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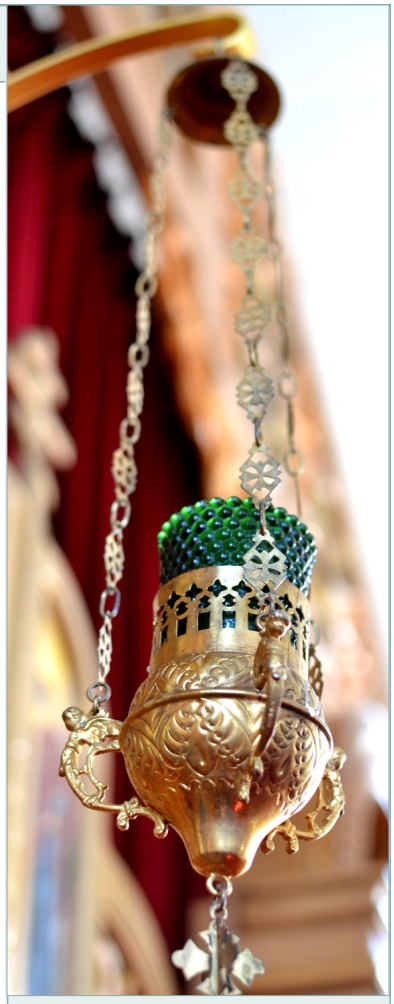
April 2020
Volume 7, Issue 1

Bonnyville & District Parish News



Sponsors!

Our fundraising committee has begun a new campaign - Newsletter Sponsorship! If you are interested in how you can sponsor a newsletter, please see Caroline Yewchin.

Many thanks to **Dwayne & Joanne Ternovoy** for sponsoring the April Newsletter.

Stillwater Resort
"You'll wanna be here!"
P: 780-645-3402

Message from the Ternovoy's

In these difficult times as we are compelled to distance ourselves from each other by the laws of our country, let us not distance ourselves from God. Continue to be strong in your fast and continue with your Easter baskets as always, with your families, as we celebrate CHRIST'S RESURRECTION! It is only by God's will that we will survive this epidemic, and by Him we are blessed!

PARISH CLOSURES

By the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Yurij, at the directions of the Health Authorities of Canada, our parishes are closed due to the threat of COVID-19. All parish gatherings, events, and services are cancelled until it is safe to return to our Churches. Should you have any questions, please contact Fr. Peter Haugen.

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Western Eparchy
www.uocc-we.ca

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www.bonnyvilleanddistrictuoc.ca/

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www.ancientfaith.com

PASTORAL MESSAGE
Submitted by Fr. Peter Haugen

Христос Воскрес! Christ is Risen!
Воістину Воскрес! Indeed He is Risen!

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

As I send out this newsletter electronically on the Eve of Palm Sunday, I greet you joyfully with a smile on my face singing loudly "Hosanna in the Highest!". These last few weeks we have faced so many unexpected and unprecedented changes in our daily lives, but we must continue to keep our faith and our trust in God.

For those who are weary in your isolation, it is important to remember that we are doing this to help safeguard our neighbor, our community, our province, and our country from this Pandemic. We are doing our part, so that the medical community and all those keeping our society going may do theirs. I wish to reiterate some of the words sent out from our Patriarch, His All Holiness Bartholomew, in his address from March 20th:

"*We sincerely thank all those who need through self-sacrifice, and even neglecting their own people and their families:*

- *Medical and care staff, who are at the end of our people who have become sick,*
- *Researchers and qualified scientists, who are looking for appropriate pharmaceutical therapy and the vaccine deliverer from this virus, but also to those who are actively involved in keeping this pandemic under control.*

Beloved, your intake (sacrifice) is priceless value. It is an offering reported to the entire society. A sacrifice that deserves all the honor and gratitude.

Thank you and we all applaud you, not just from the balconies of our homes, but every moment, with all our hearts. Our thought and prayers are with you."

Let us also not allow ourselves to question our Heirarchy during this time, but rather, pray for them! The decision to close churches, suspend the distribution of the Eucharist, and cancel the tradition of blessing palms and Paschal baskets, was likely the most difficult decision that our bishops throughout the world will ever have to make. But I again echo the words of His All Holiness:

"Some of you may have felt that through these drastic measures, faith is underestimated or offended.

But what is in danger,
it is not faith, but the believers,
is not Christ, but our Christians,
it is not God-Man but we humans.

Our faith is deeply founded in the roots of our culture. Our faith is alive, and no exceptional situation can narrow it down (coerce). What needs to be narrow because of the current exceptional situation is the meetings, the gatherings where many

people meet. Let's stay home. Let's protect ourselves and protect those around us. There, each of you pray for all humanity, lean on the power of our spiritual unity."

This Pascha will be different, but our faith need not change.
This Pascha will be isolated, but we need not be alone.
This Pascha may be humble, but let us rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord.

I hope and pray that all of you, to the best of your ability, have been taking part in the services online. These services have been and will continue to be instrumental in our participation in worship from our homes. Up to this point, we may have participated in these services in a more casual manner. I for one, can safely say this is the first time I have experienced a Divine Liturgy with my dog cuddling up to my feet. But this coming week is different and as we approach not just Holy Week, but especially Pascha, I pray you are able to experience the services as we normally would within our own parishes.

But more importantly, do not allow this pandemic or our isolation to weaken your faith or to bring you to excuses. You should actually participate in worship while taking in these livestreams. Cross yourself, sing along with the choir, and have the epistle and gospel ready to read along. Just because we are in our homes does not mean we cannot be in Church. And please, dear brothers and sisters, keep this Pascha as you would any other!

- Make your Paschal Baskets!
- Get dressed in your Paschal best!
- Call your family and sing "Christ is Risen" with them!
- Gather around your table and eat the blessed meal.

Within this newsletter are the directives and instructions from His Grace, Bishop Ilarion, regarding the blessing of baskets in our homes for this year. His Grace will be serving the Paschal Divine Liturgy at 7:00 am on Pascha, I will be sending out the links as they become available but I am asking you all to do your best to participate. I would love for us to do what we can to gather a district community, and as such, I am asking you and your immediate family to gather around your table at 9:30 am, at which point you should bless your baskets as instructed by His Grace. This way, we will all be partaking not just in the Paschal Divine Liturgy, but in our blessed meals together despite being in our own homes.

Please reach out to me if you have any concerns of question during this time of parish closures throughout the pandemic.

I pray that God continue to grant you all the faith, strength, patience, and love needed to see us through this time!

Yours In Christ,

Fr. Peter Haugen

DIRECTIVE FROM HIS GRACE, BISHOP ILARION, CONCERNING THE BLESSING OF PASCHAL BASKETS FOR 2020

Reverend Fathers! Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

As you are all aware, we continue to be under strict, yet necessary protective measures from our provincial and federal health authorities.

Due to the projection that the expected peak of COVID-19 will be in May, 2020, Alberta Health Services is advising that the blessing of palm/willow branches, or Paschal Baskets shall not be held in public for this year.

As a temporary measure for this year, the household is encouraged gather around their dinner table with their Paschal meal.

This is the Paschal blessing to use in your home this year:

1. Sing **"Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and those in the tombs, bestowing Life! !"** (3 times),

2. Say or sing:
"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"

3. Say:
O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, You blessed the food of Your disciples. Bless also this food, for we believe in You, we hope in You, we pray to You, and we glorify You, unto the ages of ages. Amen.

4. The head of the family greets all around the table with "**Christ is Risen!" (3 times)**.

Though the blessing and sharing of the Paschal meal is an important and treasured tradition in our homes and in our Churches, this temporary measure will allow us to participate in, and keep our connection with, our faith as we celebrate the Radiant, Bright and Glorious Resurrection of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

MESSAGE FROM OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT— RON RUSAK

Glory to Jesus Christ!

In this holiest of times, we would normally be celebrating Holy Week and Christ's resurrection with our family and our parish family. Unfortunately, with the serious challenges of COVID-19 this will not be possible this year. It is very important that we observe the advice of our medical experts to remain at home and isolate ourselves.

Being isolated does not mean we cannot participate in Holy Week. There will be services online for those of you that have the technology. We can all read from our bibles, we can pray, we can bless our own baskets, and we can sing Khristos Voskres.

As you prepare for this week's liturgy, please remember that our parishes reply solely on donations. Since gatherings have been banned these donations have declined considerably. If you are able to provide financial support, we humbly ask that you consider making a donation to your parish or the parishes you would have worshiped in.

We miss our Parish Family but we will be together soon. Until then, be safe.

Glory forever!

Ron Rusnak

Newsletter Submissions Needed!

Please keep the submissions for the newsletter coming! Announcements, reports, stories, photos... If you want to share it, we want to see it! Please feel free to submit to me anytime.

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pmthaugen@hotmail.com

If anyone you know is in the Hospital, or are at home ill and would like a visitation from me, please contact me and I will make immediate arrangements to meet with them.

TRADITIONS OF HOLY WEEK

Submitted by Nettie Ostapiw

Sviachenia: The Blessing of the Traditional Easter Foods

Historically, the lenten period was a period of fasting and abstaining from meat and dairy products every day. To show their joy and gratitude at the end of this strict fast, people took to the Divine Liturgy celebrated on Easter morning food which was blessed and which they later ate at their Easter "break-fast."

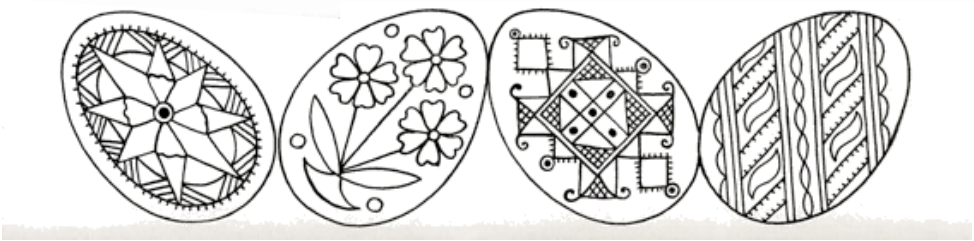
This custom of blessing the foods which will be consumed on Easter continues in all Ukrainian churches. There cannot be anyone who has ever eaten the traditional Easter breakfast of hard-boiled eggs, various meats and sausages, cheese or cheese-like foods, horseradish, butter, and the beautiful paska without feeling this meal is special, as it is, for each of these foods has symbolic meanings which reflect the faith of our people.

The Eggs: Krashanky and Pysanky

The egg is often likened to the tomb from which Christ arose. Jesus came out of the tomb like a living chick comes out of an egg which looks dead. With the special meaning of hope, of the emergence of new life, and of the Resurrection, the decoration of pysanky with Christian symbols is fitting, and the sharing of the pysanky with friends and relatives shows the good wishes given to them. The krashanky (plain colored hard-boiled eggs) will be used to first break the fast, and the sharing of one egg by all members of the family shows family unity and hope for a good life in the year ahead.

The Meat Products: Ham, Roasted Lamb, Sausage

All meat products represent the animals used in sacrifice in the Old Testament, and remind us of the sacrifice of our Savior Jesus Christ, who became for us "a Lamb of God, taking away the sins of the world." Meats also remind us of the story of the fattened calf prepared by the father for the Prodigal Son; the analogy is the Lord giving His Son to mankind who



sinned. Ham symbolizes freedom from the Old Law which did not allow some kinds of meat; the New Law began with the Resurrection. Roasted lamb is symbolic of Jesus, the Paschal Lamb by whose blood we are saved. Sausage represents the links of the chains of death which were broken when Christ rose from the dead.

The Dairy Products: Butter and Cheese

Butter in the shape of a lamb can also remind us of Jesus, the Paschal Lamb. All dairy products are related to the prophesies which told of the prosperity and peace of the Messianic times and are symbolic of the special gifts which God gives us.

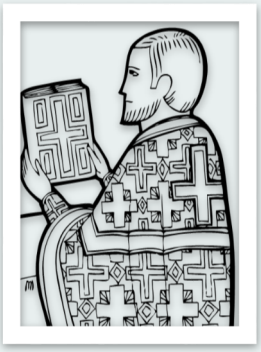
The Easter Breads: Paska and Babka

Bread is symbolic of Jesus Christ, the "Living Bread," who "came down from heaven to give life eternal to the world." The richness of this bread, both in ingredients and in decoration, is a reflection of the special meaning it holds. Bread reminds us of Jesus, who in the Eucharist is the true bread of everlasting life and who nourishes our souls as the bread nourishes our bodies.

The Horseradish and The Salt

Horseradish was part of the original Passover meal as a reminder to Jews of the bitterness and harshness of life in Egypt. To Christians, the horseradish represents the bitterness of sin and the hardships we must go through in life because of the original sin. The horseradish sweetened with red beets reminds us of the bitterness of the Passion of Christ which He overcame in glory through His Sacrifice and Resurrection.

Salt is a reflection of Christ's words: "You are the salt of the earth," which we Christians must follow. Salt is also a symbol of fast and self-denial.



Liturgical Scripture Readings

APRIL *2020*

April 5th, 2020
5th Sunday of Great Lent, Ven. Mary of Egypt. Tone 1
Epistle - Heb. 9:11-14; Ven. Mother: Gal. 3:23-29
Gospel - Mk. 10:32-45; Ven. Mother: Lk. 7:36-50

April 12th, 2020
Palm Sunday, Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem
Epistle - Phil. 4:4-9;
Gospel - Jn. 12:1-18.

April 19th , 2020
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST
Epistle - Acts 1:1-8;
Gospel - Jn. 1:1-17.

April 26th , 2020
2nd Sunday after Pascha, Sunday of St. Thomas
Epistle - Acts 5:12-20;
Gospel - Jn. 20:19-31.

Easter — The Great Day

Early on Easter morning, the faithful arrive at the church for Resurrection Services. Before the mass begins, the whole congregation, guards carrying the crucifix and the banners, the priest, and altar boys sounding the kalatala take part in a procession similar to the one on Good Friday, with the Plaschenytsia being carried three times around the church until the procession stops in front of the closed church doors. The priest begins singing the triumphant Easter song, "Khrystos Voskres (Christ is Risen)," and then the whole congregation repeats the hymn. The priest opens the doors to the church, and all now singing "Khrystos Voskres"for a third time, the faithful go to the pews, and then Mass begins. This procession is to remind us of the journey of the women who came on Easter morning to annoint the body of Christ at His Tomb; the closed doors symbolize the impossibility of entering the Kingdom of God before the Resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ, while the opening of the church doors and singing of "Khrystos Voskres" tells us that the Resurrection is now a reality.

During the Mass on Easter, the singing of the hymn "Khrystos Voskres" by the congregation shows the joy and hope felt because of Christ's Resurrection. The refrain of "Khrystos Voskres" is repeated many times — each time with increased emotion.

In the Ukraine, and still in some localities today in the United States and Canada, the Resurrection Services are followed by the blessing of the baskets of traditional Easter foods (see earlier section).

After Mass, the members of the congregation exchange kisses and the greeting "Khrystos Voskres (Christ is Risen)" is answered to with the phrase, "Voistynu Voskres (He is truly Risen)!"

ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!

ВОЇСТИНУ ВОСКРЕС!

PRAYER IN TIMES OF EPIDEMIC

Prayer in the Time of Ruinous Pestilence (Epidemic)*

O Lord, our God, Who is rich in compassion and mercy; Who directs our life by Your wise Providence. Hear our prayer, accept the repentance of our sins, bring an end to the ruinous pestilence that befalls us as You have, in times before, eradicated ruinous pestilence from among your people.

O Compassionate Saviour! Preserve the health of those who hope in You. O Physician of our souls and bodies, grant recovery to those who are ill and raise them up from their beds of malady and suffering. O Lord, bless, strengthen and protect, by Your grace, all those engaged, of their charity and generosity, in caring for the sick: both in hospitals and in their homes. Deliver the people of our city *(village, monastery)*, our country, and throughout the world from ruinous pestilence, from illnesses and sufferings, and teach us to value life and good health – as gifts from You. Grant us, O God, Your peace. Fill our hearts with unwavering faith in Your protection, with hope in Your succour, with love for You and for our neighbours.

For Yours it is to have mercy upon us and to save us, O our God, and unto You we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Затверджено Священним Синодом Православної Церкви України. Переклад англійською мовою Української Православної Церкви в Канаді (з благословення Високопреосвященнішого Митрополита Юрія).*
**Approved by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Translation into English by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij)*

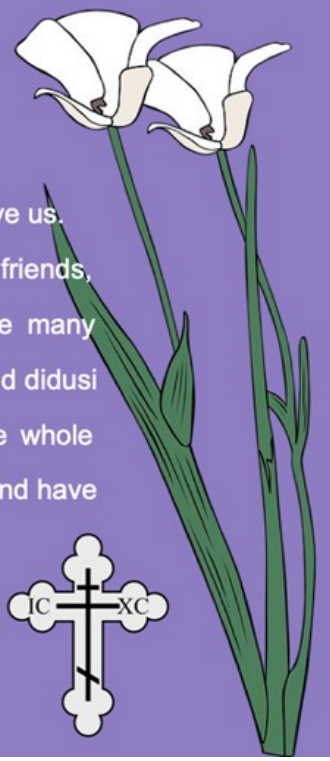
PRAYER FOR THE YOUTH DURING COVID-19

A prayer from **His Eminence Metropolitan Yuri**

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen! (3 times)

Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on us. We love You and we believe that You love us. We know that You love Your Father and the Holy Spirit, your Mother, Mary, your friends, the Holy Apostles, the Holy Myrrh-Bearers and many others. We also love many people. Protect us, our mama (mom) and tato (dad), babuni (grandmothers) and didusi (grandfathers), our whole family, our Church, our country, our nation and the whole world from the virus that is making the people that we love sick. Hear us Lord, and have mercy on us. Amen.

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen! (3 times)



KIEV'S K HI IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Full Board of Directors and Parish Delegates met on Saturday, April 11th, and after discussion and deliberation it has been decided to cancel the Kiev's K Hi camp session for the summer of 2020 due to the threat of COVID-19.

This decision is not an easy decision to make, but it is being made in the best interest and safety of our campers, counselors, volunteers, and staff.

In addition to the summer camp program, the Kiev's K Hi campsite is closed. Stall rentals and day visits are not permitted for the duration of the season as we cannot guarantee the safety of our visitors during this time.

Should you have any questions, please contact our President Krista Ketsa at kketsa@mcsnet.ca.

We pray for the health and safety for all of our Kiev's K Hi family, and we look forward to seeing all of you Summer 2021!

"O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. Have mercy on me, a sinner ."
-Jesus Prayer

WEBSITE

Don't forget we have a website!
It is under a bit of construction, but you can find updates, locations, and a long term schedule there. Photos will be coming soon as well. Check it out!

www.bonnyvilleanddistrictuoc.ca/

We're also on Facebook!
Look up:

Bonnyville District of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

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Dwayne Ternovoy
780-614-0858

St. Elias
Bonnyville, AB
Janet Hutskal
780-573-3470

Sts. Peter & Paul
Nowa Bukowina, AB
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780-645-4815

Holy Trinity
Glendon, AB
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780-645-3760

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Ron Rusnak
780-826-2062

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