



Pylypivka 2025

at Immaculate Heart of Mary School

Ukrainian Catholics refer to the pre-Christmas fasting period as Pylypivka, or St. Philip's Fast. It always begins on the feast of St. Philip the Apostle, November 15. In the Latin Rite, this time of preparation is called Advent.

Pylypivka, which lasts for 40 days, is a time of preparation before Christmas. The Church offers this time to remind us and help us focus on receiving Christ into the world. This fast prepares us for the feast. We should be aware that we are in a time of preparation, preparing room in our hearts for the Lord as He comes.

On Thursday, November 20, students and staff participated in a Pylypivka Prayer Service to learn more about the Pylypivka season and the school-wide activities taking place at school before Christmas.

On Friday, December 5, at 1:30 PM, St. Nicholas will visit with all the children. A Ukrainian program will be performed for St. Nicholas.

Students and families are encouraged to share their musical talents by performing Christmas carols in the school's front foyer during arrival and dismissal times. One carol or ten, sing, or play an instrument, simple or complex, ... all are welcome to fill the time slots!

'The Names of Jesus' ... school-wide focus.

This year, during Pylypivka, our school community will spend time learning about the different 'names of Jesus'. We recognize that each of these special names describes Jesus as a role model. We understand how these 'names of Jesus' are actually virtues we can aspire to.



Week One: Jesus the Everlasting Father - The term "Everlasting Father", as used in Isaiah 9:6, refers to Jesus Christ and signifies His eternal nature and role as a compassionate leader who cares for His people like a father. It emphasizes that His fatherhood is everlasting, providing guidance forever and ever.

Week Two: Jesus the Indescribable Gift - This focuses on Jesus Christ as the most precious gift given by God. Throughout the Bible, it is made very clear why Jesus is the best gift we could receive.

Week Three: Jesus the Friend - Jesus is often referred to as a friend because he offers unconditional acceptance, love, and support to his followers. He emphasizes the importance of friendship in his teachings, stating that his followers are friends rather than servants.

Week Four: Jesus the Word - In the Gospel of John, Jesus is called the Word. This means that Jesus helps us understand who God is and shares God's message with the world. He has been with God since the very beginning.

Week Five: Jesus the Light of the World - In the Bible, Jesus is called the Light of the World. This means that Jesus helps people find their way to God, just like light helps us see in the dark. He shows us what is true, good, and loving, and helps guide us to live in God's way.

The students will also be participating in the **Knights of Columbus 'Keep Christ in Christmas' Colouring Contest**, as well as making **Christmas cards for each of the residents at Holy Family Home**.

Pylypivka Prayer

prayed with the students each morning at school

Lord Jesus, we ask You visit our homes and our school.

Bring Your peace, joy, and friendship into our hearts.

Grant us the desire to do good things for other people
and to rid our hearts of all worries and selfishness.

God, help us make progress in loving You and each other,
so that we can truly welcome Your son, the light of the world, into our hearts.

Amen



Christian Service at IHMS

During Pylypivka, the Students Making a Change Team (S.M.A.C.) is spearheading a collection of non-perishable food items for **The Link**. **The Link** is a community organization that supports adults and youth through housing, mental health programs, life-skills programs, and other supports. To support The Link, IHMS will collect non-perishable healthy snacks. Some examples include: Granola bars, Bear Paws, Welch's fruit snacks or Fruitsations, Goldfish crackers, Juice Boxes and Raisins



A donation box will be located in each classroom to collect items brought in throughout this Pylypivka season. We appreciate your support and thank you in advance.

At IHMS, there is a social justice team of students called Students Making a Change Team, otherwise known as S.M.A.C. This year, the team is made up of Grade 7 & 8 students under the direction of IHMS staff. The S.M.A.C. Team is a student social justice club excited to focus their efforts on helping local and global organizations through fundraising initiatives, collection, and volunteering opportunities.

'Mary's Angel Ornament'



During Pylypivka, the school will be offering 'Mary's Angels' for sale. The Angels are a keepsake of remembrance for a deceased loved one or someone who is very ill. When an individual purchases an Angel, a prayer card is filled out at the school with the loved one's name. The cards are attached to an Angel ornament and placed on the 'Mary's Angels Tree' in the school's front foyer. A Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by the students and staff on Friday, December 19, for the intentions of the loved ones. Prior to the Christmas break, the angels will be sent home with each family that purchased an angel.

← A sample of Mary's Angel ornaments is pictured to the left.
The proceeds from this project go towards Marion Hour Centre, Radio Rosary on CKJS.
Each Mary's Angel can be purchased individually for \$5.00.

See the order form below to share with your family and friends.

All orders are to be submitted by Friday, December 12.



Please print.

Purchaser's Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Seller's Name: _____ Seller's Grade: _____

Number of Angels Purchased: _____ Amount paid: _____

Name of deceased, or ill, loved ones (please print name): _____

PLEASE PRINT

Purchaser's Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Seller's Name: _____ Seller's Grade: _____

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Name of deceased, or ill, loved ones (please print name): _____