

Akathist Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> Weekend of Great Lent

“Gabriel the Archangel shall come openly to you, O all-blameless One, and he shall exclaim to you: “Rejoice, O Deliverance from the curse, and the One who raises the fallen! Rejoice, O you who alone was chosen by God!” - Matins,  
Akathist Saturday

By Sister Agnes Knapik, Journey Through the Great Fast

The beautiful Akathist Hymn warms our hearts with its poetical expressions of love and respect for Mary, the Most Holy Godbearer. The Most pure Virgin Mary's love for Her Divine Son and her perfect obedience to the will of God are given to us today as part of our greatfast meditation.

In the preamble Hymn, the Holy Archangel Gabriel is astounded. He witnesses heaven coming down to earth as the Word of God is formed in Mary's womb. “Rejoice, O you through whom joy will shine forth, O you through whom the curse will disappear!” is the Archangel's response as God miraculously takes the form of a servant.

When Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, the Holy Precursor John the Baptist – as a pre-born child- recognizes Mary's embrace. In a leap of joy within his mother Mary's womb, he cries out to her: “O favor of God to mortals, O trust of mortals before God!”

Filled with awe, the humble shepherds of Bethlehem look upon Mary holding the newborn Christ. “Rejoice, O Mother of the Lamb and Shepherd!” They recognize that her Son will be not only the Lamb sacrificed for us, but He will also be our Good Shepherd.

The Magi perceive Mary as the “Mother of the Star without setting, the one who guides the faithful toward Wisdom, the light of those who search the Trinity.” We must likewise understand that the Most Holy Virgin will lead us to a deeper union with Christ, her Son and our God.

**Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon**

**www.skeparchy.org**

**Wynyard Pastoral District**

**Father Jeffrey D. Stephaniuk**

**306-560-8885**

**March 13, 2016**

March 13 Wynyard 9 am Foam Lake 11

Palm Sunday weekend: Saturday, March 19 Foam Lake 5 pm

March 20 Wishart 9 Wynyard 11

March 20 Wynyard Easter Tea and Bake Sale

March 24 Foam Lake 5 pm Wynyard 7:30 pm

Good Friday Foam Lake 10 am Wishart 11:30

Krasne 3 pm (Blessing of baskets at Kranse) Wynyard 7 pm

Sat March 26 Wynyard 12 noon Blessing Easter Baskets

Kuroki 2 pm Holar 5:00 pm Wishart 8 pm

Easter Sunday Foam Lake 7:15 am

Wynyard 9:30 am Krasne 11:30 am

Easter confessions: Foam Lake, Wednesday, March 16, 2016

during 4:30 pm Lenten Devotions

+William Kostiuk, brother of Father Walter Kostiuk, fell asleep in the Lord on the morning of Friday, March 11, 2016.

We extend our prayers and condolences to Father Walter and the members of the Kostiuk family. May our belief in the Resurrection bring the family comfort and peace.

**Вічна пам'ять! Everlasting Memory!**

(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis has written a letter of thanks and gratitude to His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevhchuk, Major Archbishop of Kiev and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

The Archbishop, together with other members of the Permanent Synod of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church have been meeting in Rome and released a statement in which they affirmed communion with the Catholic Church. They were received in audience by the Pope on Saturday. In his letter to Archbishop Shevhchuk, Pope Francis recalls that some seventy years ago, a particular ideological and political context, as well as the existence of “ideas that were contrary to the very existence of your Church, led to the organization of a pseudo-synod in Lviv, and caused decades of suffering for the pastors and the faithful”.

“In sad memory of these events, he writes, we bow our heads in deep gratitude before those, who at the cost of suffering and even martyrdom, continued to witness the faith in the course of time and to show dedication to the Church in union with the Successor of Peter”. At the same time, Pope Francis continues, “with eyes lit by the same faith, we look to the Lord Jesus Christ, to place in him, and not in human justice, all of our hope”.

“He is the true source of our trust in the present and in the future, as we are called to announce the Gospel also in the midst of suffering or difficulties” he says.

And the Pope goes on to express deep gratitude for the loyalty of Ukrainian Greek-Catholics and encourages them to be “tireless witnesses of that hope which makes our

existence and the existence of all of our brothers and sisters more luminous”.

Pope Francis also renewed his feelings of solidarity with the pastors and faithful for all they do in these difficult times “marked by the hardships of war, to alleviate the suffering of the population and to seek the ways of peace for the beloved Ukrainian land”.

“In the Lord, he concludes, is our courage and our joy. It is to Him that I speak, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the martyrs of your Church, so that the divine consolation may illuminate your communities in Ukraine and other parts of the world”.

(Linda Bordoni)



Pope Expresses Gratitude to Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church