

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

**Христос посеред нас!
*Є і буде!***

**Christ is amongst us!
*He is and forever shall be!***

Fasting and Great Lent

The Feast Day of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important feast day of the year for Orthodox Christians. This day is also referred to by other names: Holy Pascha which means “Passover”, and “Easter” which is commonly heard in North America. The Orthodox Church will celebrate Pascha on April 16th this year. Before meeting this feast day, the Church has prescribed a period for the preparation of our mind, body and soul called the Triodion season. The central part of this season is Great Lent, the 40-day season of spiritual preparation preceding Pascha.

*Many thanks to the
Dwayne & Joanne Ternovoy
for sponsoring our February
Newsletter!*

*February marks the secular
celebrations of Valentines Day and
and Family Day, the Ternovoy's pray
that this month brings you the blessings
and joy of the Lord!*

The Triodion

The Triodion begins 10 weeks before Pascha. It consists of three main parts: three Pre-Lenten weeks of preparing our hearts, the six weeks of Lent, and Holy Week. The main theme of the Triodion is repentance, which means mankind’s return to God, our loving Father. This annual season of repentance is a spiritual journey with our Saviour. Our goal is to meet the risen Lord Jesus, Who reunites us with God the Father. The Father is always waiting to greet us with outstretched hands. Are we willing to turn to Him? During Great Lent, the Church teaches us how to receive Him by using the two great means of repentance – prayer and fasting.

The Pre-Lenten Weeks

Before Great Lent begins, four Sunday lessons prepare us for the Fast, stressing important themes to carry into Lent. The first Sunday, called the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, emphasizes the theme of humility. The Lord's parable in the Gospel of Luke 18:10-14 teaches that fasting with pride is rejected by God. For this reason, there is no fasting during the week following this Sunday, including on the Wednesday and Friday of that week. Usually, Wednesdays and Fridays are fast days throughout the year in remembrance of Judas's betrayal of Christ on Wednesday, and Jesus's crucifixion on Friday.

The second Pre-Lenten Sunday, called the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, carries the theme of repentance. Before we can return to God, we need to recognize that sin has distanced us from God. Like the Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32), we are in a self-imposed exile. As did the Prodigal Son, will we come to our senses and return to our Father?

The next Sunday has two names – Meat-fare Sunday and the Sunday of the Last Judgment. The second name refers to the day's Gospel lesson from St. Matthew 25:31-46. The Lord tells us that we will be judged at the end according to the love which we have shown for our brother. "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine you did for Me." Almsgiving goes hand in hand with fasting. This Sunday is called Meat-fare because it is the last day before the Lenten Fast begins that meat, fish or poultry is eaten before Pascha.

The last Pre-Lenten Sunday also is known by two names: Cheese-fare Sunday and the Sunday of Forgiveness. This is the last day dairy products are eaten before the Fast. This day's Gospel lesson from Matthew 6:14-21 tells us that our fast must not be hypocritical or "for show". Our work and our appearance are to continue as usual and our extra efforts are to be known only by God. The Gospel reading also reminds us that God the Father will forgive us in the same manner as we forgive our brother. With this promise of forgiveness, Great Lent begins on the next day.

Changes to the 2023 Service Schedule

An opportunity that was not known before the schedule was released was presented to our family and as a result the presidents have agreed to allow me to take a week of holidays at the end of March. The following schedule adjustments have been approved:

Sunday, March 19th - Two Hills Service MOVED and will be held in Bonnyville.



Wednesday, March 22nd - Presanctified Liturgy in Bonnyville

Sunday, March 26th - Bonnyville Service CANCELLED

Fr. Peter on Holidays - March 24th - March 31st

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 5th	 <p><i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14</p>	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 12th	 <p>The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32</p>	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 19th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <p>The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46</p>	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 26th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <p>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21</p>	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 5th	 <p><i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51</p>	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 12th	 <p>ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12</p>	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 19th	 <p>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1</p>	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 26th	 <p>ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31</p>	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 2nd	 <p>ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45</p>	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 9th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <p><i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18</p>	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 14th	 <p>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE</p>	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 16th NO FASTING!	 <p><i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17</p>	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Theophany House Blessings



Thank you to all those who offered prayers and messages when I fell ill at the beginning of the month. Unfortunately, my family has also suffered the same stomach illness and it set back my house blessings as I wanted to make sure it was out of our home before I continued.

I will be resuming blessings following February 5th, so if you have already signed up and I haven't contacted you, I will be doing so in the coming week.

If you haven't and would still like your house blessed, please let me know!

1. Fill out the Google Form: <https://forms.gle/77vJ1aENGEaNA5Era6>
2. Contact Fr. Peter directly via phone: **(587) 252-2715**.
3. Email Fr. Peter at pmthaugen@hotmail.com

Once Fr. Peter has heard from those who are interested, he will contact you with a scheduled day and time that he will visit.

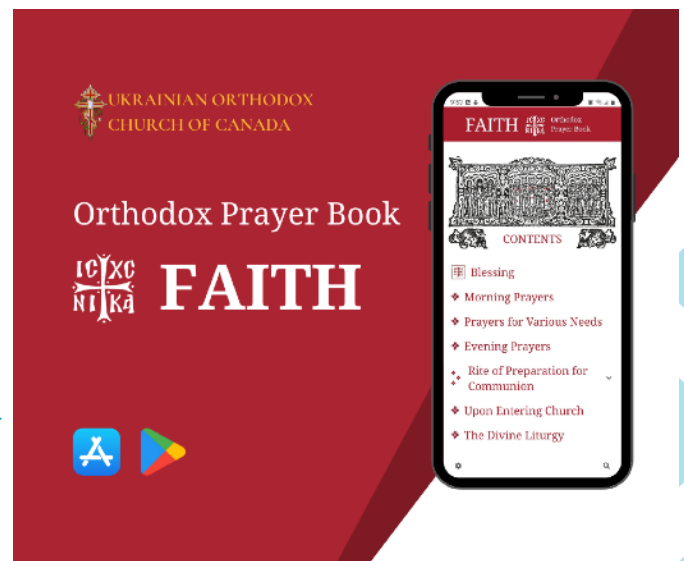
Annual General Meetings

The Annual General Meetings for ***Kiev's K Hi Camp*** and the ***Bonnyville District of Parishes*** will be taking place following the ***fellowship in Bonnyville on Sunday, February 26th.***

ПРАВОСЛАВНИЙ МОЛИТОВНИК ВІРА/
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Bonnyville & District Ukrainian Orthodox Parish Council Society/

Two Hills Parish District - 2023 Schedule of Services

Note: Services may be cancelled due to inclement weather. If weather is a concern, please contact the President listed to learn service status. This is an accurate schedule as of December 2022, but please consider this a living document and subject to change. Any questions or concerns should be raised with your Parish President or Fr. Peter.

JANUARY				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
1	Sunday	NO SERVICE WITHIN DISTRICT		
7	Saturday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	*Nativity of our Lord*
8	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Glendon Service Hosted in Bonnyville
15	Sunday	10:00 AM	Two Hills	31 st Sunday After Pentecost
18	Wednesday	5:00 PM	Bonnyville	Eve of Theophany - Water Blessing
19	Thursday	10:00 AM	Two Hills	*THEOPHANY* Great Water Blessing
22	Sunday	10:00 AM	Nowa Bukowina	32 nd Sunday After Pentecost
28	Saturday	5:00 PM	Bonnyville	Great Vespers
29	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	33 rd Sunday After Pentecost

FEBRUARY				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
5	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
12	Sunday	10:00 AM	Glendon	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
15	Wednesday	10:00 AM		*Meeting of our Lord in the Temple*
18	Saturday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	ALL DISTRICT MEMORIAL SATURDAY
19	Sunday	10:00 AM	Two Hills	Meatfare Sunday
25	Saturday	5:00 PM	Bonnyville	Great Vespers
26	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Sunday of Forgiveness/ Cheesefare Sunday
27	Monday	BEGINNING OF GREAT LENTEN FAST		
	Monday	6:00 PM	St. Paul	Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

MARCH				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
4	Saturday	5:00 PM	St. Paul	Great Vespers
5	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	Sunday of Orthodoxy
		5:00 PM	Thorhild	Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers
12	Sunday	10:00 AM	Nowa Bukowina	Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

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