of encouragement in the Scriptures. May God, the source of all patience and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the spirit of Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and one voice you may glorify God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, as Christ accepted you, for the glory of God.

### **Alleluia: Tone 6**

VERSE: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High shall abide under the protection of Almighty God.

### **Alleluia: Tone 6**

VERSE: He shall say to the Lord: “You are my Protector and my Refuge, my God in whom I trust.

**Alleluia: Tone 6**

VERSE: The Lord, God of the divine, has spoken and summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Alleluia: Tone 6**

VERSE: Let the faithful gather around Him, those who have made a covenant with Him by sacrifice.

**Alleluia: Tone 6****Євангелія: (Мт 9: 27-35)**

У той час, Ісус відходив звідти, слідом за Ним пустилися два сліпці й кричали: “Помилуй нас, Сину Давидів.” І коли Він увійшов до хати, сліпці приступили до Нього, а Він спитав їх: “Чи віруєте, що я можу це зробити?” - “Так, Господи,” - кажуть йому ті. Тоді Він доторкнувся до їхніх очей, мовивши: “Нехай вам станеться за вашою вірою.” І відкрились їхні очі. Ісус же суворо наказав їм: “Глядіть, щоб ніхто не знав про це.” Та ті, вийшовши, розголосили про Нього чутку по всій країні.

А як вони виходили, приведено до Нього німого, що був біснуватий. Коли ж Він вигнав біса, німий почав говорити, і люди здивувалися, кажучи: “Ніколи щось таке не об’являлося в Ізраїлі!” Фарисеї ж говорили: “Він виганяє бісів князем бісівським!” Ісус обходив усі міста і села, навчаючи в їхніх синагогах, проповідуючи Євангелію царства та вигоюючи всяку хворобу і недугу.

**Gospel Reading for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (St. Matthew 9: 27-35)**

At that time, as Jesus moved on from there, two blind men came after Him crying out, “Son of David, have pity on us!” When He got to the house, the blind men caught up with Him. Jesus said to them, “Are you confident I can do this?” “Yes, Lord,” they told Him. At that He touched their eyes and said, “Because of your faith it shall be done to you”; and they recovered their sight. Then Jesus warned them sternly, “See to it that no one knows of this.” But they went off and spread word of Him throughout the whole area.

As they were leaving, suddenly some people brought Him a mute who was possessed by a demon. Once the demon was expelled the mute began to speak, to the great surprise of the crowds. “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!” they exclaimed. But the Pharisees were saying, “He casts out demons through the prince of demons.” Jesus continued His tour of all the towns and villages. He taught in their synagogues, He proclaimed the Good News of God’s reign, and He cured every sickness and disease.

**Sermon for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Glory to Jesus Christ! My Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ!

In the Gospel reading today we hear of the healing of two blind men and of a man who was possessed by a demon and was mute. It was by the great mercy and compassion of our Lord, that he went about healing all those who were sick. The evangelist Matthew aptly summarizes the work of Christ’s ministry saying, “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ”

This indeed was our Lord’s work while He walked upon this earth: to teach, to preach the Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven, and to heal every sickness and disease among the people. Christ poured Himself out in compassion and in the generous giving of grace to heal and to raise up the people from the sins that bound them, granting instead health and life-giving freedom. And this ministry of Christ –

to teach, and to preach the gospel of the kingdom, and to heal every sickness and every disease among the people – this remains the work of the Lord and is the primary work of His Church to this day. The Church must teach – faithfully imparting the living inheritance of the words of life which Christ delivered to the Apostles, and the Apostles delivered to those after them and so on continuing to our own day. That teaching must prepare and strengthen the Christian to receive the 'gospel of the kingdom'... the revelation of faith, hope, and love which removes the scales from our eyes to begin to see and experience that kingdom of God which is so far beyond this world and yet which also resides within the human soul.

The Gospel tells us that: 'When Jesus departed... two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them: "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him: "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying: "According to your faith let it be unto you." And their eyes were opened.' What a potent image this is... of blind men calling out to Christ for mercy. It is a fitting image of mankind... for we so often go about this life spiritually blind – not seeing the true state of our soul, nor the realities of our actions, inactions, our words, deeds, and thoughts... and their impact upon ourselves and those around us. And what of the man possessed by the demon? This demon left him unable to utter a word. This too is a fitting image of the maladies of mankind. God listens intently for the utterance of the human heart. But what voice reaches heaven - when our prayers are plagued by distraction, inattention, and all the noise of this world that drowns out the utterance of the heart?

Each time our Lord Jesus Christ performs the miracle of healing He asks "Do you believe? Do you believe that I am able to do this?" When our Lord asks these questions he is knocking at the door of the hearts of men. He is looking for an opening to be let in so that not only healing may occur but salvation may occur. This is described for us in the Evangelist John's Book of Revelation where it says "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him" (Revelation 3:20). While the Lord knocks at the door of our hearts it takes action or faith on our part to let Him into our hearts. We must then also knock at His door and ask for salvation. This is confirmed in the words of our Lord when He says "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (Luke 11:9)

We see both of these aspects of knocking at the door in today's Gospel. The first knock is in the two blind men calling after Jesus "Son of David, have mercy on us." (Mt 9:27) Saint Simeon the New Theologian describes this knock at the door by the blind men in the following manner: "He who prays according to the flesh, and does not also have spiritual understanding is like the blind man that cried out 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' But another blind man when he received his sight and saw the Lord, no longer saw Him as the Son of David, but as the Son of God. (John 9:35-38)" Thus, any knock at the door must be to bring us to God. This is why Christ does not immediately respond to these men. Jesus does not respond because He wants their thirst for God to increase.

The second knock is when Jesus asks them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" (Mt 9:28) Our Lord does this so that they may publicly proclaim their action of faith when they say "Yes, Lord." This should remind us that our faith is not just a personal thing that we keep to ourselves. Faith is something that must be proclaimed in order to bring others to faith.

When the men respond with the words "Yes, Lord", they leave their earthly understanding behind and embrace the spiritual understanding. This is accomplished through their use of the word "Lord". They no longer recognize Jesus as the Son of David but as Lord, the Son of God, the God-Man, the Savior of the World. Thus, they are not only healed of their infirmity but they are brought to salvation. This is confirmed by St. Paul in his epistle to the Romans when he says "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13) Seek rather after salvation, for Christ is knocking at the door of your heart. Open the door of your heart to Him that you may enter into the New Creation and receive the spiritual miracles that will change you and the world around you. Through this change you will be accomplishing Christ's work to teach, preach and to heal.

### **ПРОПОВІДЬ НА СЬОМУ НЕДІЛЮ ПО ЗІСЛАННІ СВЯТОГО ДУХА**

Слава Ісусу Христу! Дорогі в Христі браття і сестри!

Євангелії, які читаємо кожної неділі під час Святої Літургії, не є випадкові, а спеціально підібрані. Їх можна зібрати у певні тематичні групи. Так євангельські історії перших неділь після Зіслання Святого Духа розповідають багато про питання віри. Основною думкою цих подій є прояв віри, користь віри для людини. Розповідь про віру сотника навчає нас, що віра повинна переростати у довір'я Богу і служіння ближнім. Історія гадаринських біснуватих пригадує, що віра в Бога захищає нас від впливу злого духа і всяких гріхів. Приклад чотирьох товаришів розслабленого показує нам, що віра у Божу всемогутність оздоровляє нас з різних недуг, дає силу нести тягарі життя, зближає людей між собою, зокрема у недолі. Оздоровлення Ісусом двох сліпців відкриває нам віру, як очі душі, духовний зір, який допомагає нам пізнавати Бога.

Щоб наша віра в Бога приносила нам користь, давала плоди любові, християнин повинен навчитися бачити Бога у житті, у світі, у потребах ближніх, як сказав Христос: „Усе, що ви зробили одному з моїх найменших братів, ви мені зробили” (Мт. 25, 40). Віра, яка бачить Бога у житті, готова служити ближнім, ділитися його любов'ю з іншими.

Таж сьогоднішнє Євангеліє запитує кожного із нас про нашу віру: чи я вірю. «Чи віруєте, що Я можу це зробити?» (Мт. 9:28). Ми можемо відбути багато паломництв, проказати чимало молитов, відбути велику кількість постів, але чи, насправді, ми віримо, що Господь може це зробити? Господь запитує про нашу особисту віру, про наші особисті відносини із Ним. Христос не запитує про забобони, про якісь звичаї чи релігійні практики, про молитви, які ми молимося впродовж десятиліть, але Господь запитує про нашу віру.

У Євангеліях ми знаходимо сім різних епізодів, коли Ісус зцілює сліпих. У єврейській традиції оздоровлення сліпого означало про прихід месіанських часів. Саме Месія, прийшовши у наш світ, мав повертати зір сліпим. У пророка Ісаї ми читаємо: «Я поведу сліпих незаним для них шляхом, спрямую їх невідомими їм стежками. Я перед ними темряву оберну на світло, криві дороги – на прости» (Ісаї 42:16).

Двоє сліпих, котрі ідуть вслід за Ісусом кричать: Помилуй нас, сину Давидів! (Мт. 9:27). Вони понад усе прагнули стати здоровими, вони прагнули бачити. Не знаємо, чи ця їхня сліпота була з ними від народження, чи вони свій зір втратили в наслідок якогось прикрого випадку або якоїсь хвороби, але вони щиро кричать: Помилуй нас, сину Давидів! (Мт. 9:27).

У своєму житті ми робили чимало поганих речей, бо вибирали зло, немовби були затуманені й засліплені, то чому ми не кричимо: «Помилуй нас, сину Давидів!» (Мт. 9:27). Помилуй нас, Ісусе Христе. Нам слід прислухатись і почути голос Ісуса, котрий запитує: « Чи ти віруєш». Проте ми маємо їх почути не так своїми вухами, як своїм серцем.

Син Чоловічий, коли прийде, чи знайде на землі віру? (Лк. 18:8) – читаємо ми у Луки. Якою є наша віра? У Старому Завіті ми дуже часто читаємо, що праведник із віри буде жити. Чим тоді живе кожен із нас, якими є наші вчинки, що ми вибираємо у своєму житті, ми йдемо дорогою віри, чи дорогою власних уподобань? Ми бачимо, що Господь говорить: «За твоєю вірою». Господь на прощання говорить їм: «Глядіть, щоб ніхто не знав про це» (Мт. 9:30). Та, що ми бачимо? Вони йдуть і всім розказують про це чудо, що вчинив їм Ісус, вони йдуть і проголошують про це. Вони, ніби і роблять добру справу, бо розказують про Ісуса, та одночасно вони не роблять те, що хоче від них Господь. Вони чули, але не почули до кінця. Господь і від нас теж очікує конкретної відповіді на питання: «Чи я готовий піти слідом за Ісусом Христом?», але піти так, як цього хоче Христос, але не так як цього хочу я.

Чи ми віримо у Божу присутність у своєму житті, чи задумуємося ми коли-небудь над цим питанням? Чи насмілимось ми, навіть будучи у юрбі, посеред натовпу, кричати до Ісуса про помилування? Чи зможемо ми показати у своєму житті, серед інших людей та й іншим людям, свою віру. Ось ці питання сьогодні ставить нам недільне євангельське читання. Ці питання – це не є просто питання, це наше життя, яке ставить перед нами сотні інших питань, а відповідь на них ми зможемо знайти тільки у Бозі і тільки тоді, коли ми віримо, але чи у нас є ця віра? Завершити сьогоднішнє розважання хотів би словами якщо ми будемо мати твердий і добрий намір, день і ніч звертатись до Господа і кричати до Нього духом: «Помилуй нас Ісусе, Сину Давидів! Господи Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!». Тоді настане такий момент, коли ми, подібно євангельським сліпцям, які увійшли в будинок, увійдемо в обителі Царя Небесного, і Господь скаже нам: «Нехай вам станеться за вашою вірою», яку ви проявили під час всього вашого життєвого шляху, слідуючи за Мною. І ми, прозрівши, побачимо славу Божу і будемо перебувати в ній навіки». Амінь.

#### **Communion Verse:**

Хвалить Господа з небес, хвалить Його на висотах. Радуйтеся, праведні, у Господі, бо правим належить похвала. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Rejoice in the Lord, you just ones; for praise is fitting from the righteous. Allelulia, alleluia, alleluia.

### ***Prayer of Spiritual Communion***

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in these Holy Gifts! I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot receive You now sacramentally, I place before You my whole life and hope, O loving Master; and I ask, pray, and entreat You: make me worthy to partake in a mystical way and with a pure conscience of Your awesome and heavenly Mysteries: for the forgiveness of sins, for the pardon of offenses, for the communion of the Holy Spirit, for the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven, for confidence before You, and not for judgment or condemnation. I embrace You as You enter and abide in me, and I unite myself completely to You. Permeate my soul and body, and never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## ***Молитва Духовного Причастя***

Мій Ісусе! Я вірю, що Ти присутній у цих Святих Дарів!  
Люблю Тебе над усе і моя душа тужить за Тобою.  
Не можу зараз Тебе прийняти в Святій Євхаристії,  
тому хоча б духовно прийди до мого серця!  
Запрошую Тебе, відчиняючи навстіж двері мого серця, згадаючи Твої слова:  
«Ось стою під дверима і стукаю.  
Якщо хто почує Мій голос і відчинить двері,  
Я ввійду до нього, і буду вечеряти з ним, а він зі Мною».  
Я весь єднаюся з Тобою. Ісусе, моє найвище Добро й моя солодка Любова!  
Торкнись мого серця і запали його,  
щоб воно завжди палало любов'ю до Тебе! Амінь.

## ***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.

### **Please Pray for our Sick and Homebound Parishioners**

Fr. Ihor Papka, Fr. Zbigniew Brzezicki, Oleh and Valentina Babski, Michaelle Baker, Marylou Blaisdell, 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, Olympia Pasicznyk, Billie Sheesley, Derek Stanley, Pauline Stanley, John Terninko, Elisha Wallace, Cindy Wilson, Dr. Mark Windt, John Zelenski, Lauren Zelenski. Please contact Fr. Ihor if you would like to add a friend or loved one to this prayer list.

### **Holy Dormition (Assumption) Pilgrimage**

This year's pilgrimage will take place in Sloatsburg, NY on August 12 and 13 at the Motherhouse of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate. For more information please call 845-753-2840.

### **Thank You**

Our parish community extends its sincerest thanks to the person(s) who anonymously donated a beautiful gold chalice and crystal cruet set with tray for our liturgical celebrations. Fr. Ihor blessed these items at the end of last Sunday's Divine Liturgy. May Almighty God grant our donor(s) good health, happiness and salvation for your kind and generous gifts to our parish. Na Mnohaya Lita!

### **July Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries**

The following parishioners are celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary this month:

July 4 – Maria B.

July 6 – Tracy C.



July 15 – Karina O.  
July 16 – Sierra H.  
July 21 – Amelia M.  
July 22 – Luba P.  
July 22 – Joe B.  
July 26 – Iryna & Laurent M. (wedding anniversary)  
July 29 – Edward C.

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

### **June, 2023 Financial Summary**

Total Income from June Donations: \$3,765.00

Total Expenditures for June: \$4,605.00

**Deficit for June: \$840.00**

Average weekly attendance in June: 35

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

### **Parishioners with TD Bank Accounts**

If you have a CD, checking or savings account with TD Bank, you can help our parish raise additional money simply by speaking with your TD Bank representative and asking them to add the code "AJ356" to your account. This code has been assigned to our parish account with TD Bank, and the bank will deposit an annual contribution to our parish account for each CD, savings or checking account that uses this code. This service is free and it will actually help our parish account grow in value each year. Please speak with Trustee Pam Young if you have any questions regarding this program.

### **Cantor's Workshop – SINGCON 2023**

Saint Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in Welland, Ontario Canada is sponsoring a four-day cantor's workshop from 28 September thru 01 October 2023. Please see the announcement on the bulletin board in the church hall for more information or visit [www.ugccmusic.com](http://www.ugccmusic.com) if you are interested in attending.

## ***Weekly Reflection***

### **Learning about Our Catholic Faith – Growing Rich in Grace**

*"To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand." Matthew 13:12–13*

How is it that someone can look without seeing or hear without listening or understanding? This is only possible when one's eyes and ears are working properly, but the mind is distracted, not attentive to what is seen or heard. For example, say you were listening to a book being read and suddenly you realized that even though you heard what was read, your mind was elsewhere and you had no idea what was spoken. This is a common experience for everyone from time to time.

This portion of the Gospel quoted above comes immediately after Jesus spoke the Parable of the Sower to the crowds from a boat. In that parable, seed fell on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns and in rich soil. Only the seed on the rich soil grew and produced good fruit. Therefore, Jesus' teaching quoted above, as well as His parable spoken before it, teach that there were many who heard the Word of God and witnessed Jesus' miracles but failed to allow His teachings and miracles to produce faith in their hearts.

This Gospel passage is especially important for those who have been Catholics for many years but have become stagnant in their faith. When someone goes to Mass every week, listens to the Gospel and shares in the Eucharist but fails to continually grow in holiness and understanding of the Mysteries of Heaven, then they will slowly lose even the little faith they have. They will become lukewarm Catholics who go through the motions but fail to produce the good fruit that comes from authentic faith.

When you look back at your life as a practicing Catholic, what do you see from year to year? Was there a time when you were strong in faith but have slowly closed your ears to the Gospel and have drifted away from a deep and prayerful interior engagement with our Lord? Or when you look back do you see that the Lord has continuously given you more and more, leading you to a life of true spiritual riches? Has the Gospel entered not only your ears, but also your mind and your understanding? Do you both see and perceive the action of God in your life and in the world around you? Are you actively engaged with the life of grace and find that you grow closer to God every day? Or, sadly, have you lost interest and zeal and now find yourself slowly drifting away from the fruitful practice of your faith?

Reflect, today, upon these important questions and strive to answer them honestly. If you do not see yourself growing in faith every year and becoming truly rich in the grace of God, then know that something needs to change. Stagnation and lukewarmness in the faith are not good. They lead to the slow loss of everything. As you reflect upon your own faith journey, recommit yourself to a zealous embrace of the Gospel so that your soul will be truly rich soil that continually produces an abundance of good fruit.

Let us pray: *Lord, You desire that all people hear Your Word and see Your action in their lives. Please continue to pour forth Your grace into my life so that I will continually grow rich in Your mercy. I pray that my eyes and ears will be open to You more fully every day. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.*