

# The Most Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church

Parish Administered by Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts  
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Parish Cantor: Mr. Myron Musey



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster: Most Rev. Ken Nowakowski: [www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca)

**Sunday of the Paralytic** – May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 A.D.

*Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life.*

**THE VIBRANT PARISH - A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST: Through the Word, the Holy Mysteries & Prayer,  
Serving One's Neighbour, Leadership,**



**Fostering & Serving Unity and Missionary Spirit** – Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, as you once gathered lost sheep that they might hear Your voice and be your flock, so also today graciously look down from heaven upon our parish community, and send down on it your Holy Spirit, that it might be a place to receive the joy of Your Good News. Strengthen us with your presence, and always gather us together in prayer. Grant us the spirit of serving others, so that in our parish all might encounter You, the merciful God. Bless our spiritual leaders with Your wisdom, and inspire us to generously give of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of Your Kingdom. Unite us in peace and harmony, as befits Your community of love. Instill in us a missionary spirit, and let our parish community shine with the light of the Gospel, with prayer and good works, inviting all to share in the divine life, so that Your Name, O Saviour, may be praised, together with Your eternal Father, and your most-holy, good and life-giving Spirit. Amen.

On this Sunday the most wonderful healing of the paralytic by the Sheep's Pool, who for 38 years languished in severe illness is glorified.

Saint John Chrysostom (+407A.D.) says in a sermon on today's Gospel: "Having lately come across the incident of the paralytic who lay upon his bed beside the pool, we discovered a rich and large treasure, not be delving in the ground, but by diving into his heart: we found a treasure not containing silver and gold and precious stones, but endurance, and philosophy, and patience and much hope towards God, which is more valuable than any kind of jewel or source of wealth."

(Christ's Power to Heal: The Paralytic, p.2)

This saint of the Catholic Church, like many of the other fathers of the Catholic Church in the orthodox faith and teaching, praises the paralytic for his patient persevering in the face of prolonged suffering. Perhaps it is true at that time that there were actually few cures for diseases and patiently enduring suffering was seen as heroic and godly since there was no alternative. It is more difficult for us today to be patient in the face of suffering as we want immediate cures or at least instant relief from suffering and we don't appreciate the Stoicism embraced by the ancient Christians that a man of perfection is already beyond caring about pleasure or pain.

"...Open the doors of your hearts and your homes to Christ, allow His Holy Spirit to transform you, purify and strengthen you in God's love!" - Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk "The Vibrant Parish"

"...Відчиніть двері своїх душ і домівок Христові, дозвольте Його Святому Духові вас перемінити, очистити і скріпити Божою любов'ю!" - Пастирський Лист Блаженнішого Святослава Шевчука "Жива Парафія"

*Christian Greetings during Easter Season: (April. 16<sup>th</sup> - May 24<sup>th</sup>):* Christ Is Risen! - Indeed He Is Risen!  
Chrystos Voskres! - Voistynu Voskres! Христос Воскрес! - Воістину Воскрес! Christ is among us! - He is and will be!

## Liturgical Propers:

Text from "The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship"; Pg. 501. The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**Liturgical Instruction:** After the priest exclaims "Blessed is the Kingdom" and we have responded "Amen," the clergy sing the following Troparion once and the people repeat it. Then the clergy sing the first half, and we conclude it. This is done every day until the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday.

**Troparion:** *Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life.* (3x)

**Troparion** (Tone 3): Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice, for the Lord has done a mighty deed with his arm. He trampled death by death; He became the first born of the dead; He saved us from the abyss of Hades and granted great mercy to the world.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*

**Kontakion** (Tone 3): Lord, as of old You raised the Paralytic, lift my soul by Your divine presence, for by my many sins and foolish actions, I, too, am now afflicted and crippled. Raise me, that being saved I may cry to You: Glory to Your power, O merciful Christ.

*Now and for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Kontakion** (Tone 8): Though You descended into a tomb, O Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of Hades; and You rose as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice! and giving peace to Your apostles: You, who grant Resurrection to the fallen.

**Prokimenon** (Tone 1): Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have hoped in You (Ps 32:22).

*Verse:* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous (Ps 32:1).

**Prokimenon** (Tone 1): Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have hoped in You (Ps 32:22).

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles':** (Acts 9:32-42)

*In those days*, when Peter was making numerous journeys, he went – among the other places – to God’s holy people living in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ cures you! Get up and make your bed.” The man got up at once. All the inhabitants of Lydda and Sharon, upon seeing him, were converted to the Lord.

Now in Joppa there was a certain woman convert named Tabitha (in Greek Dorcas, meaning a gazelle). Her life was marked by constant good deeds and acts of charity. At about that time she fell ill and died. They washed her body and laid it out in an upstairs room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples who had heard that Peter was there sent two men to him with the urgent request, “Please come over to us without delay.” Peter set out with them as they asked. Upon his arrival they took him upstairs to the room. All the widows came to him in tears and showed him the various garments Dorcas had made when she was still with them. Peter first made everyone go outside; then he knelt down and prayed. Turning to the dead body, he said, “Tabitha, stand up.” She opened her eyes, then looked at Peter and sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her to her feet. The next thing he did was to call in those who were believers and the widows to show them all that she was alive. This became known all over Joppa, and because of it, many came to believe in the Lord.

**Alleluia** (Tone 5): Of Your mercies, O Lord, I will sing forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation (Ps 88:2). For You have said, “Mercy will be established forever” (Ps 88:3).



**Gospel:** (John 5:1-15)

*At that time* Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Pool there is a place with the Hebrew name Bethesda. It is five porticoes. Were crowded with sick people lying there blind, lame or disabled (waiting for the movement of the water).

There was one man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus, who knew he had been sick for long time, said when he saw him lying there, “Do you want to be healed?” “Sir,” the sick man answered, “I do not have anyone to plunge me into the pool once the water has been stirred up. By the time I get there, someone else has gone in ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up! Pick up your mat and walk!” The man was immediately cured; he picked up his mat and began to walk. The day was a Sabbath.

Consequently, some of the Jews began telling the man who had been cured, “It is the Sabbath, and you are not allowed to carry that mat around.” He explained: “It was the man who cured me who told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’” “This person who told you to pick it up and walk,” they asked, “who is he?” The man who had been restored to health had no idea who it was. The crowd in that place was so great that Jesus had been able to slip away. Later on, Jesus found him in the temple precincts and said to him: “Remember, now, you have been cured. Give up your sins so that something worse may not overtake you.” The man went off and informed the Jews that Jesus was the one who had cured him.

**Instead of “It is truly...”:** The Angel cried out to the One full of Grace: O chaste Virgin, rejoice! And again I say, Rejoice! Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day, and raised the dead. Let all people rejoice!

**Irmos** (Tone 1): Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exult now and be glad, O Zion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

**Communion Verses:** Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest (Ps 148:1). Alleluia! (x3)

**Instead of “Blessed is He...”:** Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life.

**Instead of “We have seen the true light...”:** Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life.

**Instead of “Let our mouths...”:** Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life. (x3).



Instead of "Blessed be the name of the Lord...": Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life. (x3).

**Troparion:** Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life. (x3).

**Priest:** And to us He has granted life eternal!

**Faithful:** We bow down before His resurrection on the third day!

*Our Eparch, Bishop Ken is requesting that at the conclusion of every Divine Liturgy we say an additional prayer for Peace in Ukraine until the end of the war. For peace in Ukraine, let us pray: Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.*

## GRATITUDE

\* to all our parishioners, guests, visitors and all people of the good will who by their kindness, time, donations, knowingly and unknowingly, organize and lead praying with rosaries, attend services during the week, share their time and work at the parish projects, clean the church, prepare coffee and sweets, look after and graciously support our Christian, Catholic parish community! Thank you very much! May the Almighty God generously bless and reward your care, time and generosity! **“Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us!”** (Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom)

## CONGRATULATIONS

May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to Mrs. Anne Tofan on her birthday (May 10<sup>th</sup>), Taylor Russell on his birthday (May 12<sup>th</sup>), and to all our parishioners, guests, visitors, family members and all those who celebrate their birthdays, name-days, wedding anniversaries and any other special anniversaries this week – Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!

A warm welcome into our Okanagan Pastoral Deanery and greetings to our new parishes' priest Rev. Fr. Stepan Dovhoshyia, his wife Dobrodijka Julia and two sons Luka and Zachary! May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to Fr. Stepan, his family all parishioners at Saint Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Vernon, BC and Saints Peter and Paul parish in Grindrod, BC!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR PARISHIONERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WHO HAVE JOINED US IN THIS DIVINE LITURGY. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING WITH US AT THE CHURCH. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR PARISH COFFEE SOCIAL AND CHRISTIAN MOVIE PRESENTATION AFTER THE SERVICE TODAY!**

### Special Petitions:

\* We also pray to be blessed with generous hearts to contribute to our Bishop's initiatives and programmes, such as: the support of parishes, the education of parishioners, and the formation of seminarians, Lord hear us and have mercy.

\* We also pray for the people of Ukraine, that with the help of the Holy Spirit, they may obtain social peace, political harmony and economic stability: Lord, hear us and have mercy.

**III. REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:** yourselves, Most Reverend Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, Fr. Steven Basarab, Fr. Edward Evanko, Monsignor Jeremiah Desmond, Fr. Serabion ElMakary, Steve and Bernice Usipuik, Ann Kuz, Ann Derzak, Dave and Mary Emery, Elsie Kinaschuk, John and Mildred Kolody, Joseph Mychaluk, Zonia Rurka, Eugene Palsitt, Adeline Palsitt, Orest Hrycewich, Myron and Myrna Wizniak, Elsie Zachary, Matt Dmyterko, Allan and Sharon Ludwig, Jesse Pawlyshyn, Olga Burkatsky, Orest Kociuba, Kalyna Kociuba, Allan Bodnaruk, Maria Chorny, Katrien Sobhy, Marg Musey, Kathleen Musey, Jacob and Ann Dressler, Rosemary Pellizzon, Bronie Huska, Peter Huska, Mary Borrett, Stanley and Roma Nowakowski (Bishop Ken's parents), Larry and Valray Necember, Lawrence and Ping Beaton, Red Mackay, Theresa Munro, Michelle New, Martin Schinkelwitz, Claud and Eva Gosselin, Adam Laniel, Cryss O'Donnell, Rose Ostopowich (Fr. Joe Ostopowich's mother), Sandra and Mike Jones, Peter Balla, members of our parish and those who are not able to join actively in our community, your families, relatives, friends; governments and armed forces, especially the shut-in or those in the hospitals, traveling, working or studying, nursing and senior homes, those seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer; those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; widows and widowers, orphans, homeless and all people who have asked us pray for them. Please, also in your kindness keep praying daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Remember to ask for special blessings to all Christian families!

**REMINDER** for families of individuals, who are admitted to hospital - If you or a family member is admitted to hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call our parish rectory office to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation.

\* **KNEELING DURING THE EASTER SEASON** - until Pentecost we do not kneel during the Divine Liturgy. As a sign of our redemption and final resurrection, we offer our prayers to God while standing.

\* **Sunday (Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>) faithful offerings/donations:** \$ 830.00 in Kamloops and \$ 175.00 in Grindrod.

\* In this year's Easter season a movie **RISEN** (approx. 108 min.) will be shown after the Divine Liturgy and coffee-social today. Everyone is welcome to stay and watch this inspiring conversion story of an officer of the Roman Imperial Army in the 1<sup>st</sup> century!

\* UCWLC will held meeting at 7 pm on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 A.D.

\* **PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND:** Oct. 12-24, 2017 Walk in the footsteps of Jesus; an unforgettable experience with Fr, Joe Ostapowich, Sr. Angelica SSMI, brother & sister pilgrims. For details and price call Mrs. Myrna Arychuk at 604 - 617 - 7200

\* **FAITHFUL GIVING...** Remember that we never take a day off or a vacation from God, or from our obligation to attend Divine Liturgy on Sundays. When traveling, working or studying, please, make sure you check out the service schedule for the area churches at our eparchial website: [www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca) and attend the Divine Liturgy. Please remember as well, that while parishioners may be away and on vacation, the parish is not. Expenses continue as they do throughout the year. Please, remain consistent in your gifts to parish. Your weekly Sunday offering is important to our financial well-being. If you are away, we appreciate it when you forward your "make-up" donations. The financial stability of the parish counts on regular Sunday contributions. Please, continue to be generous!

"Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us!" (*Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*)



\* **BE A STEWARD:** Have you ever wondered what more can you do to help our parish? Here are some suggestions: Steward of property security; Steward of grounds cleaning; Steward of cleaning church; Steward of church linen; Steward of outreach; Steward of caring; Steward of prayer; Steward of service. Quite often, our homebound or senior members, once active in their younger years, want to find purpose in their senior years. It's not only about doing but about "BEING" present to others.

**Please, feel very welcome to participate in our church choir singing, reading of the Epistle, holding the candles during the Gospels readings, processions, parish cleaning, projects, etc.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** to help out with weekly cleaning in the church and organizing of coffee social after the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, work-bees, etc. If you can help out, please, let us know. **Please,** Contact Fr. Pavlo or Mr. Matt Dmyterko for more information. You will be amazed how "BEING" can make a difference!

\* **Camp Saint Volodymyr 2017 on August 20-27, 2017.** The purpose of camp is to provide an opportunity for youth to experience God through nature and the companionship of others. Children will experience Ukrainian language and culture during camp along with games, religious activities, hikes, sports, arts and crafts, camp fires, water activities and other summer camp activities. This marks the 34<sup>th</sup> year of our Ukrainian Catholic Summer Camp. Camp will take place in Kelowna at the OAC facility. Camp offers a wide range of activities for campers aged 7-15 (as of December 31, 2017). Registration will be available online via Eventbrite "Camp Saint Volodymyr BC 2017." Early bird registration Ends July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**WAYS TO HELP VOLUNTEER** Camp St. Volodymyr is a nonprofit camp, run on a volunteer basis. If you are interested in helping at this year's camp as a counsellor, chef, arts & crafts or cultural coordinator please contact Jennifer. Applications forms for counsellors are due May 15, 2017. All volunteers will be subject to a criminal records check and must sign the camp code of conduct. **For more information contact Jennifer Caldwell @ 604.220.0584 or [jennsawka@hotmail.com](mailto:jennsawka@hotmail.com).** Visit our webpage via [www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca)

**DONATE:** We are always happy to accept food donations of vegetables, fruits, cereals, and treats for children such as cakes, cookies, as well as monetary donations. Tax receipts can be issued with donations of \$25 or more.

\* **EPARCHY OF NEW WESTMINSTER VIBRANT PARISH APPEAL SHARE YOUR HEART**  
*"...We need your urgent and immediate support to guarantee the viability of our Eparchy for future generations of your children and grandchildren. We want to ensure the survival of pastoral services including the celebration of the sacraments in the Ukrainian Catholic tradition, such as Divine Liturgies, Baptism, Marriages, Funerals and the great Feasts, which means so much to us..."*

**+Ken (Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster)**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** 502 - 5<sup>th</sup> AVENUE, NEW WESTMINSTER, BC CANADA, V3L 1S2

**TELEPHONE:** 604-524-8824 **EMAIL:** [new.chancery@gmail.com](mailto:new.chancery@gmail.com) **WEBSITE:** [www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca)



\* **50<sup>th</sup> PARISH ANNIVERSARY:** Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Surrey, BC will be holding the Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish this year. The dates are: **Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM – Banquet** (5 STAR CATERING SUNRISE BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTRE 5640 188 Str.); **Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> - Divine Liturgy at 11:00 am.**

If you would like to submit some photos or other materials for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, please use the following e-mail address: [50holycross@gmail.com](mailto:50holycross@gmail.com)

\* **NEW JOB POSTINGS:** CISKD is looking for a Full-time Principal for their ACEND Online School, as well as a 1.0 FTE teacher for St. Ann's Catholic School in Quesnel, BC, and a Learning Resource Center Coordinator for St. Ann's Academy in Kamloops, BC. Please see the attached postings for more information.



\* **Couples for Christ** invites you to witness the goodness of Christ through a **Christian Life Program (CLP) Orientation (For Families, Singles, Handmaids, & Servants of the Lord)** Saturday- June 10, 2017 (9 am-5 pm), Saturday- June 17, 2017 (9

am-5 pm), Saturday- June 24, 2017 (9 am-5 pm, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Cathedral in Kamloops, BC. The CLP is an integrated course intended to lead the program participants into a renewed understanding of and response to God's call to them as Christian couples. Please contact the following: Benny/Maria Esguerra 250-374-9376; Omar/Rochelle Directo 250-554-1096; Sister Analisa 250-372-5470

### **Pope Francis: many young people in the Church have fallen into the 'temptation of rigidity'**

*The Pontiff criticised 'rigid' Christians who lack mercy, and those who are hypocritical and hide their sinfulness*

Pray that those who are too rigid learn to follow the way of Christ and his meekness, Pope Francis said on May 5 during his early morning Mass in the chapel of his residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

With the day's first reading dedicated to the conversion of Saul — who went from fiercely persecuting Christians to patiently evangelising all peoples — the Pope used St Paul's life story as an example of an honest, idealistic person of faith, who had been "convinced" of the rigidity of the law.

Pope Francis said Saul's early life reminds him of "many young people in the church today who have fallen into the temptation of rigidity. Some are honest, they are good and we must pray that the Lord help them grow along the path of meekness."

Others, the Pope said, use rigidity to cover up their weaknesses, sins and personality disorders and to assert themselves over others. "They are the rigid with the double life. They show themselves as beautiful, honest, but when no one is looking, they do bad things," he said.

Saul, on the other hand, was rigid, but honest, the Pope said, and he let himself be led by the Lord, who spoke to him on the road to Damascus with "a language of meekness: 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'"

Saul was called with "the force of the meekness of the Lord" to become Paul, preach the Gospel and suffer and die for the Lord, the Pope said.

Saul's conversion shows dialogue between condescending rigidity and meekness, a dialogue between "an honest man and Jesus who speaks with kindness."

"This is the path of a Christian: going forward following Jesus' footsteps," which is "a trail of preaching, a trail of suffering, the trail of the cross" and resurrection, the Pope said.

The Pope asked people to pray to Saul for those Christians who are rigid — "for the honest-rigid like him, who have zeal, but get it wrong, and for the hypocrite-rigid, those with a double life." Source: <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/05/05/pope-francis-many-young-people-in-the-church-have-fallen-into-the-temptation-of-rigidity/>

### **UGCC Head outlines four steps to Russian-Ukrainian reconciliation**

His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) Head of the UGCC said that currently Ukrainian reconciliation with the Russians is impossible because of the war. But talking about peace, seeking for it, praying is never too early.

The hierarch expressed this opinion in the interactive program OPEN CHURCH of Zhyve TV. the Information Department of the UGCC has reported.

"When it comes to reconciliation, it is a really difficult process that can begin only after the readiness for dialogue of the aggressor and the victim," he said.

The Patriarch of the UGCC said that one should prepare for this process already now.

In his opinion, four steps should be made for the reconciliation between Ukrainians and Russians.

"First of all - reconciliation should start with determining the truth. Without truth no reconciliation is possible. We must recognize those wrongs which we have been inflicted, and to recognize those wrongs which we might have inflicted to someone.

The next step – compensation of damages by the aggressor, and establishing justice. As any injustice should be corrected.

The third step - the victims of unjust aggression, injustice should be honored. They must be reimbursed what they have experienced, returned all material losses, supported in healing both mental and physical wounds. Hence, defiled human dignity should be honored. This is an important and necessary element of reconciliation.

The fourth step is the irreversibility of this process. We must do everything to prevent future similar crimes. Thus, the process of reconciliation has also a preventive significance," summarizes the Primate.

The patriarch also has warned against manipulating the concept of peace, appeasement of aggressor being unacceptable, as it further encourages him to do injustice.

Compulsion to peace is also unacceptable, in his view.

"Then the victim must surrender their weapons and stop fighting back the attackers. So, there can be no talk about peace without truth, without justice - of peace, which will not be built on the repentance process and dialogue," he said.

"One should pray for peace. The statesmen will not resort to prayer. It is for believers. I think the Lord God will help us find ways of understanding so that we first received the gift of forgiveness in our own hearts, and thus began a dialogue towards reconciliation, which once would have been crowned with peace," said His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk).

Source: RISU, [http://news.ugcc.ua/en/articles/ugcc\\_head\\_outlines\\_four\\_steps\\_to\\_russianukrainian\\_reconciliation\\_79291.html](http://news.ugcc.ua/en/articles/ugcc_head_outlines_four_steps_to_russianukrainian_reconciliation_79291.html)

### **The useful book that answers questions about the faith you were too scared to ask**

*Fr Michael Kerper sheds light on some of the most nagging questions about Catholicism:* I have been reading a useful and informative book: *A Priest Answers 27 Questions You Never Thought to Ask* by Fr Michael Kerper, a parish priest in New Hampshire.



Some of the questions can easily be answered by anyone of my generation who was taught the Catechism, such as “What’s the difference between mortal and venial sins?”, “What is the Act of Contrition?” and “Is damnation real?”

Others are less easy of definition, such as “Whatever happened to Limbo?” This elicits the author’s sensible statement: “As much as we want to know precisely what happens to non-baptized persons – children and good people – the simple truth is that God’s revelation doesn’t tell us. In the past, Limbo became the favored opinion because many in the Church stressed the necessity of Baptism. Today, however, many theologians, including Pope Benedict XVI, see that opinion as explaining too much, thereby foreclosing possibilities known to God alone.”

The corollary to this, “Can I baptize someone?” provides an answer that reminds us, “A Catholic should...refrain from baptizing someone else’s child, even a grandchild, and should not feel guilty about it. Such a situation calls for patient sensitivity towards the rights of the parents who have chosen not to baptize their child.”

I am reminded of the situation in formerly Communist Russia after the Revolution, when practising your religion could mean death; many grandparents, who looked after grandchildren when their parents worked long hours or had disappeared into the Gulag, and who had retained their own secret practice of the Orthodox faith, probably did baptize their grandchildren. Indeed, former President Gorbachev is on record as saying he was baptised by his grandfather in the Volga River as a young child; he believed it sowed the seeds of his later friendship and rapport with Pope John Paul II.

Another question that interested me was “Do ghosts really exist?” Fr Kerper rephrases it as “Can bodiless souls – ghosts – appear and intervene in our lives?” He explains that of the billions of human beings who have “lost” their bodies through death, “only those few souls whose presence is felt or seen by others are truly ghosts.” He believes their existence is “plausible” but that we also have to be very cautious about this phenomenon.

After citing Scriptural instances of ghost stories, he refers to St Thomas Aquinas who believed that saintly apparitions sometimes occur “to bring comfort and encouragement” to the living. St Thomas also stated that the souls of the dead who are not in heaven “can never appear to the living without God’s consent.” Why would God allow this? St Thomas suggests two reasons: to warn and to seek spiritual assistance, such as prayer. On the question of credible stories of destructive “hauntings”, St Thomas insisted that these were most likely “demons masquerading as ghosts.” Fr. Kerper reassures us that “the spiritual bonds between the living and the dead, especially those who love one another, are deep, unbreakable, and mysterious because they are rooted in the Body of Christ.”

Source: <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2017/05/04/the-useful-book-that-answers-questions-about-the-faith-you-were-too-scared-to-ask/>



### **Liturgical celebrations during week:**

Tue., May 9<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **God’s blessings for Ann and Jacob Dressler, Family, Relatives and Friends.**  
- 6:15 pm. Moleben to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wed., May 10<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy:

Thurs., May 11<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy:

Fri., May 12<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy:

Sat., May 13<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy:

Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – 9:30 a.m. Rosary (Eng.)

- 10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **God’s blessings for all parishioners.** (Eng./Ukr.)

\* Please, contact Fr. Pavlo if you want to have the Divine Liturgies celebrated in your special (such as: In thanksgiving for favours received, the Infirm, General Intentions, the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, etc.) intentions.

**Pastoral Ministry and Sacraments:** **Reconciliation:** on Sundays and Holy Days: before Liturgies and other days, by appointment.

**Holy Communion:** for the sick, by appointment, any time. **Baptisms:** by appointment. **Marriages:** six months’ notice should be given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made. **Funerals and Memorials:** by appointment. **Holy Unction** (Anointing of the Sick): Those anticipating surgery, hospitalization or treatments and who would like to receive anointing or to **meet with parish priest, please call or email Fr. Pavlo in advance to arrange a time and a day.**

\***Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion:** You are a member of the Catholic Church (Orthodox faithful are welcome to receive Holy Communion); 2) You have participated in the Sacrament of Confession at least during the Easter or Christmas seasons this past year if not more frequently; 3) You attend Divine Services regularly; 4) Your lifestyle is consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church; 5) You have kept the Liturgical fast – no food at least one hour prior to the Divine Liturgy (water and medicine does not break the fast). 6) You have been in church from the beginning of the service, or at least heard the Gospel. 7) To the best of your ability, you are in the state of Grace. **If for any of these or other reasons you cannot receive Holy Communion, you are very welcome to come for a blessing. Please indicate to the priest that you would like to receive his blessing.**

**Bequests and Wills:** Leaving a bequest is a process of giving a donation through your will. It is simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization through your last will and testament. It can be as small or as large a donation as you wish. It is important that you talk to your lawyer about the process. In your kindness please remember The Most Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kamloops, BC in your bequests and wills. If anyone wishes to make such a bequest in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to The Most Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church at 109 Tranquille Road, Kamloops, BC V3B 3E8 the sum of \$\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_% of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the church/parish, it's needs and pastoral ministry."