

St. Andrew's Outreach Newsletter



WHAT IS A PARISH?

What I have to say here may come as a shock to the great majority of Orthodox. Yet it is a self-evident fact that the parish as we understand it now, i.e., as an organization with officers, by-laws, finances, property, meetings, elections, etc., is a very recent phenomenon and exists, in fact, almost exclusively within the Orthodox "diaspora."

This is to say that what we take for granted as the only normative and natural form of the Church's existence is not at all so clearly "granted," and may be not at all so normative. The "parish" as we know it today is, in spite of all its religious connotations, and this may come as a second shock a product of secularization; or, rather, that in the process of its development within the North American way of life it has accepted a secularistic basis which little by little dissolves the ultimate seriousness of that which it claims to serve and to be, i.e., the Church. To understand this, one must briefly analyze the genesis and the development of the

Orthodox parish in North American.

The first thing Orthodox immigrants did as they settled here was to build churches. The Church was a self-evident, organic part of their life in the old country. It become their first need in the new one. It was a need for the Church for worship, sacraments, for the possibility to baptize, marry and bury not for a "parish," as understood today, but rather for a parish in the old and traditional sense of the word, a place where one could worship together with others and have a religious "term of reference" for his entire life. All early documents support this view.

The "organization" was something secondary, forced, so to speak, on the immigrants by purely external factors. In a Ukrainian village no one ever asked who is the owner of the parish Church. It was literally the property of God for which everyone had to care, but which belonged to no one in particular. The Church had no other function but that of literally making Christ present through preaching, the

sacraments, worship, education, and of making the life of "parishioners" as Christian, as permeated with Christ, as possible. Those who were selected, ordained, set apart to carry out this work of the Church were the "clergy." To give and to administer the Church, both spiritually and materially, was not their "right," but their sacred obligation, the very reason for their being "set apart."

Similarly the sacred obligation of all other "parishioners," called laity, was to receive the teachings of the Church as diligently as possible, to worship God together, to contribute "according to the will of their heart" to the needs of the Church, and finally, to live as much as possible by the precepts of the Christian Faith.

Here, however, in a completely different legal framework, the land and the Church on it had to be purchased and owned by a corporation. The latter was hastily constituted, usually by some energetic and Church-minded people, with no other purpose than to make the Church possible. It was a purely pragmatic development which, however, introduced, ...*Cont'd on p. 2*

Inside this issue:

What Is A Parish?	1-
Liturgical	2
Parish Bulletin Board	3, 4
In Memoriam	3
Altar Boys Serve The Church	5
Events Calendar	6
From Our Parish President	7
Pastoral Reflections	8



Websites:

Ukrainian
Orthodox
Church of
Canada:

www.uocc.ca

Western Diocese
www.uocc.wd.ca/

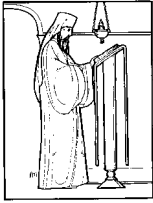
St. Andrew's Parish
www.uocc-standrew.ca/



(You can now read
our monthly
"Outreach"
newsletter on the
parish website)



LITURGICAL



LITURGICAL SCRIPTURE READINGS

December 2007

Sunday, December 2nd

27th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Eph6:10-17;

Gospel: Luke 8:13:10-17.

Sunday, December 9th

28th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Col. 1:12-18;

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43.

Sunday, December 16th

29th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Col. 3:4-11;

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27.

Sunday, December 23rd

30th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Col. 3:12-16;

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19.

Sunday, December 30th

31st Sunday After Pentecost

"Sunday of the Holy Forefathers"

Epistle: Col. 3:4-11;

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES AT ST. ANDREW'S

Sunday, December 2nd

Bilingual

Sunday, December 9th

Bilingual

Sunday, December 16th

Bilingual

Sunday, December 23rd

English

Sunday, December 30th

Bilingual

Confession @ 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy commences

@ 10 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVICES AT ST. ANDREW'S SELO

Wednesday, December 19th

St. Nicholas the
Wonder Worker"

10 am - Divine Liturgy
Fellowship Coffee & Lunch
to follow every Divine Liturgy.

COPIES OF "THE HANDMAIDEN" &
"AGAIN" MAGAZINES ARE
AVAILABLE @ \$6.00/COPY AT THE
ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH, OR
SUBSCRIBE
@ \$5.00/COPY.



The Principles of Church Reading

Two fundamental principles governing Orthodox worship are beauty and intelligibility. As we said earlier, the word must be intelligible to be a word, and nowhere in the Liturgy is this more acutely relevant than during the reading of Scripture. If a word is mumbled, mispronounced, or inaudible, it is not a word for the hearer; it is just a sound. Here we should note that, as a rule, music in the Orthodox Church is always a musical word. We do not have organ preludes or orchestral performances in the Liturgy primarily because these musical forms, as beautiful as they might be, are wordless. Thus, for church reading to be effective, it must be intelligible. Yet we cannot make intelligibility the sole criterion for church reading, because authentic Christian worship also requires beauty.

The beauty one beholds in the church building is a witness to the love for Jesus Christ concretely manifested in His faithful people. Likewise, the church reader is called to proclaim the Word of God intelligibly and beautifully as a concrete witness to the ultimate expression of God's love, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

What Is A Parish? ... (Continued from p. 1)

... almost subconsciously, the first radical change in the old idea of the parish: that of the parish as owner of property. And this idea became little by little a real obsession. Then came the second change. The immigrant parish was poor, and to have even a humble church together with supporting a priest, was costly. Hence, a constant preoccupation with fundraising and how to make ends meet, a preoccupation which put money and finances at the very heart of the parish's life. In fact, the parish organization was born as a material support for the Church, the Church, and not the parish, being at first the goal and the justification of the parish.

But an organization, when it is born and whatever the reason for its birth, follows almost inevitably a logic of development which sooner or later makes its own "ultimate values."

And in North America nearly everything contributed to this logic and to that development: the democratic, i.e., basically anti-hierarchical ideal of society, the cult of "free," i.e., private, enterprise, the spirit of competition, the evaluation of everything in terms of "cost," the emphasis on security and saving, the constant exaltation of the "people" and their will, needs, and interests as the only criterion of all activity, and especially the pragmatic character of North American religion in which activity and efficiency are the main religious values.

Finally, the Orthodox parish become what it is today: an end in itself, an organization whose whole efforts and energies are aimed at advancing its own good material stability, success, future security, and a kind of self-pride. And it is no longer the parish, to accept it as its "goal" so that a priest, the last sign and representative of the "Church" in the "parish," ... *Cont'd on p. 5*



OUR PARISH BULLETIN BOARD



In Memoriam!

St. Andrew's Sobor Family Extends their sincerest condolences to:

- ⇒ Ken & Joanne Palylyk and Family on the repose of Ken's aunt, Rose Rosichuk (Smoky Lake);
- ⇒ Mary Melnyk and Family on the repose of Mary's sister, Rose Poohkay;
- ⇒ Lawrence & Sandra King and Family on the repose of Lawrence's sister-in-law, Denise King (Vermilion).

[Should you have names of loved ones you would like included in this section, please contact the Church Office (469-1463)]

ETERNAL BE THEIR MEMORY!

**WE PRAY THAT THE LORD GOD WILL ESTABLISH THEIR SOUL
WHERE THE RIGHTEOUS REPOSE**

CAROLLING APPEAL

In an attempt to re-new the Ukrainian Christmas tradition of house-to-house caroling, as a gesture of goodwill and for the purpose of fundraising, we are seeking to compile a list of interested members either to 'carol' or those who would welcome receiving carolers to their homes. Please sign-up on the form posted in the Church atrium.



December Social Evening

It has become something of a tradition for the Ladies Auxiliary and the Men's Club of St. Andrew's Parish to hold a small social evening in December following the short meetings of the two organizations. Members of St. Andrew's have worked hard at the different activities, and so, this evening is a token of our appreciation for their services.

During this evening, an open "fun" auction is held of articles that individuals bring. The proceeds from the auction are designated for the Christmas Bureau. If you wish to make a donation to the auction, simply bring it with you to the meeting. Liz & Gordon Haug will gladly handle it from there. Don't pass up the opportunity to purchase a gift for a loved one, boyfriend or girlfriend.

Snacks, refreshments and fellowship are all part of the evening. If you wish to make a contribution of baking or any other food, please bring it to the meeting.

An Open Invitation is extended to all parishioners to join us and be part of the evening on **Monday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m.**



NEXT PYROHY SUPPER!

Our next "Pyrohy Supper" will be held on **Friday, December 7th** from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Bring Family & Friends! Dine In or Take Out!



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIPS

The Sunday Fellowships are greatly appreciated by the worshipping congregation; therefore we would like to thank those who sponsored or provided these fellowships. **A most heartfelt thank you to:**

... the months of **November** sponsors:

Stephanie McNee & Fellowship Team (Nov. 4th); Nellie Kushner & Wally Yadowski (Nov. 11th); Ollie Sluzar - Memorial for her parents (Nov. 18th); Stephanie McNee & Fellowship Team (Nov. 25th).

Those who had made the effort to sponsor or provide a Fellowship Lunch have to be commended. →

At the same time we **invite other parish members** to also sponsor an occasional Fellowship.

If you are so inclined, please sign-up on the displayed sheet or contact **Stephanie** (469-1463 or 469-5293). Thank you!

THANK YOU!

I wish to sincerely thank the Board of Management, the Men's Club, the Ladies Auxiliary, the Choir and all those who either visited me during my short stay in hospital, or who prayed and extended various other expressions of concern and good wishes for me, including flowers, cards and gifts. May the Lord bless all of you and keep you well.

-Harry Hohol

St. John's Institute AGM

Sat., Dec. 1st

Lifetime membership for St. John's Institute is one-time initial donation of \$50.00. Annual dues for 2007/2008 are \$20/individual and \$10/student (with valid I.D.) Lifetime members will receive all of the SJI Newsletters, keeping you informed. Paying the additional annual fee classifies you as a full member which entitles you to vote at the Annual General Meeting on Dec. 1st, 2008. (You will receive a tax-deductible receipt for our payment of dues as well as for any additional donations.)

DONATION ENVELOPES



Should you require more "Offering Envelopes" contact Gene Luchka (465-1736) or Mark Bartko (469-9921) or fill out the request form in the Church vestibule entrance area.





MORE PARISH BULLETIN BOARD!



GREETERS' ROSTER

Listed below is a roster of those who have confirmed their participation as "Greeters/Hosts/Ushers" for this month:

December 2nd -

Clifford & Lesia Perritt

December 9th -

Michael Alexandruk & Pauline Lysak

December 16th -

Bill & Mary Dymianiw

December 23rd - ?

December 30th - ?

Many thanks to those of you who have already volunteered for this ministry.

MORE GREETERS NEEDED

If you are interested in acting as a Greeter, please contact Pauline Lysak (434-4826) or Father Victor (440-4822).



NEW READING MATERIAL

Several new books have been added to our Atrium Library Collection. You may wish to have a look.



In addition, please help yourself to some of the new brochures in the church vestibule area such as "I Have Sinned!"

CHRISTMAS CAROL COLLECTION

Copies of thirty-one of the most popular Ukrainian Christmas Carols are now available for \$29.95. Transliterated versions are also be obtained. You can order your copies now by emailing rlopatka@telusplanet.net or calling 434-3732.

WESTERN DIOCESE CONFERENCE

This year our Sobor Parish hosted the Western Diocese Pastoral and Diocesan Conference, which was held from October 24th to the 28th. Many thanks to all who attended!



YOUNG PERFORMERS' SHOWCASE OF UKRAINIAN MUSIC

February 10th, 2008

Ritchie United Church
9624 - 74 Avenue

Deadline for registration: Dec. 31, 2007. For more information contact Luba Boyko-Bell (469-4890) of the Ukr. Music Society.

PARISH PATRON FEAST DAY & ORDINATION

Our Sobor Parish will be celebrating its Patron Saint Feast Day and the Ordination of *Subdeacon Peter Haugen* to the Order of Deaconate on Sunday, December 9th.



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Thank you are extended to Rachelia & Johnathan Pawluk for greeting Metropolitan John and to the students, Altar Boys and Myrrh Bearers for their involvement during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Also thank you to those students and parents who were present for the group photo shoot.

December 9th -

St. Andrew's Patron Saint's Day Celebration
We will be greeting Metropolitan John and Participate in the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Please arrive no later than 9:15 a.m. We will also be witnessing the Ordination of Peter Haugen as a Deacon during the service. After dinner, the students will be commemorating St. Andrew at the ... →

beginning of the program.

Sat., Dec. 15th -

Rehearsal for "St.

Nicholas Day" Program
(10 a.m.)

Sun., Dec. 16th -

"St. Nicholas Day"

Commemoration after Divine Liturgy. Parents are to provide the Fellowship lunch.

No Classes: Sunday, Dec. 23rd & Dec. 30th

Classes Resume:

Sunday, Jan. 6th

(Preparation for the Nativity of Christ)

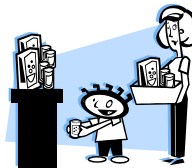
Yours in Christ,
Olga Alexandruk & Marusia Lakusta

CHURCH CLEAN-UP

Please be advised that on Wednesday, Dec. 5th (9:00 a.m.) we are asking for volunteers to assist with the Church Clean-up prior to our Patron Saint's Day. If you are available, please contact Vera Tkachyk at 634-5803. Thank you in advance!

Food Bank Collection:

The membership of St. Andrew's Congregation — men, women and youth — support the efforts to make the lives of people in need — the unemployed, homeless, abused, abandoned, ill, elderly and lonely — more comfortable and bearable. **At this time, St. Andrew's Parish calls for its members' support.** The *Edmonton Food Bank* requires a large amount of non-perishable foods to replenish its continuously used up supply. A box will be set up in the atrium for your contributions. Bring in your groceries anytime at your convenience. Thank you!



Bring one item or bring a truckload. All is welcome!

-Sandra Hohol

On behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary, I wish to thank all members of St. Andrew's Parish for your continuous support of the Auxiliary planned events. At this time, I particularly wish to thank each of you — women and men — for your contributions of labour, donations and attendance at the very successful Pre-Christmas Bazaar that was held on November 17th.

May God grant each of you continued good health and may the Christmas Season bring you peace, joy and happiness.

Yours in Christ,

Sandra Hohol

President Ladies Auxiliary

More Parish Bulletin Board!

DONATIONS FOR NEW PRIEST'S VESTMENTS!

Two sets of priest's vestments (one gold and one purple) were purchased for our Sobor Parish; therefore, we are appealing for donations, to cover the cost of these vestments. Please submit your donation to the Church Office or the Sunday Offering Baskets — clearly indicating that your donation is for the 'vestments'. All donors will be published in our future newsletter. We thank you for your generous support!

Altar Boys Serve The Church ...

Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Chanters, Readers ... yes, and Altar Boys are involved in the worship of the Church. Together they help make our liturgical services inspiring spiritual experiences. Gathered together as the "inheritance" of God on earth, we are transformed by the Presence of the Lord in Heaven.

What a privilege it is for a boy to serve the Church! He is in an environment that is conducive to proper behavior. He is given such responsibilities as he is able to handle. He is in a place where leadership qualities may be developed. He assists the Priest — one called by Christ and ordained to lead his people to Christ and glory.

What an opportunity for a boy to learn the Faith, for it is in the prayer and worship experience that one learns the true nature of Christianity. So he learns some of the ritual, the music, the chanting, as he ministers to the Priest. There may also be special classes, too, where the Faith may be taught in some detail.

What a challenge it is to serve about the altar of God, and then to strive to live according to the teachings of the One Whom we worship. Boys are set before the eyes of the congregation, and the faithful then expect them to be worthy of the honor that the position involves.

And so we have servers at the altar. Let parents encourage and inspire their children to serve, and let these youngsters welcome the opportunity to be of service to our Lord and His Church. Jesus gathered children about Himself, blessed them, and even said of the children — "for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."



What Is A Parish? ... (Cont'd from p. 2)

... is considered good when he entirely subordinates the interests of the Church to those of the parish.

The third and the most important change was the inevitable result of the other two: the secularization of the parish and corresponding loss of religious seriousness. A modern North American parish may have many good aspects, but any deeper analysis must admit that it lacks seriousness in the sense we used this term above. Beyond that, however, as organization, i.e., as "parish" it, in fact, opposes this kind of seriousness, because it knows by instinct and from experience that the success it wants and seeks is precisely opposed to religious seriousness. To be "successful" one has to refer and to cater to human pride (the right hand not only knowing what the left one is doing, but spending most of the time acknowledging and publicizing it), the instinct of gain (bingo, or raffles, etc., being more efficient way to fill the parish treasury than any appeal to religious consciousness), vainglory (the best, the greatest, the most expensive ...). And since all this is done "for the Church" it is thereby justified and glorified as "Christian."

To be exact, a parish organization lives by standards and principles, which, when applied to an individual, are condemned outright by Christianity as immoral: pride, gain, selfishness, and self-affirmation. Even the constant preaching in terms of the "glory" of Orthodoxy is a rather ambiguous substitute for the glory that according to the Gospel is due to God alone. The parish organization has replaced the Church and, by the same token, has become a completely secular organization.

In this it is radically different from the parish of the past. It has ceased to be a natural community with a Church as its center and pole of "ultimate reference" and "seriousness." It has not become a religious community, i.e., a group united by and serving a common religious idea. As it exists today it represents the very victory of secularism within North American Orthodoxy.

-Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann



Pochaiv Safe House Update



(by Pauline Lysak)

The present goal of the **Pochaiv Safe House** project is to raise funds for property in Ukraine where the **Klenovi Lyst** Safe House facility will be used as a transitional location for disadvantaged youth. On December 7th, monies will be put forth in Ukraine in order to purchase a building (a former kindergarten) to be used in the next facet of this project.

To date we have collected over \$20,000.00!



DECEMBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Fellowship Roster: Dec. 2nd... <i>Emilie Gorgichuk, Mary Dymianiw, Anne Harasymuk, Patrece & Greg Maluzynsky</i> Dec. 9th... <i>Patron Saint's Feast Day / Ordination (Deacon) of Peter Haugen</i> Dec. 16th... <i>Church School Parents</i> Dec. 23rd... <i>PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE CHURCH ATRIUM</i> Dec. 30th... <i>TO SPONSOR A FELLOWSHIP LUNCH</i>						1
2 27th Sunday After Pentecost	3	4 "Entry of Most Holy Theotokos" 9:30 am @ St. Andrew's 9:00 am - Golden Age	5 9:00 am - Church Clean-up 7:00 pm - Ukr. Lang. Classes	6 7:30 pm - Choir Practice	7 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Pyrohy Supper 6:30 pm - Ukr. Dance Classes	8
9 28th Sunday After Pentecost <i>Parish Patron Feast Day</i>	10 7:00 pm - Church Board Mtg.	11 9:00 am - Golden Age Club	12 7:00 pm - Ukr. Lang. Classes	13 St. Andrew's 9:30 am - Liturgy 7:30 pm - Choir	14 6:30 pm - Ukr. Dance Classes	15 10:00 am - St. Nicholas Concert Rehearsal
16 29th Sunday After Pentecost Church School: St. Nicholas Concert	17 7:00 pm - Ladies Aux. & Men's Club Social & Auction (<i>Open invitation to all!</i>)	18 9:00 am - Golden Age Club	19 "St Nicholas" Liturgy @ Selo (10:00 am) 7:00 pm - Ukr. Lang. Classes	20 7:30 pm - Choir Practice	21 6:30 pm - Ukr. Dance Classes	22
23 30th Sunday After Pentecost <u>English Service</u>	24	25 Latin / English Christmas Day	26	27	28 6:30 pm - Ukr. Dance Classes CANCELLED	29
30 31st Sunday After Pentecost "Sunday of the Holy Forefathers"	31			Fr. Victor will be taking a short vacation from December 24th till January 3rd. For pastoral services, please call any of the <u>Edmonton Mission Parish Priests.</u>		

Confession... 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy...10:00 a.m.

Reading of Hours (Youth Sunday)... 9:30: a.m.

Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, "Fellowship Coffee & Lunch" is served!

We welcome you and yours!





From Our Parish President

From the Parish President on Behalf of the Board of Management:

Christ is Among Us! Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. This report consists of several announcements, a summary of the November 12 2007 Board meeting, and as usual, something to think about.

Announcements:

1. "All Ukrainian" Divine Liturgy: At the November 12 2007 Board of Management Meeting, the Board accepted a motion that the Parish have an "All Ukrainian" Divine Liturgy. To review, the suggestion for an "All Ukrainian" Divine Liturgy was made by a Parish member to the Board at least one year ago. However, discussion of the suggestion began at the May 14 2007 and concluding at the November 12 meeting with the motion "that the board recommends that the first Sunday of the month be designated as an "All Ukrainian" Divine Liturgy." Please note that quotation marks for All Ukrainian. The quotation marks imply that some parts of the service will be in English. Currently, plans for the implementation of an "All Ukrainian" Divine Liturgy are being developed. I do not think that it is necessary to debate whether we should or should not have an "All Ukrainian" Divine Liturgy. That has already

been decided. The challenge to all of us is to do our best in implementing the service and once in place to monitor and evaluate its effectiveness.

2. Patron Saint's Day Celebration: A celebration of our Patron Saint, Saint Andrew, will take place in our Parish on December 09 2007. His Eminence, Metropolitan John will worship with us in an Hierarchical Divine Liturgy during which time Peter Haugen will be ordained to the order of the Diaconate. After the service a dinner and a program will follow. During the program, members of committees, executive members of related and affiliated organizations, and volunteers in general will be recognized..

3. Annual General Meeting. The AGM has been scheduled for February 03, 2008. This is an advance notice to Board members and to chairs and presidents of committees and related and affiliated organizations that they should have their reports submitted to the Church office by mid-January 2008.

4. Holodomor/Famine of 1932-33 in Ukraine: For the remainder of 2007 and throughout 2008, we will be commemorating the atrocious event of the famine in Ukraine. I would like each of you to give some thought as to

how we might commemorate this event within our Parish, for example, a panikhida for those that perished, program with guest speakers, recognition of Parish members directly affected by the famine, and recognition of members who lost family members and relatives.

From the November 12 2007 Board Meeting:

1. Heard from Mr. Eugene Luchka that renovations to the Parish Complex are substantially completed.

2. Heard a brief report from Dr. Ernest Skakun on the Western Diocese Conference. More information on the Conference will be forthcoming from Fr. Victor and Dr. Skakun at the next Board meeting.

3. Reviewed the Parish advertisement in the Sherwood Park Weekly News and considered changes and frequency of the ad.

4. Accepted that the worn vestments be disposed of in the prescribed manner as per Church rubrics.

5. Heard from Fr. Victor, an update on the Patron Saint's Day Celebrations, December 09 2007.

6. Reaffirmed the motion on inclusiveness, that the Board encourages all affiliated groups in the Parish (Men's Club, Ladies Auxiliary, Church School, Veerneest Dance Program, Ukrainian Language Program, CYMK, etc..) to invite participation in each other's age-appropriate religious, cultural,

educational, and social activities.

7. Accepted the recommendation that the first Sunday of the month be designated as an "All Ukrainian" Divine Liturgy.

8. Read invitation from Mr. Andy Feniak, president of St. Michael's Parish, to attend St. Michael's Patron Saint's Feast Day on November 18 2007.

9. Read correspondence from Mrs. Mary Dymianiw, Metropolitan Ladies League, requesting a display of a cultural collage, measuring 4 feet high and 4.5 feet wide be placed on the east wall of the staircase landing of the cultural building.

10. Accepted that the request from the Metropolitan Ladies League be tabled until revisions are made to the proposed collage.

11. Received from St. John's Fraternal Society, a cheque for \$3000.00 as a donation in support of the Cultural/Educational Program and St. Stephen's Cemetery.

12. Read correspondence from Mr. William Dymianiw, Chair of the Advisory Committee, regarding policy on St. Andrew's Senior's Transportation Service. The policy will be directed to the Men's Club and should be included as a policy of the Men's Club in the Parish's Handbook.

13. Accepted the Treasurer's Report and that the bills payable be paid.

14. Accepted the Membership Chair's report.

...

-Continued in the "Outreach" EXTRA



9831 -75 St
Edmonton, Alberta T6A 2Y8

Phone: 780 - 440-4822 or 469-1463
Fax: 780 - 469-5256

Email: st.andrews_uocc@telusplanet.net

PASTOR:

Right Rev. Fr. Victor Lakusta
Phone: 780 - 438-1890
Email: flakusta@telusplanet.net

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
Thursday: Pastoral Visitation Day
Friday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

“St. Andrew's Outreach” is published monthly to encourage Christian growth, to share our faith in Our Lord God, Jesus Christ, to keep you informed of our parish events and activities, and to invite you to worship with us.

Next “Outreach” Issue - December 30th

Disclaimer: We do not claim that all the information published in this newsletter is accurate. All submissions are the responsibilities of their contributors.



St. Andrew's Men's Club Website
www.uocc-standrew.ca/mensclub/



PASTORAL REFLECTIONS!



RETURN TO CHRIST

A wave of uneasiness is sweeping our land. People lack faith & trust in their own Government. Demonstrations, mob action, strike, revolt and trouble are the order of the day. At the same time, we are supposed to be at the height of our prosperity.

What's the trouble? What is the cause of all this turmoil and terror? Of course the answer to these questions is not a simple one. But there must be reasons for all this.

Perhaps we are beginning to reap the harvest of the “new morality” and the “new license” we have permitted in the past decade or two in our country. People do anything and everything they want to do. Books, magazines, movies, I-Pods, internet websites and programs of every sort are available to all. And, it seems, people are not held accountable for wrongs that are done.

As we look at ourselves, we note certain truths that stand out:

1. We do not deny ourselves anything more. The emphasis in life is just the opposite — get all you can. But our Lord said: “Whoever will come after Me, let him deny himself ...”. There is a place in our life for

exercising this spiritual matter of self-denial.

2. We do not discipline ourselves any more. To discipline means to train ourselves, to watch what we say, what we do, what we think ... to control ourselves. It involves daily practice in virtue to establish good habits of living, and daily denial to be rid of sin. Christ called His first followers “disciples.” That means they were learners. They learned from Him ... how to live, how to conduct themselves.
3. We do not delight ourselves in the Lord anymore. There were times when Christians braved persecution and death to come for Christian worship, and they would rather suffer than deny that they were lovers of Christ and believers in Him. They delighted to pray and praise the Lord. They became filled with the Holy Spirit in ecstasy. But what about today? So many seem to be able to “take it or leave it” without any trouble at all.

These are some of the answers to today's troubles. We must be aware of the sin and materialism that is engulfing our land and its people.

Christ said: “I have come that you

may have life, and have it more abundantly.” The abundant, the full, the complete life ... it is to be found in Christ. “Believe” says the Lord in the Gospel lesson, “all things are possible to him who believes ...”

There is a whole body of spiritual literature being ignored in our day. Such men as St. John of the Ladder (Climacus) whose memory is observed on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is known for his spiritual instructions. His book, the Ladder of Perfection, is an attempt to raise the Christian slowly along the pathway to virtue.

Let us heed the admonition that St. Paul once gave long ago to young Timothy: “But do you continue in the things that you have learned and that have been entrusted to you, knowing of whom you learned them. For from your infancy you have known the Sacred Writings, which are able to instruct you unto salvation by faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

Let us return to Christ! Let us bring Christ back into our life! Let Christ be part of everything we do, our relationships, our attitudes, and the sort. May God have mercy on us! Amen.

-Fr. Victor