



## **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rest of Blessed Olga (Olha), Princess of Kiev, named Helen at Holy Baptism (c. 970); The Holy and Praise-worthy Martyr Euphemia (303); Hoshiv Icon of the Mother of God.**

**\*\* Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021\*\***

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### **Parish Liturgical Services**

**Sunday, July 11 \*\*\* 10:00 a.m. \*\*\***

*Div. Lit. (Eng./Ukr.): God's blessings to all parishioners*

**No daily liturgical services this week**

**Sunday, July 18 \*\* 10:00 a.m. \*\*\* Divine Liturgy**  
*(Eng./Ukr.): God's blessings to all parishioners*



**Troparion, Tone 6:** Angelic powers were upon Your tomb \* and the guards became like dead men; \* Mary stood before Your tomb \* seeking Your most pure body. \* You captured Hades without being overcome by it. \* You met the Virgin and granted life. \* O Lord, risen from the dead, \* glory be to You!

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

**Kontakion, Tone 6:** With His life-giving hand \* Christ our God, the Giver of life, \* raised all the dead from the murky

abyss \* and bestowed resurrection upon humanity. \* He is for all the Saviour, \* the resurrection and the life, and the God of all.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

***Theotokion, Tone 6:*** Undaunted patroness of Christians, \* O steadfast intermediary with the Creator, \* turn not away from the suppliant voices of sinners, \* but in your kindness come to help us who cry out to you in faith. \* Be quick to intercede, make haste to plead, \* for you are ever the patroness of those who honour you, O Mother of God.

***Prokeimenon, Tone 6 -*** Save Your people, O Lord, \* and bless Your inheritance.

***verse:*** Unto You I will cry, O Lord, my God, lest You turn from me in silence. (*Psalm 27:9,1*)

***Epistle - Romans 15:1-7***

*A reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans.*

Brothers and Sisters, we who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

***Alleluia, Tone 6 -*** He who lives in the aid of the Most High, shall dwell under the protection of the God of heaven.

**verse:** He says to the Lord: You are my protector and my refuge, my God, in Whom I hope. (*Psalm 90:1,2*)



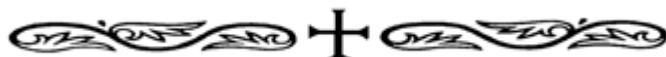
### **Gospel - Matthew 9:27-35**

At that time, as Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you.” And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, “See that no one knows of this.” But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district.

After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, “Never has anything like this been seen in Israel.” But the Pharisees said, “By the ruler of the demons he casts out the demons.”

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

**Communion Hymn** - Praise the Lord from the heavens; \* praise Him in the highest. \* Alleluia, alleluia, \* alleluia. (*Psalm 148:1*)



### **Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in these Holy Gifts!

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot receive You now,

I place before You my whole life and hope, O loving Master;

and I ask, pray, and entreat You: Make me worthy to partake in a mystical way and with a pure conscience of Your awesome and heavenly Mysteries:

for forgiveness of sins, for the pardon of offenses, for communion of the Holy Spirit, for the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven, for confidence before You, and not for judgment or condemnation.

I embrace You as You enter and abide in me, and I unite myself completely to You. Permeate my soul and body, and never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



## **\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \*\***

**A warm welcome** - to all parishioners who join us today in our church for the Divine Liturgy and all who continue to pray at home. We wish you all a healthy & blessed week!



### ***To Ponder:***

“Ease and idleness are the destruction of the soul and they can injure her more than the demons. – **St. Isaac the Syrian**

“At the reception of the Eucharist, our mind becomes the mind of Christ, our thoughts become the thoughts of Christ, our activity and life become the activity and life of Christ.”

**St. Gregory Palamas**

***Commentary on the Sunday Gospel Reading:***

***<https://godwithusonline.org/reflections/the-seventh-sunday-after-pentecost-ukrainian/>***

**Please Pray for health of ...** All those affected by the coronavirus, and: Rob E., Margaret M., Roman M., Jayne & Ernie P., Don N., Ambrose S., Robert M., Dave



& Betty C., Matt D., Alexandra & Oleh K., Miroslaw G., John N., Fr. John N., T.W., Bill P., Thomas H., Bohdan R., Lawrence & Ping B., Peter O., Gladys O., Alex S., Jessica N., Olga P., Sharon B., Zonia R., Brian K., Mary W., Ray O., Mary E., Sharon & Al L., Joe S., Jeanne R., Emily H., Lisa M., Michael L., Greg H., Melynda S., Ann D., Suzanne C., Clay B., Maria W., Anne D., all sick brothers and sisters in our families and parish community. Please let Fr. Andrzej know if you would like to add names to the prayer list and also notify him about any sick and/or hospitalized parishioners and family members.



**Thank you to all our Supporters – Дякуємо – Our**

gratitude to everyone for your prayers & ongoing financial support of our parish and for all other ways in which you assist our church community. God bless you all!



**Fr. Andrzej's vacation time** – from tomorrow, Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, July 22 to Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> inclusive, Fr. Andrzej will be away on part of his annual vacation. Sunday's Divine Liturgy for July 25<sup>th</sup> will be celebrated on **Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.** Fr. Stepan Dovahshyya will be substituting Fr. Andrzej. Fr. Stepan's contact information: phone - **250-549-1327** & email - [dovhoshiastepan@gmail.com](mailto:dovhoshiastepan@gmail.com).

**Annual Service of Blessing Cars** – will take place next **Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>** after the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

**Special Workshop In Kelowna** – Fr. Andrzej will be at Dormition Parish, Kelowna on Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup> to participate in a workshop on Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** – dear parishioners, due to the Covid 19 pandemic we were not able to hold our annual Advent & Lenten missions and thus missed an opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession. Now that we can gather again in church, I invite and encourage you to partake of this very important Sacrament. Fr. Andrzej is available before Sunday Divine liturgies, or before the daily Divine Liturgies and also at other pre-arranged times.

**Unity 2021** - Unity is a gathering for young adults **(18 - 35 years of age)** of our church “who seek to further understand their Catholic Faith, to embrace it more fully and to celebrate it more profoundly. With the grace of God, this is accomplished by means of prayer, education and fellowship.”

Unity 2021 is scheduled to take place **Friday August 6 – Saturday August 7, 2021**. The theme of Unity 2021 is **“Stillness In The Chaos”** **“Be still and know that I am God” Psalm 46:10** will be our motto for the weekend. Unity 2021 will be offered **ONLINE**, and all sessions will be held over Zoom. There is **NO COST** to attend this event.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly** - to be celebrated on July 25, fourth Sunday of July. The theme of this first World Day is **“I am with you always” (cf. Mt 28:20)**. The theme’s purpose is to convey the closeness of God and the Church to the elderly and also to emphasize the intergenerational closeness between the young and the elderly.

**“Interested in learning more about God, your faith, and the Church?”** - Sign up for an online course (or two or three) or even work towards a Certificate in Eastern Christian Traditions at Newman Theological College (Edmonton). The course offerings include Scripture, Eastern Christianity Theology I and II, Eastern Catholic Worship and Spirituality, the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), and Praying with Icons. Each course consists of 10 online sessions, spanning 5 weeks, requiring some 4 hours of work per week (2 hours per lesson). No exams. Cost of registration per course \$85.00 plus the cost of books. To register and for more information, visit [Newman.edu/CCS](http://Newman.edu/CCS).

**Up-coming Major Feasts** - on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord and on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> the feast of Dormition of the Mother of God.



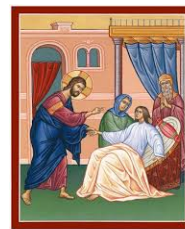
**The Fast of the Mother of God** – as part of our preparation for the great feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God on August 15, there is a special time of fasting that will **begin on Sunday, Aug 1<sup>st</sup>** and will last until the day before the Feast, Aug. 14.



### **Prayer During the Coronavirus Outbreak**

Lord, Our God, We thank you for the life that is your gift,

For the providence that sustains us,



And for your wisdom that directs the course of our days. The threat of an infection of coronavirus is upon us today. This disease causes fear among us and has claimed lives.

We humbly beg you, loving Lord, dispel our fear and deliver us from this and other diseases.

Heal those who are afflicted and stop the spread of the virus.

Strengthen us in charity to care for one another.

For You are a God of mercy, kindness, and love, and we glorify You Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Amen.



### **Prayer for Preparation for Holy Communion (St. John of Damascus)**

“O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, You alone have authority to forgive people their sins, for You are good and love all. Forgive my transgressions committed in knowledge or ignorance. Make me worthy to receive Your divine and glorious, all-pure and life-giving Mysteries without condemnation, incurring neither punishment, nor the increase of my sins. Let me, instead, receive cleansing, sanctification, and a pledge of life and kingdom to come. Let Your Mysteries be a rampart, a help, a routing of my adversaries; and let them wipe away my many transgressions. For You are a God of mercy, compassion, and love for all, and to You we render glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.”



### **Pastoral Ministry and Sacraments:**

**Reconciliation:** on Sundays and Holy Days: before Divine 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.

**Anointing of the Sick (Holy Unction):** Those anticipating surgery, hospitalization or treatments and who would like to receive anointing or to meet with parish priest, please call or email Fr. Andrzej in advance to arrange a time and a day.

### **Catechetical Resources online in English & Ukrainian**

1. Royal Doors with daily readings and reflections, UGCC Catechism online, articles, etc

<https://www.royaldoors.net/>

2. Formed: Christian movies, TV shows, prayers, etc.

<https://watch.formed.org/browse>

3. Dynamic Catholic. Beautiful resource for the whole family with Catechism for children, marriage enrichment programs, etc.

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/>



1. Живе ТВ. <https://zhyve.tv/>

2. Дивен Світ. <https://dyvensvit.org/>

3. Катехизм УГКЦ. <http://catechismugcc.org/>



**Please join in live-streamed coverage of liturgical services:**

**Holy Eucharist Cathedral (New Westminster)** – Divine Liturgy at **8:30 a.m.** (Eng.) & **10:30 a.m.** (Ukr.)

<https://www.facebook.com/holyeucharistcathedral/>

**Youtube** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPp1JaDotIj\\_4h3aAJq0Srg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPp1JaDotIj_4h3aAJq0Srg)

**St. Nicholas Parish**, (Victoria) - Divine Liturgy at **10:00 a.m.**  
via [Facebook](#) or [Website](#)

**St. George's Parish (Prince George)** - Divine Liturgy: **8:30 a.m.** –  
(in Ukrainian) & **10:00 a.m.** (in English) - Facebook page or at  
parish webpage ([www.sgparish.ca](http://www.sgparish.ca))





## **St. Olga — Kievan Princess**

"With rejoicing we celebrate the glorious day of your holy death, O divinely-wise Olga, sending up a prayerful hymn to Christ, who crowned you with an incorruptible crown. " (Canon of the feast of St. Olga)

In the firmament of heaven of the Saints of the Church of Christ, the various Saints of the Ukrainian nation shine like stars. Among them, Princess Olga, whose memory we celebrate on July 11th, shines with the special brilliancy of holiness. Our chronicle "The Tale of Bygone Days" extols Olga in these words: "She is the forerunner of the Christian land, as the morning star before the sun and as the star before dawn... She was the first to leave the land of Rus to enter the kingdom of heaven; for this reason, the sons of Rus praise her as their Queen, for even after death she prays to God for the land of Rus. "

St. Olga is the first Christian to occupy the throne of the Grand Princedom of Kiev; the first enlightener and teacher of the Christian faith in Rus-Ukraine. Her baptism opened wide the road to the Christianization of our people. Here we shall consider the personality of St. Olga, the significance of her baptism and her cult among our people.

### **Saint Olga — An Extraordinary Personality**

St. Olga is one of the most illustrious women of the Kievan State. She was distinguished for her brilliant character, strong will, and singular wisdom in ruling our nation. She was a woman of great political skill. Our chronicle calls her "the most wise among all peoples."

After the death of her husband, Prince Ihor (+945), Olga ruled the great nation for many long years with a firm hand in the name of her young son Sviatoslav. "Not one of the rulers," says the historian, Natalia Polonska-Vasylenko, given as much attention by our chronicle as was Olga who during two decades, wore an aureole of wisdom and feminine charm." (History of Ukraine, Vol. I, p. 101)

The great wisdom of St. Olga manifested itself in her acceptance of the Christian faith, through which she greatly enhanced her own authority and that of the nation in the eyes of Byzantium and the Christian rulers of Western Europe. "Princess Olga," says the historian, Mykola Chubatyj, "truly stands at the crossroads of the religious and cultural history of Rus-Ukraine." (History of Christianity in Rus-Ukraine, Vol. I, p. 101)

Our Church in the services honoring her feastday extols Olga in the following words: "Like a sun your glorious memory shone forth to us, O divinely-wise Olga, mother of the Rus princes, little one of Christ... You are our glory and praise, O divinely-wise Olga, for through you we have been delivered from the deceit of idolatry... You are powerful as a lioness, you are clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit... Pure Guardian of the law and Teacher of the Christian faith, we implore you to accept the praise of your unworthy servants, and pray to God for us who devoutly celebrate your memory."

### **The Baptism of St. Olga**

Princess St. Olga was led by various motives to accept the Christian faith, the first and foremost being the political, cultural and trade relations of Rus with Christian Byzantium and the other Christian nations of the West. Already during the time of Prince Oleh (+912), there were Varangian Christians in Kiev and Rus, who had their own church of St. Elias in Kiev during the time of Ihor. In this Church, the Christian warriors, while signing a peace-treaty with Byzantium in 944, took an oath of allegiance to Prince Ihor, the husband of Olga. Olga observed the honest and highly moral life of the Christians of Kiev. Not surprisingly, this awakened in her the desire to become a Christian. Professor Mykola Chubatyj speaks of the motive that induced Olga to accept the Christian faith: "There is no doubt that her innate intelligence led her to observe the world surrounding Rus, and that her numerous relationships with many Christians in Kiev, especially the Varangians, gradually led her into the path of Christianity." (Opus. cit., p. 174)

The date of the baptism of Olga to this day still remains unknown. Our chronicle says that Olga was baptized in Constantinople in 955. Greek sources describing in detail her visit to Constantinople in 955 and afterwards in 957, make no mention of her baptism. Such a significant event as the baptism of a ruler of Rus, they could scarcely have passed over in silence. The majority of historians are of the opinion that Olga was baptized in Kiev in 954-955, and was already a Christian she paid a visit to Constantinople with a large retinue.

The Christian faith had a deep influence on Olga's personal life and surroundings. As a Christian she began to form many works of mercy. Some sources say that she built the church of St. Sophia in Kiev and also money towards the building of the church of the Holy Trinity in Pskov. In 959, she sent a delegation to the German King Otto I. The Western chronicles report that she asked him for a bishop and priests.

Olga's efforts to convert her son, Sviatoslav, to the Christian faith failed. In the "Tale of Bygone Days" we read of this. "Olga living with her son, Sviatoslav, instructed him on the need to be baptized, but he showed no interest, nor did he want to hear about it... Olga frequently repeated: "I, my son, have embraced God and I am happy; if you accept him you too will be happy." He paid no attention to her, saying: "How can I alone accept a new law? My companions will laugh at me." She replied: "If you submit to baptism, your companions will do the same." But he refused to listen to his mother and continued with his pagan customs. Olga, nonetheless, loved her son Sviatoslav, and said: "May God's will be done. If the Lord wants to have mercy on my family and the land of Rus, may he grant them the desire to convert to God, as God has granted this desire to me." Speaking no more on the subject, she prayed for her son night and day, while raising him to manhood and maturity. " Although she failed to convert her son, nevertheless, her influence upon him was great. "Olga achieved one thing," says the historian Mykola Chubatyj, "and that is that Sviatoslav was tolerant towards Christians and loyal to her as to his mother. Notwithstanding their differences of faith, he was a

good and devoted son in other matters to the very end of her life. Regarding his failure to become a Christian, Olga, according to the chronicle, resigned herself completely to the will of God. " (Opus. cit., p. 182)

There is no doubt that in becoming a Christian, Olga wished her people to accept the Christian faith also. Because of the conditions existing in the state at that time, however, she did not dare to undertake the general baptism of her subjects. This was later carried out by her grandson, St. Volodymyr the Great.

Regarding the genuine faith of Olga, her last will testifies that she requested to be buried according to the Christian custom, and that no pagan funeral repast be held at her tomb. She fell asleep in the year 969, at the age of around 75.

Around the year 1000, St. Volodymyr the Great transferred the body of Olga to the newly-built Tithe Church during the time of Metropolitan Leontij (992-1008). Jacob the Monk, wrote that the coffin had a small window through which one could see the incorruptible body of Olga. During the Mongolian invasion the relics of Olga were hidden inside the Tithe Church. In 1635, Metropolitan Peter Mohyla, while rebuilding a small church on the ruins of the Tithe Church, found the relics of St. Olga, and they were kept there until the eighteenth century. Then, at the order of the Russian Holy Synod, they were again hidden and their place of concealment remains unknown.

### **The Cult of St. Olga Among Our People**

Because no miracles occurred at her tomb, and these are necessary for canonization, it was a long time after her death before she was canonized. Neither the Chronicler nor Jacob the Monk mention anything about commemorating St. Olga, though both do speak of her body as being incorruptible at the time her relics were translated during the reign of Volodymyr the Great.

The cult of St. Olga and the commemoration of her death already existed in our Church up to the Mongolian invasion. It appears that miracles also were wrought through her intercessions, for she

is listed in the register of Saints somewhere in the twelfth century. We learn of the commemoration of Olga already in the pre-Mongolian period from three preserved lists of a Serbian Prologue of the thirteen-fourteenth century. These lists were transcribed from a Bulgarian text, which is a copy of our original. In those lists the biographies are given of the Saints of Rus of the Kievan province whose feasts were instituted before the Mongolian incursion. St. Olga is among those Saints listed and we find that a biography of her ends with these words: "O Olga, do not cease to pray to God for those who celebrate the day of your death." The said Serbian Prologue gives July 11 as the day of the death of Olga.

It is difficult to say with certainty whether there was a special service composed in her honor before the Mongolian invasion, for nothing has come down to us from that time. The present service in honor of her feast comes from the middle of the fifteenth century. In 1557, Czar Ivan Vasylevych sent a diptych of the Grand and local princes of Rus (i.e. a book containing a list of names of the deceased) to Joasaph, the Patriarch of Constantinople. Here the name of Olga is not found among the princes and princesses who were to be commemorated as Saints at the divine services, but among those who were to be commemorated only in the Panachyda (requiem) service.

The personality of St. Olga as a ruler was neatly described by the historian, Natalia Polonska-Vasylenko. "Summing up the information about Olga," she says, "one must admit that her personality and reign deserve the greatest attention. The historian M. Hrushewskyj rightly characterized her: "She maintained the system of government with a firm and able hand, and did not permit it to weaken or collapse." She carried on diplomatic relations with the two most powerful empires of Europe, the representatives of Medieval culture. The baptism of Olga, which remained her private affair, gave reason for her to be called the 'dawn before the sun', and for the contemporaries of her grandson Volodymyr to say that she was the "most wise among men". (Opus. cit., p. 105)