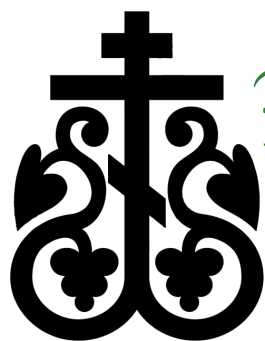


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Bonnyville & District Parish News

PASCHAL EPISTLE

of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops

*To the God-beloved Presbyters, Honourable Monastics, and All Faithful
Children of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the Diaspora and in Ukraine,*

*“Angels in heaven, O Christ Saviour,
praise your Resurrection with hymns,
make us worthy here on earth
to glorify You
with a pure heart.”
(Paschal Stykhyra)*

*Rt. Reverend, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers!
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!*

CHRIST IS RISEN!

On this joyful and holy day of the Most-glorious and Divine Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ, we extend most heartfelt greetings to all you Orthodox Christians with the feast of the Lord's Pascha! The magnificent feast of the Resurrection of Christ calls all of us to consider again the eternal treasures of Christian teaching and offers a golden opportunity to fill our hearts with goodness and love for God and neighbour. The Resurrection of Christ unites us all through faith in the victory of light over darkness, goodness over evil and life over death. The Holy Apostle James reminds us that “as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (Jam 2:26) And so, on these joyful days of Pascha, we should endeavour with especial diligence to prayerfully alleviate the suffering of those oppressed by sorrow, encourage the downcast, perform acts of mercy, love and compassion, and help those in need, who are waiting for us to offer our aid.

Every person, and perhaps even whole nations, experience in their lives various hardships, derision, suffering and at such times often talk about the vic-



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**Ukrainian Orthodox
Church of Canada**

www.uocc.ca

Western Eparchy

www.uocc-we.ca

**Bonnyville/St. Paul
Parochial District**

www.bonnyvilleanddistrictuoc.ca/

Ancient Faith Radio

www.ancientfaith.com

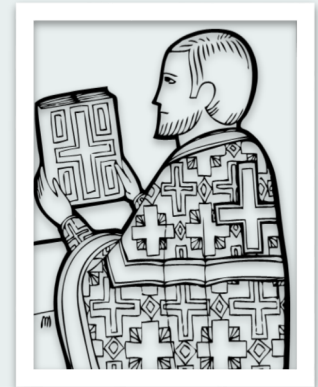
tory of evil over good. How many times in our own lives have we ourselves fallen into despair? And so, in order to avoid disenchantment and discouragement, we must remember that evil and untruth are overcome and conquered through the Resurrection of Christ. With faith in the Risen Christ many generations of Christians have finished their earthly journey, accomplished their ascetic struggle of fasting and prayer, patiently endured suffering and sorrow and accepted death, firmly believing in the coming resurrection and eternal life with Christ. St. John Chrysostom stated, “Today people have joined together with the angels, and, clothed in flesh, together with the bodiless powers now offer hymns. Today the dominion of the devil is destroyed, today the bonds of death are broken, the victory of evil and hell is overcome. By His Resurrection Christ has opened to us the path to salvation”.

The Pascha of Christ has especially great meaning for every Ukrainian this year. We all believe and pray that the Resurrected Christ will assist our Ukrainian people and our homeland of Ukraine to be victorious over her enemy and overcome all difficulties and obstacles which our people are facing. We know that Christ the Saviour also experienced a Golgotha, after which came the Resurrection. These words give hope to our Ukrainian nation that we will be vouchsafed exceptional joy, peace, and unity following the cruel war and enmity. Our faith would not exist without the Resurrection of Christ. There would be no eternal life and without faith. Consequently, our purpose and essence of our spirituality is our belief in the Risen Christ. The Resurrection of Christ has become the heart and foundation of Christianity. The Holy Church prayerfully calls upon heaven and earth in celebration of this divine joy: “Let the heavens worthily rejoice, and let the earth be glad. Let the whole world, both visible and invisible, keep the feast; for Christ, our Eternal Joy, is Risen” (*Tropar of the 1st Ode of the Paschal Canon*). May this bright Paschal joy encourage us once again to offer our thanks to the Lord for His great and limitless love for us!

How should Christians respond to this Divine Love and sacrifice for us sinners? We should orient our whole life towards gratitude to God, to the fulfilling of His Commandments and to learning how to love one another as God has loved us. The path to realizing this goal has been revealed to us by the power of the Resurrection of Christ.

Following the Resurrection, the Lord appeared to the Apostles and greeted them with the words “*Peace be unto you.*” After hearing Christ’s words, the Apostles felt this peace in their hearts and they felt joy and the Peace of God instead of fear. Today, the words “*Peace be unto you*” are very important and relevant for the Ukrainian people. The Peace which is brought by Christ is also the Peace between nations and people.

In celebrating the Pascha of Christ, we should remember that the world today has many conflicts and injustices which give rise to resistance and opposition. We are not lacking in this respect. And so, may the greeting of Christ the Saviour – “*Peace be unto you*” – resound throughout the world, especially in our Ukraine. For our part, let us also hear the voice of the Resurrected Christ for on-



Liturgical Scripture Readings

April 2015

Sunday, April 5th

6th Sunday of
Great Lent

Epistle: Phil. 4:4-9;
Gospel: John 12:1-18.

Sunday, April 12th

PASCHA

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8;
Gospel: John 1:1-17.

Sunday, April 19th

2nd Sunday of PASCHA

St. Thomas Sunday

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20;
Gospel: John 20:19-31.

Sunday, April 26th

3rd Sunday of PASCHA

Myrrh-bearing Women

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7;
Gospel: Mark 15:43-
16:8.

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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T0A 3A1

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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.

ly sincere and patient love brings us the gift of this long-awaited Peace.

During these joyful spring days, the hopes and expectations of the people for a better future awaken along with the blossoming earth. Therefore, let us strive to increase our good deeds and positive thoughts, which will contribute to the renewal and unity of our Ukrainian nation.

On the occasion of these festal Paschal days, we again extend our most heartfelt greetings to the clergy, deaconate, and monastics of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the Diaspora, to our youth and children, to all the pious Ukrainian Orthodox people in Ukraine and in the Diaspora, and especially to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine who are experiencing various kinds of difficulties and tribulations defending their homeland.

We believe and pray that a unified Orthodox Church will be established in Ukraine with the Lord's help. Only under the conditions of spiritual unity will the Ukrainian people achieve a united nation. A strong Ukrainian society cannot exist without spiritual unity. Thus, may peace, love, and unity always be among us! On this joyous day of the Glorious Resurrection of Christ, let us forgive one another all insults and offenses, embrace each other and joyfully sing: "Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life!"

Truly, Christ is Risen!

With Archpastoral Blessings,

† **YURIJ**, Metropolitan

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **ANTONY**, Metropolitan

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Locum Tenens of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

† **IOAN**, Archbishop

Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

† **JEREMIAH**, Archbishop

Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Brazil and South America

† **ILARION**, Bishop

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **ANDRIY**, Bishop

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **DANIEL**, Bishop

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

PALM (WILLOW) SUNDAY (SHUTKOVA NEDILIA) :

From Palm Sunday bulletin for St. Elia's Parish, Edmonton, AB.

Commemorates Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The willows (used in place of palms) represent the scourging of Christ, and give rise to a practice among Ukrainians to tap each other with the willows and say:



Лоза б'є,
Я не б'ю,
від нині за тиждень,
буде Великдень

The willow is hitting,
I'm not hitting,
one week from today,
it will be Easter



Below: Our Easter workshops were a great success again this year.

8 participants tried their hand at pysanky while 12(!) ladies came out to learn the secret to making a ram out of butter. Father Peter will have quite the flock to bless this PASCHA!

Any other photos and updates from our district workshops are welcome for the next newsletter.



Above, left & below: Many hands make light work! Members of All Saints in St. Paul spent two evenings painting a banner designed by Dobr. Erin which will hang along main street over the summer as part of a downtown revitalization project.

Thanks to Amil Shapka for recruiting us.

Can't wait to see it hanging!



THE REACH PROJECT:

Submitted by Caroline Yewchin



The Reach Project

The last two articles discussed the need for our church family to “Reach Up” and grow in faith and “Reach In” to support and nurture relationships within our congregations. This final article will address the third part of The Reach Project, “**Reach Out**”.

Reaching out means several things: doing “good works” in the community, such as charity projects; evangelizing and bringing people to our faith; and insuring that the Orthodox Church is known in the larger community, by participation in community events.

1. Good Works

Is doing good works necessary to our faith? Isn't it enough that we believe, go to church, pray? Let's look to scripture for an answer:

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James 2: 14-17

It is clear that we are called to help others in need. Here are some suggestions.... may they be a springboard for discussion.

- Brainstorm with your congregation: are there any **families** in your community who are in need? A family travelling to Edmonton to the Stollery Children's hospital might sincerely need and appreciate a fuel gift card, hospital parking passes or gift certificate for a hotel.

The sick child might take comfort from receiving a homemade quilt or fuzzy blanket; a bag with activities; or a card from children in the congregation.

It is not necessary to know the family; but know of them and that they are in need.

THE REACH PROJECT CONTINUED:

- Are there any **organizations** in the community that can be partnered with? For example, do a semi-annual drive for the Food Bank; sponsor a pyrohy lunch for Parent Link Moms and tots; contact the school to see if there are students who need school supplies and do an event such as “Fill the Backpack”; do a project with the Women’s Shelter such as collect and donate toques, mitts, and socks for women and children; organize a music night at a senior’s care facility; or do a container planting project with kids and babas.
There are so many ways to do good works ... we just need to look with fresh eyes and be willing to help!

2. Evangelizing - Bringing People to Our Faith

- As individuals, we should not be afraid to talk about our Church and our faith and let people know that we are Orthodox Christians. And... to speak of our faith and other faiths with gentleness and respect.
- Invite and welcome people to our services: host a “Bring a Friend to Church Sunday” (What if we did this every Sunday?!)
- Invite friends to church social events (like pizza night).
- Hold a church open house. Sponsor a block party to get to know your church neighbourhood.
- Have a “Homecoming Sunday” and invite former members or those with Orthodox roots to attend.
- Be as **inclusive** as possible. Sometimes we get comfortable in our own church families, and it is difficult for outsiders to feel like they fit in.
- The most important thing we can do is **pray** for family and friends who don’t believe. Pray that God will open their hearts and minds to Him. We also can **live** Christian lives, so that they can see God working through us.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22, 25

- Evangelizing not only means bringing people to our faith, but taking our faith to the people. It means leaving the safety of our churches, and taking our faith into the community.

THE REACH PROJECT CONTINUED:

3. Be a Part of the Community

It is safe to say that, the Orthodox Church is a bit of a mystery ... the average person knows little about us, what we believe, or how we worship. Some people don't even realize that we are Christians! Out reach involves shining the light on our church, so that people come to know us as an integral part of our communities.

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

Some suggestions/ideas for community involvement:

- Become an active member of Interfaith Groups; participate in Ecumenical events such as a community-based Thanksgiving Service, Remembrance Day, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, World Day of Prayer, and so forth. Faith is not a competition! We can work cooperatively with other faith communities to make a difference.
- Participate in community celebrations such as Heritage, Christmas, or other Festivals.
- Put a float in a parade. Sponsor an after-parade event such as an ice cream or hotdog give away.
- Invite community members to church-sponsored activities such as paska making, pysanky writing, and even special Services.
- Join/support a community-based committee that has a faith component. Palliative Care, which helps people to live fully, while facing end-of life decisions, would be an example.

Another way in which we can be involved is to look beyond our towns to the larger Orthodox Community.

Ways we can Reach Out to them:

- Share ideas and perspectives with other Orthodox Parishes through articles in the Visnyk, networking at Western Assemblies, and talking to faithful from other Districts. What are our success stories? What are other churches doing ... and what "works" for them?

THE REACH PROJECT CONTINUED:

- Adopt a Sister Mission Parish in Canada (like Red Deer), Ukraine, or in a developing country. We always feel spiritually revitalized when we help others.
- Sign up for an Orthodox Mission through an organization like the Orthodox Christian Mission Centre. They do short missions, usually 2-3 weeks in duration, to countries in need. Missions vary from helping to build senior's housing, supporting projects for women and children, and helping with worship services. Visit www.ocmc.org for more information.

When we do host a major event, it is important to invite the local media and insure that our activities are posted on the District website. This is not an attempt to boast, but to let the community know that we are alive, well, and doing God's work. We **ALL** are the face of the Orthodox Church in our communities... allow our light to shine and embrace others. For the glory of God!

***“LOVE** powerfully, **GIVE** prayerfully, **LIVE** purposefully, and leave the rest to **GOD.**”*

Dear Brothers Sisters in Christ,

This ends our Newsletter series on “Reach” , the theme for our District for 2015. I hope that you have found some “spiritual food”, as Fr. Peter says. I pray that it sparked your interest and that you feel empowered to reach up, in, and out in new and exciting ways. Doing just one project in the year, would be a wonderful start! God bless you in your spiritual journey and in your work.

With love in the Lord,

Caroline





PREPARING YOUR EASTER BASKET:

EASTER PASKA

BABKA

COTTAGE CHEESE

SALT

BUTTER

HARD-BOILED EGGS

UKRAINIAN SAUSAGE

HAM

HORSERADISH

PYSANKY

CANDLE



*“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

All Saints
St. Paul, AB
Dwayne Ternovoy
780-614-0858

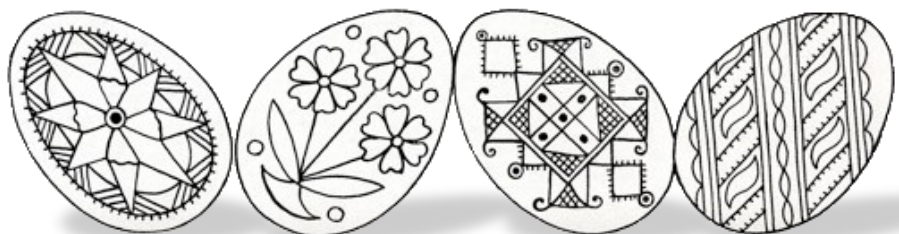
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Sts. Peter & Paul
Nowa Bukowina, AB
Sandra Yuschyshyn
780-645-4815






Holy Trinity
Glendon, AB
Joyce Drapaka
780-645-3760

All Saints
Sandy Rapids, AB
Ron Rusnak
780-826-2062

Descent of the Holy Spirit
Stry, AB
Contact info TBA.



April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 PM Bonnyville	2 Bible Study 6:30 PM Bonnyville	3	4 Soul Saturday 10:00 AM St. Paul (Stry)
5 Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM Sandy Rapids	6 Lenten Hours 6:30 PM St. Paul	7 Annunciation of our Theotokos 10:00 AM St. Paul	8 Holy Unction 6:30 PM St. Paul	9 12 Gospels 6:30 PM Bonnyville	10  Shroud Vespers 4:00 PM Bonnyville 5:30 PM Nowa Buko. 7:00 PM St. Paul	11  PASCHAL Matins/Basket Blessing 7:00 PM Bonnyville
12  PASCHAL Matins/Basket Blessing 6:00 AM Nowa Buko. Liturgy/Basket Blessing 8:00 AM St. Paul Matins/Basket Blessing 10:30 AM Stry	13 Bright Monday Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM Nowa Bukowina	14	15	16	17	18
19  Divine Liturgy PROVODY 10:00 AM Glendon	20	21	22	23	24	25
26  Divine Liturgy PROVODY 10:00 AM Bonnyville	27	28	29	30		