

WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS & GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY!



**ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER PARISH
ПАРАФІЯ СВ. МИКОЛАЯ ЧУДОТВОРЦЯ**



Pastor: Fr. Yuriy Vyshnevskyy

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Tue-Fri DL - 9am; Sun DL - 10am

*The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster
Bishop: Most Rev. Ken Nowakowski (www.nweparchy.ca)*

**TWENTYTHIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ДВАДЦЯТЬ ТРЕТЯ НЕДІЛЯ ПІСЛЯ П'ЯТИДЕСЯТНИЦІ**

Bishop and Martyr Josaphat Kotsylovsky was born on March 3, 1876 in the village of Pakoshivka, Lemkiv District. He graduated with a degree in Theology from Rome in 1907, and later on October 9 of that year he was ordained to the priesthood. Not long after that he was appointed vice-rector and professor of Theology at the Ivano-Frankivsk seminary. In 1911 he entered the novitiate of the Basilian order. He was ordained a bishop on September 23, 1917 in Przemyśl (Peremyshl) upon the return of Metropolitan Andrey (Sheptytsky) from captivity in Russia.

In September of 1945 the Polish Communist authorities arrested him and on June 26, 1946, after his next arrest, they forcibly took him to the USSR and placed him in a prison in Kyiv. Throughout his life he showed his perseverance of service, to make the Christian faith firm and to grow in human souls. He died a martyr for the faith on November 17, 1947 in the Chapaivka concentration camp near Kyiv.



*Blessed Josaphat Kotsylovsky,
Bishop of Peremyshl and
Martyr*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP AFTER DIVINE LITURGY!

SUNDAY HYMNS

OPENING HYMN	В Страсі і Покопі / We Are Gathered Here To Worship pg. 244-245
COMMUNION HYMN	Вірую, Господи / I Do Believe pg. 246-247
CLOSING HYMN	Вислухай, Боже Могучий / Grant Us the Grace pg. 280-281

Please join us today in singing our Sunday hymns!

SUNDAY & DAILY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, November 17	Divine Liturgy - for the Parishioners of St Nicholas Parish	10:00 AM
MONDAY, November 18	NO SERVICES	
TUESDAY, November 19	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:00 AM
WEDNESDAY, November 20	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:00 AM
THURSDAY, November 21	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:00 AM
FRIDAY, November 22	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:00 AM
SATURDAY, November 23	NO SERVICES	
SUNDAY, November 24	Divine Liturgy - for the Parishioners of St Nicholas Parish	10:00 AM

Please Note: to request a Divine Liturgy for a special intention, please see Fr. Yuriy to arrange for it!

SUNDAY EPISTLE READERS

DATE	READING	UKRAINIAN	ENGLISH
SUNDAY, November 17	Eph. 2:4-10	Yuliya Pelekhata	Carol Chapman
SUNDAY, November 24	Eph. 2:14-22	Dmytro Maksymiv	Caroline Study
SUNDAY, December 1	Eph. 4:1-6	Kateryna Yaremyn	Darryl Huculak
SUNDAY, December 8	Heb. 13:17-21	Liliia Palyvoda	Graciela Spaciuk-Schwarz

Thank you, Epistle readers, for your service in proclaiming God's Word!

PASTORAL MINISTRY & HOLY MYSTERIES

CONFESSIONS.....	1/2 hour before Liturgy
EUCCHARIST.....	for the sick - 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.....	by appointment
ANOINTING.....	any time
HOSPITAL VISITS.....	any time

Bequests & Wills: Leaving a bequeath 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 St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Church in your bequeath and will. If anyone wishes to make such a bequeath in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Parish - 1112 Caledonia Avenue, Victoria BC, V8T 1G1, the sum of \$ _____ (or _____ % of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the parish and it's pastoral activities."

Vibrant Parish Prayer

O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth! Because of your indescribable love for us, you sent your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ - The Way, The Truth, and The Life - and our Salvation. In His name, we turn to You. Strengthen our hearts and minds in Christian love and in unity of purpose as we strive to build a Vibrant Parish. Give us the grace to model our lives according to the Word of God. Instill in us the desire to pray and to celebrate the Holy Mysteries as one Christian Family in our Parish Community. Inspire us to follow Your great command to be a servant to the less fortunate among us! Grant this, O Lord, through the mercies and love for mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Life-Giving Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen!



ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST

Through the word, the Holy Mysteries & Prayer,
Serving One's Neighbor, Leadership
Fostering & Serving Unity and Missionary Spirit
(His Beatitude Sviatoslav)



Молитва Живої Парафії

Господи Ісусе Христе, Пастирю Добрий, як колись Ти пригорнув заблуканих овечок, щоб вони пізнали Твій голос і були Твоїм стадом, так і сьогодні глянь ласкаво з небесних висот на нашу парафію та зішли на неї Твого Святого Духа, щоб вона була місцем пізнання радості Доброї Новини. Скріплюй нас Твоєю присутністю та єднай нас кожночасно в молитві. Даруй нам духа служіння ближньому, щоб у нашій парафії кожний міг зустріти Тебе, милостивого Бога. Благослови наш духовний провід Твоєю мудрістю і дай, щоб ніхто з нас не шкодував ні часу, ні талантів, ні матеріальних дібр для розбудови Твого царства. Єднай нас у мирі та злагоді, щоб ми були Твоєю спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світилом євангельського слова, молитви і добрих діл, що кличе кожного до участі в Божественному житті, щоб славилось, Спасе, Твоє Ім'я з безначальним Твоїм Отцем та пресвятим, благим і животворящим Твоїм Духом нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.

DIVINE LITURGY PROPERS

*The Divine Liturgy of our Father among the Saints John Chrysostom
An Anthology for Worship: Liturgy - pg. 270-318; propers - pg. 349*

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: 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: 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.

Prokimenon, 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.

Epistle - Eph. 2:4-10 - A Reading from the Letter of Saint Apostle Paul to Ephesians: Brothers and Sisters, God, is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Alleluia, Tone 6: *Verse:* 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.

Gospel - Lk 8: 26-39 - At that time Jesus arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, ‘What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me’— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, ‘What is your name?’ He said, ‘Legion’; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the

Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Communion Verse: Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest. Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia!

Prayer After Holy Communion: Having been made worthy to partake in a mystical way of Your immaculate Body and precious Blood, O Christ our God, I acclaim and bless, worship and glorify You, and proclaim the greatness of Your saving acts, now and for ever and ever. Amen. *(more Prayers After Holy Communion on pg. 324-326 in the Anthology book).*



Тропар, глас 6: Ангельські сили на гробі Твоїм* і сторожі омертвіли;* Марія ж стояла при гробі,* шукаючи пречистого тіла Твого.* Полонив Ти ад і, не переможений від нього,* зустрів Ти Діву, даруючи життя.* Воскреслий з мертвих, Господи, слава Тобі!

Слава: Кондак, глас 6: Животворною рукою Життєдавець, Христос Бог,* воскресив з темних безодень всіх померлих* і подав воскресіння людському роду.* Він бо усіх Спаситель,* воскресіння, життя і Бог усіх.

І нині: Богородичний, глас 6: Заступнице християн бездоганна,* Посереднице до Творця незамінна,* не погорди молінням грішних,* але випереди, як Блага, з поміччю нам, що вірно Тобі співаємо.* Поспішиє на молитву і скоро прийди на моління,* заступаючи повсякчас, Богородице, тих, що Тебе почитають.

Прокімен, глас 6: Спаси, Господи, * людей Твоїх * і благослови спадкоємство Твоє. *Стих:* До Тебе, Господи, взиватиму; Боже мій, не відвертайсь мовчки від мене.

Апостол - Еф. 2:4-10 - До Ефесян Послання Святого Апостола Павла Читання: Браття і сестри, Бог, багатий милосердям, з-за великої своєї любови, якою полюбив нас, мертвих нашими гріхами, оживив нас разом із Христом – благодаттю ви спасені! – І разом з ним воскресив нас, і разом посадовив на небі у Христі Ісусі; щоб у наступних віках він міг показати надзвичайне багатство своєї благодаті у своїй доброті до нас у Христі Ісусі. Бо ви спасені благодаттю через віру. І це не від нас: воно дар Божий. Воно не від діл, щоб ніхто не міг хвалитися. Бо ми його створіння, створені у Христі Ісусі для добрих діл, які Бог уже наперед був приготував, щоб ми їх чинили.

Алилуя, глас 6: *Стих:* Хто живе під охороною Всевишнього, під покровом Бога небесного оселиться. *Стих:* Скаже він Господеві: Ти заступник мій і пристановище моє, Бог мій, на котрого я надіюся.

Євангеліє - Лк 8:26-39 - І вони припливли до землі Гадаринської, що навпроти Галілеї. І, як на землю Він вийшов, перестрів Його один чоловік із міста, що довгі роки мав він демонів, не вдягався в одягу, і мешкав не в домі, а в гробах. А коли він Ісуса побачив, то закричав, повалився перед Ним, і голосом гучним закликав: Що до мене Тобі, Ісусе, Сину Бога Всевишнього? Благаю Тебе, не муч мене! Бо звелів Він нечистому духові вийти з людини. Довгий час він хапав був його, і в'язали його ланцюгами й кайданами, і стерегли його, але він розривав ланцюги, і демон гнав по пустині його. А Ісус запитався його: Як тобі на ім'я? І той відказав: Легіон, бо багато ввійшло в нього демонів. І благали Його, щоб Він їм не звелів іти в безодню. Пасся ж там на горі гурт великий свиней. І просилися демони ті, щоб дозволив піти їм у них. І дозволив Він їм. А як демони вийшли з того чоловіка, то в свиней увійшли. І череда кинулась із кручі до озера, і потопилась. Пастухи ж, як побачили теє, що сталось, повтікали, та в місті й по селах звістили. І вийшли побачити, що сталось. І прийшли до Ісуса й знайшли, що той чоловік, що демони вийшли із нього, сидів при ногах Ісусових вдягнений та при умі, і полякались... Самовидці ж їм розповіли, як видужав той біснуватий. І весь народ Гадаринського краю став благати Його, щоб пішов Він від них, великий бо страх обгорнув їх. Він же до човна ввійшов і вернувся. А той чоловік, що демони вийшли із нього, став благати Його, щоб бути при Ньому. Та Він відпустив його, кажучи: Вернися до дому свого, і розповіж, які речі великі вчинив тобі Бог! І той пішов, і по цілому місту звістив, які речі великі для нього Ісус учинив!

Причасний: Хваліте Господа з небес,* хваліте Його на висотах. Аلیلія, аلیلія, аلیلія!

Молитва По Святім Причастю: Таїнственно удостоївшись бути причасником Твого пречистого тіла і чесної крові, Христе Боже, оспівую і благословлю, поклоняюся, і славлю, і величаю спасіння Твої, Господи, нині і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь. *(більше Молитов По Святім Причастю на ст. 80-87 в маленькій книжечці "Божественна Літургія").*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to MATTHEW DEMERCHANT, ANDRIY YAREMYN and all those who celebrated their birthdays this past week. May the Lord Our God continue to bless you abundantly and the Holy Mother of God protects you at all times. Многая Літа!

◆**PRAYER REQUEST:** Please keep in your prayers SYLVIA KELLY, EVE BRUCE-LOCKHART and other members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join actively in their community.

◆**ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** is accepting applications for the following positions: Full-time Intermediate Teacher at St. Joseph's School, Victoria; Full-time Temporary Intermediate Teacher at St. Patrick's School, Victoria; On-call Educational Assistants for various schools;

After School Care Subs for various schools; Casual Bus Drivers for various schools. Application forms and details are posted at: <http://cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities.php>

◆ **VICTORIA COOL AID SOCIETY** is seeking donations of **gently used blankets (twin size is preferable), sleeping bags, warm clothing and winter coats/gear**. As the weather cools down, we are seeing an increased need and any help you could offer would be so much appreciate. Donations can be brought to Rock Bay Landing at 535 Ellice Street or Sandy Merriman House (women's shelter) at 809 Burdett Avenue.

◆ **ST. NICHOLAS BOOK STORE:** The Divine Liturgy An Anthology of Worship - **\$25**; "Christ Our Pascha" Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church/"Христос Наша Пасха" Катехизм Української Католицької Церкви - **\$25**; "Sing to Our God" hymn book - **\$15**; Молитовник "Прийдіте Поклонімся" - **\$10**; "The Rosary - The Prayer Rule of the Mother of God in the Ukrainian Catholic Church" - **\$10**.

◆ **PARISH CALENDAR OF BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:** If you would like to be included in our Parish Calendar of Birthday and Anniversary celebrations, please put date in our calendar located at the church vestibule. Each week, we will list the names in our parish bulletin so we can celebrate these happy occasions together!

◆ **JOIN OUR CHOIR:** Do you enjoy singing? Please consider joining our St Nicholas Parish Choir and remember that we ALWAYS looking for new members! Contact Motria Koropecky for details at [250.658.3051](tel:250.658.3051).

◆ **CATECHISM ANNOUNCEMENT:** *"And they were bringing to Him also the infants, in order that He may be touching them; but after the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, Let alone the little children to come to Me, and cease hindering them; for of such is the kingdom of God."* We are happy to welcome all children to our St. Nicholas The Wonderworker catechism program. Weekly classes are scheduled Sunday morning during Divine Liturgy. We want your children to learn more about their Catholic faith, sacred scripture, feast days, and religious practices and customs of the Ukrainian Catholic church. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Marian Chalifoux at [250.507.1005](tel:250.507.1005).

◆ **THRIFTY'S PRE-PAID FOOD CARDS** - We all have to buy groceries. Why not have 6% of it returned back to the church at no extra charge! Cards are available in \$100, \$200, and \$500 denominations. Talk to Alec after today's liturgy to pre-order your cards. We need to sell A LOT of them! We encourage you to consider purchasing them for yourselves as gifts too.

◆ **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

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“BEING” present to others. Contact Fr. Yuriy **OR** Darlene DeMerchant for more information. You will be amazed how “BEING” can make a difference.

◆**PARISH LIBRARY:** please visit our parish library and browse through the books on spirituality, church history, iconography, history of the Ukrainians in Canada, children's books and more... The library is located in the church vestibule. Please use a library book sign out form when borrowing a book.

◆**SUNDAY COFFEE VOLUNTEERS** act as hosts and serve light refreshments following the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, providing an opportunity for the faithful to socialize with friends and visitors following their shared worship experience. We thank all of our parishioners who kind volunteer to serve refreshments. Whether you are new to the Parish, or are a long-time members, please join us for coffee. Please speak with Robert if you would like to volunteer.

◆**WE SHARE THE AIR:** Please keep it healthy and fragrant free. Someone in this area is scent-sitive. The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with fragrance sensitivities, asthma, allergies and other respiratory ailments. PLEASE DO NOT \*wear perfume, cologne, lotion, aftershave and other fragrances; \*USE unscented personal care products. Be Sensitive to Others. Thank you for your understanding. *St. Nicholas parish.*

## ST. PHILIP'S FAST FOR FAMILIES

### Week 1: Feast of St. Philip

1. Read the Bible passage below, slowly and meditatively, and reflect on it.
2. Reflect your own Faith. Take some time in prayer to do this (15 - 30 minutes) and consider the following questions:
  - How you came to your Faith?
  - What made you continue to believe?
  - Did you have any important faith experiences?
  - How have you experienced God?
  - Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? If so, what is it like?
3. Pray/Sing the Troparion and Kontakion of the Week with your family (see below).
4. Read the Bible passage below, again, this time aloud slowly and meditatively with your family.



5. Tell your family member(s) how you were called to Faith.
6. Ask them the following questions:
  - If you were to share your Faith with someone, such as a friend, how would you do so?
  - What would you say to your friend about how you experience Jesus?
  - How would you explain why you go to Church?
  - How could you tell your friends about Jesus?
7. Brainstorm about St. Philip's Fast projects and activities (e.g. charitable acts) that you can accomplish individually and as a family.
8. Conclude by saying the antiphon of St. Philip's Fast

**Troparion - Tone 3**

O Philip, proclaimer of God's word,  
The world is adorned and Ethiopia dances for joy  
For it is arrayed in beauty as with a crown.  
Enlightened by you it feasts your memory.  
For you taught all to believe in Christ,  
Finishing the course of the gospel as is right.  
And so, Ethiopia boldly lifts its hands to God.  
Pray to Him to grant great mercy to us.

**Kontakion - Tone 8**

The God inspired Philip,  
your friend, disciple and imitator of the Passion,  
proclaimed You as God to the whole world,  
O Christ, all merciful.  
By his intercessions and those of the Mother of God  
guard your Church and every city from the lawless enemies

*(Anthology for Worship, p.723, 724)*

**Bible Passage**

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael John 1:43-50

The next day, Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while

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you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

**Antiphon of St. Philip's Fast**

O Bethlehem, be prepared; Eden is opened to all; O Ephratha, be made ready; for in the cave the tree of life has blossomed forth from the Virgin; for her womb has been shown to be a spiritual paradise, in which is the divine plant, from which having eaten, we will live and not die as Adam did. Christ is born to raise the image that had fallen.

**NO AMOUNT OF WORLD PROGRESS CAN REPLACE  
FRIENDSHIP**

Are the times these days good or bad?

That depends, in part, on how one reads the times.

On the one hand, technological advances have brought illiteracy levels throughout the world from 90% to only 10%. Advances in science and medicine are allowing people to live longer and healthier lives.

"These are some of the good things that are happening. I think a lot of it is done out of friendship, out of good intention," Archbishop Borys Gudziak, the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparch of Philadelphia, and the Metropolitan for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S., said November 7. Gudziak was one of the keynote speakers for the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture 21st annual fall conference, which this year had the theme: "I have called you friends."

"I don't canonize our times and I don't canonize longevity, but we do appreciate these things," he said.

"And yet the times are not so good," Gudziak added.

"In fact, they're similar to...what it was in 1914 when the Western world was convinced that progress would lead us to great happiness. Then the massacres began. World wars. The genocides," Gudziak said.

He noted that for all of our technological and social progress, Americans are lonelier, more depressed and more stressed than ever. In Pennsylvania, one of the states where he serves, the opioid crisis has left people sick, dying, lonely and without hope.

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“It's important to focus on friendship because no amount of material, educational, technological, industrial welfare can compensate for the relationships that we are called to,” he said.

Gudziak said some of the most profound friendships he's seen are those he witnessed in Soviet Russia before it fell, and those he continues to witness in countries controlled by communism, although these friendships are not easy or without cost.

“In all of these countries that were or continue to be communist, where millions of people were killed, where the system killed systematically, people over generations developed a reflex to put on a mask, put up a facade, build a wall because the outside world is dangerous,” Gudziak said.

Families are encouraged to inform authorities against each other in communist countries, “so people in the family don't say things, because you can't trust. It becomes like a radiation.”

“You can't taste it, has no smell, no color, but it mutates the genes. There's an extra fear chromosome. It's a reflex. You can't control it. Two billion people have an added obstacle to cultivate profound friendship.”

And yet it was in these oppressive conditions in Soviet Russia that the Ukrainian Catholic Church, while it lost many members, grew deep roots and bonds of friendship among those that remained.

“(T)he Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, which had about 4 million members in 1939, with 3,000 priests, was totally - on a visible level - liquidated,” Gudziak said.

“In 1945-46 all the bishops were arrested, hundreds of priests with their families were deported to Siberia. The church was rendered illegal and it remained the biggest illegal church in the world for 43 years until 1989. And it was very reduced. By 1989 there were only 300 priests left,” he said.

“But what a community it was! Forged in that fire of persecution,” he added.

When he met the underground Church, Gudziak said everything was stripped to the bare minimum - bishops had jobs as ambulance drivers or coal workers, there were no schools or churches or official institutions of any kind. The bishops didn't even know one another's names, because it was too dangerous to tell someone your name in underground seminary.

“And yet they were profoundly friends of Christ, and it was an incredible, intense relationship of those in the underground,” Gudziak said.

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“The friendship was not just kind of a nice thing, it cost profoundly to be a friend of Christ in an atheist totalitarian system,” he said. “It cost to pass down the faith to your children. But the fruits are amazing.”

The Ukrainian Catholic Church now again has 3,000 priests, 5 million members and 800 seminarians.

The story of the Ukrainian Catholic Church is important because “it's the story of the cross,” Gudziak told CNA in an interview.

“I think the story of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, its persecution, its underground life, its survival...it's not a philosophy, it's a story of human faithfulness to God...the faithfulness of concrete people to God and to each other.”

From the beginning of humanity, God has been teaching human beings about true friendship, Gudziak noted in his talk.

“From the scriptures we know from our faith, we experience that the Lord so yearns to make us his friends. Moses had a special privilege to see face-to-face. Abraham was called a friend. The value of friendship was modeled by David and Jonathan,” he said.

“Then, Jesus came to us. Our faith, our church, our theology, our civilization is based on this incredible gesture that God comes to be close, to convey his divinity. He sits next to us,” he said.

“What a God, what a Lord, and what is He conveying? He's conveying the divine life shared by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Friendship...motivates the Father to send his Son into (the world's) grime, into our anxiety, our sin, the pitch blackness that we can create, into our hell, into our death, to create relationship, to create trust, intimacy, to establish an alliance.”

“Friendship,” he said, “is the school of the spiritual life which reflects the gift of relationship that we have, by virtue of being created in the image and likeness of God. God is triune. He's personal and there's relationship. We as persons are called to relationship. We're called to friendship.”

Besides his appointments in the U.S., Gudziak also serves as the president of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine. In striving to teach their students about true friendship, the university invites academics as well as students with disabilities into its classes and campus, he said.

“Not because they need us, because they need our social handout, but because the children of God with special needs have special gifts. They don't care where you got your Ph.D.”

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or how many publications you have. They don't notice how rich or poor you are or, which title you carry," he said.

"They have one basic question: Can you love?...There's no more important pedagogical question."

In a world increasingly divided along political, religious and other ideological lines, Gudziak told CNA it is all the more important that Christians reflect on God's friendship to us, and in turn our friendship with him and with others.

"I think ever since The Enlightenment, when we've really been focusing a lot on ideas, there's a tendency for ideas to become ideologies. And our consciousness in the Western world is very intellectualized, and our relationships can become abstract. They can be categorized according to different positions, world views, and they're in our head," he said.

"If we look carefully at the Gospels and listen to Jesus, he doesn't speak about grand ideas. He talks about the Father, the Holy Spirit. He talks about relationships," he added. "He talks about persons and interaction among persons, and he uses very personal, very concrete examples and stories to teach about life. He doesn't start from ideas and systems and ideologies and systems."

In his talk at the conference, Gudziak noted that Jesus became friends with "very concrete people, Peter and John and Nathaniel. It's not an ideology, it's not a system. There weren't too many buildings there in Jesus's time, nor in Paul's or for 300 years."

"So maybe if we lose the buildings and the endowments and the properties, maybe that's not the end of things, if we can recover or develop more profoundly our friendship."

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## ON PHILIP'S FAST

### 4) *The Expectation of the Saviour.*

**#175** Liturgically the Church re-creates the expectation of the Saviour in the history of salvation by means of the Fast that begins on November 15, the day after the feast of the apostle Philip. This Fast lasts until the Nativity of Christ, and is appropriately called the *Nativity Fast*, or popularly, *Saint Philip's Fast* (in Ukrainian, *Pylypivka*). During the course of this Fast, the Church prepares us for the luminous feast of the Nativity of Christ, reminding us of the

consequences of Adam's sinful lack of self-control: "Refusing to fast, the first Adam tastes of the death-bearing tree".

**#176** The reading of the holy Gospel on the feast of the apostle Philip is full of hope for salvation (see *Jn. 1:43-51*). Philip invites Nathaniel to become better acquainted with Jesus of Nazareth. However, Nathaniel has one reservation: "Can anything *good* come from Nazareth?" To this Philip replies: "Come and see" (*Jn. 1:45-46*, emphasis added). Having met Christ, Nathaniel's reservation dissipates. Herein is the task for every Christian "to come and see," in other words, to draw near to Christ in order to know him.

**#177** This expectation of the Messiah and the drawing near to him are fulfilled in the person of the Virgin Mary from Nazareth. Before all ages she was chosen by God. Mary, who in accordance with Tradition was introduced into the temple as a young child, spiritually grew into the "handmaid of the Lord." God progressively prepared her to become the womb, the ark, the temple, and the dwelling place for the uncontainable God. "By the good will of God the Father, the Most Holy Spirit prepared a dwelling-place in her for God the Word." Mary became the *tabernacle* in which the Word of God came to dwell in the fullness of time: "The Word became flesh and lived among us" (*Jn. 1:14*). In celebrating the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple in Jerusalem (November 21), Christians are called to follow her example, allowing the Lord to prepare them so that they may worthily receive God incarnate into the tabernacle of their hearts.

*from the Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church "Christ Our Pascha"*

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**\* ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS FOOD FAIR \***

Saturday, December 14 / 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

**FOOD PREPARATION SCHEDULE**

| <b>DATE</b>  | <b>TASK</b>                                  | <b>TIME</b>      | <b>VOLUNTEERS</b>                   |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tue. Nov. 19 | Steam & rib cabbage                          | 8:30 - 12:30 pm  | Need 5-6 volunteers                 |
| Thu. Nov. 21 | Make cabbage rolls                           | 8:30 - 12:00 pm  | Lunch served. Need 12-15 volunteers |
| Sat. Nov. 23 | Package cooked cabbage rolls                 | 10:30 - 12:00 pm | Need 2-3 volunteers                 |
| Mon. Nov. 25 | Prep. sauerkraut & cottage cheese for pyrohy | 9:00 - 11:30 am  | Need 3-4 volunteers                 |
| Tue. Nov. 27 | Make pyrohy ball filling                     | 9:00 - 12:00 pm  | Need 4-5 volunteers                 |
| Wed. Nov. 28 | Make pyrohy                                  | 8:30 - 1:30 pm   | Lunch served. Need 25+ volunteers   |
| Fri. Nov. 29 | Bag frozen pyrohy                            | 10:00 - 12:00 pm | Need 3-4volunteers                  |

As always your assistance in helping out with the preparations for our Christmas Food Fair is very much appreciated as this is a major fundraiser for our parish. Please invite your friends and other family members to help with the various food prep, specially to make pyrohy and cabbage rolls. For more information contact [Robert Herchak @ 250.386.7872](mailto:rlherchak@gmail.com) or @ [rlherchak@gmail.com](mailto:rlherchak@gmail.com)



## **HOLODOMOR COMMEMORATION**

**Saturday, November 30; 4-6 pm  
Ukrainian Cultural Center  
3277 Douglas St, Victoria**

Ukrainians were starved to death by the Soviet regime led by Joseph Stalin. All grain and food was forcibly seized and the borders were shut. In little more than a year, a quarter of the population perished. This crime of genocide is known as the Holodomor. On November 30 we remember the forgotten.

*Event coordinated by  
Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Victoria Branch*

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