

PASCHAL NEWSLETTER

**Христос Воскрес!
Воистину Воскрес!**

**Christ is Risen!
Indeed He is Risen!**

PASCHAL EPISTLE

**Of the Episcopate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
To the Reverend Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, and all faithful Children of the
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada**

We celebrate the death of death...and the beginning of another, different eternal life... (7th song of the Paschal Canon).

**Reverend Fathers, Dear Brothers and Sisters!
Christ is Risen!**

On this joyous day, when not only people rejoice and are glad, but even nature itself as it were awakens from sleep and is ready to arise in all its majesty and beauty, our spiritual thoughts turn again and again to the Resurrection.

“Rejoice” (MT. 28,9). This greeting was the first uttered by Jesus Christ after His Resurrection. It was deeply significant and consoling not only for the myrrh-bearing women, to whom it was first addressed, not only for the apostles, but for all Christians who today are solemnly celebrating Christ’s Resurrection. For there is not a greater holiday in Christ’s Church, nor in the world a greater joy than that of the joy of the Risen Lord.

To this joy the heavens which are glad and the earth which rejoices summon us. Holy Church in her joy today embraces the whole world-both visible and invisible: “For Christ is Risen - joy eternal”!

This year Ukraine is celebrating Christ’s Resurrection in tears and suffering. How can we Ukrainians in Canada be joyous with paschal gladness when sorrow has spread over all Ukraine and has touched the hearts of countless people? Can we be joyous in such circumstances? We not only can but we must be!

The Resurrection reminds us that our suffering is temporary. “Don’t cry Mary, My Mother”- the Lord said to the Holy Mother of God- “for soon you will indeed be glad”.

Thus, we also may say: Don't cry, Ukraine, for soon you shall overcome your enemy and will rejoice.

The Resurrection gives us faith which is stronger because of these sufferings. And this faith gives sense to earthly life. This faith enriches our spiritual life and points the way to the Kingdom of Heaven. Faith is the strength and support of our whole life. In sin, faith gives forgiveness to those who repent; in suffering, it brings consolation; in complicated situations of life, it grants patience. Faith warms our hearts and supports us on the road of life. And there is no grief which would not be lightened by our Risen Lord.

The Resurrection of Christ urges us to struggle with sin. It calls us to moral purity and holiness, it teaches us to see in people the image and likeness of God. It justifies our struggle with falsehood. It inspires us to labour and to a devout life.

The Resurrection gives us the strength to conquer our sufferings, because the joy of Christ's Resurrection for all Christians is the source of light, courage and strength. Before His Ascension to Heaven, the Lord said "Lo, I am with you in all days to the end of the age" (Mt 28,20). The Resurrection testifies that the Lord, truly abides in Holy Church and in each of us. The Resurrection fills everyone who glorifies Christ Jesus with a feeling of such joy as no human word can express.

Christ's Resurrection is our own resurrection. If we desire our heart to always burn with faith in our Resurrected Lord, if we wish with all our being to remain always in the paschal joy, let us strengthen our will in the constant effort to do good.

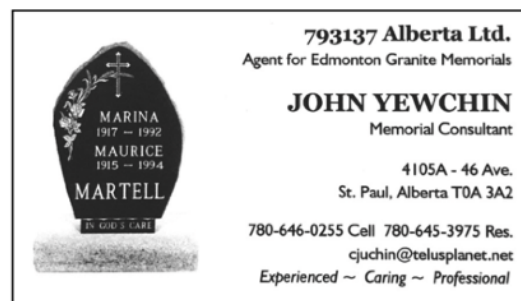
Today we celebrate the death of death and the beginning of a new life. Look at our Ukrainian soldiers: they do not fear death at all. Before our eyes they give their lives for their native land and are not afraid. Why? Because Our Lord, Jesus Christ has conquered death. A lack of fear of death is proof that death is overcome. Jesus Christ's triumph over death is the victory of good over evil. When we see evil victorious, we should be certain that this victory is temporary. The time will come when evil will be conquered by good.

Christ's Resurrection gives a new direction to the life of a person. It makes our life on earth understandable and purposeful. In the future there will be, not death, not perdition, not destruction, but there will be a different existence "the beginning of a new eternal life".

*This month's Newsletter is sponsored by the
John and Caroline Yewchin.*

*John and Caroline wish all our church
families a blessed Pascha!*

Christ is Risen! (Христос Воскрес!)





St. Gregory the Theologian teaches us “In celebrating the renewal of our life, let us also renew ourselves spiritually”.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

In this glorious day of Christ’s Resurrection, we also share with you this paschal joy. From our deepest heart we wish that our holiday greeting “Christ is Risen” will strengthen us in faith, remove the weariness of the war, give the joy of hope in the total victory over the enemy, and in a bright future for our ancestral motherland Ukraine.

With this great Christian holiday we greet all Ukrainians in Canada and all Ukrainians on all continents of the world. Especially we greet and pray for the Ukrainian government and our soldiers-protectors who in difficult circumstances defend the freedom and independence of their country, Ukraine at the cost of their lives.

We fervently pray that the Risen Christ will strengthen our mental and physical powers. May nothing dim our paschal joy.

May the light of Christ’s Resurrection grant us blessed strength to endure and overcome all difficulties that have been put in our path, so that we may obtain peace and prosperity in our earthly life and become participants in eternal life, always rejoicing and glorifying our Saviour, Lord Jesus Christ, who by His Crucifixion and Resurrection vanquished our sin and death.

May the blessing of our Resurrected Saviour Christ be with you all.

Truly Christ is Risen!

With Archpastoral Blessing,
+Ilarion, Archbishop of Winnipeg and Metropolitan of Canada
+Andriy, Bishop of Toronto

PATRIARCHAL ENCYCLICAL
FOR HOLY PASCHA

PROT. NO. 221

+ B A R T H O L O M E W

By God's Mercy

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

To the Plenitude of the Church:

May the Grace, Peace and Mercy of Christ Risen in Glory be with you All

Most honorable brother Hierarchs,
Dearly beloved children,

Having arrived with God's grace at the all-saving Resurrection of the Lord, through which the power of death was abolished and the gates of paradise were opened to the entire human race, we address to all of you our paschal greetings and heartfelt wishes, as we proclaim the cry "Christ is Risen" that gives joy to the world.

In all of its dimensions, the life of the Church is invigorated by the ineffable joy of the Resurrection. The "experience of resurrection" is witnessed in the labors of the Saints and Martyrs of our faith, as well as in the liturgical and sacramental life, the proclamation of the Gospel "to the ends of the earth", the devotion and spirituality of the faithful, their sacrificial love and Christian conduct, but also in their expectation of a world where "death will no longer exist, nor will there be mourning, wailing or suffering" (Rev. 21,4).

In and through the Resurrection, everything lies in a state of motion toward perfection in the Kingdom of God. This eschatological drive has always provided Orthodox Christians in the world with dynamism and perspective. Despite the claims of the opposite, as a result of the eschatological orientation of its life, the Church never compromised with the presence of evil in all its expressions in the world. Nor did it deny the reality of pain and death. Nor again did it ignore the ambiguity of human affairs. And finally, it never considered the struggle for a more just world as something foreign to its mission.

Still though, the Church always knew that pain and the cross are not the ultimate reality. The experiential quintessence of the Christian life is the conviction that, through the Cross and through the "narrow gate", we are led to the Resurrection. This faith is reflected in the fact that the core of church life, the Divine Eucharist, is essentially linked with the Resurrection of Christ. In the Orthodox tradition, as the late Metropolitan John of Pergamon emphasizes, the Divine Eucharist "is filled with joy and light ... because it is not grounded in the Cross and an idealization of passion, but in the Resurrection as the transcendence of the passion of the Cross". The Holy Eucharist transports us to Golgotha not so that we may remain there, but so that we may be led through the Cross to the ever-radiant glory of the Kingdom of God. The Orthodox faith is the overcoming of the utopian salvation "without the Cross" and of the existential shipwreck of the Cross "without the Resurrection".



Our participation in the Resurrection of Christ through the sacrament of the Church is on the one hand a tangible abolition of every utopianism and of the false paradise promising unimpeded self-indulgence, while at the same time a definitive transcendence of hopeless self-enslavement in supposed unsurpassable negativity, because the Cross of Christ gives birth to the Resurrection, to the “endless delight”, to “the enjoyment of eternal glory”. The annihilation of death through the Cross and Resurrection of our Savior elevates our life to its divine-human essence and its heavenly destiny.

In Christ, we know and live that the present life is not our entire life, that our biological death does not constitute an end or obliteration of our existence. The biological boundaries of life do not define its truth. After all, the sense that life is an irreversible “journey toward death” leads to existential impasses, to depression and nihilism, to indifference for what truly matters in life. Science, and financial or social progress are unable to offer an essential solution or outlet. Christians are “those who have hope” (1Thess. 4,13), who expect the coming Kingdom of the Father and Son and

Holy Spirit as a final reality, as the fullness of life and knowledge, as the fulfilment of joy, not only for the coming generations but for the entire human race from the beginning to the end of the ages.

This vision of history and eternity, the resurrectional nature of Orthodox faith, ethos and culture—namely, the unquestionable fact that the great miracle of Truth is only revealed “to those who venerate the mystery in faith”—is what we are called to witness today within a civilization that rejects the Transcendent and in the context of manifold reductions of the spiritual identity of human existence.

We give glory in chant, hymn and spiritual song to the Lord who rose from the dead and shines eternal life upon all. We participate with joy in “the feast that is common to all”. And we beseech the all-powerful, all-wise and all-merciful Maker and Redeemer of all to bring peace to the world and grant all His saving gifts to humankind, so that His all-honorable and majestic name may be glorified and blessed, now and always and to the ages of ages. Amen!

At the Phanar, Holy Pascha 2023
+ Bartholomew of Constantinople
Fervent supplicant for you all

Provody - Blessing of the Graves

I look forward to greeting you all over the coming weeks as we bless the graves of our loved ones and bring to them the joy of the resurrection of our Lord!

Please note: I will do my best on days with multiple cemeteries to be on time, but unexpected delays may occur. As a result times are approximate and I ask your patience on the day if I am running behind.

April

- ◆ **Sunday, April 23rd** - Divine Liturgy & Provody - Glendon @ 10 AM
- ◆ **Sunday, April 30th** - Divine Liturgy & Provody - Bonnyville @ 10 AM

May

- ◆ **Saturday, May 6th** - Divine Liturgy & Provody - Myrnam @ 10 AM
Obitnitsia & Provody - Mamaesti @ 3:30 PM
- ◆ **Sunday, May 7th** - Divine Liturgy & Provody - St. Paul @ 10 AM
Obitnitsia & Provody - Stry @ 2:30 PM
- ◆ **Saturday, May 13th** - Divine Liturgy & Provody - Sandy Rapids @ 10 AM
Obitnitsia & Provody - Slawa @ 3:00 PM
- ◆ **Saturday, May 13th** - Divine Liturgy & Provody - Ispas (Followed with Brinsley & Luzan) - *Served by Alternate Priest*
- ◆ **Sunday, May 14th** - Divine Liturgy & Provody - Nowa Bukowina @ 10 AM
- ◆ **Saturday, May 20th** - Divine Liturgy & Provody - Szypenitz @ 10 AM
Obitnitsia & Provody - Kaleland @ 2:00 PM
- ◆ **Sunday, May 21st** - Divine Liturgy & Provody - Two Hills @ 10 AM

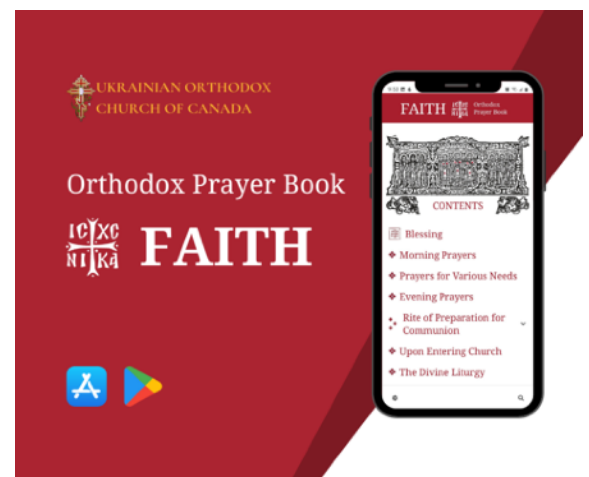


Fr. Peter serving the Panahkyda before blessing the graves - 2020

ПРАВОСЛАВНИЙ МОЛИТОВНИК ВІРА/ ORTHODOX PRAYER BOOK FAITH – Introducing the MOBILE APP

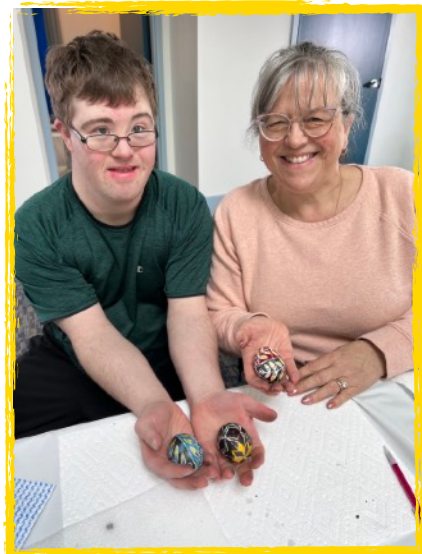
For Information on how to download, please visit the UOCC website:

<https://www.uocc.ca/православний-молитовник-bira-orthodox-prayer-book-faith-mobile-app/>



Pysanka Workshop

Door. Erin led a workshop in St. Paul on March 30th.
Congrats to all the participants on their beautiful Pysanky!



19	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Adoration of the Cross
		5:00 PM	Grassland	Passia Service
22	Wednesday	6:00 PM	Bonnyville	Presanctified Liturgy
March 24-31		FR. PETER ON HOLIDAYS		

APRIL				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
1	Saturday	5:00 PM	St. Paul	Great Vespers
2	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
6	Wednesday	6:00 PM	St. Paul	Presanctified Liturgy
7	Friday	10:00 AM		*Annunciation Of the Holy Theotokos*
8	Saturday	10:00 AM	Two Hills	Lazarus Saturday
9	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	*Entrance into the Temple/Palm Sunday*
10	Monday	HOLY WEEK		
		6:30 PM	St. Paul	Passion Monday - Lenten Hours
12	Wednesday	6:30 PM	St. Paul	Holy Wednesday - Holy Unction
13	Thursday	4:30 PM	Bonnyville	Holy Thursday - Twelve Gospels
		7:30 PM	Two Hills	Holy Thursday - Twelve Gospels
14	Friday	4:00 PM	Bonnyville	Holy Friday - Shroud Vespers
		5:45 PM	St. Paul	Holy Friday - Shroud Vespers
		7:30 PM	Two Hills	Holy Friday - Shroud Vespers
15	Saturday	6:30 PM	Bonnyville	Paschal Matins/Basket Blessing
		9:00 PM	Two Hills	Paschal Matins/Basket Blessing
16	Sunday	**PASCHA - THE RESSURECTION OF OUR LORD**		
		6:00 AM	Nowa Bukowina	Paschal Matins - Basket Blessing
		8:00 AM	St. Paul	Paschal Divine Liturgy/Basket Blessing
23	Sunday	10:00 AM	Glendon	St. Thomas Sunday/Provody
29	Saturday	5:00 PM	Bonnyville	Great Vespers
30	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Sunday of the Myrrhbearers/Provody

MAY				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
6	Saturday	10:00 AM	Myrnam	Provody
		3:30 PM	Mamaesti	Obitnitsia/Provody
7	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	Sunday of the Paralytic/Provody

	Sunday	2:30 PM	Stry	Obitnitsia/Provody
13	Saturday	10:00 AM	Sandy Rapids	Provody
	Saturday	10:00 AM	Ispas	Provody - Brinsley/Luzan - Obitnitsia/Slawa Provody
14	Sunday	10:00 AM	Nowa Bukowina	Sunday of the Samaritan Woman/Provody
20	Saturday	10:00 AM	Szypenitz	Provody/Kaleland Provody
21	Sunday	10:00 AM	Two Hills	Sunday of the Blind Man/Provody
25	Thursday	10:00 AM		*Ascension of Our Lord*
28	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Sunday of the Fr.'s of the 1st 6 Ecu. Councils

JUNE				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
4	Sunday	10:00 AM	Glendon	*Pentecost* - Descent of the Holy Spirit
		2:30 PM	Two Hills or Myrnam	Obitnitsia
11	Sunday	10:00 AM	Sandy Rapids	Feast of All Saints - Xram
12	Monday	APOSTLES' FAST BEGINS		
18	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	Feast of All Saints - Xram
25	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	

JULY				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
2	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	4 th Sunday After Pentecost
9	Sunday	10:00 AM	Glendon	5 th Sunday After Pentecost
12	Wednesday	10:00 AM	Nowa Bukowina	Sts. Peter and Paul - Xram
		10:00 AM	Kaleland	Sts. Peter and Paul - Xram
16	Sunday	10:00 AM	Two Hills	7 th Sunday after Pentecost
23	Sunday	10:00 AM	Sandy Rapids	6 th Sunday after Pentecost
30	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	St. Elias Feast Day - Xram

AUGUST				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
2	Wednesday	10:00 AM	Luzan	Prophet St. Elias - Xram
August 3-19		FR. PETER ON HOLIDAYS		
20	Sunday	10:00 AM	Two Hills	11 th Sunday after Pentecost
27	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	12 th Sunday after Pentecost
28	Monday	10:00 AM		*Dormition of the Theotokos*