



*Statue of St. Michael the Archangel that stands above Kyiv's Independence Square. St. Michael is patron saint of the Ukrainian capital.*



### **ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

Defend people of Ukraine in battle; be their defence against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and to you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who are trying to invade Ukraine.  
Amen.

~ 26 February 2023 ~  
~ FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT ~  
~ ПЕРША НЕДІЛЯ ПОСТУ ~  
~ 368<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF WAR IN UKRAINE ~



The name of this Sunday reflects the great significance which icons possess for the Eastern Church. They are not optional devotional extras, but an integral part of Orthodox faith and devotion. They have a sacramental character, making present to the believer the person or event depicted on them. So the interior of Eastern churches is often covered with icons. But there is a clear doctrinal distinction between the veneration paid to icons and the worship due to God. The former is not only relative, it is in fact paid to the person represented by the icon. This distinction safeguards the veneration of icons from any charge of idolatry. The theme of the victory of the icons, by its emphasis on the incarnation, points us to the basic Christian truth that the one whose death and resurrection we celebrate at Easter was none other than the Word of God who became human in Jesus Christ.

## SUNDAY HYMNS

OPENING HYMN	With Joy We Keep the Holy Fast ( <i>pg. 1008, Anthology</i> )
COMMUNION HYMN	Чоловіче Добрий // From the Cross I Call ( <i>pg. 170-171</i> )
CLOSING HYMN	Боже, Великий, Єдиний ( <i>pg. 264</i> )

## SUNDAY & DAILY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, Feb 26	Divine Liturgy // Божественна Літургія	10 AM
MONDAY, Feb 27	NO SERVICES	
TUESDAY, Feb 28	Third Hour // Третій Час	9 AM
WEDNESDAY, Mar 1	Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts // Літургія Передшеосвячених Дарів	7 PM
THURSDAY, Mar 2	Liturgy with Sorokousty // Літургія і Сорокоусти	9 AM
FRIDAY, Mar 3	Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts // Літургія Передшеосвячених Дарів	7 PM
SATURDAY, Mar 4	NO SERVICES	
SUNDAY, Mar 5	Divine Liturgy // Божественна Літургія	10 AM

**NOTE:** to request a Divine Liturgy, please speak with Fr. Yuriy

**E-TRANSFER - [st.nicholas.victoria@gmail.com](mailto:st.nicholas.victoria@gmail.com)**

### SUNDAY EPISTLE

### FEBRUARY 19 DONATIONS

DATE	READING	
SUNDAY, Feb 26	Heb 11:24-26,32-40; 12:1-2	Coffee: \$85.25; Vigil lights: \$17.25; Loose collection: \$181.00; Envelope collection: \$335.00; Pre-authorized donations Feb 13 to Feb 19: \$135.00  <b>TOTAL: \$753.50</b>  <i>May God bless and reward you abundantly for your generosity!</i>
SUNDAY, Mar 5	Heb 1:10-2:3	
SUNDAY, Mar 12	Heb 4:14-5:6	
SUNDAY, Mar 19	Heb 6:13-20	

**DONATE ONLINE - [www.stnicholasparish.org/donate](http://www.stnicholasparish.org/donate)**

### PASTORAL MINISTRY & HOLY MYSTERIES

CONFESSIONS.....any time before or after services  
 BAPTISMS.....by appointment  
 MARRIAGES.....six months notice should be  
 given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made  
 FUNERALS.....by appointment  
 ANOINTING.....by appointment  
 HOSPITAL VISITS.....any time; call emergency number **250.891.4507**

*Apostolic Administrator ~ Bishop David Motiuk ~ [www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca)*



ST. NICHOLAS  
THE WONDERWORKER

†  
СВ. МИКОЛАЯ ЧУДОТВОРЦЯ



Church: 250.384.2255  
Rectory: 250.384.2292  
Emergency: 250.891.4507

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1112 Caledonia Ave.  
Victoria, BC V8T 1G1



~ Priest ~  
Fr. Yuriy Vyshnevskyy

HELP THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE TO  
SURVIVE THE WAR

DONATE FOR UKRAINE

ПОЖЕРТВУЙ НА УКРАЇНУ

[www.stnicholasparish.org](http://www.stnicholasparish.org)  
Victoria, BC Canada

**DONATE TO HELP UKRAINIANS ARRIVING ON SOUTH VANCOUVER ISLAND** - Make cheques payable to 'St. Nicholas church' with memo 'Help arriving Ukrainians'. You can also donate cash or via e-transfer to [st.nicholas.victoria@gmail.com](mailto:st.nicholas.victoria@gmail.com). Click **DONATE** button on the parish website [www.stnicholasparish.org](http://www.stnicholasparish.org) to donate via CanadaHelps. Tax receipts will be issued.

**WWW.UKRAINEHELPVI.CA** - the website is designed to connect people and organizations on Vancouver Island to help the people of Ukraine.

**ACCEPT PEOPLE FLEEING UKRAINE ON VANCOUVER ISLAND** - please complete [this form](#) if you can accept people fleeing Ukraine. Please share this with your friends and neighbours!

**JOB POSTING** - employers who wish to support Ukrainians with offers of employment to register these offers on [Jobs for Ukraine](#).

**DO YOU NEED FOOD?** - Help Ukraine Vancouver Island Society has created Food Share programs to ensure that all Ukrainians have access to good quality food across Vancouver Island every week. Please visit the HUVI website for details and how to register in your area [HERE](#).

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## PRAYER FOR THE AFFLICTED PEOPLE OF UKRAINE IN TIME OF WAR



**O** Lord Jesus Christ, our God, we entreat You to hear the earnest prayer of Your beloved Church of Kyivan Rus' for her deeply afflicted children abiding in the land of Ukraine. Behold their grave sorrow and grievous plight, and speedily come to their aid. Deliver Your vulnerable people from unjust aggressors, foreign invasion and the terror of war. Strengthen

courageous defenders of the nation to fight virtuously, inspired more by love of those they protect than hatred of the enemy. O compassionate Lord, shelter the displaced, heal the wounded, console the orphan, protect the widow, comfort those who mourn, and mercifully receive into Your Kingdom those who have nobly died guarding their homeland against every aggression. Quickly make cease the spilling of blood of friend and foe alike, yet stir many to bravely struggle for that true justice which alone can bring lasting peace. O kind-hearted Lord, as You are our peace, soften the hearts of the unmerciful and convert those who promote hostilities toward reconciliation, so that Your beloved children of the land of Ukraine, may abide in that tranquility, justice and freedom which reflects your Kingdom, where You reign with Your eternal Father, and Your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now, and forever and ever. Amen.

## МОЛИТВА ЗА МНОГОСТРАЖДАЛЬНИЙ УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ НАРОД У ЧАС ВІЙНИ

**Г**осподи Ісусе Христе Боже наш, благаємо Тебе, вислухай ширу молитву Твоєї улюбленої Церкви Київської Русі за важко страждаючих дітей українського краю. Споглянь милостивим оком на їх лихоліття та ласкаво поспіши на допомогу. Звільни свій беззахисний народ від несправедливих загарбників, нашествия агресорів та терору війни. Зміцни силою Твоєю усіх доблесних і відважних захисників для добросердечної боротьби, щоб вони радше керувалися любов'ю до беззахисних, аніж ненавистю до ворогів. О Премилосердний Господи, захорони переселенців, зціли поранених, борони сиріт, підтримай вдів, потіш скорботних та ласкаво прийми до Твого Царства всіх, хто благородно віддав своє життя в обороні Батьківщини від нападів ворогів. Поспіши зупинити кровопролиття як друга, так і недруга та запали серця багатьох до мужньої боротьби за істинну справедливість, що є джерелом тривалого миру. О добросердий Господи, Ти – наш мир, пом'якши зачерствілі серця, наверни тих, хто сприяє воєнним діям, до примирення, щоб Твій улюблений українській народ втішався миром, справедливістю та свободою – ознаками Твого Царства, в якому Ти царюєш з Предвічним Твоїм Отцем, і Всесвятим, Благим і Животворним Твоїм Духом, нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

✓ **PANAKHYDA FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE** - following the Divine Liturgy.

✓ **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to RON STANIUL, WAYNE SAUNDERS and all those who celebrated their birthdays this past week. May the Lord Our God continue to bless you abundantly and the Holy Mother of God protects you at all times. Многая Літа!

✓ **BLESSING OF THE LITURGICAL ITEMS** - today after Divine Liturgy we will bless a set of **Vestments for the altar servers** donated to our parish by the MAKSYMIV FAMILY in memory of their mother Daria and grandmother Sofia. Also we will be blessing a set of **Candles for the altar servers** donated to our parish by the KNEZACEK FAMILY. Thank you for these generous gifts to our parish. May God bless and reward you abundantly!

✓ **BLESSING OF THE ICONS // ОСВЯЧЕННЯ ІКОН** - today at the end of the Liturgy as we celebrate Sunday of Orthodoxy our Church has a beautiful tradition of blessing the icons. Please, place your icons on the tetrapod where they will be blessed.

✓ **PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)** - Sunday, February 26 following the Divine Liturgy. **NO REGULAR COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP!**

✓ **CAMP ST. VOLODYMYR - Sunday, Aug 20 – Saturday, Aug 26, 2023.** We invite you to save the date and join us this August to celebrate our 40th anniversary of Camp St. Volodymyr! The camp is for children in our Eparchy aged 7 to 15 as of December 2023. Camp St. Volodymyr is a great place to be physically active, build self-confidence and self-esteem, and develop outdoor skills. While reconnecting with nature, the children will grow spiritually and build life-long friendships. Registration will open in mid-spring, so start planning your summer holidays now! The camp is run on a volunteer basis. If you are interested in volunteering as a counsellor, chef, nurse/doctor, or lifeguard please forward your name. Camp St. Volodymyr is also seeking input to design our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary T-shirt. Please share your logo and design ideas! The chosen design will receive a complimentary t-shirt. For more information, contact Jennifer Caldwell at [jennsawka@hotmail.com](mailto:jennsawka@hotmail.com) or 604.220.0584

✓ **WE NEED YOUR HELP** - recently we had to buy a new freezer for our parish as the old one broke down. We would welcome any donations to offset the cost of buying a new freezer at the cost of \$1,000. In addition we replaced our industrial cooler at the cost of \$4,000. Please consider this as you donate toward our kitchen appliances.

✓ **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION** - available before and after daily (9AM) & Sunday (10AM) Liturgies / **СПОВІДЬ** - перед і після щоденної Літургії о 9 год і в неділю о 10 год.

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✓ **PRAYER REQUEST** - Please keep in your prayers SYLVIA KELLY, CHARLOTTE & ED KRAKOWSKI, RICHARD NEWBERRY, LANCE DELVES, PETER IWANUCK, LEO VANDERVEN, ED SALYN, YURIJ, MARK & PETER DASHKEWYTC, WAYNE SAUNDERS, TERESA HUCULAK and other members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join actively in their community.

✓ **BEQUESTS & WILLS** - Leaving a bequeath 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 St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Church in your bequeath and will. If anyone wishes to make such a bequeath in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to **St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Parish - 1112 Caledonia Avenue, Victoria BC, V8T 1G1**, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the parish and it's pastoral activities."

## DIVINE LITURGY PROPERS

*The Divine Liturgy of our Father among the Saints Basil the Great.  
Scripture readings from the New Testament are taken from the  
New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition.  
Українською - у перекладі Івана Хоменка.*

**Troparion, Tone 5:** Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word,\* co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,\* and born of the Virgin for our salvation.\* For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death\* and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

**Troparion, Tone 2:** We bow before Your most pure image, O kind Lord,\* and beg pardon for our sins, O Christ our God.\* Of Your own will You consented to ascend the Cross in the flesh to free Your handiwork from enslavement to the enemy.\* In thanksgiving we cry aloud to You:\* by coming to save the world, our Saviour, You filled all things with joy.

**Gloria: Now: Kontakion, Tone 8:** The uncircumscribed Word of the Father\* became circumscribed when He took flesh of you, O Mother of God,\* and when He restored the divine image to its ancient glory,\* He suffused it with the beauty of God.\* Therefore, confessing our salvation in deed and word,\* we portray it in images.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 4:** Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,\* and praised and glorified is Your Name for ever. *Verse:* For You are righteous in everything You have done to us. (*Daniel 3:26,27*)

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**Epistle - Hebrews 11:24-26,32-40; 12:1-2 - A reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.** *Brothers and Sisters*, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Alleluia, Tone 4:** *Verse:* Moses and Aaron are among His priests and Samuel among those who call upon His name. *Verse:* They called on the Lord, and He heard them. (*Psalms 98:6*)

**Gospel - John 1:43-51** - At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

*Instead of "It is truly..." we sing:* In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angelic ranks and all the human race. Sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, virgins' pride and boast, from whom God is made flesh and became a little Child; and He who is our God before all ages, He made your womb a throne, and He made it wider than all the heavens. In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

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**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, alleluia,\* alleluia. (*Psalm 32:1*)



**Тропар, глас 5:** Рівнобезначальне з Отцем і Духом Слово,\* що від Діви народилося на спасіння наше,\* прославмо, вірні, і поклонімся,\* бо Воно благозволило тілом зійти на хрест\* і смерть перетерпіти, і воскресити померлих\* славним воскресінням Своїм.

**Тропар, глас 2:** Пречистому образіві твоєму поклоняємося, благий,\* просячи прощення прогрішень наших. Христе Боже,\* бо волею благоволив єси плоттю зійти на хрест,\* щоб ізбавити тих, що їх створив єси, від неволі ворожої.\* Тому благодарственно кличемо тобі:\* Ти радістю сповнив усе,\* Спасе наш, прийшовши спасти світ.

**Слава: І Нині: Кондак, глас 8:** Неописанне Слово Отче\* із тебе, Богородице, воплощенням описалося\* і, осквернений образ у давнє зобразивши,\* з божественною добротою з'єднало,\* та, ісповідуючи спасення,\* ділом і словом ми це являємо.

**Прокімен, глас 4:** Благословен єси, Господи, Боже отців наших,\* і хвальне, і прославлене ім'я твоє на віки. *Стих:* Бо праведний єси в усьому, що сотворив ти нам.

**Апостол - Євр. 11:24-26, 32-40, 12:1-2 - До Євреїв послання Святого Апостола Павла читання:** *Браття і сестри,* вірою Мойсей, коли був виріс, відрікся зватися сином дочки фараона; волів радше страждати разом з людом Божим, ніж дознавати дочасної гріховної втіхи, бо, дивлячись на нагороду, вважав за більше багатство наругу вибраного народу від скарбів Єгипту. І що ще скажу? Часу не вистане мені, коли заходжуся розповідати про Гедеона, про Варака, про Самсона, про Єфту, про Давида й Самуїла та пророків, що вірою підбили царства, чинили справедливість, обітниць осягнули, загородили пащі левам, силу вогню гасили, вістря меча уникали, ставали сильні, будиши недолугі, на війні проявили мужність, наскоки чужинців відбивали. Жінки діставали назад своїх померлих, які воскресали. Інші загинули в муках, відкинувши визволення, щоб осягнути ліпше воскресіння. Інші наруг і бичів зазнали та ще й кайданів і в'язниці; їх каменовано, розрізувано пилою, брано на допити; вони вмирили, мечем забиті; тинялися в овечих та козячих шкурах, збідовані, гноблені, кривджені; вони, яких світ був невартий, блукали пустинями, горами, печерами та земними вертепами. І всі вони, дарма що мали добре засвідчення вірою, не одержали обіцяного, бо Бог зберіг нам щось краще, щоб вони не без нас осягли досконалість. Тому і ми, маючи навколо себе таку велику хмару свідків, відкиньмо всякий тягар і гріх, що так легко обмотує, і біжімо витривало до змагання, що призначене нам, вдивляючися пильно в Ісуса, засновника й завершителя віри, який, замість радості, що перед ним була, витерпів хрест, на сором не звертаючи уваги, і який возсів праворуч Божого престолу.

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**Алилуя, глас 4:** *Стих:* Мойсей і Арон між ереями його і Самуїл між тими, що призивають ім'я його. *Стих:* Призивали Господа і він вислухав їх.

**Євангеліє - Івана 1:43-51** - У той час вирішив Ісус піти в Галилею; і знайшовши Филипа, мовив до нього: "Іди за мною." А був Филип з Витсаїди, з міста Андрієвого та Петрового. Зустрів Филип Натанаїла і сказав до нього: "Ми знайшли того, про кого Мойсей у законі писав і пророки, – Ісуса Йосифового сина, з Назарету." Натанаїл же йому на те: "А що доброго може бути з Назарету?" Мовив до нього Филип: "Прийди та подивися." Побачивши Ісус, що Натанаїл надходив до нього, сказав про нього: "Ось справжній ізраїльтянин, що нема в ньому лукавства." Натанаїл же йому: "Звідкіль знаєш мене?" Сказав Ісус, промовивши до нього: "Перше, ніж Филип закликав тебе, бачив я тебе, як був єси під смоковницею." Відповів же йому Натанаїл: "Учителю, ти – Син Божий, ти – цар Ізраїлів.» Ісус відказав, мовивши до нього: "Тому, що я повідав тобі: Бачив я тебе під смоковницею, – то й віриш! Бачитимеш більше, ніж те." І сказав до нього: "Істинно, істинно кажу вам: Побачите небеса відкриті, й ангелів Божих, як висходять та сходять на Сина Чоловічого."

*Замість "Достойно..." співаємо:* Тобою радується, Благодатная, всяка твар, ангельський собор і чоловічеський рід, освящений храм і раю словесний, дівственна похвало, що із неї Бог воплотився і младенцем став – перед віками сущий Бог наш. Лоно бо твоє престолом сотворив і утробу твою просторішою небес учинив. Тобою радується, Благодатная, всяка твар, слава тобі.

**Причасний:** Хваліте Господа з небес,\* хваліте Його на висотах. \* Радуйтеся, праведні, у Господі,\* правим належить похвала. Алилуя, алилуя, алилуя.

### NATHANIEL SEES GOD (*John 1:43-51*)



The story of Jesus' encounter with Nathaniel is a brief and almost cryptic tale which many have tried to explain. Nathaniel and his friend Philip were both disciples of St John the Forerunner. They had responded to John's announcement that One was coming "whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loosen" (Jn 1:27). The Lord Jesus had gone to the Jordan where John was baptizing and it is there that John identified Jesus as the Awaited One. "Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, 'Behold the Lamb of God!'" (vv. 35, 36) Philip may have been one of those who heard John's testimony, so that when Jesus invited Philip to follow Him, he responded positively.

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In turn, Philip goes to his friend Nathaniel with the news, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (v. 45). Nathaniel replies laconically, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (v.46)

In any case, Philip responds with the same words that Jesus earlier said to Andrew, “Come and see.” When Nathaniel finally meets Jesus, the Lord utters another cryptic remark: “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!’ Nathanael said to Him, ‘How do You know me?’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you’” (vv. 47, 48).

What was Nathaniel doing under the fig tree? Again, many suggestions have been offered; none of them are attested in the Scripture, so we cannot know for sure. One possibility upheld by many in our Tradition is that Nathaniel was praying at that time: *O God of our fathers, send us the One whom You have promised. Send us the Messiah, the Savior.* Faith in the promise of a Savior is what marks out a true Israelite. The Lord, they say, saw him at prayer and He saw Nathaniel’s heart. Nathaniel’s response marks him as one of the first disciples of Christ, whom He called before His ministry in Galilee.

“*You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!*” (v. 49), Nathaniel sees that Jesus is the Messiah and acclaims Him with the traditional titles of a royal Messiah: “Son of God” and “King of Israel.”

At the end of His public ministry Jesus’ followers would affirm their faith in His heavenly origin: “See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God” (Jn 16:29, 30). But it would only be after His resurrection, when the risen Christ was manifested to the disciples that the full force of Jesus’ words to Nathaniel would be realized: “*Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man*” (Jn 1:51). Nathaniel, like the rest of the apostles, would grow to see Jesus not as the earthly conqueror devout Jews were awaiting but as a King not of this world and, ultimately, the eternal Word of God incarnate.

## WE SHALL SEE HIM AS HE IS

We have completed the first week of the Great Fast. Hopefully, we have met the goals which have set for ourselves: the degree of fasting and almsgiving appropriate to our station in life, or the participation in the services which our schedule of responsibilities allows. Whether we did or did not do so, we should realize that taking part in such practices is not the ultimate purpose of the fasting season. The final goal of the Great Fast – and of our entire life as Christians – is our ultimate transfiguration in Christ.

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St Paul – who had seen the transfigured glory of the risen Christ appear to him on the road to Damascus – insisted that we will share in this transformation and that this change is already taking place: “*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord*” (2 Cor 3:18). He daringly asserts that we are being transformed to be the mirror image of the risen Christ. Our human nature, he proclaims, is being renewed after the model who is Christ. This is what our later tradition calls *theosis* (deification), being “*partakers of the divine nature*” (2 Pt 1:4): given a share through Christ in the very life of God.

We may try to imitate Christ, to pattern our actions on the way of life which Christ has proposed to us; but the change described in the Scripture demands more than our striving to make it so. It demands an *ontological change*, something that affects us at the heart of our being and turns the water of our human nature in the wine of God. This transformation is what St Paul calls “*the mystery decreed before the ages for our glory*” (1 Cor 2:7).

The first transformation in this mystery is **the incarnation** of the Word of God Himself. He assumes our human nature without putting aside His divinity. His glory was concealed – except for the moment of His transfiguration on Mt. Tabor – but He did not cease being the eternal Son of God. His incarnation was complete: “*in all things He had to be made like His brethren*” (Heb 2:17) so that He would transform our entire human nature. St Gregory the Theologian expressed it concisely, “That which He has not assumed He has not healed; but that which is united to His Godhead is thereby saved.” In other words, if there is an aspect of our being which the Son did not assume in the incarnation, then that aspect of our humanity would be beyond the reach of Christ’s redeeming work.

The second transformation is ours: we are **incorporated into Christ**. When we are baptized into Christ we experience an ontological change, we have “put on Christ.” We have been taken into His family and His divine Father by nature is now ours, as we are “*adopted as sons by Jesus Christ in himself, according to the good pleasure of his will*” (Eph 1:5). Body and soul, we have become the dwelling place of “*Christ in you, the hope of glory*” (Col 1:27) and “*the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you*” (1 Cor 6:19).

## ST. NICHOLAS PARISH EASTER FOOD FAIR

### FOOD PREPARATION SCHEDULE

**Saturday, March 25, 2023**

The following is the food preparation schedule for the St. Nicholas Parish Easter Food Fair fundraiser that will held on Saturday, March 25 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

**Tue. Feb. 28** - Peel/cook potatoes, make pyrohy filling. 8:30 am – 12 noon. Need 3 volunteers.

**Wed. Mar. 1** - Make potato balls. 8:30 am – 12 noon. Need 8 volunteers.

**Thu. Mar. 2** - Make pyrohy. 8:30 am -1:30 pm. Need 25-28 volunteers. Lunch provided.

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**Fri. Mar. 3** - Bag frozen pyrohy. 2:00-4:00 pm. Need 3-4 volunteers.

**Tue. Mar. 7** - Steam/rib cabbage. 8:30 am -12 noon. Need 6-7 volunteers.

**Wed. Mar. 8** - Cook rice, make cabbage roll filling. 8:30- 12 noon. Need 2 volunteers.

**Thu. Mar. 9** - Make cabbage rolls. 8:30 am -12 noon. Need 15 volunteers. Lunch provided.

**Fri. Mar. 10** - Bag frozen cabbage rolls. 2:00-4:00 pm. Need 2 volunteers.

**Sat. Mar 11** - Core/freeze cabbage. 2:00-3:30 pm. Need 2 volunteers.

**Tue. Mar. 14** - Peel/cook potatoes, make pyrohy filling: 8:30 am -12 noon. Need 3 volunteers.

**Wed. Mar. 15** - Make potato balls. 8:30 am -12 noon. Need 8 volunteers.

**Thu. Mar. 16** - Make pyrohy. 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. Need 25-28 volunteers. Lunch provided.

**Fri. Mar. 17** - Bag frozen pyrohy. 2:00-4:00 pm. Need 3-4 volunteers.

**Mon. Mar 20** - Make babkas. 8:30 – 10:45; and 10:45 -1:00pm. Need 5 volunteers each session.

**Tue. Mar. 21** - Steam/rib cabbage. 8:30 am – 12 noon. Need 6-7 volunteers.

**Wed. Mar. 22** - Cook rice, make cabbage roll filling. 8:30 am- 12 noon. Need 2 volunteers.

**Thu. Mar. 23** - Make cabbage rolls. 8:30 am – 12 noon. Need 15 volunteers. Lunch provided.

**Fri. Mar. 24** - Bag frozen cabbage rolls. 8:30 -10:00 am. Need 2 volunteers.

**Fri. Mar. 24** - Set up hall for the Food Fair. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Need 6-7 volunteers.

**Sat. Mar. 25** - FOOD FAIR for public. Sales from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. Need 20 -25 volunteers to bring out frozen food, handle all sales and clean up, etc. **Note - NO HOT LUNCH.**

As always your assistance in helping out with the preparations for our Easter Food Fair is very much appreciated as this is a major fundraiser for our parish. Please invite your friends and other family members to help with the various food prep, specially to make pyrohy and cabbage rolls. Please contact Robert at **250-386-7872**, [rlherchak@gmail.com](mailto:rlherchak@gmail.com) to advise when you can come to help.

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