
PASCHAL NEWSLETTER

Pastoral Message

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you with the Holy and Great Feast of Christ's glorious victory and resurrection from the dead! This year has presented us with unforeseen challenges and I am grateful that we are able to once again celebrate this Feast of Feasts in our Churches. I commend all of our hard working presidents and parish volunteers that have continued to make our in person services possible despite the changes that we have had to face.

Please take your time to read through this newsletter as it contains information on the various procedures that we will be following throughout the celebration of Pascha and the grave blessing services. The guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of our parishioners and to protect myself, the executives, and the parishes from liability.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask or contact your parish president.

Yours in the Risen Christ,
Fr. Peter Haugen

Service Schedule for Holy Week and PASCHA - 2021

Holy Week

Thursday, April 29th - Holy Thursday 12 Gospels - St. Elias, Bonnyville, 6:30 PM

Friday, April 30th - Holy Friday Shroud Vespers - St. Elias Bonnyville, 5:00 PM

Holy Friday Shroud Vespers - All Saints, St. Paul, 7:00 PM

Paschal Services

Saturday, May 1st - Paschal Matins/First Blessing of Baskets - St. Elias, Bonnyville, 7:30 PM

Second Blessing of Baskets - St. Elias, Bonnyville, 8:30 PM

SUNDAY, MAY 2nd - Paschal Matins/ DIVINE LITURGY - All Saints, St. Paul, 7:30 AM



PASCHAL LETTER

PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX BISHOPS
BEYOND THE BORDERS OF UKRAINE

PASCHA!

A Message from the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine to the Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of Ukraine and the Diaspora.

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.” (Conclusion of the Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom, read during Paschal Matins at the FEAST OF FEASTS – the RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST)

Dearly beloved Sisters and Brothers in our Lord,

CHRIST IS RISEN! ХРИСТОС БОЖЕЖИВ!

Our Lord and Savior has offered Himself up on the Precious and Life-Giving Cross, suffered under the torture of human hands, was buried and on this third day, He has “risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs bestowing life!” How do we express our love and gratitude to the One Who opened the gates of Heaven to us all – both the living and the dead? First and most important, we do not express that love and gratitude only during the celebration of the Resurrection FEAST. We offer them every day in prayer.

We offer them in the ways we relate to one another. We offer that love and gratitude through every single, miniscule decision or choice that we make through the course of a day. We offer them through the mercy, comfort and compassion with which we embrace those who are different from us in any way.

We no longer fear death, says St. John, because our Savior has annihilated death! Ours is to take up the life that He has given us, victorious over demons and rejoicing with the angels, knowing that none of us is left behind. Basking in the Resurrection LIGHT that shines forth from the empty tomb and filled with the Grace inspired into us through all the Sacraments, we can work miracles in a world that all too often seems dark and still consumed with death. We are victorious in Christ. We CAN be the LIGHT that transforms the whole world and to all who choose that darkness.

Oh, what opportunity we have in our world’s present circumstances! We are confronted with a pandemic and the isolation associated with it, with racial strife and its horrific manifestations and with crippling and destructive political division. In all this we have opportunity to witness to the world as did the new Christians who conquered a much darker world in the first centuries after our Lord’s Ascension to Heaven. When they came together in worship, many times in caves, the space literally throbbed with anticipation in the contemplation of the Resurrection Power that was theirs. They could barely hold themselves back until

the conclusion of the worship service so that they could go back out into the world to bear witness to a God Who loved them perhaps more than they loved themselves. They had a mission and a ministry of serving others – being Christ to them – in that love – the same mission to which we are called today.

Our prayer as we celebrate the FEAST OF FEASTS, dearly beloved, is that today your hearts are throbbing because of the Resurrection Power that is also yours. Not all are called to preach to the world, but we all are inspired with the Grace that can and will enable us to utilize that Power. We all can reach into the lives of those whose lives intersect with ours. We can be peacemakers when we witness hatred in speech or in deed. We can speak the positive, perhaps changing the perspective through which the individuals involved view a situation or a heated argument. This Power given to us also enables us to be merciful, pure in heart, hungry and thirsty for righteousness, meek and unselfish.

The pathway to salvation has been provided by our Risen Lord, throughout His public ministry and especially through the days of Holy Week. Let us now follow that pathway anew as we enter into Bright Week. The world needs us! Nothing is more certain in life than the promise of salvation for those of who live in sincere faith and trust in our Risen Lord. May the Grace of our Risen Lord, the Love of God the Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all as you follow the “narrow path” that leads to salvation.

INDEED HE IS RISEN!

With Archpastoral blessings,

+ YURIJ – Metropolitan
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ ANTONY – Metropolitan
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America and Diaspora

+ JEREMIAH – Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America

+ DANIEL – Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

+ ILARION – Bishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ ANDRIY – Bishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada



Order of the Paschal Basket Blessing

This year's blessing of baskets will look a little different than it has in years past. Please read the following carefully to ensure that our basket blessing may occur safely. All of our Covid protocols sent out earlier in the year remain in effect, please keep social distancing in mind throughout all of our upcoming celebrations.



-When you arrive at the Church, please park with your trunk facing the inside of the parking lot. (As seen in the photo)

-If you are attending the 7:30pm service in Bonnyville on Holy Saturday or the Paschal Divine Liturgy Sunday morning in St. Paul, you may leave your basket in your vehicle during the service.

-Following the service, the dismissal will occur as per our recent practice of bowing in veneration before the icon, receiving a portion of the antidoron (blessed

bread) from Fr. Peter, and proceeding directly to your vehicle with the members of your household.

- Those wanting to have their baskets blessed will display their baskets in the trunk of their vehicle, with the trunk door left open. (As shown here——>)

- Once the basket is displayed and prepared, all members of the household must wait in the vehicle.

- Only the Cross bearer, the cantor, Fr. Peter, and Palamar will be allowed to walk around during the blessing.

- Following the blessing of baskets, one member of the family may exit the vehicle while masked to prepare the basket for travel. Once this is finished, return to your vehicle and exit the parking lot in an orderly manner.



Order of Provody (Grave Blessings)

The District Presidents and I met to discuss how Provody would work this year as we recognize the importance that these services hold for many of our faithful. Last year, only Fr. Peter proceeded to the cemeteries and blessed each of the graves without any of the district families present. It is our intention to allow the grave blessing services to proceed with our families gathered, which is why we have decided to bless all of the graves over the course of two weekends and have scheduled these weekends as late as possible into the paschal season.



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

The days that are being set aside for Provody are as follows:

Saturday, May 29th - Nowa Bukowina, Glendon

Sunday, May 30th - St. Paul

Saturday, June 5th - Sandy Rapids, Stry

Sunday, June 6th - Bonnyville (Big Meadow)

At this time, only 20 people are able to gather at any one time within the cemetery, as such we are waiting until closer to the dates before any instructions are given. Please understand, that depending on the government protocols, that several options may be possible. We may not be able to have families present at all and only have Fr. Peter bless the graves again, we may be only able to have our local families without the presence of out of town guests, or the restrictions may be loosened by that time and provody may proceed similar to a normal year.

I will update all of our families by the 23rd of May with clear directions on how the grave blessing services will proceed.

Fr. Peter is continuing in his pastoral care of our parishioners to the best of my abilities in the following ways:

- Phone calls
- Online Pastoral sessions
- In person sessions within the St. Elias Parish
- In person sessions within a restaurant keeping social distance (when permitted)
- Text message support of our Parishioners

I will continue to make myself available when there is a need, but as always, ***please reach out to me*** if you yourself are in need of a pastoral visit, or know someone that may benefit from one, and I will do my best to reach out in an appropriate and safe manner.

Phone Number: 587-252-2715



Bonnyville & District Ukrainian Orthodox Parish Council Society - ALTERNATE COVID Schedule - 2021

Note: This is an accurate schedule as of December 2020, but please consider this a living document and subject to change. We will continue to monitor the announcements of the Provincial Health Authorities and make changes as necessary. The Sunday Collection each Sunday will be for the Volunteering Parish on the rotation listed below. Any questions or concerns should be raised with your Parish President or Fr. Peter.

APRIL				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Volunteer Parish/Description
4	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	Glendon/Adoration of the Cross
7	Wednesday	6:00 PM	St. Paul	Presanctified Liturgy
11	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Bonnyville/ Fourth Sunday of Great Lent
14	Wednesday	6:00 PM	Bonnyville	Presanctified Liturgy
18	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	Nowa Bukowina/Fifth Sunday of Sunday
25	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Sandy Rapids *Entrance into the Temple/Palm Sunday*
26	Monday	HOLY WEEK		
26	Monday	6:30 PM	St. Paul	Passion Monday - Lenten Hours
29	Thursday	6:30 PM	Bonnyville	Holy Thursday - Twelve Gospels
30	Friday	5:00 PM	Bonnyville	Holy Friday - Shroud Vespers
		7:00 PM	St. Paul	Holy Friday - Shroud Vespers

MAY				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Volunteer Parish/Description
1	Saturday	9:00 PM	Bonnyville	Paschal Matins/Basket Blessing
2	Sunday	**PASCHA - THE RESSURECTION OF OUR LORD**		
		7:30 AM	St. Paul	Paschal Matins&Divine Liturgy/Basket Blessing
9	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Bonnyville
16	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	St. Paul
23	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bonnyville	Nowa Bukowina
30	Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Paul	Glendon