



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**SUNDAY BRUNCH**  
**TODAY - Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**St. Mary's Cultural Centre**



Following the 9:00 am & 11:00 am Divine Liturgies  
 Adults - \$9.00, Under 12 - \$6.00, Under 5 - Free, Family \$30.00  
*The Knights Would Appreciate your Support! Everyone Welcome !*

DATE	TIME	EPISTLE	CANTOR	USHERS	ORGANIST	GREETERS
<b>SAT MAR 28</b>	5:00 pm English	Delores Oucharek	Peter Kobylka	Carl Pacholka Andy Mathuik		
<b>SUN MAR 29</b> <i>Willow / Palm Sunday</i>	9:00 am Ukrainian	Lorne Stechyshyn	Ed Pindus	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood		
	11:00 am English	Gwen Bilyk	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Myron Kulasa Richard Zulyniak	Iris Skehar	Rose Maleschuk Curtis Maleschuk
<b>SAT APR 4</b>	8:00 pm English	Gloria Rhinas	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Gerald Gromnisky Ed Lischynski Bill Prybylski Andy Mathuik	Iris Skehar	Toni Gromnisky Gerald Gromnisky
<b>SUN APR 5</b> <i>Resurrection Sunday</i>	7:00 am Ukrainian	Ed Pindus	Colette Karapita	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood		
	10:00 am English		Megan Clark	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood		

**SCENT FREE** - Out of concern for those with allergies or asthma, we ask that you refrain from using products with perfume or scent when coming to church. Thank you.

<b>SUNDAY</b>	Received in 177 Regular Envelopes .....	\$ 3,108.00
<b>COLLECTION</b>	Loose Change .....	\$ 118.00
	Received in 11 other envelopes .....	\$ 140.00
<b>Mar 22, 2015</b>	Received in 64 Easter Flowers envelopes .....	\$ 585.00

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office: st.mary.yorkton@sasktel.net      Pastor: ppidskalny@sasktel.net  
 Web: www.saintmarysyorkton.com      Eparchy of Saskatoon: www.skeparchy.org  
 Eparchial Pastoral Council - Pat Thompson 306-782-9425  
 Parish Council President - Geraldine Koban 306-782-0270      Knights of Columbus - Steve Popowich 306-783-5441  
 UCWLC - Brenda Pasloski 306-783-4438      UCY -  
 UCBC - Peter Moroz 306-783-6293      Cultural Centre - Russ Thompson 306-782-9425  
 Golden Agers - Verna Moroz 306-783-6293      Cultural Centre Manager - Stan Shymanski 306-782-1010  
 Young Adult Ministry Office - Phone: 1-204-799-1060  
 Email: rymcssr@gmail.com Web: www.yorktonredemptorists.com

**ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Церква Матері Божої Неустанної Помочі  
 Our Mother of Perpetual Help  
 155 Catherine Street, Yorkton, SK S3N 0B9

Vol. 52, No. 9

PARISH BULLETIN

MARCH 29, 2015

Христос Посеред нас !  
 Є і буде !



Christ is Among Us !  
 He is and will be !

The parish community of St. Mary's would like to extend a warm  
**Welcome - Вітаємо**  
 to everyone who is with us today, especially all Visitors.  
 We are pleased that you have come to pray with us this Sunday. May the Lord bless You.

**Pastoral Care of the  
 Ukrainian Redemptorists**

Fr. Peter Pidskalny, CSsR - Pastor  
 Fr. Raymond Lukie, CSsR - Assistant Pastor  
 Fr. Methodius Kushko, CSsR - Assistant Pastor

**OFFICE HOURS** Monday - Friday  
 9:15 am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**Office 306-783-4594 Fax 306-782-4214**  
**Info Line 306-782-0654**

**SICK CALLS** - Anytime

**BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES\*** by Appointment  
 \*Please contact the pastor at least six  
 months before the wedding date.

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY  
 Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts - 7:00 pm

THURSDAY  
 Vespers & Divine Liturgy - 7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY  
 Passion of Our Lord (12 Gospels) - 9:00 am  
 Laying of the Shroud & Vespers - 3:00 pm  
 Jerusalem Matins - 7:00 pm

HOLY SATURDAY  
 Vespers & Divine Liturgy - 1:00 pm  
 Blessing of Easter Foods - 3:00 & 5:00 pm  
 Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy (Eng) - 8:00 pm

RESURRECTION SUNDAY  
 Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy (Ukr) - 7:00 am  
 Easter Divine Liturgy (Eng) - 10:00 am

## HOLY WEEK

We have begun the most sacred time of the church year, Holy Week. It is not merely a time to remember events of the past. On the contrary, we are invited to participate in the last days of Christ on earth. We are called to experience the sufferings and death of Jesus so that we may gloriously share in the Resurrection of Christ. Each day of this week is special.

**LAZARUS SATURDAY & PALM SUNDAY** introduce us to Holy Week. Yesterday's Gospel proclaimed how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. This miracle not only foreshadows what is to come but also proclaims that Christ is the Giver of Life. On that first Palm Sunday, after hearing about this great miracle, people gathered in Jerusalem to welcome Jesus as King. Today we are asked to declare our allegiance to Christ, our King and God.

**HOLY MONDAY, HOLY TUESDAY & HOLY WEDNESDAY** are known as the *Bridegroom Days*. The general theme of these days is our need to *be prepared*. The Scripture passage that is associated with these days is the parable of the ten virgins. Five of them were not prepared, but the five who filled their lamps with oil were prepared to receive the bridegroom. Christ is the Bridegroom. During the Presanctified Liturgy of Holy Wednesday, we are invited to receive the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**. This Sacrament is usually given to those who are ill. Once a year, the Church invites all the faithful during this service to receive this sacrament which is for the healing of our bodies and for the forgiveness of all our sins. This is certainly a beautiful way to prepare ourselves for the rest of Holy week.

**HOLY THURSDAY** is the day that Jesus shared in the Last Supper with His disciples. The bread and wine of this meal became the Body and Blood of Christ that gives us eternal life.

**GOOD AND HOLY FRIDAY** is the day that we commemorate the Passion and Death of Jesus through three special services.

**HOLY SATURDAY** The Gospel read during the Divine Liturgy on this day announces the finding of the empty tomb. The service of Holy Saturday also proclaims the destruction of Hades by Christ.

**HOLY PASCHA** On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the Lord's Glorious Resurrection, and we proclaim **Христос Воскрес!** - *Christ is Risen!* We gather at Resurrection Matins and sing *This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it!* Our rejoicing continues in the Divine Liturgy where we hear the Gospel proclaimed in as many languages as possible. The Artos, a special bread representing the Risen Lord, is blessed at the Liturgy and will be distributed to all on Thomas Sunday. In the evening, Resurrection Vespers will be celebrated. Throughout this day we proclaim to one another **Христос Воскрес!** - *Christ is Risen!*

## S.E.R.V.E. 2015 April 30<sup>th</sup> - May 15<sup>th</sup>

Summer Endeavour in a Redemptorist Volunteer Experience

Experience 2 weeks that could very well change your life! Enjoy community life, learn about Redemptorist spirituality, volunteer in various inner-city organizations and relax during a week-end lake retreat! For more information or to request an application contact me at rymcssr@gmail.com or call 204-799-1060. (For Young Adults 18-35 years)

**\*\*Application Deadline is March 30th!\*\***

For more information see the bulletin board or contact:

**SERVE Coordinator - Michelle Thiessen**

rymcssr@gmail.com 204-799-1060 www.yorktonredemptorists.com



## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5	<b>Resurrection - Easter</b>	
April 6	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:00 pm
April 6	UCWLC Meeting	7:00 pm
April 11	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo	1:00 pm
April 12	Parish Easter Potluck Dinner - Спільне Свячене	5:00 pm
April 13	Holy Rosary Hour	12:00 Noon
April 13	Cultural Centre Board Meeting	7:30 pm
April 19	1st Solemn Holy Communion Class	9:45 am
April 20	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Meeting	7:00 pm
April 21	Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm
April 26	First Solemn Holy Communion	11:00 am
April 28	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo	7:00 pm
April 30	Golden Agers Birthdays and Anniversaries	1:00 pm
May 3	Knights of Columbus Brunch	10:15 am & 12:15 pm
May 14	<b>Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord</b>	

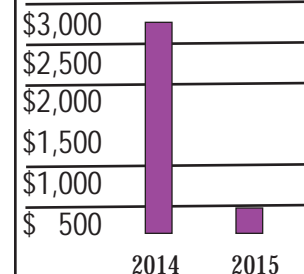
### UKRAINIAN CHOIR:

- Today, Willow Sunday, March 29, 9:00 am: Divine Liturgy
- Holy Monday & Wednesday, 7:00 pm: Pre-sanctified Liturgy in English
- Good Friday, 3:00 pm Vespers in English
- Holy Saturday, 1:00 pm, Vespers & Divine Liturgy
- Easter morning 7:00 am: Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy
- Easter Sunday, 10:00 am -12:00 Noon: Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy and Easter hymns on GX radio

### CO-MISSIONARY FUND

2014 -15

\*\*OUR TARGET FOR THIS YEAR IS \$3000.00\*\*



**Co-Missionary Fund** Contributions can be made monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. Our goal is to contribute \$250/month or \$3,000/yr. Please make your cheques payable to "St. Mary's" but memo the cheque *Co-Missionary Fund*.

### A Traditional Ukrainian Easter Divine Liturgy

will be broadcasted on GX94 Radio

**Easter Sunday, April 5th**

**12:00 Noon - 2:00 pm**



The two hour program will consist of Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy & Easter hymns. This was recorded by the Ukrainian Choir under the direction of Colette Karapita.



### Listen for the UKRAINIAN HOUR

Sundays 3:00 - 4:00 pm Mondays 10:00 - 11:00 pm

on 98.5 the ROCK



## Pilgrimage Icon of Blessed Josaphata

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate will be celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the founding of their religious congregation in 2017. Sr. Patricia Lacey, ssmi, Provincial superior, notified Bishop Bryan Bayda, C.Ss.R of a specially commissioned Pilgrimage Icon of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskya, ssmi, Co-Foundress, which will be travelling among the parishes throughout the Eparchy of Saskatoon in April 2015.

The focus of the Pilgrimage Icon of Blessed Josaphata will be for prayers for: vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, monastic and religious life, especially the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate; families, canonization of Blessed Josaphata; and peace in Ukraine and throughout the world.

The Icon will be at St. Mary's on April 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

### Come Celebrate with Us

**Who:** Founding Families, Parishioners and past-parishioners of St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Melville

**What:** Divine Liturgy and Praznyk for St. George's 100th Anniversary 1915-2015

**Where:** Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am will be celebrated with His Excellency Bishop Bayda @ St. George's Church followed by a Banquet and Program at the St. George's Hall

**When:** Sunday, April 26th, 2015

**Cost:** Banquet tickets are \$25.00 per person and \$15.00 per child who occupies a seat.

\* The deadline for Parishioners to purchase tickets is March 31st.

**\*There will be a 100-ticket limit and those people affiliated with our church will be given priority.**

**Contact Numbers are: Jean @ 306-728-4029 and Marlene @ 306-728-3108**

## YORKTON DISTRICT PARISHES

### MELVILLE:

**1. Parish Easter Dinner** on Sunday, April 12th after the Divine Liturgy at **10:00 am.**

**2. Prayer Meeting** on Sunday, April 19th at 8:30 am.

### Schedule of Services in the Yorkton Pastoral District

MELVILLE	Every Sunday	9:00 am	
	Sunday, March 29	9:00 am	Willow Sunday
	Friday, April 3	1:00 pm	Shroud & Confessions
	Sunday, April 5	8:30 am	Easter Div. Ltgy & Basket Blessing
	Sunday, April 12	<b>10:00 am</b>	Divine Liturgy & Parish Easter Dinner
BEAVERDALE	Friday, April 3	5:30 pm	Shroud & Confessions
	Saturday, April 4	8:00 pm	<b>*Cancelled*</b>
	Sunday, April 19	11:30 am	Divine Liturgy & Parish Easter Dinner
CALDER	Sunday, March 29	12:00 Noon	Willow Sunday
	Friday, April 3	3:00 pm	<b>*Cancelled*</b>
	Saturday, April 4	8:00 pm	Easter Div. Ltgy & Basket Blessing
INSINGER (St. Nicholas)	Saturday, April 11	7:00 pm	Easter Div. Ltgy & Basket Blessing

## WILLOW / PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29, 2015

*The theme of Sunday is always Resurrection.*

*We invite you to refrain from kneeling during the Divine Liturgy.*



*Today's special liturgical parts & readings are found on page 42-45 in the Tropars, Kondaks, Epistle & Gospel Readings booklets which are located at the entrances of the church.*

**Next Week's Readings: Epistle - Acts 1:1-8 Gospel - John 1:1-17**

### This Week at St. Mary's

SUN	9:00 am & 11:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Pussy Willows
	9:45 am.....	1st Solemn Holy Communion Class
	10:15 am & 12:15 pm.....	Knights of Columbus Brunch
	11:00 am.....	Little Angels Class
	MON	7:00 pm.....
TUES	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.....	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	6:30 pm.....	Confessions
	7:00 pm.....	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
WED	6:30 pm.....	Confessions
	7:00 pm.....	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Anointing of the Sick
THUR	7:00 pm.....	Vespers & Divine Liturgy
FRI	9:00 am.....	Passion of Our Lord - 12 Gospels
	3:00 pm.....	Vespers & Laying of the Shroud
	4:00 pm.....	Good Friday All Night Vigil begins
	7:00 pm.....	Jerusalem Matins
	8:00 pm.....	All Night Vigil continues
SAT	.....	All Night Vigil continues
	1:00 pm.....	Vespers & Divine Liturgy
	3:00 pm & 5:00 pm.....	Blessing of Easter Foods (at St. Mary's Cultural Centre)
	8:00 pm.....	Resurrection Matins & Easter Divine Liturgy

### OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed on Good Friday (April 3rd) & Bright Monday (April 6th).

Everyone is invited to our

## Parish Easter Potluck Supper Спільне Свячене

Parish Easter Supper will be held on

**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm**

Please bring the entire family as well as your favorite Easter food to share. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided.



## DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

*Willow / Palm Sunday*

**MON Mar 30** Venerable John Climacus

*Philippians 4:4-9 ~ John 12:1-18*

*Acts 10:34-43 ~ Matthew 24:3-35*

7:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**TUE Mar 31** Venerable Hypatius

*Ephesians 1:1-9 ~ Matthew 24:36-26:2*

7:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**WED Apr 1** Venerable Mary of Egypt

*1 Corinthians 2:6-9 ~ Matthew 26:6-16*

7:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Anointing of the Sick

### *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

**On Tuesday, March 31st** the hours of Adoration and Lenten Devotions will take place from **1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.**

Everyone is invited to come and participate.

Plenty of literature and guidance will be available.

**\*\*There will be no Adoration on Tuesday, April 7th.\*\***



### 2015 Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land

Every Good Friday a special collection is taken for the Holy Land. This collection supports the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. The mission of which is "to keep alive the liturgy in the places of worship, to enhance apostolic works, and support the Christian Community."

This collection will be taken on Good Friday, April 3, 2015. You can drop your donation in the basket by Our Lord's Tomb or in the Regular Collection. Please use the special envelope that came with your Sunday Offering Envelopes.

### Saint Mary's Building Fund Donations



**Balance of the Fund to date: \$329,723.25 Thank you very much**

Donations may be given anytime.

All funds collected will be used for the future renovations of our church.

Building Fund Envelopes are available at the entrances of the Church



*We wish to welcome*

**Fr. John Sianchuk, CSsR**

**who will be serving here at St. Mary's  
for the two weeks after Easter.**

## All Night Vigil - Good Friday

Please consider spending an hour in vigil  
at Our Lord's Tomb on Good Friday  
The sign up sheet is in the East Entrance



### THE EASTER BASKET



In earlier times, meat and dairy products were excluded from the daily diet during the entire season of the Great Fast. As the end of the strict fast approached, the people showed their joy and gratitude by taking their food to Church to be blessed and eaten after the Easter Divine Liturgy. As we celebrate Easter, the Feast of New Life, we bless the food that sustains our physical life. The foods traditionally blessed for Easter are: Pascha (Easter bread),

Babka (sweetbread), ham, sausage, butter, cottage cheese, eggs, horseradish, salt and pysanky (decorative and symbolic purpose only). The meaning of such variety of foods is interesting.

**PASCHA** - The Easter Bread, Pascha, is a large, round loaf of bread made of white flour. It is elaborately decorated with a braided cross and many rosettes. The Pascha symbolizes the joy of the New Life that is given to us by Jesus Christ.

**BABKA (BABA)** - The Babka is a tall, cylindrical, sweet bread enriched with raisins, butter, eggs. Saffron is added for coloring (orange-yellow). It is decorated with a simple cross. The Babka symbolizes the richness of eternal life.

**HAM** - The richness of this meat is symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Sometimes lamb or veal are used but these meats must be cooked well in advance so that the festivity of the day will not be burdened with the preparation.

**KOBASSA** - A spicy garlic sausage of pork products is indicative of God's favor and generosity.

**CHEESE** - Cottage Cheese, bland in taste, reminds us of the moderation that we should cultivate in our daily lives.

**EGGS** - Hard-boiled eggs are used. The father or the eldest in the family, if the father is not present, traditionally divides the first egg at the Easter breakfast table and shares it with each member of the family invoking an Easter blessing and greeting. The egg is symbolic of Christ's Death and Resurrection, that is, new life emerges from what appeared to be lifeless.

**PYSANKY** - These eggs are beautifully decorated with symbols derived from nature and later adapted to the Christian way of worship. The intricate patterns are applied with a stylus dipped in melted beeswax. The egg is dipped into successive dyes.

**BUTTER** - This favorite dairy product may be shaped into a lamb or decorated with whole cloves or peppercorn in the form of a cross. The butter reminds us of the goodness of Christ which in turn we should share with others.

**SALT** - The salt helps us to recall that we are committed to be followers of Christ and carry out His word: "You are the salt of the earth..."

**HORSERADISH** - The horseradish mixed with grated beets is symbolic of the Passion and Death of Christ. It reminds us of the bitterness of sin and of difficulties which we must undergo throughout our earthly life.

**CANDLE** - The candle, made of beeswax, is placed in the basket and lit during the blessing celebration. It is symbolic of Christ "the light of the world" who brought us the glorious good news of New Life.

**COVER** - The embroidered cover reminds us of Christ's shroud (white linen) and of our Baptismal robe (kryszma). Being cleansed with the Baptismal waters, we celebrate the joy of New Life by putting on the kryszma.



**YORKTON DISTRICT PARISHES  
SCHEDULE OF EASTER SERVICES**



BEAVERDALE

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

5:30 pm - Vespers - Laying of the Shroud  
- Confessions

Saturday, April 4 (*anticipated for Resurrection Sunday*)

8:00 pm - Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Easter Foods **\*\*CANCELLED\*\***

Sunday, April 19

11:30 am - Divine Liturgy & Parish Easter Dinner

CALDER

Sunday, March 29 - Willow Sunday

12:00 Noon - Divine Liturgy & blessing of Pussy Willows

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

3:00 pm - Vespers - Laying of the Shroud **\*\*CANCELLED\*\***  
- Confessions

Saturday, April 4 (*anticipated for Resurrection Sunday*)

8:00 pm - Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Easter Foods

MELVILLE

Sunday, March 29 - Willow Sunday

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy & blessing of Pussy Willows

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

1:00 pm - Vespers - Laying of the Shroud  
- Confessions

Sunday, April 5 - Resurrection Sunday

8:30 am - Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Easter Foods

Sunday, April 12 - St. Thomas Sunday

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy & Parish Easter Dinner

INSINGER (ST. NICHOLAS)

Saturday, April 11 (*anticipated for Resurrection Sunday on the Julian Calendar*)

7:00 pm - Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Easter Foods



**ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
YORKTON SCHEDULE OF EASTER SERVICES**

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

5:00 pm (English) - Divine Liturgy & blessing of Pussy Willows

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 - WILLOW SUNDAY

9:00 am (Ukrainian) - Divine Liturgy & blessing of Pussy Willows  
11:00 am (English) - Divine Liturgy & blessing of Pussy Willows

MONDAY, MARCH 30

7:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

6:30 pm - Confessions  
7:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

6:30 pm - Confessions  
7:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy & the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 - HOLY THURSDAY

7:00 pm - Vespers & Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY

9:00 am - Passion of Our Lord - 12 Gospels  
3:00 pm - Vespers - Laying of the Shroud  
7:00 pm - Jerusalem Matins

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 - HOLY SATURDAY

1:00 pm - Vespers & Divine Liturgy  
3:00 pm & 5:00 pm - Blessing of Easter Foods  
8:00 pm - (English) Resurrection Matins & Easter Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 - RESURRECTION SUNDAY

7:00 am - (Ukrainian) Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy & blessing of Easter Foods  
10:00 am - (English) Easter Divine Liturgy

MONDAY, APRIL 6 - BRIGHT MONDAY

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy **\*\*CANCELLED\*\***

TUESDAY, APRIL 7 - FRIDAY, APRIL 10

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

5:00 pm (English) - Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 - ST. THOMAS SUNDAY

9:00 am (Ukrainian) - Divine Liturgy  
11:00 am (English) - Divine Liturgy  
5:00 pm - Parish Easter Potluck Dinner - Спільне Свячене



**PASTORAL LETTER OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD 2015**

To the Reverend Clergy, Monastics and Religious Sisters and Brothers, Seminarians and Laity  
of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada:

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

*“Behold, today is the day of the Resurrection,  
let us glory in the Feast;  
let us embrace one another in joy...”*

(from the stichera of Resurrection Matins)

The glorious proclamation of Our Lord’s Resurrection marks the most joyous and transformative event in human history. During the Resurrection Matins we are overwhelmed by the power of God’s graciousness, a power that moves us to recognize more clearly the meaning of life itself: human life. “Come, o faithful! Let us drink a new drink . . . springing from the tomb which is a fountain of immortality.” On this day our world is transfigured; we stand with the apostles on Mt. Tabor and revel in the transfigured Lord who teaches us that death is conquered, the devil is vanquished!

This joyous day, this new day, this feast of feasts fills us with a renewed sense of hope that our earthly trials will pass, that our suffering will not endure. This new day, that comes through the cross and tomb, reminds us that even the evil of injustice and war shall not endure. In spite of the horrors that our brothers and sisters in Ukraine face, they too sing these joyous hymns today and they too will know the victory of love over hatred, truth over lies, life over death!

“Today is the day of the Resurrection” and we pass from death to life. Today we “cleanse our senses that we may be able to contemplate Christ.” Today we come to know life—in its fullness! But today we also pray that we “who dwell on earth, [be made] worthy to glorify [God] with pure hearts.” Our hearts must be made pure because, like the myrrh-bearing women, we are called to carry the truth of this New Life into a world that lives in the shadow of death; a world that too often ignores the power of Christ’s Resurrection. We must be witnesses of the passage through the Cross to Life, where in the name of so-called compassion, many countries have opened the door to doctor-assisted suicide. On this Resurrection day our parish communities, every one of us, are called to reflect Christ’s Life and Love. We are called to overcome a culture of death with the vibrant embrace of true Christian compassion, a compassion which means (as the Latin word portrays) being with the one who suffers. This calls us to commit to a joy that proclaims the value of human life, the value of our dependence on each other. Today reaffirms our commitment to welcome those who despair of their lives into an embrace of care and value that radiates the joy of life with Christ! We remind the world of the Innocent One who “through His sufferings . . . has clothed [us] mortals with the splendour of incorruption.” Thus, “we sing a hymn of praise to Your passion and we glorify Your Resurrection.”

We are the bearers of this great joy, of this great news, for “a glorious Passover has shone upon us, a Passover of the Lord, a Passover perfectly honourable: let us then embrace one another with joy” so that together we may sing:

***“Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death! And to those in the tombs He granted life.”***

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Lawrence Huculak, Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg  
+Michael Wiwchar, Eparch Emeritus of Saskatoon +Severian Yakymyshyn, Eparch Emeritus of New Westminster  
+David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton +Stephen Chmilar, Eparchial Bishop of Toronto  
+Ken Nowakowski, Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster +Bryan Bayda, Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon

**PASTORAL LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL OF THE EPARCHY OF SASKATOON AND ALL PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD 2015**

To the Reverend Clergy, Monastics and Religious Sisters and Brothers, Seminarians and Laity:



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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

***“Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death! And to those in the tombs He granted life.”***

The message is difficult for our minds and hearts to accept. It is about the Truth and meaning of life as Jesus demonstrated to us on the cross and with His glorious resurrection from the dead. This is His promise to us, shown in a tangible way so that when we are faced with doubt or contrary messages, we will not forget the truth of the infinite love of the Trinity. Not only humanity rejoices, but indeed all of creation is transformed by this event that we continue to celebrate today.

Today we “cleanse our senses that we may be able to contemplate Christ.” Today we come to know life—in its fullness! But today we also pray that we “who dwell on earth, be made worthy to glorify God with pure hearts.” Our hearts must be made pure because, like the myrrh-bearing women, we are called to carry the truth of this New Life into a world that lives in the shadow of death; a world that too often ignores the power of Christ’s Resurrection. We must be witnesses of the passage through the Cross to Life, where in the name of so-called compassion, many countries have opened the door to doctor-assisted suicide.

We are bombarded with messages from advertising or what some might call entertainment with violent images that glorify greed and the meaninglessness of human life. Laws, or the lack of them to protect life as we recently have heard in the news in Canada, offend our sense of divine mercy toward others and ourselves. The law of justice in society grows ever more distant from the justice and mercy that God wishes us to accept in our lives from Him, and in turn express to others.

This joyous day, this new day, this feast of feasts fills us with a renewed sense of hope that our earthly trials will pass, that our suffering will not endure. This new day, that comes through the cross and tomb, reminds us that even the evil of injustice and war shall not endure. In spite of the horrors that our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and the Middle East face, they too sing these joyous hymns today and they too will know the victory of love over hatred, truth over lies, life over death!

Our Eparchy continues to focus on the difficulties and challenges faced by families in the context of evangelization. Individuals and families that respond to these challenges and these needs are the very building blocks of our parishes that are called to become more vibrant. When our domestic churches become more a place of mercy, then our parishes become places of mercy and a place to encounter the Living Christ. Our parishes, as places of mercy, become a powerful way to proclaim to the world the Resurrection of Christ.

Today reaffirms our commitment to welcome those who despair of their lives into an embrace of care and value that radiates the joy of life with Christ! We remind the world of the Innocent One who “through His sufferings . . . has clothed [us] mortals with the splendour of incorruption.” Thus, “we sing a hymn of praise to Your passion and we glorify Your Resurrection.”

***“Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death! And to those in the tombs He granted life.”***

Through the intercession of the Mother of God, may the blessing of our Lord fill every part of your life!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Bryan Bayda, CSsR  
Eparch of Saskatoon