



THE ORTHODOX HOME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

"THE ORTHODOX HOME"	1.
LITURGICAL	2
PARISH BULLETIN BOARD	3, 4
IN MEMORIAM	3
PARISH NEWS	5
EVENTS CALENDAR	6
PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT	7
PASTORAL REFLECTIONS	8

Attaching to God — Helping Our Little Ones Fall in Love with Their Heavenly Father

It was love at first sight from the moment you held your newborn child in your arms. The emotions you felt towards this precious gift from God were more powerful than anything you had ever experienced. Over the next few weeks and months your baby changed tremendously, but the most essential thing that happened during this early stage of life was that your baby fell in love ... with you! We often talk with excitement about our child's "firsts" — first steps, first words, etc. — but we often pay little notice to the important developmental steps that allow them to proceed to these "run and get the video camera" moments. Falling in love with you is probably the most critical thing your baby will ever do — one that will affect all future development.

Falling in love is anything but trivial for your baby. Actually, it is necessary for his or her survival. Studies have shown infants who do not have someone to connect with — who do not have intimate relationships — fail to thrive. As a result, their development can be delayed, they maybe detached from the world, and in some extreme instances, they can die — essentially from this lack of love.

When visiting an orphanage in Mexico several years ago, I asked to visit the babies in their care. There was one caretaker in a room with countless babies lying listlessly in their cribs. Most of them didn't even look up or even acknowledge my presence when I tried to engage them. However, I noticed one little girl, a one-year old, who stood making noises to get my attention. She extended

her arms to me for picking her up. She explained that this baby was new to the orphanage had not yet learned that the staff did not have time to hold her; all she could do was feed and change the babies. She said if I gave her this special attention she would continue to disturb the room, seeking attention from the people who cared for the babies. I wanted to grab this baby and run, knowing if I didn't, I could come back in several months and she would have 'learned' what the caretakers wanted. She would have that same listlessness that all the other babies had. This infants had already given up on life. There was no joy for them, no one for them to connect with. Their existence was their crib.

Love, as we can see, is an essential element for babies' growth. It is as critical for their well-being as food and shelter. Love is the core upon which all of their future development will build. This key building block of falling in love is known by the term "attachment." Research has found that babies who are securely attached with their primary caregivers at an early age later grow up to have healthier relationships and are more capable of dealing with the pressures of life. This theory is not something only recognized in secular development circles but also in our Orthodox Church. Sister Magdalen writes in her book *Child and the Church*, "***The love which a child receives from his parents at the beginning of his life is irreplaceable — it is a secure foundation on which we can build his life.***"

But attachment to mother and father alone is not enough for our little ones. Our children need to attach themselves to one other parent in order for them to develop into healthy Christians, ... ***-Cont'd on p.4***

Websites:

Ukrainian Orthodox
Church of Canada:
www.uocc.ca

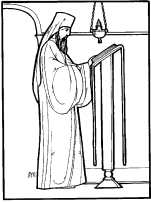
Western Diocese
www.uocc.wd.ca/

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

You can now read
our monthly
"Outreach"

newsletter
on the
Parish
website!





LITURGICAL SCRIPTURE READINGS

December 2008

Sunday, December 7th
25th Sunday After Pentecost
*"Afterfeast of the Entrance
into the Temple"*

Epistle: Eph. 4:1-6;
Gospel: Luke 10:25-37.

Sunday, December 14th
26th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Eph. 5:9-19;
Gospel: Luke 12:16-21.

Sunday, December 21st
27th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Eph. 6:10-17;
Gospel: Luke 13:10-17.

Sunday, December 28th
28th Sunday After Pentecost
"Sunday of the Holy Forefathers"

Epistle: Col. 3:4-11;
Gospel: Luke 14:16-24.



WORSHIP SERVICES AT ST. ANDREW'S SELO

(10:00 a.m.)

Friday, December 19th
*"Feast of St. Nicholas the
Wonderworker"*

*Fellowship Coffee & Lunch
to follow every
Divine Liturgy.*



Parish Patron Feast Day

Sunday, December 14th

9:30 am - Greeting of
the Bishop

10 am - Hierarchical
Liturgy



LITURGICAL



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES AT ST. ANDREW'S

Sunday, December 7th
Bilingual

Sunday, December 14th
Bilingual

Sunday, December 21st
Bilingual

Sunday, December 28th
English

Confession @ 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy commences
@ 10 a.m.



Prayer for a Child's Enlightenment

O Lord, our God and Creator, Who honor man in Your own image; Who teach Your elect, so that those who heed Your teaching become wise; Who reveal wisdom to babes: open the heart, the mind, and the lips of your child and servant, that he/she may receive the power of Your law, and understand what will be taught to him/her, to the glory of Your all-holy Name and the building-up of Your holy Church. Grant that he/she may comprehend Your Will, and fulfill Your commandments. Deliver him/her from every oppression, evil thought, and desire. Amen.

Adapted from:

A Pocket Prayer Book for Orthodox Christians

A Commentary by Metropolitan Ilarion on "The Sacrament of Holy Communion":

-Continued from last month's "Outreach" Newsletter:

... The 101 Canon of the VI Universal Sobor, held in 692, instructs: "He who wishes to receive Holy Communion during Liturgy, let him cross his hands upon his chest and in this posture receive Holy Communion".

We receive Holy Communion from the Priest who stands within the Royal Doors or in front of them. We receive the Holy Sacrament while standing, that is, we do not kneel when the Holy Communion is administered.

The Fathers of the VI Universal Sobor, 692, Canon 101, have established that: "Man, having been created in the image of God, the Holy Apostle clearly identifies him as the Body of Christ and the Temple of God. Thus Man has been placed above all other living creatures and through suffering on the Cross has been vouchsafed the gift of heaven. He who eats and drinks of the Body and Blood of Christ is continually transmuted into a state of eternal life, sanctifying his body and soul by Holy Communion. He who would partake of the Holy Communion during the Divine Liturgy, and through it unite with Christ, let him draw near and accept the Communion of Christ's Grace".

When a communicant approaches the Holy Chalice, he announces his name (It will be repeated by the Priest) and opens his mouth. On receiving the Holy Communion, he swallows it, minding that nothing of it should remain in his mouth. He presents his lips so that the Priest may wipe them. Then he kisses the bottom rim of the Chalice, as if it were the Rib of Christ (he does not kiss the Priest's hand), and humbly retires, having bowed and made the sign of the cross.

Kneeling and bowing to the ground after receiving the Holy Communion is not acceptable because through the symbolic unity with Christ upon receiving the Holy Communion, one has from that moment become the son or daughter of God.

After receiving the Holy Communion the communicant is offered prosphora (holy bread) and warm water to rinse down the elements of Holy Communion.

...

-Continued on p. 5

IN MEMORIAM!

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

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

⇒ Robert and Kaye Lazaruk & Family on the repose of Kay's cousin, Victoria Shewchuk.

REMEMBERING THE LIVING & DEPARTED

During every liturgy the priest says prayers for the living and the departed. At the entrance to the church, please fill in special "Remembrance Cards" and submit them to the celebrant priest so that prayers may be offered.



ETERNAL BE THEIR MEMORY!
WE PRAY THAT THE LORD GOD WILL ESTABLISH THEIR SOUL
WHERE THE RIGHTEOUS REPOSE

~ FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES ~

Dear God,
I went to a wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay?

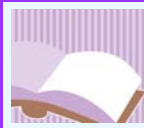
Dear God,
I think of you sometimes even when I'm not praying.



Dear God,
Thank you for my baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy.

Dear God,
If you watch in Church on Sunday, I'll show you my new shoes.

New Book for Sale! *The Funeral Rite for a Layman* is available for purchase through the Church Office or Kiosk for a cost of \$20.00. Limited quantities!



OUR PARISH BULLETIN BOARD

NEXT PYROHY SUPPER!



Our next "Pyrohy Supper" will be held on

Friday,

then Dec. 5th from

5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Bring Family & Friends!
Dine In or Take Out!

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.

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:

40-Day Memorial for John McIntosh by The McIntosh Family & Fellowship Committee (Nov. 2); The Holodomor Commemoration by Fellowship Committee (Nov. 9); 40-Day Memorial for Anne Kuziw by The Kuziw Family and the Fellowship Committee (Nov. 16); ...

The Fellowship Committee (Nov. 23 & 30).

At the same time **we invite other parish members** to also sponsor an occasional Fellowship. you are so inclined, please sign-up on the displayed sheet or contact **Stephanie** (469-1463 or 469-5293). Thank you!



FUTURE NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Should you have items for future newsletters, please email Robyn at the Church Office: St.Andrews_office@telusplanet.net or call the Church Office.

CHURCH CLEAN-UP THANK YOU'S



Many thanks to the following individuals who donated their time for cleaning on November 19th:

*Liz & Gordon Haug
Sandra Hohol
Mike Wasylasko
Gordon Ostapchuk
Alex Lysak
Mary Dymianiw
Louis Slipek
Johanna Dzenick
Lesia Perritt
Robert Shewchuk
Michael Alexandruk
Vicky Zukiwsky
Robert Lazaruk
Walter Koshman
Stephanie McNea
Fedor Gotsaliouk
Harry Mosychuk
Ollie Luchka*



MORE PARISH BULLETIN BOARD!



GREETERS' ROSTER

Listed below is the Greeters' roster for this month:

Dec. 7th - *Ollie Sluzar & Wally Yadlowski*

Dec. 14th - *Evelyn Lupul & Pauline Lysak*

Dec. 21st - *Michael & Olga Alexandruk*

Dec. 28th - *Ernie & Vivian Skakun*

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

If you are interested in acting as a 'Greeter', please contact Pauline Lysak (780-434-4826). We are in need of your assistance.



INTERESTED IN SERVING ON A BOARD?

The **Nominating Committees for St. Andrew's Men's Club and for St. Andrew's Parish** have begun their work in preparing a slate of officers for their respective boards for 2009. To serve on a board is an excellent opportunity to serve as a volunteer and to make a positive contribution to the functioning of the Men's Club and/or the Parish. It is also a responsibility that should be shared by any member who has the desire, energy, and vision to help make the Parish and Men's Club the best they can be. This is an appeal to all who are interested in serving on either board. ...

If you require further information on what may be involved please contact Lawrence Day, Chair Nominating Committee — Men's Club at lrday@shaw.ca or Ernest Skakun, Chair Nominating Committee — St. Andrew's Parish at BLUEMALVA@shaw.ca and put your name forward for such service.



ONLINE ART SALE

Online exhibition and sale of Watercolour Studies begins November 23rd. For more information contact Larisa Sembaliuk Cheladyn at 780-479-2813 or artbylarisa@shaw.ca.

www.artbylarisa.com

PARISH PATRON FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

will be celebrated on Sunday, **December 14th** with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. His Grace Bishop Ilarion will be celebrating his first Archpastoral Visitation to St. Andrew's Sobor Parish.



ICON DISPLAY & SALE

A Romanian Iconographer will have an **"Icon Show & Sale"** at our Sobor Parish on Sunday, December 14th. She is a graduate from a School of Iconography in Romania.

Continued from p. 1 "The Orthodox Home":

... capable of dealing with the challenges of life. They need to attach to our Heavenly Father. It is not enough for us to feed, shelter, and love our babies, waiting for them to grow old enough for us to "teach" them about God. We must help our children attach to God from the very beginning of their lives so that He becomes part of their very being. In his book *On the Upbringing of Child*, Bishop Irenaeus writes, "One can make what one wants of a small child. His soul is like soft wax — it can received the imprint of God's image as easily as that of the devil." Through imprinting Christ on the hearts of our babies, we build a foundation on which they can engage their faith as they grown and learn. We help them avoid the spiritual "listlessness" that comes from not attaching our lives to Christ.

But how do we do this? Where do we start? ...

-This article will be continued in next month's Outreach newsletter!



**Bright
Nights
2008**



**in Hawrelak
Park runs
until January 4th.**

If you are a **Golden Age Club member** and would be interested in going as a group to see the light display, please contact John Boychuk to indicate your interest as soon as possible (780-462-3836).

St. Andrew's 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Reserve the weekend of December 13, 2009 for our celebration of our Patron Saint's Day, St. Andrew's Day with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and dinner and program following to culminate our 50th Anniversary Year.

The 50th Anniversary organizing committee is comprised of *Father Victor, Pauline Lysak, Emilie Gorgichuuk, Mary Dymianiw, Bill Dymianiw, Michael Zukiwsky, Ivan Kupchenko, Betty Wolanski, Stephanie McNee and George Tkachyk*. If you would like to be a member of the 50th Anniversary committee or have an idea or project that you would like to share in the 50th Anniversary year please call any committee member above or **George Tkachyk** at 780-634-5803 to share your thoughts.

MORE PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ...

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Thank you to all who participated and helped during the Church School Bowling.

Upcoming events:

Sunday, Dec. 14th - St. Andrew Patron Saint Day Celebration (students to arrive at 9:00 a.m. for Greeting of His Grace Bishop Ilarion); student presentation of the Life of St. Andrew

Friday, Dec. 19th (tentatively 6:30 p.m.) -**St. Nicholas Day** Celebration with activities, snacks and a visit from St. Nicholas; details to follow in an upcoming communication

Dec. 21st and Dec. 28th - **No Classes**; classes resume Jan. 4th

Sunday, Jan. 11th - **Celebrating the Nativity**; Church School Students will participate

Yours in Christ,

Olga Alexandruk
(780-998-2356)

Dobr. Marusia Lakusta
(780-438-1890)

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE LADIES' AUXILIARY:**

The **Pre-Christmas Bazaar & Tea was a great success!**

This is one of our largest fundraising events. Thank you for your generous donations of goods for sale, of time and energy spent in the production and sale of pyrohy, cabbage rolls, nalysnyky, perishky, pampushky, pies, etc. Thank to all the people who worked at the Tea — in the kitchen, decorating, setting-up, cleaning-up. Thank you for your donations of raffle and door prizes as well. This is an example of what happens when we work together as a team!

December 15th L.A. General Meeting (at 7:00 pm). Join us for a short, but exciting followed by a joint social with the members of the Men's Club. If you can, bring some Christmas baking, hot dish, sour dish, favourite dish and/or an item for the **silent auction**. Bring your good humor, lubricate your vocal chords — maybe we can have carol singing.

Church Cleaning - Wow! It took better than half a day, but jobs that had been put off for another day got done. The place looks and smells clean. Thank you Father Victor, women and men who pitched in to bring about such a transformation.

To all St. Andrew's Members who will be going away on a (hot) holiday, we wish you a safe trip and a very **Merry Christmas!**

-Sandra Hohol

**-Continued from page 2 "The Sacrament of Holy Communion":**

... Children from infancy up to seven years or age partake of the Holy Communion without prior Confession, but all others do so after Confession.

A mother who brings her child to receive Holy Communion holds the child with its head resting on her right arm, the body in a horizontal position. The child is not required to partake of the warm water.

When the communicants are administered the Holy Communion, the congregation should remain standing.

After receiving Holy Communion the communicant should attentively listen to, or himself read through, the Thanksgiving Prayers that follow the Sacrament.

The communicant should pass the rest of the day in joyous reverence and humility. Among the Orthodox, since the earliest times, it is accepted that the communicant, after receiving Holy Communion, must abstain from spitting on that day.

On the day of receiving Holy Communion, the communicants do not kneel and do not make low reverences, because they have become the sons and daughters of God.

An ancient custom in Ukraine practiced still, is to dress oneself in one's finest clothes, as for a most memorable Holy Day, on the day of receiving Holy Communion. On this day through the Grace of our Lord, we unite with Christ by partaking of the Holy Communion; therefore the receiving of the Holy Eucharist is our paschal day, our own Holy Day.

We should, therefore extend sincerest greetings to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ on the occasion of this great and solemn event — the receiving of the Holy Eucharist.

Having received the Holy Communion, we must endeavour to live virtuously and piously henceforth, as becomes the sons and daughters of God. On no account should we allow our soul to sink into an abyss of corruption. Let us be mindful to partake of the Holy Communion frequently so that we are always united with our Lord. ♦



DECEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9 am - Golden Age Club Mtg	3 6:30 pm - Akathist Healing Service 7 pm - Ukr. Lang Classes	4 "Entry of the Theotokos" 9:30 am Liturgy @ St. Andrew's	5 5:00 - 7:30 pm: Pyrohy Supper 6:30 pm - Ukr Dance Classes	6
7 25th Sunday After Pentecost	8 7 pm - Meeting of Parish Board	9 9 am - Golden Age Club Mtg	10 7 pm - Ukr. Language Classes	11	12 6:30 pm - Ukr Dance Classes	13 "St. Andrew" 9:30 am Liturgy @ St. Andrew's
14 Patron Feast Day Celebration 9:30 a.m.— Greeting of Bishop & Hierarchical Liturgy	15 7 pm - Ladies Aux. & Men's Club Meetings Pre-Christmas Social	16 9 am - Golden Age Club Mtg	17 7 pm - Last Ukr. Lang Class for 2008 (Classes resume Jan. 14th)	18	19 "St. Nicholas"-10 am Liturgy @ Selo 6:30 pm - Ukr Dance Classes 6:30 pm - Church Sch. celebration	20 Meeting of Western Eparchy Council @ St. Andrew's
21 27th Sunday After Pentecost	22	23 9 am - Golden Age Club Mtg	24 Latin Christmas Eve	25	26 NO Ukr Dance Classes (School Holidays); Classes resume Jan. 9th	27
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Father Victor away from Dec. 22nd - Jan. 4th → </div>						
28 28th Sunday After Pentecost "Sunday of the Holy Forefathers"	29	30 9 am - Golden Age Club Mtg	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Sunday Fellowship Roster: Dec. 7th - Mary Boratynec, Gloria Punkick, Adele Krewusik, & Adele Sawchyn Dec. 14th - Dec. 21st - Dec. 28th - <p style="text-align: center;"><i>PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE CHURCH ATRIUM TO SPONSOR A FELLOWSHIP LUNCH</i></p> </div>		



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!

FROM OUR PARISH PRESIDENT ...



Slava Isusu Khrystu! Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I am pleased to report on the following activities of the Board from the **November 10, 2008 Board Meeting**.

1. Board members shared comments and relayed anecdotes indicating the appropriate nature and well planned Holodomor *Panakhyyda* and commemorative program of November 9.
2. New Parish letterhead is now being ordered and will be available for use when it arrives.
3. The Board heard from Mr. Lawrence Dary that of the three suppliers asked for competitive pricing for new computer system equipment, two provided same and the most economical system will be sought.
4. The written agreement (contract) between the Parish and the receiving "Klynovi Lyst" charity in Ukraine was developed and sent to the Edmonton based Pochaiv Safe House Committee for forwarding to Ukraine for execution. Subsequent to the meeting, the signed agreement was received by the Board, fully executed, and the funds being held by St. Andrew's are in the process of being transferred to Ukraine. Further, the Wild Rose Foundation grant received will be deposited and will be transferred as the Klynovi Lyst renovations proceed and respective expenses are reported upon.
5. Doors into the library area, ways of improving lighting on the Altar, and a review of the sound system will be initiated – all are items from the 2008 maintenance budget.
6. A "Nativity Greeting" from our parish will be published in the *Visnyk*.
7. A \$10,000 donation was received from the Men's Club to help cover costs experienced during our cultural and educational activities. A "Thank-you" will be sent.
8. A letter from the Dnipro-Selo Housing Society Board was received indicating their compliance with the Sobor's request to show a favorable bias toward tenancy applicants of our Ukrainian community in lieu of the fact that it is our community that volunteers for the Society's Board.
9. An invitation was received from St. Michael's Parish to attend their Patron Saint's Day.
10. The BIPHICTb Dancing School November newsletter from received.
11. An updated choir membership list was received.
12. A card of thanks was received from Pauline and Alex Lysak for the opportunity to act as delegates to the Western Eparchy Conference representing our Sobor.
13. A \$1000 donation was received from the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League to help cover costs experienced during our cultural and educational activities. A "Thank-you" will be sent.
14. A report complete with budget was received from the Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee.
15. The Treasurer's report was heard and accepted. Accepted that the bills payable be paid.
16. An application for new membership was approved. The Membership Chair will appeal to members who have not fulfilled their annual minimum contribution towards membership. Four new honorary members who will be so recognized at the Annual General Meeting.
17. A report was heard from the Hospodar outlining recent repairs to our facility. Suggestions were heard from the Board for inclusion in the Men's Club Capital Project list.
18. Verbal reports were heard from the Ladies' Auxiliary and Men's Club presidents.
19. Fr. Victor provided a verbal pastoral report with a written version to follow. Members are notified of the resolution passed at the Western Eparch Conference to have a 2nd collection plate as Christmas and Easter services with the those specific collections being divided equally between the Consistory and the Western Eparchy. The Board was reminded that our bylaws should be reviewed to ensure compliance to the new Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada bylaws passed at the Sobor held August 2008.
20. At the recommendation of the Men's Club so as to support cultural activities and with their complete financial support, St. Andrew's will donate a number of *bandury* to Hollyrood Elementary School for its students' *Bandura* Club.
21. Reports from the delegates to the Special Sobor and Western Eparchy conferences will compiled and shared with those of the membership that are interested.
22. At the scheduled November 24 all-committee/Board meeting, Committee chairs are requested to provide respective 2009 committee plans and budgets and any editorial comment to their committee's statement of responsibility contained in the Policy Handbook. ...

-Continued on back page (p. 8)

We're on the Web!
www.uocc-standrew.ca
Currently under construction!

News letter Editors: Rt. Rev. Victor Lakusta & Robyn Shewchuk

"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.

ST. ANDREW'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

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.

Next "Outreach" Issue - December 28th

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/

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



PASTORAL REFLECTIONS!



WHAT IS A MIRACLE?

-Continued from last month's issue of the "Outreach" newsletter:

... The Fathers would never deny that the Pentecostal gifts continue to inspire the dynamic life of faith. However, the miraculous must be weighed by the measure of church tradition. A catechetical definition of a **miracle is an extraordinary phenomenon in nature and the spiritual life.** The root of the word for "*miracle*" in Greek is "*vision.*" A miracle is an astonishing glimpse of the glory of the supernatural reality. It is a direct manifestation of God.

Particularly in the New Testament, the miracle stories are interpreted within the perspective of salvation history. Miracles are signs of the Messiah. In Scripture, when Jesus performs a miracle, the response of those who behold the sign is astonishment. Jesus then teaches them. The revealed power of God is interlocked with knowledge of God. In the healing of the paralytic, Jesus interchanges the words, "your sins are forgiven" and "take up your bed and walk." The

miraculous healing startles the observers, awakening their awareness of God's transforming presence. A **miracle, then, is treated as a preliminary stage of faith.** The two godly purposes of all spiritual gifts, according to Cassian, are healing (Matthew 10:8) and the building up of faith.

Pastorally, a miracle is an unexpected gift of God's mercy. The cause of the miraculous is the direct action of God serving His providential love. God's gifts always say something of Himself. Anyone who has received a surprise gift knows the giver better as a result. The surprise gift binds the recipient to the giver. The real sign is not the gift, but the love of the giver for the recipient. Saint Nektarios of Aegina wrote, "*Miracles are a consequence of the Creator's love for His creatures.*" God desires to bind Himself with mankind in a relationship of unconditional love and truth.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 7:*

...
23. The **next Board meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2008.** Also on November 9, we said a prayer for the fallen armed forces personnel who fought to protect our freedoms – freedoms that we often take for granted and that save us in Canada from atrocities such as the Holodomor. We should be thankful to God everyday for what we have, what we can experience at our choice, and for what we do not have to experience at the choice of someone else. May their memories be eternal.

Our Sobor's Annual General Meeting is approaching in February, 2009. Consider volunteering your time and efforts to our parish. Those interested can contact Ernie Skakun.

Slava Naviky! Glory Be Forever!

Michael Zukiwsky
Parish President