

Sunday, September 12, 2021

**ST. ATHANASIOS UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH
55 MCMURCHY AVENUE
REGINA SK. S4R 3G3**

Parish Priest: Fr. Vasyl Tymishak
Cell Phone: 306-519-9030

E-mail: vasyltymishak@gmail.com

Parish Office: 306-543-8008

E-mail: stathanasius@sasktel.net

Website: www.st-athanasius.ca

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reginaukrainiancatholicnorth/live>

Parish Council President – Kevin Korchinski

Cell phone (call or text) @ 306-539-3935

E-mail: kevin@osac.ca

UCWLC President - Josie Vantour

Seniors' Club President - Angie Lawryk

UCBC President - Mark Woitas

Ultimate A&B Youth - Lesia Lazurko

Knights of Columbus – James Empey, Grand Knight

Parish Coordinator of Care (PCC) - Mary Lou Senko @ 306-525-6437

ROSARY: Sunday – 9:15 a.m. *(livestreaming)*

DIVINE LITURGY: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. for the faithful. *(livestreaming)*

Weekday Liturgies – as scheduled

MEMBERSHIP AT ST. ATHANASIOS PARISH is recognized by participating in the Sunday Divine Liturgy and by fulfilling your baptismal responsibility in contributing to our Church Community activities by using your time, talents and treasures. Regular financial donations by use of Sunday envelopes is necessary for our parish to grow and prosper.

Please contact Fr. Vasyl if you know of any parishioner who is sick and wants to be visited.

St. John Paul II Syro-Malabar Parish – Fr. Daris Cherian

Phone: 1-647-680-2415

Parish Council Trustee – Arun Raj Phone: (306-515-1987)

E-mail: daris.cherian@gmail.com

E-mail: rajarunpaul@gmail.com



wear one in church.

June 30, 2021, Sask Health and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon had lifted all restrictions regarding Church services. Anyone with COVID symptoms is required to remain at home and schedule a test. Isolate from others until test results are returned negative. People with cold and flu symptoms are encouraged to remain at home. Masks are not mandatory upon entering the church and during Divine Liturgy. However, if you are more comfortable with a mask, you may continue to

СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ! СЛАВА НАВІКИ!

GLORY BE TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY BE FOREVER

Welcome to all visitors and parishioners who are celebrating the Liturgy with us today. All are invited to the auditorium for coffee, juice, cookies and socializing.



TO ALL PARISHIONERS: During our Livestream and Videotaping, the video may capture the likeness of those parishioners sitting in the pews during our services. This video will be kept for a maximum of 45 days. Other than those who choose to view the livestream as it happens, the video will not be released to third parties. As our video will stream on Facebook, we will comply with that website's regulations. If you are uncomfortable being on video, please advise the Greeters when you enter the church and they will place you in a pew where you will not be captured.

Please join our services by visiting our website and clicking on the Livestream icon: <https://st-athanasius.ca/> or on Facebook:

<https://facebook.com/reginaukrainiancatholicnorth/live>

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!
Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава на віки!

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
- Post-feast of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary

SUNDAY TROPAR (Tone 7): By Your cross You destroyed death; You opened Paradise to the thief; You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy, and charged the apostles to proclaim that You are risen, O Christ, our God, offering great mercy to the world.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

KONDAK OF THE NATIVITY (Tone 4): Through your holy birth, O Immaculate One, Joachim and Anne were freed from the reproach of childlessness, and Adam and Eve* from the corruption of death. Delivered from the guilt of sin, your people celebrate this when they cry out to you: She who is barren gives birth to the Mother of God and the Sustainer of our life.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen!

SUNDAY KONDAK (Tone 7): No longer shall the dominion of death be able to hold humanity, for Christ went down shattering and destroying its powers. Hades is bound. The Prophets exult with one voice. The Savior has come for those with faith, saying: "Come forth, O faithful, to the resurrection!"

PROKIMEN (Tone 6): Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.
VERSE: Unto You I will cry, O Lord my God, lest You turn from me in silence.

EPISTLE: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians (6:11-18)
Brothers and Sisters! See, I write to you in my own large handwriting! Those who are trying to force you to be circumcised are making a play for human approval --- with an eye to escaping persecution for the cross of Christ. The very ones who accept circumcision do not follow the law themselves. They want you to be circumcised only that they may boast about your bodily observance. May I never boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through it, the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. It means nothing whether one is circumcised or not. All that matters is that one is created anew. Peace and mercy on all who follow this rule of life, and on the Israel of God. Henceforth, let no man trouble me, for I bear the brand marks of Jesus in my body. Brothers, may the favour of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

ALLELUIA VERSE: *I have promoted the one chosen from my people and anointed him with my holy oil.
My hand will be constantly with him, he will be able to rely on my arm.*

GOSPEL: (John 3:13-17)

The Lord said, "No one has gone to heaven except the One who came down from there -- the Son of Man who is in heaven. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that all who believe may have eternal life in him. Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life.

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

INSTEAD OF 'IT IS TRULY RIGHT...': O my soul, extol the Virgin Mary, born of a barren womb. Mothers cannot be virgins, nor virgins be mothers; but in you, O Mother of God, both virginity and motherhood were present. Therefore, all the people of the earth unceasingly extol you.

COMMUNION HYMN: I will take the chalice of salvation; and I will call upon the name of the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE September 13 – September 19, 2021

Monday, September 13 - Commemoration of the Dedication of the Holy Church of the Resurrection of Christ Our God (335); Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross; the Holy Priest-Martyr Cornelius the Centurion; [Ephesians 1:22-2:3](#); [Mark 10:46-52](#)

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for + John Bobryk, requested by Tyler Woloshyn *livestreaming*

7:00 p.m. Catechism registration

Tuesday, September 14 - The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross; [1 Corinthians 1:18-24](#); [John 19:6-11](#), [13-20](#), [25-28](#), [30-35](#)

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (for faithful) with Exposition of the Holy Cross *livestreaming*

Wednesday, September 15 - Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Great-Martyr Nicetas (374); [Ephesians 3:8-21](#); [Mark 11:23-26](#)

Consultors meeting

Thursday, September 16 - Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Great-Martyr Euphemia, the All-Famed (303); [Ephesians 4:14-19](#); [Mark 11:27-33](#)

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for health and God's blessing upon Christina Obarianyck, requested by Christopher Forsberg

7:30 p.m. Prayers for Newly Departed Victor Maksymetz at Speers Funeral Chapel

Friday, September 17 - Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Holy Martyr Sophia, and Her Three Daughters Faith, Hope and Love; [Ephesians 4:17-25](#); [Mark 12:1-12](#)

10:00 a.m. Funeral of Victor Maksymetz at St. Athanasius Church - livestreaming

Saturday, September 18 - Saturday after the Exaltation of the Cross; Our Venerable Father Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna; [1 Corinthians 1:26-29](#); [John 8:21-30](#)

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy in Chaplin

Sunday, September 19 - Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross, Tone 8; Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedontus (276-82); [Galatians 2:16-20](#); [Mark 8:34-9:1](#)

9:15 a.m. Rosary livestreaming

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy for faithful *livestreaming*

1:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy in Moose Jaw

POPE's PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER: *Universal intention – An environmentally sustainable lifestyle.* We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

SEPTEMBER FOOD BANK ITEM – SOUP



Grad Sunday is September 19th. Come join us in congratulating the parish grads from 2020 (4) and 2021 (2).

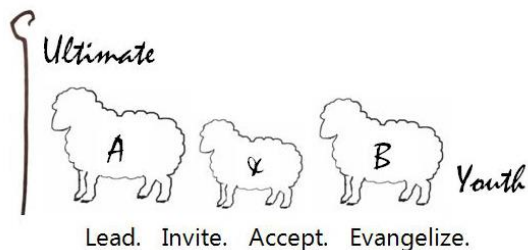
Did I miss anyone? Call Josie Vantour 306-347-0631, jmvantour@asktel.net.

SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES are extended to Darla Maksymetz and family on the death of Victor Maksymetz who passed away on Wednesday, September 9th, 2021. **Prayers will be held at Speers Funeral Chapel, 2136 College Avenue, Regina, SK on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.**

FUNERAL SERVICE will take place at **St. Athanasius Ukrainian Catholic Church**, on Friday, September 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Вічна Пам'ять – Vichnaya Pamyat! Eternal Memory!

Youth and Young Adult News



ULTIMATE A & B YOUTH

Are you in grades 7 to 12? Have you checked out our youth group? Well now's the chance!

The theme for this year is Awaken!

Our first event is Friday, September 24 from 7:15pm to 9:15pm at St. Basil's Parish Centre. The event will consist of fellowship, team building activities, and a mini reflection. RSVP by September 23, 2021 to Lesia at the email below.

The purpose of these events is to enable the youth to share their gifts with others,

encourage them to discover their purpose with God and build relationships within our parishes.

Other dates include: Friday, October 29, Friday, November 19, and Friday, December 10, 2021.

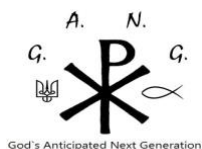
Invite a friend or two to join in for any or all the events!

Check out the bulletin board for all the youth event dates and other information.

If you have any questions, please email Lesia Lazurko, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, at ultimateaandb@hotmail.com.

YOUNG ADULTS





Are you age 18 to 35? Have you heard about our young adult group? If not, now's the time!
Our purpose is to foster spiritual growth, build relationships and empower ourselves to find our role as vibrant members while we encounter God in our parish community.

Our first event will be a WYD 2021: Vigil Walk hosted by the Archdiocese of Regina on Saturday, October 2 from 2:00pm to 12:15 am (Sunday). We will leave Regina at 2pm from Resurrection Parish and travel out to the Kronau Grotto. There, we will have catechesis, small group discussions, Mass, supper, adoration & reconciliation, a vigil walk (6-8 km with 2/3 stops along the way for a prayer experience), hot dogs/hot chocolate, praise party and board the buses back to Regina at 12:15am.



Please see the bulletin board with a poster for the event and how to register. Other dates include: Sunday, November 7 and Friday, December 10, 2021. Check out the bulletin board for more information on future dates. If you have any questions, please email Lesia Lazurko, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, at ultimateaandb@hotmail.com.

GREETERS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2021

September 12	Maggie Stephen & Bernice Bzdell
September 19	Kevin Korchinski & Len Markewich
September 26	Terry & Rosanne Miller
October 3	Mark & Karen Woitas
October 10	Carl & Linda Korchynski
October 17	Maggie Stephen & Bernice Bzdell
October 24	Kevin Korchinski & Len Markewich
October 31	Terry & Rosanne Miller

Catechism registration for the 2021/2022 season will be taking place, in person, on Monday, September 13th at 7:00 pm. Classes are for children from grades 1-7. If you have a student or know of a child who is in this age range and would like to learn more about our faith, please plan to attend. If you know of a student who wishes to receive First Solemn Communion, which takes place in grade 2, then grade 1 classes, are recommended. If you have any questions or cannot come to the registration in person please call/text Karen Woitas at 306-775-0667 or e-mail mwoitas@sasktel.net

COFFEE SCHEDULE: Coffee schedules are available for you to sign up. This will continue unless new guidelines come from the province because of increased COVID cases. Also, the parish is looking for someone to be in charge of purchasing supplies for this weekly event. If you have questions, Carl and Linda Korchinski would be able to answer them. Please, help out when you can.



Please note: Recommended Schedule of Offerings (Stipends) for services in the Eparchy of Saskatoon

- Divine Liturgy (Regularly schedule weekday)....\$20.00
- Divine Liturgy (Special requested time).....\$50.00
- Panakhyda.....\$10.00

The fees are allocated to the priest and no income tax receipt will be issued.

The full fee schedule of services is posted in the back of the church and on the bulletin board in the auditorium for you to review.



ANNOUNCING:

**Covenant of Care/Safeguarding 2020 Training Update
Who needs to complete safeguarding training?**

All persons including clergy, religious, staff or volunteers who work in Eparchial ministries organizations, or affiliated organizations or parishes/parish organizations, who are in positions of trust. The Safeguarding policy p. 8-9 (<https://www.skeparchy.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Eparchial-Safeguarding-Policy-Final-Version-06-October-01-2020.pdf>) defines positions of trust as follows:

A 'trust' position will include those:

- *working in an unsupervised setting where ministry, food, transportation or other necessities could be provided to minors and/or vulnerable adults,*
- *having access to confidential information, and/or*
- *being entrusted with control of keys, church property and money.*

Trust positions also include, but are not limited to, Children's or Youth Ministry (including all camps, volunteer driving, Altar Server or Children of Mary Programs, Children's/Youth Choirs, Catechism and Sacramental Prep), and Eucharistic/Pastoral Care Ministry to the sick and shut-ins.

Registration Forms & FAQ (if you are unsure about whether you need to be trained, what type of training it is and how it can be accomplished) can be found on our Eparchial website at:

<https://www.skeparchy.org/wordpress/about-us/policies-and-procedures/eparchial-safeguarding-policy-covenant-of-care-electronic-communication-and-technology-abuse-and-misconduct-policy/>

Send your completed training Registration Form to Deborah Larmour at:

covenantofcare@skeparchy.org

LIFE CHAIN: Please join us as we prayerfully witness to the dignity and importance of all life on Sunday, Oct 3, 2:00 to 3:00pm. This year, we will be meeting on the west side of Albert St in the green space by the Large Grasshopper just off Leopold Cr. We will maintain protocols (if any), grab signs and distance out along Albert St for our hour of prayerful witness to LIFE. Please bring your own hand sanitizer and masks, if you wish to wear them. Due to restrictions, we are unable to offer food or drinks. Please park on the west side of Albert St on or around Leopold Cr and not in the Museum parking lot.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH HALL: Harvest Music Fest, Sunday, September 26 at 2:00pm. Admission \$10.00. If you would like more information regarding this event, *please* refer to the poster on the bulletin board in the auditorium.

NOTICE: Our parish expenses continue, even though there are no restrictions on numbers who can attend church services and we continue our livestreaming of all services. Therefore, it would be very much appreciated if you could continue your support of the parish. There are a few options available to you: drop off your envelope at 54 McMurchy Avenue, mail in your cheque to 55 McMurchy Avenue, Regina, S4R 3G3, or you can also do an e-transfer to stathandeposit@sasktel.net. PLEASE COMPLETE THE MESSAGE FIELD and DO NOT USE ALIAS NAMES WHEN SENDING AN E-TRANSFER DONATION.

September 5: 29 Sunday donation envelopes - \$1815; 4 Building Fund envelopes - \$170; 7 Beatifications – Canonizations - \$150; Loose Change - \$25.

E-Transfers: 2 donations - \$3050.
11 Pre authorized Givings - \$1775.

Please Continue to Pray for Our Seminarians and for Vocations

Please continue to pray

for our seminarians and for vocations to the priesthood and all religious communities of men and women. We are truly blessed to have three young men from our Eparchy of Saskatoon who are studying in preparation for priesthood. All three of our seminarians continue their studies at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Edmonton, AB. Please pray for Ivan, Jonathan and Matthew, and all the seminarians, as they continue with their studies for the priesthood.

Pray for Our Seminarians



Ivan Simko



Jonathan Lashyn



Matthew Lashyn

LORD of the Harvest,

BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving— for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.

— Pope Francis

Adapted from the Message on the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PILGRIMAGE & TOUR to Mexico City "Enculturated 2022"— February 10 – 19, 2022 with Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR. Journey with San Juan Diego to meet Our Lady on the Hill of Tepeyac! Meditate on the mystery of the miraculous tilma in the Basilica! Be uplifted by thousands of people on a Sunday morning! Experience enculturated evangelization! Come home understanding how powerful Our Lady's appearance truly was and is today! **Land Package & Registration: **Double/triple occupancy \$2100/person; *Single occupancy \$2400. Land package includes** hotel accommodation, breakfasts & dinners at the Hotel Villa Quijotes near the Shrine. Also includes English speaking tour guide with

group van transportation (includes group to/from airport). **Pilgrim's expenses include** travel/health insurance, lunches, tips for maids & waiters, mass offerings & donations, shopping, personal needs, personal requests to tour guide, free time expenses, museum & pyramid admission (\$10 approx.). **Group Airfare & Insurance:** Michael Bayda, Lobstick Travel 1-800-665-0171; mike@lobsticktravel.com

Registration: \$100.00 (nonrefundable deposit) to hold your spot; **\$1,000.00 (\$1150 single)** required by **October 31, 2021**. Balance of **\$1,000.00 (\$1150 single)** required by **November 30, 2021**. **Contact:** Teresa Bodnar-Hiebert all5hieberts@gmail.com





ЛІГА УКРАЇНСЬКИХ КАТОЛИЦЬКИХ ЖІНОК КАНАДИ
Крайова Управа



UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE of CANADA
National Executive

Dear Young People of the Eparchy of Saskatoon,

A wonderful opportunity exists for our Ukrainian young people at the university level. The **Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada National Executive** offers two scholarships to post-secondary students enrolled in Ukrainian Studies and Religious Studies.

The Vera Buczynsky
Ukrainian Studies Scholarship

for **\$1000** is offered to any person, male or female, who is a member of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada and enrolled in Ukrainian Studies at the post-secondary level. Criteria and applications are available online at www.ucwlc.ca and can be submitted electronically to:

The Vera Buczynsky Ukrainian Studies
Scholarship Committee
Barbara Olynyk, chair
ucwlcnationalscholarships@gmail.com

*Deadline for receipt of completed applications is
September 30.*

The Mary Dyma
Religious Studies Scholarship

for **\$1000** is offered to a lay woman who is a member of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada. Secondly the applicant must be enrolled in courses of Religious Studies in an accredited program. Criteria and applications are available online at www.ucwlc.ca and can be submitted electronically to:

The Mary Dyma Religious Studies
Scholarship Committee
Barbara Olynyk, chair
ucwlcnationalscholarships@gmail.com

*Deadline for receipt of completed applications is
September 30.*

I encourage you to take this opportunity to apply for these scholarships.

Yours in Christ,
Oristeen Kulyk
Eparchy of Saskatoon Representative
UCWLC National Scholarship Committee

**Catholic TRC Healing
Response
for Residential School
Survivors**

Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan

Launch “Catholic TRC Healing Response” Fundraising Appeal

On July 13, 2021 the five Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan released more details about a planned fundraising appeal entitled “**Catholic TRC Healing Response**”. The Saskatchewan bishops stated that the appeal’s goal is “to support Residential School survivors

and their communities and to engage more deeply in our own ongoing commitment and response to the Truth and Reconciliation process” with funds going to the priorities of healing and reconciliation; cemeteries on the sites of former residential schools; and education and cultural support. To donate immediately or make a long-term pledge, see the online giving options at: dscf.ca/catholic-trc-healing-response. More information is also available on our Eparchial website: [Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan Launch “Catholic TRC Healing Response” Fundraising Appeal](#)



SCAN ME

**The Third Annual
Walking
Pilgrimage**

Theme: The Mystery of Confession

– Our Encounter with the Merciful Father

Saturday, September 18th

9:00 am – 8:00 pm

From: Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of St. George (210 Avenue M South)

To: St. Volodymyr Chapel (25 km) Ukrainian Catholic

Eparchial Park, Pike Lake

- Participation fee: \$15

Supported by the Annual Eparchial Appeal

**Registration by September 16th to uwitness2youth@skeparchy.org
(Viktoriia Marko)**



9:00 am	– Divine Liturgy at St. George’s Cathedral
9:45 am	– Talk 1: Holy Mystery of Confession – the Gift of God’s Mercy
10:15 am	– Snack / Instructions
10:45 am	– Walking
12:30 pm	– Lunch / Talk 2: Our Preparation for the Mystery of Confession & Reconciliation
1:30 pm	– Walking
3:30 pm	– Snack / Talk 3: Exam of Conscience in the Light of Ten Commandments and the Seven Deadly Sins
4:15 pm	– Walking
6:00 pm	– Arrival at St. Volodymyr Chapel / Moleben
6:30 pm	– Barbeque & Sharing
8:00 pm	– Return to the Cathedral of St. George

Confessions will be available on our stops and during the Moleben.

Bring: good shoes, appropriate clothes, rosary, hand sanitizer, snack, lunch

Supper & water will be provided.

"Memories of Father Wolodymyr Iwaszko" **Book Project Update**



To honour and preserve the memory of Reverend Mitrat Wolodymyr Iwaszko, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, in cooperation with the youth from Sambir (Ukraine), have launched several projects. Fr. Iwaszko was a simple priest who left an enduring legacy of selfless service to God, country and community, - especially to youth in Canada and in Ukraine.

Nearing completion is the first project- a book that will include Fr. Wolodymyr's memoirs, which he wrote at the age of 85. Many photographs and much material has been collected and compiled, documenting how his life story serves as an inspiration to all he touched; reflecting how his memory remains forever in the hearts and minds

of those fortunate enough to have known him.

We invite you to be part of this monumental project by making a donation towards the publication of the book. Any financial support is sincerely welcomed! Donors will be listed in the book.

Please make your cheque payable to "Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon" indicating that your donation is towards the **"Memories of Fr. Iwaszko Project – Book."** Mail to: **Chancery Office – 214 Avenue M South, Saskatoon, SK S7M 2K4.** A charity receipt will follow.

If you have any questions or require more information regarding this project, please contact Viktoriia Marko, Director of Fr. Iwaszko Projects, at 306-914-0355 or email uwitness2youth@skeparchy.org. Thank-you!

Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Bishop Emeritus Eparchy of New Westminster, reposed in the Lord on September 6, 2021, in Vancouver, BC. Bishop Severian was in his 92nd year of life, 75th year of monastic life, 67th year of priestly service, and 27th year of episcopal ministry.

Grant O Lord eternal life to your servant Bishop Severian! Вічна Пам'ятъ – Vichnaya Pamyat! Eternal Memory!

Bishop Ken Nowakowski is currently in the hospital in London suffering from COVID. Please remember Bishop Ken in your prayers for a speedy recovery and returns to good health.



SEASON OF CREATION

From the Office of Human and Environmental Development Program

- Dr. Lesya Sabada, Coordinator

An Eastern Christian Point of View on the Season of Creation

“Where there is no vision, the people will perish” Proverbs 29:18

The ecological vision of the Eastern Church is grounded in the Biblical and Patristic understanding of the interrelation and reciprocity outlined in the five main points below:

- 1) Creation is an ecological order involving unity, diversity, interdependence, hierarchy, and harmony.
- 2) Human nature is both integrally part of the order of creation, and at the same time, there is something in our nature - our Divine image – that transcends the created order, making us both responsible for creation as priests and stewards and dependent upon it in our kinship with all life.
- 3) The nature of the relationship of human nature with the order of nature is one of dynamic reciprocity; that is, what humans are and what humans do is central to sustaining or the destruction of order and harmony in nature.
- 4) Metanoia – change of heart followed by a change of life is key to all earth keeping and care for creation. If human nature is integral to the order of nature, then disorder in nature can be restored only by order in human beings.
- 5) The human energy that creates, sustains, and restores order in nature is the energy of sacrificial love, grounded in *ascesis* – self-discipline.

Links:

- [Season of Creation 2021 Calendar & Info>>](#)
- [Season of Creation Prayer Guide>>](#)
- [Season of Creation Educational Kit>>](#)
- [Season of Creation Action Guide>>](#)

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Sunday Before The Exaltation of the Holy Cross – September 12th

Confession, the Forgiveness of Sins

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. [Jesus] said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.'" (John 20:19-23)

There, the risen Christ gives to His disciples the power of binding and loosing sins - a juridical power. This task of binding and loosing was transmitted from the apostles to their successors, the bishops. In the early church, the administration of penance was something public; it didn't involve the private giving of counsel or advice. It was something exceptional. You hoped, by God's mercy, that you wouldn't have to be involved in penance. Indeed, the penances that were imposed were by our standards extremely severe. It often requires a leap of the imagination on our part to think of how life was in the ancient church. For example, for fornication - I mean, sex outside of marriage - St. Gregory of Nyssa assigns a penance of nine years without communion. St. Basil is a little more merciful, he says seven years without communion. Finally, in the sixth and seventh century, in the canonical legislation of St. John the Faster, it's been reduced to two years. Even so, by our standard, that may well seem severe.

Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware)