



St. Vincent Of Lerins Orthodox Church

821 Ave E. North (☎ 306 - 244 - 4009)

Weekly Bulletin

Clergy: Fr. N. (Bernard) Funk (frnbfunk@sasktel.net)
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The Week of July 23 – 30, 2017

- Sun – Jul 23** **Hieromartyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope**
9:00 am Orthros
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Agape lunch - Potluck style
- Tues – Jul 25** 7:00 pm Paraklesis @ the Sieberts' Chapel - Borden
- Wed – Jul 26** 6:00 pm Great Vespers for the Great Martyr Panteleimon
- Thurs – Jul 27** **Great Martyr Panteleimon**
9:00 am Orthros
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- Sat – Jul 29** 5:40 pm Confessions
6:00 pm Inquirers' class
6:30 pm Great Vespers
- Sun – Jul 30** **8th Sunday of Matthew**
9:00 am Orthros
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Agape lunch - Potluck style



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Monday, July 24 – 5:15 pm** Lighthouse Dinner
2. **Sunday, July 30 - Friday, August 4**, Camp St. Innocent (CSI) at Deer Valley Meadows Camp, Alix, AB. There are about 16 campers and 1 counsellor attending from St. Vincent. Please keep them in your prayers.
3. **From Pres. Linda**
Please have your items for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd fundraiser to the church by July 30.
4. **Please remember to send your announcements to the church's email address stvincentorthch@sasktel.net ; **for the weekly bulletins – by Wednesdays**; and **for the monthly calendars - by the 15th of each month.****
5. The Parish has suggested the following people to serve a 3-year term on **parish council**: Adelle Anderson, Debra Cook, Joshua Funk, Jason Quiring

The following persons have been suggested by the Parish:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Name</u>
Alms	Lois Machnee
Banquets/Kitchen	Rachel Machnee
Chanting	Rdr Gabriel Friesen
Choir	Rdr Kimbal Siebert
Church School	SDcn Alexey Shevyakov
Doorkeeper/Greeter	Steve Wojcichowsky
Helps	Kelsey Friesen & Anna Friesen
Immigrant Support	Timothy & Aster Dombowsky
Maintenance	Tony Machnee
Missions Education & Evangelism	David Stobbe

Social Convener

Peggy Walker

Youth

Andrew & Rachel Machnee

If anyone objects to any of the nominees, let Fr. Bernard know by August 6.

LOOKING AHEAD

- ❖ **August 1-15:** Dormition of the Theotokos fast. Please note that there will be Paraklesis to the Theotokos services every evening of the fast except Saturdays and Sundays.
Also, please note that **the services, by request, will be at 6:30 pm.**
- ❖ **August 5-6** Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord.
Please bring grapes and fresh vegetables for blessing.
- ❖ **August 13- 4:00 pm** Gathering at Ben and Lois' for those who want to visit with Eugene, Julia and Feodore Myskin. Details to follow.
- ❖ **August 14** - PC Meeting after Great Vespers



PASTORAL TEACHINGS, INFORMATION, DIRECTIVES, NOTES & SAYINGS

"Tithing is not just for converts. It is not just for the rich. It is for all of us. It brings us peace, knowing that we have given to God what is rightfully His. It makes our parishes strong by providing the support they need. It builds up our youth, who see our gratitude to God and are in turn grateful to their parents. Yes, if you really want your children to appreciate what you do for them, try being an example of gratitude." -- His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH

"Give your children a solid spiritual foundation, and they will be content with whatever they have. Deprive them of a life in Christ, and

~~they will be miserable even in the midst of great wealth." -- His~~
Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH

"We cannot call ourselves 'moral' or 'ethical' **unless we remain focused on salvation.** Our **primary work** is to make **manifest the Kingdom of God in our families, in our parishes, and in all that we do.** Through constant remembrance of God's love and care for us, even through difficult worldly circumstances, we can endure any kind of trial." -- His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH

"The best things, the things we treasure most, come through difficulties. If we ignore the difficulties, we are neglecting the true joys." -- His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH



How Much the Vinedresser Loves His Vines **by a CGS catechist**

For me, the parable of the True Vine (John 15 as presented to the 6-9 year olds) is one of those parables that can be disturbing and seem to be quite unjust. The pruning left me feeling very vulnerable, judged and unappreciated. It was always difficult to present it to children when it left me fearing God more than feeling like a child of God.

This changed for me one day during a heavy snowfall right in my own backyard. I looked out my kitchen window one wintery day in mid-January and saw my elderly Italian neighbour, Valentino Antoneilli, whom we called Moro, standing in the middle of his yard turning only to gaze at his vines. He stood there for so long that I was worried that there was something wrong so I opened my back door and called out to him, "Moro what are you doing?" He replied, "I am looking at my vines."

Well, his entire backyard was covered with snow and grapes vines. He had vines growing on trellises and fences all around his yard. In

fact, he liked to do this so much that he had also planted three vines in my yard that made a large sheltering canopy for our patio. He said nothing else so I put on my coat to go out and find out just what could be so interesting about these brown barren branches in January.

Naively, I started the conversation by saying. "I guess you are making a plan about what to do with them in the spring." He said, "Yes. I am deciding which ones will be pruned back." I gulped and said, "Well, I guess you will prune back the ones that did

not make any fruit last summer. He replied, "Oh, I will trim them back a little, but the ones that I will severely cut back are the ones that produced the most fruit." I felt

like a knife had be stabbed into my stomach. Moro continued, "The vines that produced the most fruit will be cut back the most." It was as if he knew each vine in some kind of intimate way and he remembered what they had produced.

I became very aware that I was not just speaking to my neighbour but that I was getting a new insight into how God works with us. Moro saw that I was disturbed with his answer and added that every time a vine is cut back, it will rest for a while. Then, when new growth happens, there will always be two new branches where the one branch was cut. In time, he will have to decide which of these two branches will remain and which one will be cut.

He said, "Italians have an expression: 'Keep it poor it will make you rich.' That means that the branches must remain close to the vine. The fruit will be sweet and abundant. If I let the branches grow,

~~they will be weak and if they produce any fruit, it will be small and sour. The wind will break the weak branches and all is lost. If I tie the branches and keep them close to the vine there will be a great~~

harvest!" He continued, 'Susan, I do not do this because I want the fruit. If I wanted fruit I would go to the store and buy it. I do this because I love the vine and the branches. “

Moro had no idea how much he had helped me. He continued to work in his vineyard for a few more years. Every day he tended to the vines and mine too! Every year he did his pruning and harvesting. He is now blind and has had one leg amputated. He asks his wife about the vines and all the branches as if they were part of his family. He gives clear instructions about how to treat each branch. He has it all in his mind and in his heart. Moro has not lived at home for 7 years. He has been hospitalized and does his work from a distance.

Now I see this parable in a new light. I imagine God studying me, watching me, and yes, pruning me. I feel chosen, protected and loved. Pruning still hurts, but now I am learning to enjoy the resting time before new growth. This not only helps me feel like a child of God, but also makes me feel most grateful for a God who loves me so much. I feel safe in His plan, in His heart, and in His hands.

Susan Perna, Ontario



Preamble: A year or two ago, I directed our faithful to participate in the sacrament of confession a minimum of four times a year, during the four fasting times, as well as at other times when internally constrained to do

~~so. The following is a copy of an article by Fr. Hopko that you will find interesting and helpful.~~

IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS - by Fr. Thomas Hopko

The gift of God's forgiveness is received through private prayer, corporate worship, the disciplines of prayer and fasting, penitential services, and above all through the sacrament of Holy Confession.

The value of Holy Confession is twofold:

First, through this sacramental act of the ordained priest and the Christian believer we have the assurance of divine forgiveness, according to the words of Christ. (If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven - John 20:23)

Secondly, Holy Confession provides the opportunity to talk about one's deep concerns, to receive counsel and to be encouraged toward spiritual growth, all of which are universally recognized as extremely beneficial to personal life.

Holy Confession is appropriate whenever an Orthodox Christian feels the need for it. It is also a part of our total spiritual preparation during the fast periods leading up to the great feasts of Easter, Christmas, the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos and the Feast of Twelve Apostles. However, Holy Confession is especially necessary: when a serious sin has been committed, when a habitual sin has overwhelmed a Christian, or when a Christian has stopped growing spiritually and needs a re-examination of priorities.

We confess our sins to God, and the power of forgiveness is God's. However, the gift of God's forgiveness, although assured, is not magical. It does not automatically spare us from spiritual

struggle - the continual vigilance against evil and the unceasing warfare against sin. Holy Confession will bear fruits in the Spirit only when the

~~believer hates evil, utterly rejects sin and patiently cultivates positive~~
habits of the life in Christ. *(So you also must consider yourself dead to sin and alive to Christ Jesus...{Do not yield your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but yield yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life. Romans 6:11-13})*

How can one prepare for Holy Confession? Preparation for Holy Confession is a prayerful examination of feelings, thoughts, words, acts, attitudes, habits, values, priorities, goals, direction and way of life. This prayerful self-examination includes not only the personal religious life, but also family relationships, social activities, job conduct, business dealings, political commitments, and even recreational pursuits, because our entire existence should be lived in the light of the Holy Spirit.

We ought not to condemn ourselves, but to affirm our true selves in Christ who has given us access to God's mercy and forgiveness and who has taught us to live for God's glory.

Pray and think about your confession over several days. Ask God to help you perceive your sins and to make a thorough confession of them. Sometime before the sacrament of Holy Confession, offer selected prayers as suggested by your father confessor.

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