

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

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www.skeparchy.org

PRINCE ALBERT LITURGICAL SCHEDULE: No services until further notice

Christ is Risen! Христос Воскрес!

Click on the following link to watch the Divine Liturgy

<https://www.skeparchy.org/wordpress/liturgy-live-in-our-parishes-of-the-eparchy-of-saskatoon/>

Feast days!

On Wednesday, we commemorated the long-suffering character of Job from the Old Testament.

The heart of the story of Job is to ask that age-old question: **Why do good people suffer?** Let's look briefly at the story of Job.

- At the beginning of the story we hear that Job was a righteous man with a good family and lots of resources. (He had seven sons, three daughters, 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 1000 oxen, 500 donkeys, as well as many servants.)
- In the course of one day, Job received four messages of bad news.
 - 1) All the oxen and donkeys were stolen in a raid, and many servants were killed.
 - 2) A fire storm burned up all the sheep and killed more servants
 - 3) All the camels were stolen in another raid and killed seven servants.



- 4) All the sons and daughters were eating in a house when a great wind blew down the house and all were killed.
- In the course of one day, Job lost almost everything. Job tears his clothes and shaves his head in mourning, but he still blesses God in his prayers.
- Then Job is afflicted with horrible skin sores.
- Three of Job's friends come to ask him what he did wrong to deserve such punishment. Job tells them he did nothing wrong. The friends give him bad advice and tell him to just blame God and move on.
- Job wants to confront God to ask why, however, he continues to avoid blaming God for all these actions. He does however continue to question God. Job wants to find a way to justify God's actions, but he cannot understand why there are evil people who harm others yet live long successful lives.
- God finally interrupts, calling from a whirlwind and tells Job to be brave and respond to God's questions. God's questions are rhetorical, intending to show how little Job knows about creation and how much power God alone has. Ultimately, God does not answer why he allowed Job to suffer. God tells Job that God is God and that Job is not God, and that Job could never understand God's ways or His reason for doing things.
- Job finally decides to trust God even while he is suffering. Because of his trust, God blesses Job WAY more than he was blessed at the beginning of the book.

Image accessed from <https://www.hearthymn.com/satan-once-more-tempts-job-job-21-10.html>

May 7th Commemoration of the Appearance of the Sign of the Precious Cross over Jerusalem

It is said that on May 7th in the year 351 A.D., (which happened to be Pentecost day) around 9:00 am the morning, the Precious Cross appeared in the sky above Jerusalem. This cross was brighter than the sun and more beautiful than the most beautiful rainbow.

The people, both believing and unbelieving, left their work and observed this heavenly sign. Many converted to the Faith.

Image accessed from <https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2009/05/cross-that-appeared-in-sky-over.html>



Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian – May 8th

We also celebrate St. John, the apostle this week. Here is a brief summary about St. John

- He was the son of Zebedee, a fisherman from Galilee, and his brother was James, another of Jesus' disciples.
- Because John's name is always listed after James, scholars think John was the younger of the two.
- Both brothers were fishing when Jesus called them as disciples.
- Along with Peter, James and John were very close to Jesus. Jesus referred to the brothers as "Sons of Thunder," because of their commitment and enthusiasm.
- The Gospel of John is attributed to the disciple John. Most scholars think a group of followers studied with John and probably wrote the books 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John in the New Testament.
- John's gospel (as well as the books of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John) seem to focus on Jesus' love and compassion, rather than just historical details like the other gospels.

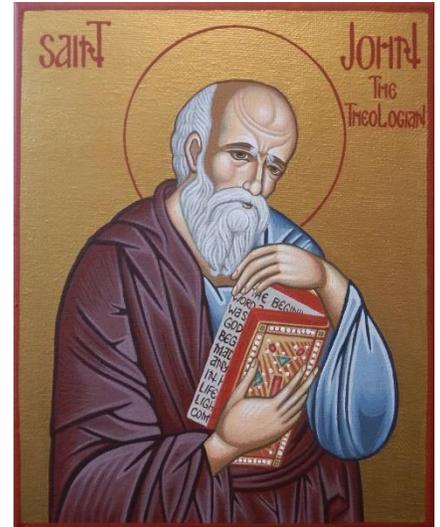


Image accessed from: <https://lessonsfromamonastery.wordpress.com/2015/09/26/repose-of-the-lords-most-beloved-disciple-st-john-the-theologian/>

More about the Gospel of John

- The purpose of this gospel, as stated by John himself, is to show that Jesus of Nazareth was Christ, the Son of God, and that believers in him might have eternal life.
- In the Gospel of John, the central theme is God became flesh and dwelt among men in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.
- John records only seven miracles, considerably less than the number reported in the other Gospels. Yet, each of these stories is used as an introduction to a message for people.
- The book is often said to be divided into two parts: The book of signs (the seven miracles and "I am" statements of Jesus) and the book of glory (detailing the last days of Jesus' life before the resurrection).

Month of May dedicated to the Mother of God

- During the month of May we commemorate the Theotokos, the mother of God.
- During the month of May, say the Hail Mary. If you wish, here is the Eastern version of the Hail Mary
- Rejoice Virgin Mary, full of grace. O Theotokos, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb. For you have given birth to the Saviour of our souls.

(Image accessed from: http://blog.theotokos.co.za/?page_id=851)



Prayers in time of need:

Prayer in Times of Need

For those in any need:
almighty God, keep them in your love
and make us generous in responding to those in need.

Lord God,
we turn to you in all our troubles
and praise you in all our joys.

Hear our prayer this day and see our need.
Give us the strength and courage
that flows from your Spirit
to follow your Son, Jesus, in the way of the cross.
Send us your support
and let us experience it
in the generosity and support of others.
Glory and praise to you, God of mercy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

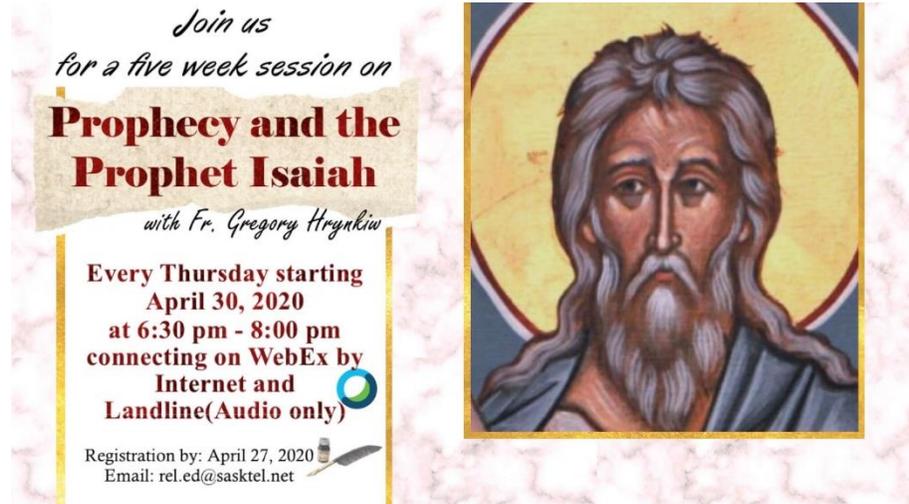
(Excerpt from *Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family*,
CCCB Publications)



Discover more at cccpublications.ca

Announcements:

If you are interested, please send Sister Bonnie or Sister Marijka an email rel.ed@sasktel.net



Join us
for a five week session on
**Prophecy and the
Prophet Isaiah**
with Fr. Gregory Hrynkiw

Every Thursday starting
April 30, 2020
at 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
connecting on WebEx by
Internet and
Landline(Audio only)

Registration by: April 27, 2020
Email: rel.ed@sasktel.net

Epistle reading for May 10th: Acts 11: 19-30

In the reading we hear:

- That the word of Jesus Christ was spreading to different communities. Many came to believe in the Good News.
- The Church in Antioch grew and that is the first place where the followers of Jesus Christ were called Christians. (Before that, the faithful were called followers of the “Way”.)
- The Christians heard that a famine would take place so they took a collection, each according to their abilities, to help support the believers in Judea where the famine would be. Right from the very beginning, a characteristic of Christians was to donate to those in need.

Gospel reading for May 10th: John 4:5-42 (Samaritan woman at the well)

- We hear how Jesus was tired from a long journey (going from Judea to Galilee with Samaritan territory) and rested by a well while the disciples went into the city to buy food.
- While at a very famous well (Jacob’s well) a Samaritan woman came to draw water (it was around 12:00pm).
- Jesus asks the woman for a drink. The woman was surprised for two reasons:

- a) Jesus was Jewish and the woman was a Samaritan. Jews & Samaritans had very little to do with each other. However, at one point in history, Jews and Samaritans were one people.
- b) Jesus, a male, talked to the woman who was not a relative. This would have been taboo in Jewish culture.
- The woman observes that Jesus has nothing to draw water. Jesus tells her he can give her living water so she will not thirst again.
- Jesus tells her to call her husband, she responds she has none, and Jesus tells her she had five husbands and the one she lives with now is not her husband.
- The woman, sensing that Jesus is a prophet, asks him where one should worship; on the holy mountain or at the temple in Jerusalem. Jesus responds by saying that the day will come when worshippers will worship anywhere in spirit and truth.
- At that point the disciples return with food and Jesus says that his food is to do the will of him who sent him.
- Meanwhile the woman returned to her city and told others about the words of Jesus. The Samaritans asked him to stay and many believed in him.

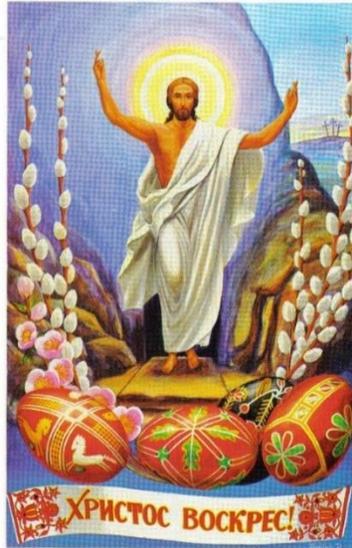


(Image accessed from <https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/the-samaritan-woman-at-the-well/>)

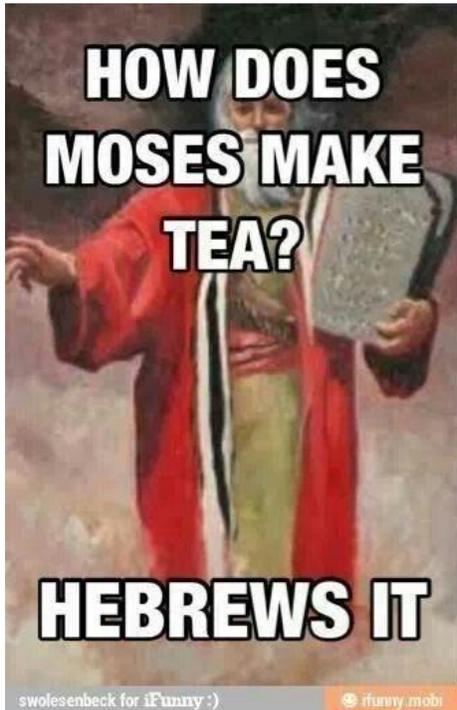
Reflection

- There are a lot of things that are going on in the story.
 - The first is that Jesus and his disciples were going from Judea to Galilee the long way. The shorter was along the river valley. The longer and more difficult terrain was to go through Samaritan territory.
 - Jesus, a Jew, and the Samaritan women talk at Jacob's well. Both the Jewish people and the Samaritans called Jacob an ancestor yet they were divided.
- So why did Jesus go out of his way (the long way) to meet with a woman, from a divided group, at a place both claimed (Jacob's well)? It is because this journey, among other things, was a way to bridge the gap, to put behind old hurts and pains, and move forward.
- Because we have feelings, all of us have hurt feelings about things that happened in the past. What Jesus is doing is bridging the gap, going out of his way to invite conversation so the healing can begin.
- One really important item jumps out; that Jesus tells the woman that one day people will worship in Spirit and Truth. That is so fitting as now we cannot gather as community to pray, but we can worship and pray together, as well as have spiritual

communion (the desire for the Eucharist within prayer). As we get through this together, let us remember the hope we have in Jesus Christ!



And some humour for the week:



Have a safe and spiritual week!!!!

