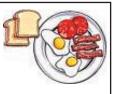


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BRUNCH



TODAY - Sunday, October 6th

St. Mary's Cultural Centre

10:15 pm & 12:15 pm

*Adults \$10.00 * Children (12 & under) \$6.00 * *FAMILY \$30.00 * CHILDREN (5 & UNDER) FREE *

"All proceeds to Knights of Columbus Vocations Endowment"

Date	Тіме	EPISTLE	CANTOR	USHERS	ORGANIST
SAT OCT 5	5:00 pm English	Sr. Suzanne Kokuruds	Saturday Evening Group	Paul Shewchuk Lionel Fedorowich	
Sun Oct 6 17th Sunday Pentecost	9:00 am Ukrainian	Harry Kardynal	Lorne Stechyshyn	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
	11:00 am English	Sandra German	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Myron Kulasa Richard Zulyniak	lris Skehar
SAT OCT 12	5:00 pm English	Delores Oucharek	Saturday Evening Group	John Ostrowercha Vicky Ostrowercha	
Sun Oct 13 18th Sunday Pentecost	9:00 am Ukrainian	Bernie Stephaniuk	Lorne Stechyshyn	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
	11:00 am English	Bill Prybylski	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Bill Prybylski Amy Prybylski	lris Skehar

	Received in 122 Regular Envelopes\$ 2,741.0
	Loose Collection\$98.6
SEPT 29, 2019	Received in 8 Other Envelopes\$ 120.0

CONTACT INFORMATION					
OFFICE: st.mary.yorkton@sasktel.net PA	stor: Imalkov@sasktel.net				
WEB: www.saintmarysyorkton.com EP	ARCHY OF SASKATOON: www.skeparchy.org				
EPARCHIAL PASTORAL COUNCIL - Pat Thompson 306	-782-9425 Geraldine Koban 306-782-0270				
Parish Council President - Bill					
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - Steve Popowich 306-783-5441 UCM	LC - Elsie Stechyshyn 306-783-4862				
UCBC - Peter Moroz 306-783-6293 CULT	URAL CENTRE - Eugene Maystrowich 306-782-5004				
Golden Agers - Verna Moroz 306-783-6293 Cult	JRAL CENTRE MANAGER - Stan Shymanski 306-782-1010				

ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Церква Матері Божої Неустанної Помочі

Our Mother of Perpetual Help

155 Catherine Street, Yorkton, SK S3N 0B9

Vol. 56, No. 31 PARISH BULLETIN

OCTOBER 6, 2019

Христос Посеред нас!

Christ is Among Us !

Єібуде!



The parish community of St. Mary's extends a warm Welcome - Вітаємо to everyone who is with us today, especially all visitors. We are pleased that you have come to pray with us this Sunday. May the Lord bless You.

Saturday

Sunday

8:00 am

9:00 am

PASTORAL CARE OF THE **UKRAINIAN REDEMPTORISTS**

Fr. Leonid Malkov, CSsR - Pastor Fr. Yevhen Zadorozhnyi, CSsR - Assistant Pastor

OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

> Office 306-783-4594 Info Line 306-782-0654

SICK CALLS - Anytime

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES* by Appointment *Please contact the pastor at least six months before the wedding date.

LITURGY	SCHEDULE
	LITURGY

<u>S</u>	<u>U</u>	Ν	D	A	Y

5:00 pm English 9:00 am 11:00 am

Ukrainian English

HOLY DAYS

9:00 am

WEEKDAYS

Monday - Friday Saturday

JOIN THE 2019 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY CRUSADE

What: The Holy Rosary Where: St. Gerard's Church When: Saturday, October 12 at 12:00 Noon



visit the website at www.CanadaNeedsOurLady.org

An organization by the name of "In Defence of Christian Civilization" began its origins in Quebec as recently as ten short years ago. It is a group of like-minded Canadians who realize the depth of errors our country has been moving towards and has sought to find remedies to counteract these problems. They chose Our Lady of Fatima as their mentor.

Members of this organization have encouraged the public to pariticpate in Pro-Life rallies, in religious pilgrimages, and morst recently, in a public prayer compaign called "Canada Needs our Lady". In three short years this movement has spread to hundreds of Canadian cities across our great nation. The aim is simple: one hour of prayer, from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm, beginning with a procession, beseeching Our Lady to restore our country to its former Christian roots.

Fr. Louis and St. Gerard's Parish will be participatin in this cross country crusade to entreat Our Lady to save our country from further destabilization and subversion. On Saturday, October 12, form 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm, a program is planned towards this end.

As Ukrainian Catholics we hold a long, vibrant and authentic presence in Canada's history and culture. And as citizens of this country we owe our children and grandchildren a country with a greater love and faith in God than is presently being portrayed. St. Mary's Parish is cordially being asked to join this prayerful crusade toward the restoration of Faith in our country.

Pray for us O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

St. GERARD'S PARISH FALL SUPPER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 4:30 – 6:30 pm St. GERARD'S PARISH COMPLEX Menu: Roast Turkey, sausage, cabbage rolls, perogies, potatoes, salads, desserts, coffee Adults: \$17.00 Children 6 – 13 years: \$10.00 Pre-school: free Everyone is welcome!

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE October 1st until October 31st

canned soup

Cheese Whiz

pudding cups

jam



This Thanksgiving, the Outreach Committee of St. Mary's Church encourages you, our Parishioners, to remember those less fortunate. We will be having a food drive during **the month of October**. The Outreach Committee welcomes your donations of the food items listed below. Also, there are Outreach envelopes available at the entrances, for those who would prefer a monetary donation. *Non-perishable food items only, please.* **Please check the expiration date on food before donating**

granola/snack bars dill pickles ketchup jello cups spaghetti sauce pancake syrup mustard cereal

pork & beans kidney beans cookies juice boxes

Thank you for your support!

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 12	Knights of Columbus Bingo	1:00 pm
October 15	Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm
October 20	Little Angels Classes	11:00 am
October 21	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Meeting	7:00 pm
October 31	Golden Agers Birthdays	1:00 pm
November 4	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:00 pm
November 4	UCWLC Meeting	7:00 pm
November 7	Divine Liturgy at Yorkton & District Nursing Home	10:30 am
November 13	Holy Rosary Hour	12:00 Noon
November 14	Divine Liturgy at Gladstone Seniors' Residence	11:00 am
November 15	Pylypivka (Pre-Christmas Fast) Begins	



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PILGRIMAGE & TOUR WITH BISHOP BRYAN BAYDA, CSSR. FEBRUARY 6 - 15, 2020

Journey with San Juan Diego to meet Our Lady on the Hill of Tepeyac! Meditate on the mystery of the miraculous tilma in the Basilica! Walk down to Bishop Zumarraga's crypt! Be uplifted by thousands of people on a Sunday morning! Climb on ancient Sun and Moon Pyramids at Teotihuacan, and at the Great Pyramid of Cholula near Puebla. Visit Fidelius Films Studio in Puebla - where the movie 'Tepeyac' is being produced! Experience encul-

turated evangelization! Come home understanding how powerful Our Lady's appearance truly was...and is today! Basic cost includes airfare from Saskatoon, flight cancellation insurance, hotel, breakfasts & suppers at the Hotel Villa Quijotes (near the Shrine), English speaking tour guide & van transportation.

Double/triple occupancy \$3100/person & Single \$3400. Registration \$100 (nonrefundable deposit) to hold your spot. \$1500 (\$1650 single) required by October 31, 2019. \$1500 (\$1650 single) balance required by November 15, 2019. *Pilgrims must be capable of walking up to 10 km per day, including inclines. Info/ registration, contact: Marlene @ 306-262-1647 Details at www.skeparchy.org



COVENANT OF CARE ABUSE AND MISCONDUCT PROTOCOL

The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon Covenant of Care Abuse and Misconduct Protocol is designed to ensure that all allegations of physical and sexual abuse and other misconduct are handled responsibly, transparently and with all due care and attention. To speak to someone about a concern please contact your Pastor, Parish Coordinator of Care (PCC)

Geraldine Koban at 306-782-0270 or Deb Larmour, Eparchial Coordinator of Care at (306)653-0138 ext. 228 or email: covenantofcare@skeparchy.org

More information is available on the Eparchial Website, www.skeparchy.org



CHRIST THE TEACHER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EVENTS For the week of October 7 -11

	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary's	St. Michael's	St. Paul's	St. Theodore's
Mon						
TUES				Girls Volleyball game vs St. Mary's SCC Meeting 7:00 pm		
WED			FCC Food Drive Food Pick up			
THURS				Girls Volleyball game @ St. Mike's		
Fri				Team/Rider Day Thanksgiving Celebration 1:00 pm Deadline for FCC Food Donations		

ARE YOU A FAMILY WITH YOUNG CHILDREN AND WOULD LOVE TO ATTEND CHURCH A LITTLE MORE REGULARLY?



St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church will be starting The Little Angels Program in September. We will have classes twice a month with experienced teachers and helpers.

Classes will include lessons based on the Ukrainian Catholic Byzantine Curriculum, as well as learning prayers and songs, crafts, games and fun.

For this program to once again be successful we need your help.

If you are interested for your child or grandchild to attend Little Angels in the fall and your child is between the ages of 3 and 5 years old, please contact **Cara Maleschuk at 306-621-3753 or Rose Maleschuk at 306-621-4987.**

Classes will begin on Sunday, October 6th

YORKTON DISTRICT PARISHES

Schedule of Services in the Yorkton Pastoral District **Please note: this schedule is subject to change, please check regularly**

	•	0 / 1	0,
BEAVERDALE	Sunday, October 20	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
	Sunday, November 10	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
CALDER	Sunday, October 27	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
INSINGER (St. Nicholas)	Sunday, October 6	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
WHITESAND	Sunday, October 13	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 6, 2019

AED

The theme of Sunday is always Resurrection. We invite you to refrain from kneeling during the Divine Liturgy.



Today's special liturgical parts & readings are found in the Tropars, Kondaks, Epistle & Gospel Readings booklets that are found at the entrances of the church. Readings for Next Sunday: Epistle - 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 Gospel - Luke 5:1-11

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

SUN	9:00 am 10:15 am & 12:15 pm 11:00 am	Knights of Columbus Brunch Divine Liturgy
MON		5 5
	7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting
	7:00 pm	UCWLC Meeting
TUE	No Divine Liturgy - Study Days	-
	1:00 - 4:00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
WED	No Divine Liturgy - Study Days	
THU	No Divine Liturgy - Study Days	
SAT	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy
	5:00 pm	Divine Liturgy

WEDDING PLANS ??- If you are planning to be married at St. Mary's or any of the Yorkton District parishes, *please contact Fr. Leonid (306-783-4594) at least six months before the wedding date.*

PLEASE NOTE: We have a Defibrillator in the Sacristy if the need arises

DEADLINE for submissions to the bulletin is Tuesdays at 4:30 pm.

CHURCH DONATIONS- To ensure that your donation is properly recorded and acknowledged, please mark your envelope and the memo line on your cheque "In memory of..." or "On the occasion of..."



EMAIL BULLETIN - If you would like to have the Bulletin emailed to you please send your request to: *cssrmonastery@sasktel.net*

No Weekday Divine Liturgy

FROM MONDAY, OCTOBER 7TH TO THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH Fr. Leonid and Fr. Yevhen will be attending the Eparchial Clergy Study Days in Regina.

Weekday Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Friday, October 11th.

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

	SUNDAY, OCTO	
17th Sunday	after Pentecost 2	Corinthians 6:16-7:1~ Matthew 15:21-28
MON Oct 7	Sergius and Bacchus	Ephesians 4:25-32 ~ Luke 3:19-22
8:00 am	No Divine Liturgy - Clergy Retreat	<u>t</u>
TUE Oct 8	Venerable Pelegia	Ephesians 5:20-26 ~ Luke 3:23-4:1
8:00 am	No Divine Liturgy - Clergy Retreat	<u>t</u>
WED Oct 9	Apostle James, son of Alpheus	1 Corinthians 4:9-16 ~ Luke 10:16-21
8:00 am	No Divine Liturgy - Clergy Retreat	<u>t</u>
THU Oct 10	Martyr Eulampius	Ephesians 5:33-6:9 ~ Luke 4:16-22
8:00 am	No Divine Liturgy - Clergy Retreat	t
FRI Oct 11	Apostles Phillip	Ephesians 6:18-24 ~ Luke 4:23-30
8:00 am	+Bill Evancio	Lena & family
SAT Oct 12	Martyr Probus	1 Corinthians 15:39-45 ~ Luke 4:31-36
9:00 am	+Paul and +Mary Tratch	Family
5:00 pm	Health & Cod's Plannings for Marine	Popowich Mom
5:00 pm		PopowichMom
DIVINE LITUR	RGY INTENTIONS - If you are making a	n offering for this service by cheque, please
maka yaur ah	agua navabla tau Ukrainian Cathalia M	lianian

make your cheque payable to: Ukrainian Catholic Mission **In accordance with the New **Eparchial Stipend Schedule** (effective November 1, 2017), the

suggested *stipend (offering)* for a Divine Liturgy Intention is now *\$20.00*.

Watch The **Ukrainian Hour** on Access Channel 7, 8:30 am on Saturdays and Sundays with your new hostess, Colette Karapita. Upcoming programs include:

October 5/6: Our Faith
October 12/13: Our Church Art & Architecture
October 19/20: tour of St. Mary's
October 26/27: tour of Holy Transfiguration



INTERNATIONAL LIFE CHAIN TODAY - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6th

from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the corner of Broadway and Gladstone. Everyone is welcome to pray and to participate in a silent witness to raise awareness for the need to protect all human life from conception to natural death. Contact for further information visit fb.me/parklandrighttolife or call 306-783-6240 Saint Mary's Building Fund Donations



Balance of the Fund to date: \$ 333,523.19 Thank you very much

Donations may be given anytime. All funds collected will be used for the future renovations of our church. Building Fund Envelopes are available at the entrances of the Church



ST. MARY'S PARISH PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING PLAN (PAG)

The Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) Program enables you to make donations to the parish on a monthly or semi-monthly basis right from your bank account. It eliminates the need of having the correct amount of cash on Sunday and/or from having to write a cheque.

For more information or to enroll, please see the pamphlets at the church entrances or at the Parish Office.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR CHURCH IS A SACRED SPACE... Please refrain from speaking loudly in church. People are praying and need silence.

Also, kindly silence your mobile devices during Divine Liturgy. Thank you

The Blessed Virgin Mary and Her Rosary

The universal Church in its wisdom has respectfully delegated the months of May and October to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The month of May signifies the beginnings of spring with its boundless beauty; the beginnings of new life in nature; of Mother's Day, to whom we owe our physical lives, and to the Mother of Mankind and the Mother of Our Saviour, to whom we owe our spiritual lives.

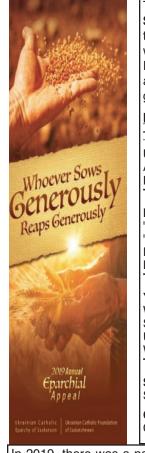


Equally beautiful is the kaleidoscopic month of October in its striking array of colours, its abundance of the fruits of the earth and the crispness of fresh ari before the sleep of winter. In seems that the Church and the Mother of God through nature are reminding us our own beginnings and the Thanksgiving we should offer for the gift of our lives.

It has been a custom at St. Mary's to recite the Holy Rosary before daily

Divine Liturgy and especially prior to Sunday Liturgies during the months of May and October. Our intentions are by and large, personal. Let us also remember the loss of life and personal possessions through weather related catastrophes worldwide, the endless scandals in various government circles within and outside our borders; let us pray for the abolition of abortion, euthanasia, human and child trafficking and finally, the salvations of our souls and those of our loved ones.

> Pray for us O Holy Mother of God that we may be made worthy of the promíses of Chríst.



The total funds raised in the 2019 Annual Eparchial Appeal was **\$150,266.** The amount rebated to Parishes that exceeded their goal totaled \$10,196. As noted in the information provided below, the Eparchy will receive \$120,070 that will be allocated towards the following Eparchial Ministries that were identified as recipients of this support. In addition, the Foundation will be allocated \$20,000 as part of the financial goals identified at the onset of the 2019 Annual Eparchial Appeal.

	ALLOCA-
TION	
Ukrainian Catholic Religious Education Centre Adult Faith Formation Program Human & Environmental Development Program Total	\$ 54,815 \$ 2,610 \$ 57,425
Family Life Office Ministry "Transitions of Life" & "Dying Healed" Program "Crown Them with Honour & Glory" Marriage Preparation Program Family Support Referrals & Spiritual Direction Services Discovery of the Unity of Life & Love Program Total	\$ 7,831 \$ 2,610 \$ 2,610 \$ 2,610 \$ 2,610 \$15,661
Youth Ministry World Youth Day - Panama 2019 Stations of the Cross for the Youth Unity 2020 - Toronto Web-Site Project "Dyven Svit" Total	\$ 1,566 \$ 1,566 \$ 1,044 \$ 1,044 \$ 5,220
St. Matthew's Clergy Society St. Matthew's Clergy Society	\$ 26,102
Communications Office Communication Office Projects/Programs	\$ 15,661

In 2019, there was a participation rate of 22% of the family units in the Eparchy who contributed to the Annual Eparchial Appeal, as compared to 22% in 2018, 22% in 2017, 30% in 2016 and 33% in 2015. It is our hope that this number will grow in the 2020 Annual Eparchial Appeal. We are hopeful that more Parishioners will see the important significance that their donation will make in the growth and continuance of our Ukrainian Catholic Church and Faith in Saskatchewan.

Thank you, again, for your generous support, and we hope that we can call on you again to be just as abundant, both in time and talent, during the 2020 Annual Eparchial Appeal. We will continue to stand together in faith and hope for our Church.

Blessings to All Our Faithful! Ukrainian Catholic Foundation of Saskatchewan



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CURLING

Curling starts on Monday, October 21st at 7:00 pm. If interested please phone Jeff Kaspick

at 306-621-2394 (after 6:00 pm) or by email ljkaspick@sasktel.net



UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF SASKATCHEWAN (UCFSASK) "Share the Spirit" 50/50 Lottery Draw(Lottery License - #LR19-0056

Ukrainian Catholic Foundation of Saskatchewan (UCFSASK) will again be conducting a "Share the Spirit" 50/50 Lottery Draw from September 23rd, 2019 to November 25, 2019. The draw date will be made on Friday, December 6th, 2019 at 2:00 pm at 214 Avenue M S, Saskatoon SK.

The ticket price will be \$20.00 per ticket. The ticket distribution will be as follows:

- 50% or \$10.00 of each ticket sold will go to the winner of the lottery draw
- 25% or \$5.00 of each ticket sold will go to a Parish/Mission or designated Eparchial Organization named on each ticket by the ticket purchaser as the "Parish/Mission or Eparchial Organization Designation".
- 25% or \$5.00 of each ticket sold will go to UCFSASK
- Total number of tickets available for sale: 15,000
- Total maximum prize value: \$150,000.00

This "Share the Spirit" Lottery will provide the Faithful of the Eparchy an opportunity to participate in a 50/50 Lottery Draw; to support their favorite Ukrainian Catholic Parish/Mission or the designated Eparchial Organization in the Eparchy of Saskatoon; and also to assist UCFSASK in promoting the cultural, social, educational and spiritual initiatives, policies, and objectives of the Eparchy of Saskatoon among Ukrainian Catholics in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Very shortly each Parish Family in the Eparchy will receive a package containing information concerning this lottery draw and tickets for purchase. Please look in your mailbox for your package. Please consider the purchase of the 50/50 Lottery Ticket, and help support a Parish/Mission, or a designated Eparchial Organization and UCFSASK. We thank you graciously and humbly ask for your support. The winner of the 2018 "Share the Spirit – 50/50 Lottery draw won \$29, 440. For more information on the Lottery, please contact the Foundation office at (306) 653-0138, ext. 223 (collect) or by email at admin@ucfsask.org.

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF SASKATCHEWAN GRANT FUND PROGRAM

When the Sheptytsky Institute was sold, the proceeds of sale were used to establish the Ukrainian Catholic Foundation Grant Program. The investment income generated by this fund will used to provide grant funds to Parishes/Missions and Eparchial Organizations approved by the Eparch of the Saskatoon Eparchy.

In order to receive some of this grant money, Parishes/Missions or Eparchial Organizations will be required to complete a grant application form. The application form is available under the "Grant Application Form" tab on this page on the Foundation's website at www.ucfsask.org.

UCFSask will consider applications for grants from Parishes/Missions and approved Eparchial organizations for projects/initiatives that align with the Foundation's mission and purpose. In addition, grant allocations will also be guided by the recommendations for action from the Eparchial 2014 SOBOR Document – The Vibrant Parish. The criteria under which grants will be considered is available under the "Grants" tab.

Parishes/Missions or Eparchial Organizations wishing to apply for a grant should complete and submit their "grant application form", to the Foundation Office by 5:00 pm October 31, 2019.

If more information or clarification is required, please contact the UCFSask office at: (306) 653-0138, ext. 223 or email at admin@ucfsask.org,or go to our website at www.ucfsask.org where the criteria for grant funding and the grant application form is located under the "GRANTS" tab.



Eparchy of Saskatoon Famíly and Lífe Offíce Bulletín: October 2019 "The future of the world passes through the family" St. John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, 79

Praying for our children: I heard a talk recently about the importance of praying for our children. The speaker said that he is repeatedly asked by parents about what to do when children have apparently abandoned their faith and/or refuse to attend church as young adults. This is unfortunately an all too common problem. His primary recommendation to parents was relentless intercessory prayer, along with pursuit of personal formation and holiness, as well as working to maintain connection and relationship with our kids (I call this accompaniment with conviction and direction, driven and guided by love).

It is, however, really easy to be discouraged-I know this from personal experience. None of us have been perfect parents and our awareness of this becomes incredibly painful as we watch our children turn from the true faith we have done our best to raise them in. Our hope is in Christ and we must never lose hope. This is beautifully described in a poem by J.R.R. Tolkien from the Fellowship of the Rings:

> "All that is gold does not glitter, Not all those who wander are lost; The old that is strong does not wither, Deep roots are not reached by the frost. From the ashes a fire shall be woken, A light from the shadows shall spring; Renewed shall be blade that was broken. The crownless again shall be king."

It may seem that our children are rejecting their 'eternal crowns' offered to them through the sacramental life of the Church, but we, through prayer, and sacrifice (offering up our suffering and even choosing to fast, deliberately depriving ourselves of some good thing for the sake of our kids) can bring about a real difference. St. Monica, mother of St. Augustine would be a great prayer partner and co-intercessor in this quest for our children's salvation. We can find novenas to her in this regard at the following website: https://gnm.org/pravers-for-parents/st-monica-litany/ or we can try this simple prayer from Brandon Vogt

"St. Monica, I need your prayers. You know exactly how I'm feeling because you once felt it yourself. I'm hurting, hopeless, and in despair. I desperately want my child to return to Christ in his Church but I can't do it alone. I need God's help. Please join me in begging the Lord's powerful grace to flow into my child's life. Ask the Lord Jesus to soften his heart, prepare a path for his conversion, and activate the Holy Spirit in his life. Amen.'

(https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog/how-st-monica-can-help-your-child-return-to-the-church/)

We might add this to our pravers found on the Family and Life website: https://skeparchy.org/flo/family-life/prayers/ See especially the TAB Praying for Our Children

Learn more about this amazing Saint and Prayer Partner:

1) St. Monica's example converted her husband and mother-in-law. Even though the fourth-century saint was a Christian, her parents gave her away to a man named Patritius. Both he and his mother were pagans and had violent tempers. St. Monica endured this with patience and kindness, and her example eventually led to their conversions to Christianity.

2) She prayed for St. Augustine for 17 years before his conversion. Much of what St. Monica is known for is her persistence in prayer. Her son, St. Augustine of Hippo, lived a life of immorality, most notably that of lust and impurity, before converting to Catholicism. Throughout these years, she endured a tremendous amount of suffering. Augustine rejected her on multiple accounts, but she continued to love, pray and nurture her son throughout his wayward time.

3) She felt discouraged, but never gave up St. Monica cried many times over her son's transgressions, but received affirmation from God on several accounts. St. Monica had a dream in which she wept over her son, and a figure told her that he was still with her. In his autobiography, The Confessions of Saint Augustine, St. Augustine wrote, "that it was my soul's doom she was lamenting..." The figure told her to be at peace, and "see that where she was there I was also.' She also received encouragement from a local bishop, who told her that "God's time will come." He added, "Go now, I beg you; it is not possible that the son of so many tears should perish."

4) She knew her purpose in life St. Monica wept, prayed and sacrificed for her son for many years. Her greatest desire in life was to see her son's conversion to Catholicism, and once this happened, she believed her purpose in life had been fulfilled. She said to Augustine just a few days before she came down with a fever that caused her death: "My son, speaking of myself, nothing earthly delights me any longer. I do not know why I am still here or why I should remain here. I have no further earthly desires."

5) She is the patron saint of wives, mothers, conversions, alcoholics and abuse victims. Especially in a time where conversion is needed in our world and we see the tragedy of abuse in our Church, St. Monica is a great example of faith and hope. God's grace is infinite, and he will never abandon us, even if it seems as if he is not present. Let us look to St. Monica's example of persistence-that God will never abandon us, even in the hardest of times. https://churchpop.com/2018/08/27/5-incredible-facts-about-st-monica-that-will-inspire-you-to-never-give-up-hope/

If anyone is interested in working with me to form an **online** Eparchial prayer group praying specifically for our children or other family members where we could share not only our concerns but also answered prayers, please email me Deborah Larmour at: uwitness2family@skeparchy.org

God Bless, and St. Monica, pray for us. © DPL

