



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

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~ 17 MAY 2020 ~
**SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND
НЕДІЛЯ СЛІПОНАРОДЖЕНОГО**



After the Midfeast (John 7:14), the Lord Jesus Christ came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him (John 8:2). After leaving the Temple, He opened the eyes of a man “who was blind from his birth (John 9:1).

The miracle described in today’s Gospel (John 9:1-38) is even more remarkable than it might seem at first. Saint Basil and other Fathers tell us that this was not just a case of giving sight to a blind man born with eyes that did not function, but to someone who had no eyes at all! The second Exapostilarion for this Sunday says, “Along the way, our Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes...”.

The Gospel says, “Since the world began, it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one who was born blind” (John 9:32). There are examples in the Old (Tobit 2:17) and New (Mark 8:22-26) Testaments of blind people receiving sight, but this is something completely unprecedented.

The Savior placed clay in the man’s empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes!

SUNDAY HYMNS	
OPENING HYMN	Христос Воскрес! Під Небозвід/The Lord is Risen from the Dead pg.198-199
COMMUNION HYMN	Христос Воскрес! Радість з Неба / Let All Profess pg. 200-202
CLOSING HYMN	Під Твою Милість / Unto Your Loving Protection pg. 372-373

SUNDAY & DAILY SCHEDULE	
SUNDAY, May 17	NO SERVICES
MONDAY, May 18	NO SERVICES
TUESDAY, May 19	NO SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, May 20	NO SERVICES
THURSDAY, May 21	FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
FRIDAY, May 22	NO SERVICES
SATURDAY, May 23	NO SERVICES
SUNDAY, May 24	NO SERVICES

SUNDAY EPISTLE READERS			
DATE	READING	UKRAINIAN	ENGLISH
SUNDAY, May 17	Act. 16: 16-34	-	-
SUNDAY, May 24	Act.2:16-18;28-36	-	-
SUNDAY, May 31	Act. 2: 1-11	-	-
SUNDAY, Jun 7	Heb. 11:33-12:2	-	-

PASTORAL MINISTRY & HOLY MYSTERIES	
CONFESSIONS.....	by appointment
EUCHARIST.....	by appointment
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.....	by appointment
HOSPITAL VISITS.....	by appointment

Eparchy of New Westminster~Bishop David Motiuk ~Apostolic Administrator~ www.nweparchy.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

☀ **MOLEBEN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD / МАЇБКА:** As the month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary every Sunday in May after Divine Liturgy we will be celebrating Moleben to the Mother of God.

☀ **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please keep in your prayers JULIE CHUPICK, SYLVIA KELLY, CHARLOTTE KRAKOWSKI, RICHARD NEWBERRY 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.

☀ **BEQUESTS & 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 St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Church in your bequest and will. 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 **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 its pastoral activities."



☀ **DONATE ONLINE** to St. Nicholas parish:
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DIVINE LITURGY PROPER

*The Divine Liturgy of our Father among the Saints John Chrysostom
An Anthology for Worship: Liturgy - pg. 388-461; propers - pg. 540*

After the priest has exclaimed, Blessed be the Kingdom... and the people have responded, Amen, the clergy sing the Paschal Troparion once and the people repeat it. Then, the clergy sing the first half, and the people conclude it.

Paschal Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Troparion, Tone 5: Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word,* co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,* and born of the Virgin for our salvation.* For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death* and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Glory: Kontakion, Tone 4: Blinded in the eyes of my soul,* I come to You, O Christ, like the man who was blind from birth,* and I cry in repentance:* You are the brilliant light of those in darkness.

Now: 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.

Prokeimenon, Tone 8: Pray and give thanks to the Lord our God. *Verse:* In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel. (*Psalm 76:12,2*)

Epistle - Acts 16:16-34 - A reading from the Acts of the Apostles: In those days as the apostles were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Alleluia, Tone 8: *Verse:* Look upon me and have mercy. *Verse:* Direct my steps according to Your word. (*Psalm 118:131-132*)

Gospel - John 9:1-38 - At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbours and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "(So) how were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know." They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." (But) others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Messiah, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him." So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

Instead of “It is truly...” we sing: 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! Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exult now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn: Receive the Body of Christ;* taste the fountain of immortality.* Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

Instead of “Blessed is He” we sing: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life (1x).

Instead of “We have seen the true light” we sing: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life (1x).

Instead of “Let our mouths be filled” we sing: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life (3x).

Instead of “Blessed be the name of the Lord” we sing: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life (3x).

At the end of the Liturgy we sing: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life (3x).

And to us he has granted life eternal;* we bow down before his resurrection on the third day.

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 5: Рівнобезначальне з Отцем і Духом Слово,* що від Діви народилося на спасіння наше,* прославмо, вірні, і поклонімся,* бо Воно благозволило тілом зійти на хрест* і смерть перетерпіти, і воскресити померлих* славним воскресінням Своїм.

Слава: Кондак, глас 4: На душевних очах осліплений, до тебе, Христе, приходжу, як сліпий від народження; в покаянні кличу до тебе: Ти в темряві світло пресвітле.

І нині: Кондак, глас 8: Хоч і у гріб зійшов ти, Безсмертний,* та адову зруйнував ти силу,* і воскрес єси як переможець, Христе Боже,* жінкам-мироносицям звістивши: Радуйтеся,* і твоїм апостолам мир даруєш,* падшим подаєш воскресіння.

Прокімен, глас 8: Помоліться і воздайте Господові,* Богу нашому. *Стих:* Відомий у Юдеї Бог, в Ізраїлі велике ім'я його.

Апостол - Дія. 16:16-34 - 3 книги Діань Святих Апостолів читання: Тими днями, як апостоли йшли на молитву, зустріла нас одна служниця, що мала духа віщуна, і віщуванням справляла панам своїм великий заробіток. Ідучи слідом за Павлом і за нами, вона кричала: «Ці люди – слуги Всевишнього Бога, які звіщають вам путь спасіння!» Чимало днів вона таке робила. Набридло це Павлові й, повернувшись, він сказав до духа: «Велю тобі ім'ям Ісуса Христа вийти з неї!» І в ту ж мить він вийшов. Побачивши її пани, що їхня надія на заробіток пропала, схопили Павла й Силу і потягли на майдан до влади. Привівши ж їх до воєвод, сказали: «Ці люди колотять наше місто; це юдеї. Вони навчають звичаїв, яких нам, римлянам, не дозволено ані приймати, ані виконувати.» І натовп кинувся на них спільно, а воєводи, здерши з них одержу, звеліли їх сікти різками; завдавши їм чимало ран, кинули у в'язницю, наказавши тюремникові пильно стерегти їх. Він же, прийнявши такий наказ, кинув їх у в'язницю до самої середини й забив їх ноги у колоди. Павло та Сила опівночі молилися і співали Богу, а в'язні слухали їх. Раптом зчинився землетрус великий, так що підвалини в'язниці затряслися: зненацька відчинилися всі двері, і кайдани на всіх розв'язалися. Якже прокинувся тюремник і побачив відчинені темничні двері, витяг меч і хотів себе вбити, гадаючи що в'язні повтікали. Аж тут Павло скрикнув голосом великим, кажучи: «Не завдавай собі ніякого лиха, всі бо ми тут!» І, попросивши світла, тюремник ускочив до в'язниці й, тремтячи, кинувся у ноги Павлові та Силі; а вивівши їх звідти, мовив: «Панове, що мені слід робити, щоб спастися?» Ті відповіли: «Віруй у Господа Ісуса, і спасешся ти і твій дім.» І вони йому звіщали слово Господнє і всім, що були в його домі. А він, узявши їх тієї години вночі, обмив їхні рани й охристівся з усіма своїми. Як же запровадив їх до себе в господу, то наклав стіл і веселився з усім домом, який увірував в Бога.

Аллилуя, глас 8: *Стих:* Споглянь на мене і помилуй мене. *Стих:* Возлюбив ти правду і возненавидів ти беззаконня.

Євангеліє - Івана 9:1-38 - У той час, переходивши, побачив Ісус чоловіка, зроду сліпого. Запитали його, отже, учні його: «Учителю, хто згрішив? Він – чи батьки його, що сліпим він уродився?» «Ані він не згрішив, ані батьки його, – відказав Ісус, – але щоб ділам Божим виявитись на ньому! Поки дня, маємо виконувати діла того, хто послав мене, – бо ніч надходить, за якої ніхто не зможе діяти. І поки я у світі – я світло світу.» Сказавши те, сплюнув на землю, споготовив слиною глей і помастив глеєм очі сліпому. До нього ж сказав: «Іди, вмийся в купелі Силоамській», – що у перекладі означає: «Зісланий». Отож подався той, умився – і повернувся зрячим! Сусіди ж і ті, що бачили його раніше сліпим, заговорили: «Чи то ж не той, який ото все сидів – жебрачів?» Одні казали: То він, – інші: Ні, лиш подібний до нього. Він же каже: «Це я!» Тож питались його: «Як воно так, що прозріли твої очі?» А він: «Чоловік, що Ісусом звать його, споготовив глей, очі мені помастив та й мовив: Піди до Силоаму, вмийся. Я пішов, умився – і прозрів.» Вони його тоді питають: «Де він?» – «Не знаю», каже той. Тож ведуть того, хто сліпий був, до

фарисеїв. Було ж у суботу, коли то Ісус споготовив глею і відкрив йому очі. То й фарисеї спитали його, як він прозрів. А він їм: «Глею поклав мені на очі, я вмився, й ось бачу.» Деякі з фарисеїв твердили: «Не від Бога цей чоловік, бо суботи не дотримує.» Інші мовили: «Чи може ж грішний чоловік отакі чудеса чинити?» Отож суперечка була серед них. І знову сліпому кажуть: «А ти що про нього кажеш – про те, що очі тобі відкрив?» Одрікає: «Пророк він.» Проте юдеї щодо нього не вірили, що був він сліпий і прозрів, – аж поки не закликали батьків отого прозрілого. Спитали їх: «Чи то ваш син, про котрого кажете, що сліпим він уродився? А тепер як же він бачить?» Батьки його і відказали, мовивши: «Знаємо, що то наш син, і що сліпим він був уродився. А як він тепер бачить – не знаємо, і хто відкрив йому очі – не відаємо. Спитайте самого: він дорослий, сам про себе скаже.» Так батьки його казали, бо юдеїв страхалися: юдеї бо вже були домовилися, щоб виключити кожного з синагоги, хто Христом його визнаватиме. Тим то батьки його й казали: Дорослий він, – самого спитайте. Отож удруге закликали чоловіка, що сліпим був, та й кажуть йому: «Богові славу воздай! Ми знаємо, що той чоловік – грішник.» «Чи грішник він, – озвався він, – я не знаю. Знаю одне: був я сліпим, а тепер бачу.» Вони ж йому на те знов: «Що він таке тобі сподіяв? Як він очі тобі відкрив?» Той їм відказує: «Я вже вам оповів, та ви не слухали. Навіщо іще чути хочете? Чи, може, і ви його учнями бажаєте стати?» Ті з лайкою накинулись на нього, і сказали: «Ти його учень! Ми – Мойсееві учні! Ми знаємо: до Мойсея промовляв Бог. А цього не знаємо, звідкіля він.» У відповідь чоловік сказав їм: «Ось воно, власне, і дивно, що ви не знаєте, звідкіля він, а він мені очі відкрив. Ми знаємо, що Бог не вислухує грішників, коли ж хтось побожний і його волю чинить – ось того він вислухує! Нечувано одвіку, щоб хтонебудь відкрив очі сліповродженому. Був би він не від Бога – нічого не спроможен би був зробити!» Озвались і сказали йому: «Ти весь у гріхах уродився, а нас навчаєш?» І прогнали його геть. Довідався Ісус, що вони геть його прогнали, отож, зустрівши його, промовив до нього: «Віруєш у Чоловічого Сина?» А той: «А хто він, Господи, щоб я вірував у нього?» Ісус же йому: «Ти бачив його; він – той, хто говорить з тобою.» Тоді той і сказав: «Вірую, Господи!» – і поклонився йому.

Замість “Достойно” ми співаємо: Ангел сповіщав Благодатній: Чистая Діво, радуйся. І знову кажу: Радуйся. Твій Син воскрес тридневний із гробу, і мертвих воздвигнув він; люди, веселіться. Світіся, світіся, новий Єрусалиме, слава бо Господня на тобі возсіяла. Радій нині і веселися, Сіоне. А ти, Чистая, красуйся, Богородице, востанням родження твого.

Причасний: Тіло Христове прийміть,* джерела безсмертного споживіть. Хваліте Господа з небес,* хваліте Його на висотах. Аلیلуя, аلیلуя, аلیلуя!

Замість “Благословен, хто йде в ім’я Господнє” співаємо: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (Іх).

Замість “Ми бачили світло істинне” співаємо: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю

смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (1х).

Замість “Нехай сповняться” співаємо: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (3х).

Замість “Будь ім’я Господнє” співаємо: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (3х).

Наприкінці Літургії співаємо: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (3х).

І нам дарував життя вічне, поклоняємось його триденному Воскресенню.

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”).*

PRAYER DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Be with our priests and spiritual care givers. May they know that they are loved and cared for.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

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.



МОЛИТВА ПІД ЧАС СПАЛАХУ КОРОНАВІРУСУ

Ісусе Христе, ти подорожував по містах і селах, оздоровлюючи від хвороб і немочей. За Твоїм повелінням хворі видужували. У час пандемії коронавірусу повели цій хворобі відступити, щоб ми відчули Твою оздоровлюючу любов.

Вилікуй тих, хто хворий вірусом. Нехай вони відновлять свої сили та здоров'я завдяки якісній медичній допомозі.

Вилікуй нас від нашого страху, який заважає націям спільно працювати та сусідам допомагати один одному.

Вилікуй нас від нашої гордості, яка може змусити нас претендувати на невразливість до захворювання, що не знає меж.

Залишайся поруч у цей час невизначеності та смутку. Будь з тими, хто помер від вірусу. Нехай вони спочивають з Тобою у вічному спокої. Будь з родинами тих, хто хворий або помер, коли вони турбуються і сумують, захищай їх від хвороб і відчаю. Нехай вони знають Твій спокій.

Будь з лікарями, медсестрами, дослідниками та всіми медичними працівниками, котрі прагнуть вилікувати та допомогти постраждалим та, котрі піддають себе ризику в своїй праці. Нехай вони знають Твій захист і спокій.

Будь з нашими священиками та духовними опікунами. Нехай вони знають, що їх люблять і піклуються про них.

Будь з лідерами всіх націй. Дай їм передбачення діяти милосердно та зі справжньою турботою про добробут людей, котрим вони призначені служити. Надай їм

мудрості інвестувати у довгострокові рішення, які допоможуть підготуватися або запобігти майбутнім спалахам. Нехай вони пізнають Твій мир, коли разом працюють над досягненням його на землі.

Будь ми вдома чи за кордоном, в оточенні багатьох людей, які страждають цією хворобою, або наодинці, Ісусе Христе, залишайтеся з нами, коли ми терпимо і сумуємо. Замість нашої тривоги дай нам спокій.

Бо Ти - Бог милосердя, доброта та любов, і ми прославляємо Тебе, Отця, і Сина, і Святого Духа, нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

LEARNING TO WAIT DURING THIS PANDEMIC



by Archbishop (Emeritus) Stefan Soroka

Our daily life has suffered many major disruptions as a result of the covid-19 pandemic. You and I have been challenged to be patient and to wait. For most of us, it is hard to wait. It is hard to wait in traffic. It is hard to wait in line at a check-out counter. It is hard to wait for a vaccine to be developed. The longer we wait, the worse we tend to worry.

Recall that the Risen Christ asked the apostles to wait after His ascension. Jesus knew that the apostles could not fulfill their work alone. They needed the presence of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the work of the kingdom. The Holy Spirit would encourage, instruct, guide, and comfort them in their earthly ministry. They needed to wait. Why wait? There is a lesson for you and for me in what happened to them while they waited.

Perhaps the apostles needed to wait so that they could learn some obedience. They needed to learn to prepare themselves in listening to God's plan for them.

The passage of time would also help to prepare the apostles' hearts. They needed time to heal from their failures. They needed time to draw together. There is a special fellowship that develops among those who wait.

Waiting increases anxiety. Jesus knows this and calls the apostles and us to move beyond anxiety to trust, to grow in faith. If things do not seem to work out the way we expected, perhaps it is an opportunity to find God's plan in our life.

Waiting can be fruitful. If our lives belong to God, we do not become frustrated when our plans do not work out. If time belongs to God, we are not angered when things get rearranged in life. We come to realize that our 'to-do' list may not match God's assignment list. God is more interested in obedience, in quiet hope, in a prepared soul, than He is in our accomplishments.

The apostles had to wait. Not for ten minutes. Not for ten hours. They will wait for ten days. They did not know how long they would have to wait. While they waited, they struggled with their desires to get started in their earthly ministry. They argued whether they heard Jesus accurately. They struggled to encourage each other, to keep from quitting and returning home.

While waiting, the apostles learned to pray like they had never had to pray before. They learned to depend on one another. They learned to use their faith. In the absence of the physical presence of Jesus, they allowed their faith in his world to grow.

They waited and they became the men that Jesus knew they could be. They became a Church.

Just wait! Imagine what can happen to you and to me beyond the challenge of this pandemic.

MISSION DAYS - ДЕКАДА МІСІЙНОСТІ



Thursday, May 21 - Sunday, May 31
Mission Days - A Ten Day Journey

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit," [Mt. 28:19]

Dear Friends, starting on the feast of the Ascension (May 21) to Pentecost (May 31) we will once again pray that the Lord might renew our life through the Holy Spirit. Throughout these ten Mission Days make this pilgrimage at home with your family making your home a *"little Church"*.

We read in the Mission Days Guidebook: "By taking an active role in the spiritual efforts of these ten Mission Days, we are called to better understand that, by their very nature, our parish communities and families (domestic churches) have a *missionary* character. This missionary spirit is a consequence of the gift of our Baptism, by virtue of which we, as Christians, take upon ourselves the responsibility to *believe, live, serve, and share* the witness of our faith in Christ, not just among our family members, but with our neighbours, wherever we may live."

Introduction - Thursday, May 21: Feast of the Ascension

1st Day - Friday, May 22: A Divine Love that Brings Joy

2nd Day - Saturday, May 23: Liberation from Sin

3rd Day - Sunday, May 24: God is With Us - We Belong to God

4th Day - Monday, May 25: Branches that Bear Fruit

5th Day - Tuesday, May 26: Where to Look for Truth?

6th Day - Wednesday, May 27: Personal Responsibility

7th Day - Thursday, May 28: Community of Prayer

8th Day - Friday, May 29: Serving Those in Need

9th Day - Saturday, May 30: "Tend my sheep!"

10th Day - Sunday, May 31: Our Mission: to Carry the Holy Spirit to Others.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD - MAY 21



The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes, but it is always celebrated on a Thursday. The Ascension was the final Resurrection appearance to the Disciples and Mary, the Mother of God, and it marked a new beginning in all their lives. The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives.

After blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, "He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which

took Him from their sight".

The Feast is a celebration of the return of our Redeemer to Heaven. It is a day of victory for our Lord, a day of triumph that He fully merited. Christ left the throne of His Father, humbled Himself in the womb of the Virgin, lay in Bethlehem in a rough stable, fled from His own people into Egypt and spent years in Nazareth as a common labourer. Tirelessly He searched for the lost sheep of the house of Israel. His own brethren repaid Him with nothing but unkindness and misunderstanding. Then, beginning on the Mount of Olives and ending on Golgotha, He patiently paid the price of our redemption. All this He did because He loved us, because He sought to free us from Satan's power. This work is now complete. He returns to heaven as a conqueror. The Son stands before the Father by whom He was sent and whose will He so perfectly performed.

Why did Jesus go away when there was so much He could have done here on earth? The answer is given by Jesus Himself. He tells us that his human form will be replaced by the presence of the Holy Spirit who will bring us into much closer contact with Jesus than his human form could bring about. If Jesus remained on earth, we could never have gotten any closer to Him than the touch of a hand, an embrace, or the sound of a voice, which is far below the intimacy that God wants with the soul or the soul desires of God.

By Jesus' ascension, He is able to come and abide in each one of us in all His fullness so that His mind would be our mind and His life our life. Is it not the Holy Spirit, who affects the change of the bread and wine in the liturgy and thus brings Christ to us in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist? And by receiving Christ in this sacrament He comes to fill our life with His presence. Now that Christ abides in us all, He gives us a very special challenge: to glorify Him in the world today through our lives – to become visible Christs, living and working as His agents. It was a great day for the Church when a cloud received Jesus out of the sight of the apostles and he ascended into heaven. It will be an even greater day when the same ascended Jesus returns in glory. In the meantime between Ascension and the Second Coming, there is no vacuum, for Christ is with us through His Church. Through prayer, his words, and the sacraments we can experience his ascension as well as the power and glory of his presence. In fact, prayer is exactly that: an ascension to God!
