

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. George

Українська Православна Церква Св. Юрія

*1100 Colville Road, Victoria, BC, V9A 4P7
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NEWSLETTER

November – December 2011

Pastoral Message

Христос посеред нас! Christ is amongst us!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I often receive questions about church etiquette and proper way to do things. I would like to address a couple of the questions that have come up a number of times because I feel the answers may be of some interest.

Standing and Sitting

The traditional posture for prayer and worship in the Orthodox Church is to stand. In many countries today there are no pews in the churches which eliminates the option to sit altogether. In these countries chairs or benches are placed along the side walls for the elderly, the infirm, or for those who are pregnant. In North America, some Orthodox faithful have introduced pews into their churches which allow for people to sit during the service, typically during the litanies. Whether a church has only a few chairs or many, there are times when one should definitely stand:

- The beginning of the service: “Blessed is the Kingdom...
- Gospel Reading
- The Creed, and the Lord's Prayer
- The Anaphora
- During Holy Communion

There is also the practice in our churches to kneel at the Cherubic Hymn, the Consecration, and “Our Father”. Technically speaking this practice is incorrect according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church at large. The reason for this is that every Sunday is considered to be a “Little Pascha” during which we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. With that in mind, since we do not kneel at all from Pascha to Pentecost, every Sunday should reflect that mentality. The reason the UOCC has adopted the practice of kneeling is because for much of our history Sunday was the only day in which most churches had services and it was decided by the Bishops that it would be better to kneel in humility during the one service a week, than to never kneel at all. If you are ever in doubt whether or not you should sit or stand, the rule of thumb is to Stand!

Lighting and Holding Candles

For many, an important part of Orthodox worship is lighting candles when we enter the church making an offering to accompany our prayers. Typically you will either find the

candles situated at the front of the church by the icons, or at the back of the church before the pews. We light candles to offer worship to God who is the “Eternal Light”, to remember our living and departed loved ones in prayer, and to dissolve the darkness of night. If a service is already in progress, and the candle stands are up front, it is a good idea to wait until after the service or when everyone is sitting (except for during the sermon) to light candles so as to not distract others from prayer, nor draw undue attention to yourself.

The other use of candles during our worship services is that they are held by various individuals at various times. The altar servers carry candles on all processions around the church; this is to light the way for the priest when the church is dark and to bring the light of Christ out to the people. When a memorial service is being held, the family members also hold candles out of love and respect for the person who has passed. Lastly, candles are also handed out to the people during the Gospel Reading and the Great Entrance in our Divine Liturgy. These candles again bring the light of Christ to the church as well as give light to the priest or deacon reading the Gospel. It should be noted, that when you are asked to hold a candle during these times it is a special privilege and blessing that should not be neglected or rejected. Just as we hold candles for our loved ones when they pass away, we hold candles out of the love and utmost respect for Christ who blesses us all with His light! Unless you are quite elderly or physically unable to stand with a candle, say “YES” the next time you are asked and accept the blessing given you!

If you have any other questions in regards to the two answered above or any others on etiquette please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Peter Haugen

Personal Message

IPC Canada, a photography company, has approached our parishes and is willing to put together a parish directory at no cost (for their services - there will be a cost for the product). Many of the UOCC parishes have used this company and they make truly beautiful and comprehensive directories. What this would mean is that they would schedule members over the course of a weekend to take family or individual pictures which would then be collected and placed in a Photo Directory. The proposal that Fr. Peter has made to both Executives is instead of having a parish directory, we join the two parishes and have a Parochial District directory. Please give this some thought to this over the next few weeks, as this will be added as an agenda item at our next AGM.

Please note:

I will be away from October 26th-31st as I will be in Edmonton attending the Western Eparchy Conference.

In June, the executive members of our parishes approved my request to take my holidays during the month of November to participate in two weddings in Edmonton, one of which is my sister's wedding. I will be away from November 10th until November 27th. To ensure that no services are missed during this time, Deacon Chris Parker from Courtney

has agreed to cover all with Sundays by serving a *Typika* service. This service is a shorter Divine Liturgy as it does not include the Eucharist. The services are only about 45 minutes in length so make sure you are there early! There will be prayer booklets available to follow along during these services.

While I am away, if there is an emergency please contact me on my cell and I will make arrangements with the local priests.

If you need to contact me please either leave a message for me at St. George's (250-381-1352) or email me at pmthaugen@hotmail.com and I respond on the next office day. However, if there is an emergency or a matter that needs to be discussed with urgency, I have my cell phone (1-250-667-5293) for this use.

If anyone you know is in the hospital, or are at home ill and would like a visitation from me, please contact me and I will make immediate arrangements to meet with them.

Fr. Peter Haugen's **Contact Information:**

1632 Creekside Dr
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Cell- 250-667-5293
Email- pmthaugen@hotmail.com

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Peter Haugen

Message from the President

The coming of Fall with its myriad colours to feast our senses also brings numerous fundraising food preparations, which yield essential revenue for our church, but do take our time and sap our energy. I wish to thank all our parishioners and friends who have so generously donated of their time preparing cabbage rolls and perogies and who have volunteered to help us at our Perogy Supper, on **October 28**. Thank you **Fr. Peter** for accepting to be our dough maker and following humbly the instructions of our expert dough maker, **Bella Kopan**. Congratulations Bella, you've done a good job!

As mentioned by **Fr Peter** in his message above, he will be away in November and during that time **Deacon Chris Parker** will be celebrating a *Typika*. As this service is relatively short, we will be serving a pancake (nalysnyky) brunch and plan to have a guest speaker for both services, during fellowship hours.

I wish to thank **Martin Zip** for an article following this message which enriches our understanding of the profound meaning behind a seemingly simple prayer we utter everyday – Lord have Mercy! Господи Помилуй!

A reminder to everyone that our website is active. Do check it from time to time . It includes interviews with parishioners, photographs and links to other web pages of interest. Your comments would be appreciated.

We wish **Fr. Peter** and **Dobr. Erin** a safe trip to Edmonton and a restful well deserved holiday. God be with you on your journey.

Ludmilla Weaver

The Meaning of “Господи помилуй”

The excellent book "Orthodox Worship" describes the meaning of the word mercy as follows:

"The word mercy in English is the translation of the Greek word eleos. This word has the same ultimate root as the old Greek word for oil, or more precisely, olive oil; a substance which was used extensively as a soothing agent for bruises and minor wounds. The oil was poured onto the wound and gently massaged in, thus soothing, comforting and making whole the injured part. The Hebrew word which is also translated as eleos and mercy is hesed, and means steadfast love. The Greek words for 'Lord, have mercy,' are 'Kyrie, eleison' that is to say, 'Lord, soothe me, comfort me, take away my pain, show me your steadfast love.' Thus mercy does not refer so much to justice or acquittal a very Western interpretation but to the infinite loving-kindness of God, and his compassion for his suffering children! It is in this sense that we pray 'Lord, have mercy,' with great frequency throughout the Divine Liturgy."

It is worthy to note that in Ukrainian, the meaning of “Господи помилуй” is very close to the Greek. It is important for us to keep in mind as we hear or read the English equivalent of “Lord have Mercy”, that it is nowhere close to the original Greek of “Kyrie eleison.” In Ukrainian, “Господи помилуй” as well does not have the legal connotation as given to us in the English translation “Lord have Mercy”.

Here is something to meditate on to enrich our understanding of “Господи помилуй”. Think of the people who approached Jesus with this simple prayer, "Kyrie eleison", "Lord, have mercy" “Господи помилуй”:

1. The Canaanite woman whose daughter was tormented by a devil. She persisted in her plea for mercy until her daughter was healed. The man whose son was possessed by an evil spirit that threw him into the fire. He came to Jesus with the plea *Kyrie eleison*. The prayer was answered and his son was healed.
2. The two blind men sitting by the road outside Jericho who cried out to Jesus, *Kyrie eleison*. That cry was heard by Jesus who healed both of them.
3. A final example. Jesus is left alone with the adulteress. Misery is left alone face to face with mercy. And she hears from the mouth of Jesus the words, "Neither do I condemn thee. Go and sin no more." That is God's mercy!

In all these instances *Kyrie eleison* was not a prayer that people recited unthinkingly and mechanically, but a cry of sincere faith that came from their hearts, a cry of desperate need and dependence on Jesus. Such a prayer God will not despise.

Planning Committee Update

A super big thank-you to those who took the time to participate in our Parish Survey. We

truly value the information you have provided. As announced, this confidential survey is the first step toward completing our parish profile and a long-range plan.

The Parish Survey results will be tabulated and reported at the Planning Committee meeting on Thursday, November 3 at 7:00 pm. God willing, a summary report of the results will be prepared and inserted into the December newsletter. Again, thank you for sharing your insights in our common desire to make our parish stronger. May God bless you.

Past Events

Harvest Display for Thanksgiving arranged by Pat and Paul Sembaluik



Photograph by Christo Pandelidis

Gathering of children around the Thanksgiving display



Photograph by Christo Pandelidis

Parish News

Prayers for the sick

We extend our prayers for healing and spiritual strength to **Marion, Maxim, and Justin.**

In Memoriam

Branko Mustafovic fell asleep in the Lord on October 9th, 2011. The Memorial Service was held in the Garden Chapel at Royal Oak Burial Park, on October 13, with Fr. Peter officiating. He is survived by his wife, Milja, mother Milica, sister, Emina, brothers, Emin and Zoran.

After a long and courageous struggle with cancer, our long-time St. George's parishioner, **Julia Guterson**, fell asleep in the Lord, Friday, October 21st. The funeral was held at St. George's, on Tuesday, October 25th, at 10 am followed by light refreshments and an informal reception in the church hall. Internment took place at the Cedar Valley Memorial Gardens, just outside of Duncan.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Eugene, Julia's husband, and the family, as well as to the Mustafic family.

Вічна Їм Память! Eternal Be Their Memory!

Priest's Vestments

We wish to express our gratitude to the anonymous donor who paid for a new black vestment for Fr. Peter. It will be here in good time for the Lenten period.

Upcoming Events

Preparation for our November 26th Frozen Food Sale

In preparation for the Frozen Food Sale on, **November 26, December 3, December 10 and December 17**, the work party schedule is as follow:

Preparation of potato filling: **Monday, November 7**, flexible, starting at **10:00 am**
Tuesday, November 8, same flexible time.

Perogy making: **Tuesday, November 8, 3:00 pm.**

Cabbage rolls: **Thursday, November 17, 9:00 am.**

We also need two volunteers from **10:00 am – 2:00 pm.** for the actual frozen food sales, on the four Saturdays mentioned above. A sign-up sheet will be available in the church.

If you need any further information or would like to volunteer by phone, you could contact **Marlyn Freibergs** at 250-656-5618 or **Ludmilla Weaver** at 250-598-3552.

Schedule of Services in Victoria for November and December

Sunday	13 November	Typika Service	10:00 am
Sunday	27 November	Typika Service	10:00 am
Sunday	11 December	Divine Liturgy St. Nicholas Visitation	10:00 am
Sunday	25 December	Divine Liturgy	10:00 am

*The next Executive Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on
Thursday 15th of December, 2011.*

*The next Planning Committee Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on
Thursday 3rd November. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.*
