

A Gift From God

It was mother's birthday and the whole family gathered while mother opened her gifts. As she unwrapped the paper and ribbons from her gifts, her four-year-old daughter picked up a discarded bow and placed it on her mother's head. She giggled and said, "Look! Mommy is a gift!" Everyone laughed until the truth of what the little girl said had been indeed realized: that mother is a gift, a gift from God!

Our Lord gives us many gifts during the course of our life. One precious gift that He has given to all mankind from one generation to the next is the gift of His own mother, the Holy Virgin Mary. Just as our own mothers love us, comfort us, and protect us from things that could harm us, so, too, does the Mother of God love us, protect us, and intercede for us

before her Son and our God.

On October 1st we celebrate the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God. On this day, the Church remembers and celebrates the occasion when the Mother of God appeared in a vision to Saint Andrew in the church at Blanchernae in Constantinople. In this vision she appeared over the Holy City with her omophorion (mantle) outstretched in a protective manner, promising shelter from harm.

This image of the Holy Virgin has been emblazoned upon the hearts of all Christians since then. We can all turn to the Mother of God in time of distress and know that our prayers will always be heard. She is, indeed, one of our greatest gifts from God!

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Protection of the Theotokos -- October 1st

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Pastoral Care entrusted to:

Father Robert Hitchens

Father Wasyl Kharuk

Sunday – September 26, 2021

Слава Ісусу Христу – Слава на віки Glory to Jesus Christ – Glory to Him Forever

Our Church is open for Divine Liturgies. We will continue to Livestream our 9:00 a.m. English Divine Liturgy and our 11:30 a.m. Ukrainian Divine Liturgy. The dispensation from attending Sunday Divine Liturgy and Holy Days of Obligation throughout the Archeparchy is still in effect until further notice.

All Services will be Live Streamed at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Platform: <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN FOR LITURGIES

Sunday September 26 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	(For the Parish) (+Nestor Bazarko from Family)
Monday September 27 9:00 a.m.	(+Stefania Roziy from the Drabyk Family)
Tuesday September 28 9:00 a.m.	(Blessings for Joy and Todd from Ruth Fedack)
Wednesday September 29 9:00 a.m.	(+John Baron from the Popadiuk Family)
Thursday September 30 9:00 a.m.	(Deceased of the Kowalysko Family from Mike)
Friday October 1 6:00 p.m.	Protection of the Mother of God (+Fr. Stephen Shawel CSsR from Irene Nagurney) Fr. A. (+Maria Bodnaruk from Lesia) Fr. R.
Sunday October 3 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	(For the Parish) (+Monsignor Michael Fedorowich from the Futey Family)

CONCERNING FUTURE PARISH EVENTS

District of Columbia Mayor Bowser announced July 29 that the District is re-instituting a universal, indoor masking mandate for everyone, even those fully vaccinated. Persons attending Church in the District, even if they are fully vaccinated, must wear a mask. Fellowship with Cake and Coffee after the Sunday Divine Liturgies will also continue to be suspended.

Everyone is kindly asked to return to wearing a mask during the Divine Liturgies.

Prayer List

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: **Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Fr. Frank Avant, Susan Avant, Chuck Basile, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Taisia Bullard, Michele Burns, Robert Matthew C., Mary Connors, Jack Davis, Darlene Dossick, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Lindsey Fedyk, Lilian Garland, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Daniel Horeczko, Nila Iwaskiw, Kateryna Jurach, Oksana K, Sarah Kelt, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Fr. Mykhailo Kuzma, Michael Joseph Little, Mark Pidlusky, Michele Pretka Litvar, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, James Salandro, Maria Sawkiw, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Timothy Stock, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Helen Lefcheck Torre, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Jennifer Wilson.** If you know of someone who should be on this list, please email or call with the name of the individual. Our intercessory prayer for the sick and the aged is truly helpful and comforting. In your Christian Charity, kindly remember our sick parishioners in your prayers and perhaps a card or note.

God With Us Catechism

The place on the “Lake of Gennesaret” (i.e. the Sea of Galilee) where the calling of the first disciples took place is well known to the local Christians of the area even to today and pilgrims can visit this holy site and wade in the waters where Jesus stood. There, near the shore, there is a large spring that waterfalls into the sea. The water of that spring is a little warmer than the waters of the sea and the local fish (tilapia and catfish) come to the spot in massive schools seeking the warm fresh water of the spring. The experience of the place is quite extraordinary and allows us to meditate more deeply upon Jesus’ invitation to Simon in the Gospel which is proclaimed in the Church today. “Do not be afraid; from now on you shall catch men,” Jesus told Simon Peter that day and today he speaks these words to us. Do not be afraid! In the anti-Christian climate in which we live today we are told over and over again that religion is not welcome in public. “Do not speak about your faith” they tell us. And yet, commanded by Christ to “teach all nations,” and to become “fishers of men,” we cannot remain silent about our relationship with the Lord. We cannot remain silent about the gift of Divine Life which we have experienced. The consolation that knowing the geographical context of today’s Gospel grants us is two-fold. First, the “fish” which we are invited to catch desire the Good News. Carved into every heart created by God is a deep desire for Truth and for a relationship with our Creator. The second consolation is that of knowing that we are not the originators or source of the gift which men desire. It is the Lord himself who is the attraction. It is the Lord himself who is the warm water of the spring which falls into the sea of this world. We are called simply to lend our hands, to lend our mouths, to lend our lives to become the net by which the great Fisherman will catch his fish through us.