

***Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic Parishes of St. George, Prince Albert,
All Saints, Nipawin, and Holy Spirit, Melfort***

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PRINCE ALBERT LITURGICAL SCHEDULE: No services until further notice

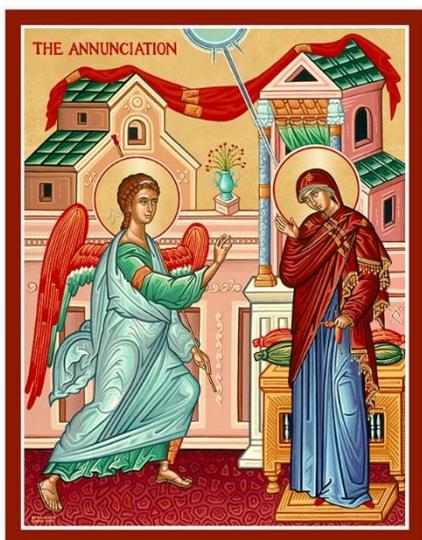
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава на Віки!

In these times of self-isolation, it is important to take care of our health, by washing our hands and practicing social distancing. However, spiritual health is just as important. So as a way to connect, I thought I would put down some thoughts about this week in terms of spiritual matters.

Wednesday, March 25th

Feast of the Annunciation (March 25th which is exactly nine months before December 25th, the birthday of Jesus):



- I invite you to read the story of the annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel came to Mary to give her the good news of God's plan for salvation; that she would conceive and give birth to Jesus, the savior of the world. (The annunciation story is found in Luke 1: 26-38).

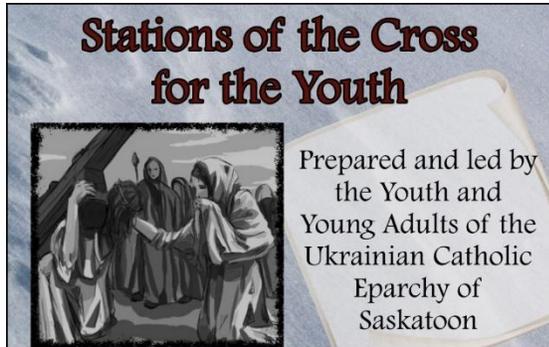
- Remembering the annunciation is important for us as we are reminded of how much God loves us; that He sent his Son to be humbly born in a stable, then be crucified on a cross so that we may have salvation. Let us give thanks to God for his amazing love! - - And let us thank the Theotokos, Mary the Mother of God, for her cooperation with God's plan. The 'yes' she gave to giving birth to Jesus

brings salvation to our world. Let us continue to ask for her guidance, especially in these uncertain times! (Image accessed from

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.monasteryicons.com/images/popup/annunciation-icon-442.jpg>)

Stations of the Cross:

In place of our Tuesday Stations of the Cross, I invite you check out the following links:



Here is a link to a Byzantine Stations of the Cross service.

<https://www.skeparchy.org/wordpress/video-presentation-of-the-stations-of-the-cross-as-led-by-the-youth-of-our-ukrainian-catholic-eparchy-of-saskatoon/>



Here is a link to the Stations of the Cross that we prayed on Tuesdays.

<https://mycatholic.life/catholic-prayers/stations-of-the-cross/>

(Image accessed from <https://mycatholic.life/catholic-prayers/stations-of-the-cross/>)

Presanctified Services:

Since we are still in Lent (even the coronavirus cannot stop Lent and Easter from coming, all it can do is make us commemorate in different ways), here are the readings that you would hear this week.



Genesis 22:1–18:

- In this reading, we hear about Abraham bringing Isaac up a mountain to be offered as a sacrifice. (At that time and place, human sacrifices were often offered to false gods for

favours.) Before he can offer Isaac, an Angel speaks to Abraham tell him not to harm his child. A ram is found and offered instead.

- A detail about this reading is sometimes overlooked. Isaac carries the wood for the sacrifice. Here we have the father (Abraham) accompany his son, (Isaac) as he carries the wood for his sacrifice. We can also think about this... Here we have the father (God) accompany his son, (Jesus) as he carries the wood (the cross) for his ultimate sacrifice.

Proverbs 17:17–18:5:

- The book of Proverbs was probably written by King Solomon, a king known for his great wisdom. The Book of Proverbs, as we are told in the first chapter, was written to help those who are seeking wisdom and guidance in life. Among other things, it tells us to listen to our parents (Chapter 1:8 Hear, my child, your father's instruction and do not reject your mother's teaching). The reading from Proverbs gives guidance and wisdom for life.
- In this week's reading, one line that inspired me was verse 22, "a cheerful heart is good medicine". However, my favourite verse is verse 28, for it adds some thought to my day. The verse says, "Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent." (Image accessed from <http://stmichaelukrainian.org/2018/02/23/liturgy-of-the-presanctified-gifts/>)

Sunday, March 29th

Please remember there are a number of websites you can go to watch the Divine Liturgy. RoyalDoors.net is a website run by Ukrainian Catholics to provide more information about our Byzantine faith. You can find this page by clicking on the following link. They list all the different places where we can watch the Divine Liturgy while we are self-isolating ourselves in our homes.

The link for St. George's in Saskatoon

<https://www.skeparchy.org/wordpress/livestream-ukrainian-catholic-cathedral-of-st-george/>

The link for Dormition Church (Saskatoon)

<https://dormitionsaskatoon.ca/liturgy-live-2/>

In addition, here is a link to other Ukrainian Catholic Divine Liturgies:

<https://www.royaldoors.net/2020/03/2020-streaming-liturgical-services/>

Finally, I thought I would add a few thoughts for Sunday, March 29th:

Commemoration:



This Sunday we commemorate St. Mary of Egypt. This saint has an amazing story, one of conversion from a sinful life to one of holiness. It is a long read, but very interesting...here is a link: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09763a.htm>

(Image accessed from <https://www.catholicireland.net/saintoftheday/st-mary-of-egypt-344-421/mary-of-egypt/>)

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 9:11–14



This is an excellent explanation as to why...why did Jesus have to come to die on the cross. Before Jesus, the law stated that when people sinned, they were to offer animal sacrifices to atone for their sins. The writer of the Book of Hebrews is telling us that Jesus offered his life as a perfect sacrifice for all sins!!! This gives us great cause to give praise for this amazing gift Jesus is giving us!

(Image accessed from <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/10-things-every-christian-should-know-about-the-cross.html>)

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:32–45

- This is a reading about the disciples James and John, asking Jesus if they could sit on his right and left side when Jesus comes into his kingdom. It was request that made the other disciples angry, making them question why James and John felt that they were so special that they deserved this high place of honour.
- Christ reminds them that to be follows of Jesus, that they are to serve... verse "43 But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your

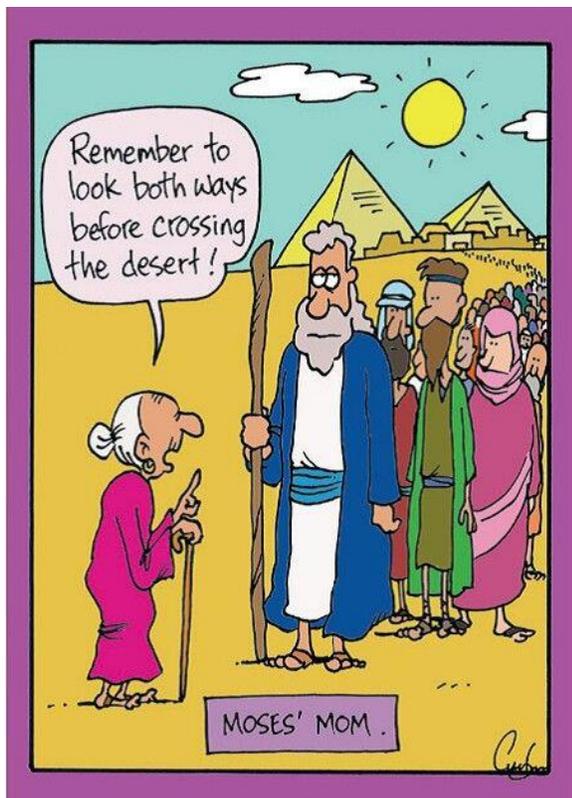
servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- This reading is an excellent reminder that a life of service to others is what we are all called to do, especially in these challenging times!



(Image accessed from <https://medium.com/@episode1/serving-others-d6fda2ddeb2f>)

And to end with....a bit of humour



(Image accessed from <https://i.pinimg.com/736x/15/ea/33/15ea33340811aa9ce448577ee8e6c728.jpg>)

Have a great week everyone!!! Be safe; wash your hands, keep practicing social distancing, and keep praying!

Announcement: If you are interested in purchasing some Easter baking, please contact Gail Smith or Olga Thoms.