

St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Dioceses of Canada

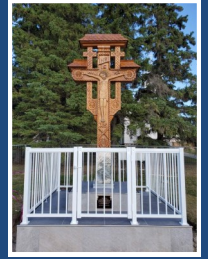
The "Priest's Page"

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Vol. 2 Issue 12

Sunday, Dec 6, 2020

Twenty Seventh Sunday following Pentecost

Luke 13:10-17

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise *herself* up. But when Jesus saw her, He called *her* to *Him* and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid *His* hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead *it* away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

This Gospel shows us that a holiday is no excuse for not helping someone in need, or for giving a helping hand to help rise someone fallen, or to console someone in sorrow with a good word or advice, or by saying a prayer for health and salvation. Those for whom we do good deeds thank Christ The Lord for His goodness shown through kindly and merciful people sent by Him.

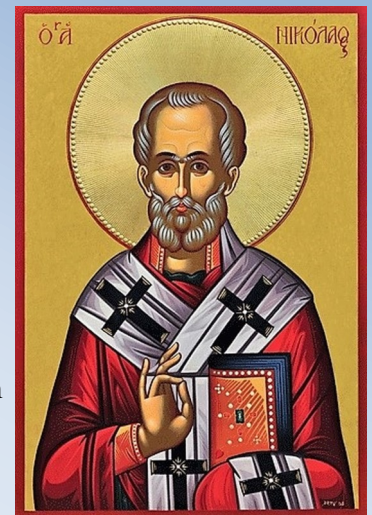
Dates to Remember

"Here is an answer to a question asked about Christmas Lent."

For the Orthodox Christian, the best way to prepare for the *Nativity of Our Saviour Jesus Christ* is fasting, which begins on November 15th each year. Fasting is not only abstaining from certain foods, but it allows us the opportunity to reflect on those things we hold dear, but choose to separate ourselves from, in order to focus on our love for God and our neighbour. During this pandemic, this is especially important.

The three conditions for fasting which assists us to better reflect on these things are: Forgiveness, Charity and Prayer. Forgiveness is ridding ourselves of resentment, thoughts of payback and the hurt that remains as part of our lives. Charity or philanthropy refers to love of God toward mankind, and Prayer which is the communion with God and makes it capable of accomplishing His will.

Let us use this Fast for our spiritual growth, so that we can really appreciate those we love and wish to embrace, but cannot touch. God's love is abundant, feel it.



Saint Nicholas Icon

DECEMBER 6 - Saint Nicholas.

Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century bishop of Myra and Miracle Worker. He is the patron saint of Greece and Russia, of a number of cities, and of sailors and children. He was noted for his generosity, piety and kindness. It is said that he gave away all of his inherited wealth and traveled the countryside helping the poor and sick.

Funeral



Eleanor (Romanko) Anderson fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, October 26, 2020. Funeral services and internment were held on Wednesday, November 4, 2020.

May the Lord rest her soul. May her Memory be Eternal ! Vesnica Pomenire!

Schedule of Services-December 6 & 20th

Services will be held on Sunday Dec. 6th and 20th beginning at 11:00 a.m., strictly following provincial covid protocols, i.e. limited numbers, masks, sanitizing entering and exiting, and distancing. For those who are not comfortable attending, you may follow the live stream services of the Divine Liturgy held Sundays at 8:00 a.m. MT. at stnicholaschurch.org in English, or sfgheorghe.ca in Romanian.

Birthday & Anniversary Greetings

Birthdays - (Nov. 19) Bob Dushinski.

Anniversaries - (Nov. 9) We would like to congratulate Jackie Toma and Bob Dushinski on their anniversary 35th wedding anniversary.

God Grant you many Years ! La Multi Ani !

If you have someone you would like to have greetings sent to via The Priest's Page, please notify me.

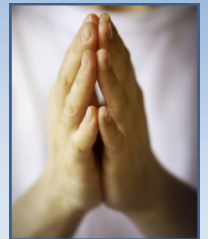
A Prayer in time of Pandemic

Let us pray to the Lord,

O God, mighty Lord, of all who are true to you: Enable us to learn from the painful emptiness that so often assails us. Help us to understand that only you can fill that emptiness, but only if we truly desire it. Help us to love you and acknowledge your name. Assist us in our struggles to attain some wisdom and understanding, enabling us to attain a life that grows richer in quality with every day that passes. And grant that we may taste your saving power.

For you deserve all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.



Membership (Stewardship) at Boian Church

These are still difficult times for everyone, in many areas. One area is financial. This is another gentle reminder to those who have not paid their membership for the current year (2020), to do so. Donations are important to the church because there still are many expenses and some funds have been coming but more are needed. If you are able, please continue sending your contributions and membership. What ever you can afford is welcomed. We thank those who continue to support St. Mary's.

You may send your membership or donation cheque to:

St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church, Boian, P.O. Box 14, Willingdon, Alberta T0B 4R0

Boian Church Website

Check out Boian Church's new website! From your browser, insert boianchurch.ca to reach it. Suggestions are welcome and should be sent to soprovich@digitalweb.net.