

**FATHER ANTON'S WORDS OF WISDOM:** Many have been cooped up at home for a long time. After short spring, we now hope to be able and enjoy the outdoors and many of the activities that we associate with summer.. Things have more than slowed down a bit in our little parish; the kitchen has not been able to operate for over 3 months and because this is our major source of funding we are feeling the pinch, but there is some good news! We are in the process of preparing for a "slow" opening again, meaning we will be working in smaller groups and supply the necessary protective equipment for our workers. We have had a lot of time to look at our products and production, and which are worth our effort and those that we will be eliminating. We will no longer offer breads, cinnamon buns, butter tarts and rogalky. We will no longer be selling honey since prices have skyrocketed. We will continue with those products that people have been phoning and asking for almost weekly and they are: Pyrohy, Cabbage Rolls, Lasagna, Meatsticks, Meatpies, Salad Dressing and Apple Pie. Soups only when our Soup Ladies feel so inclined and energized. We will also be adding a new product: Shepherd's Pie. We have to face the reality that almost all our volunteer are older, many with health issues and limitations, therefore we will be putting our efforts into that which is most beneficial to them and the Parish. Once we have all the information required from the Eparchy as to protocol for reopening we will be doing another mailing. BBQ's are most likely to be cancelled but we look forward hopefully to offer some social activities in the fall., However, we still have Sunday Mass even though not in person, but livestreamed every Sunday.. It is important to remember to keep up your spiritual nourishment. And even though there is no one in the pews at the present time, we still have hydro, water, maintenance and salaries to be met, and it can get very difficult if those can afford do continue to support us financially choose not to do so.. Times are tough for everyone, and only you know what you can really afford to give, but nonetheless, everyone who considers themselves members of a parish have an obligation to contribute to both its spiritual and financial support. Jesus shares with us the blessings of giving from our abundance, and indeed from the little we have. My experience as a pastor has shown me those who contribute to charity most are those who have the least. Perhaps; because they have not forgotten hard times and understand that, "material things" aren't the answer when we are looking for satisfaction or a sense of purpose in life. There's a little joke that comes to mind when talking on this topic, although it's hilarious; it also has a good message. "Joe Yapshyshyn dies unexpectedly and knocks on the pearly gates hoping to get in. St. Peter is surprised since he's not on the list. St. Peter goes to God and explains the situation, so God says "Ask Joe if he ever did anything for anyone other than himself in his lifetime." Peter goes back and asks him. Joe answers "Not really, you see I was always busy trying to get ahead, so I had no time for others." St. Peter goes back to God and tells Him. God says "Go and ask him if he ever darkened the door of a church, and if he did why?" Peter goes back to ask Joe. Joe answers: "I went to Church every Sunday, what would people think? It made me look good even though I was never sure about this religion stuff." St. Peter goes back to God and reports what Joe said. "I see," said God, "Go ask Him if in all those years he went to Church if he ever gave a donation." Peter goes back and asks Joe. After a long pause, with a sigh of relief Joe says "I remember once I gave \$5.00!" Peter goes back and says to God: "He said he remembers giving \$5.00 once." God thought for a moment and replied: "Issue him a refund and tell him to go to hell." Although this is a great joke, it reminds us that priorities are so important. Your parish cannot exist without your support, both materially, and spiritually. Money does not a Church make, yet without it we cannot exist. As you enjoy your summer give some thought to St. John's, so we don't have to scramble to make ends meet. You'll feel good in knowing you are helping, and we will be grateful that we can continue to be here to serve your needs. Enjoy your summer everyone, LIVE, LOVE, LAUGH AND PLAY, PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO PRAY.



**Let us pray:** Dear Jesus, you have shared with us many stories about giving to Your Father. Help me to understand that what I give to God comes back to me in more ways than I can imagine. I thank you for my parish. Even though I may not

attend services as often as I should or because of frailty or illness, I really do care about it. During this summer, bless my family and friends that all may experience a joyful time, with much opportunity for reflection and good times. Remind me Lord, when I forget to talk to you, that you enjoy my company. I will respond, because I enjoy yours. I will sit quietly and listen for you in the breeze, and feel the warmth of your love in the rays of the sun. I will celebrate our life together. Amen.