



ST. MARY'S UCWLC FUNDRAISER

STEAK NIGHT

Saturday, April 14th

5:00 - 7:00 pm at Tapps Brewing Company Ltd.



Tickets: \$25.00 (age restricted)

For tickets contact: Doreen Rathgeber 306-782-1527
Verlee Zulyniak 306-783-6781
Elizabeth Zahayko 306-783-6232 or 306-783-4594

DATE	TIME	EPISTLE	CANTOR	USHERS	ORGANIST
SAT MAR 24	5:00 pm English	Peter Kobyłka	Saturday Evening Group	John Ostrowercha Vicky Ostrowercha	
SUN MAR 25 <i>Willow (Palm) Sunday</i>	9:00 am Ukrainian	Harry Kardynal	Colette Karapita	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
	11:00 am English	Sharla Schrader	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Fred Schrader Sharla Schrader	Iris Skehar
SAT MAR 31	8:00 pm English	Doug Falconer	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Tony Mazur Bill Prybylski Neil Prybylski	Iris Skehar
SUN APRIL 1 <i>Resurrection Easter Sunday</i>	7:00 am Ukrainian	Mykhaylo Zotov	Colette Karapita	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
	10:00 am English	Toni Gromnisky	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Jerry Gromnisky Mike Smud	Iris Skehar

SUNDAY COLLECTION MARCH 18, 2018	Received in 164 Regular Envelopes	\$ 3,406.00
	Loose Collection	\$ 82.00
	Received in 10 Other Envelopes	\$ 138.00
	Received in 62 Easter Flowers Envelopes	\$ 550.00

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE: st.mary.yorkton@sasktel.net PASTOR: blukie@gmail.com
 WEB: www.saintmarysyorkton.com EPARCHY OF SASKATOON: www.skeparchy.org
 EPARCHIAL PASTORAL COUNCIL - Pat Thompson 306-782-9425 Geraldine Koban 306-782-0270
 PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Gwen Bilyk 306-782-4093
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - Dave Spelay 306-782-5320 UCWLC - Elsie Stechyshyn 306-783-4862
 UCBC - Larry German 306-782-2461 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

ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Церква Матері Божої Неустанної Помочі

Our Mother of Perpetual Help

155 Catherine Street, Yorkton, SK S3N 0B9

Vol. 55, No. 12

PARISH BULLETIN

MARCH 25, 2018

Christ is Among Us !
He is and will be !

Христос Посеред нас !
Є і буде !



The parish community of St. Mary's extends 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. Bohdan Lukie, 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
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 - 10:00 am
 Laying of the Shroud & Vespers - 2:30 pm
 Jerusalem Matins - 7:00 pm
HOLY SATURDAY
 Vespers & Divine Liturgy - 2:00 pm
 Blessing of Easter Foods - 3:30 & 4:30 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

Beloved Parishioners and Guests of St. Mary's,

Today is "*Willow Sunday*" or should I say, "*Flowery Sunday*"... a time to recall Christ's Triumphant entrance into Jerusalem – a hopefully, happy time! The KING HAS COME! But still a sad preparation for the 'crown' that Jesus would wear on Great Friday - "*a crown of thorns*"...

They waved 'palm branches' in praise of the King, we wave "pussy willows" as our sign of respect to Christ. PUSSY WILLOWS are the first blossoms to appear in spring – the first sign of NEW LIFE... and a "*Sign of Renewed Faith*" - which really means we try to live our Catholic faith this Sunday and the next and every day of the year. May we, as your pastors, lovingly, hope-fully and faithfully WELCOME you and walk with you in our spiritual journey always!

Did you know that the Great Lent has ended? Yesterday we began Holy Passion Week with Lazarus Saturday. On this day we experience the power of Jesus over death. Lazarus, Jesus' special friend, was dead for four days before Jesus brought him back to life. Thus Jesus foreshadowed the victory that He will gloriously accomplish on Easter Sunday when He finally destroys death once and for all and promises each of us who believe life everlasting.

The Holy Annunciation (*March 25th*) commemorates the appearance of Archangel Gabriel asking if Mary, a young virgin, is willing to give birth to the Son of God. This year we also happily acknowledge this feast with our Palm Flowery Sunday celebration.

This week is the most important Church week of the whole year. Our Ukrainian Church is abundantly rich with unique services all week. Each religious service has its specific historical commemoration and theme; they offer us an opportunity to experience Jesus' suffering, death and Resurrection. However, the whole purpose of the spiritual services is not just to remember what happened, but rather to enter mystically into these events and personally experience their powerful effect on us in this day and age,

It is we who are asked to die with Jesus and to rise with Him. This, in fact, takes place as we enter spiritually into the Paschal Mystery, i.e., the mystery of Jesus' Death and Resurrection. If this is not our hope and prayer, blessing an Easter basket has no real meaning! The basket symbolizes a "*holy break-fast*" - because we personally have experienced the pain of Passion Week and the ecstatic joy of Jesus' Resurrection. Again, I repeat, as believing Christians, we must allow the Truth of God's Love to enter deeply into our hearts and freely and powerfully change our lives.

Therefore we strongly and fervently encourage you to make time and attend as many of this Services as you can. And please do bring your children. It is especially important that they experience the drama of this week. Let us celebrate the Pre-Sanctified Liturgies on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday and also receive the Sacrament of Holy Anointing. Let us re-live the washing of the feet during the Holy Thursday Liturgy and sincerely receive Jesus in Holy Communion on this sacred night. And of course, we encourage you to actively participate in the 12 Gospels at 10:00 am and in the procession of the Holy Shroud (*Plaschanitsya*) at 2:30 pm. And please do come and pray the Jerusalem Matins at 7:00 pm – the painful prayers of the Blessed Mother during this candle-lite service. This is a most poignant service and I humbly confess it is my favourite Lenten prayer service!

On Holy Saturday 2:00 pm, we witness the transformation of the 'colour' of our church, the flower pedals, the rose-scented holy water and then the blessing of the baskets in preparation for the joy and the life-giving Resurrection Service.

COME CELEBRATE AND PRAY WITH US!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1	<i>Resurrection - Easter</i>	
April 7	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo	7:00 pm
April 9	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:00 pm
April 9	UCWLC Meeting	7:00 pm
April 9	Cultural Centre Board Meeting	7:30 pm
April 13	Holy Rosary Hour	2:00 Noon
April 15	First Solemn Holy Communion Class (<i>Review & Practice</i>)	9:45 am
April 16	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Meeting	7:00 pm
April 17	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo	7:00 pm
April 20-22	Knights of Columbus State Convention (<i>Hosted by Yorkton</i>)	
April 21	Knights of Columbus Bingo	7:00 pm
April 22	First Solemn Holy Communion	11:00 am
April 26	Golden Agers Birthdays & Anniversaries	1:00 pm
May 10	<i>Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord</i>	



A Chance to Warm Hearts...

Pope Francis said, "*For Jesus, what matters above all is reaching out, healing wounds, and restoring people to the family of God.*" What matters above all for you? Are you looking for an opportunity to sync your values and interests with those of Jesus?

The Welcome Home – A mission of St. Alphonsus, is a Redemptorist inner city ministry in Winnipeg, MB that reaches out to those on the periphery of our church and society. This ministry has been working for 25 years to build a community that embraces the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those in need, "warming hearts and healing wounds."

Are you searching for a place to belong and serve, where you can listen and take the time to befriend Canada's most abandoned? **We are now accepting applicants, ages 20 and up, for a 10 month live-in community, commencing September 1, 2018.** Explore the possibilities of giving your time and talent and receive a life changing experience in return!



Please visit thewelcomehome.ca or contact Delores Courchene for additional information: whome01@mymts.net or (204) 946-5352



COVENANT OF CARE ABUSE AND MISCONDUCT PROTOCOL

The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon Covenant of Care Abuse and Misconduct Protocol is designed to ensure that all allegations of physical and sexual abuse and other misconduct are handled responsibly, transparently and with all due care and attention. To speak to someone about a concern please contact your Pastor, Parish Coordinator of Care (PCC) **Geraldine Koban** at 306-782-0270 or **Deb Larmour**, Eparchial Coordinator of Care at (306)653-0138 ext. 228 or email: covenantofcare@skeparchy.org

More information is available on the Eparchial Website, www.skeparchy.org

**CHRIST THE TEACHER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EVENTS for the week of Mar 26 - 30**

	SACRED HEART	ST. ALPHONSUS	ST. MARY'S	ST. MICHAEL'S	ST. PAUL'S	ST. THEODORE'S
MON		Stations of the Cross 10:00 am			Rice Lunch Gr. 4 Swimming	
TUES					Gr. 4 Swimming	
WED		Student -Teacher Benefit Hockey Game 7:00 pm			Mom's Pantry Order Pickup Benefit Hockey Game 7:00 pm	
THURS	Holy Thursday Celebration 11:00 am	Holy Thursday Celebration 10:45 am			Holy Thursday Service 10:45 am	
FRI	Students leave for Italy trip	<i>Good Friday No School</i>	<i>Good Friday No School</i>	<i>Good Friday No School</i>	<i>Good Friday No School</i>	<i>Good Friday No School</i>

ST. MICHAEL'S SUMMER CAMPS 2018 AT MADGE LAKE:

Even though there is so much snow outside, St. Michael's Camp is still thinking about summer. Our Summer Camp registration has begun!! Find a friend and pick a week to come to Camp. Hurry as there are limited spots available.



TEEN CAMP (AGE 13-16) July 1-6 (co-ed)

YOUTH CAMP (AGE 8-13) July 8-14 (co-ed) July 15-21 (co-ed)

DAY CAMP (9:00 AM - 12:30 PM) July 23-26 (co-ed)

LITTLE MIKE'S FAMILY CAMP (7 & under accommodate with family) July 26-29 (co-ed)

If you are interested, please go to our website at www.stmichaelscamp.com to complete the registration form <http://www.stmichaelscamp.com/camps/register> and send it to register@stmichaelscamp.com.

YORKTON DISTRICT PARISHES**Schedule of Services in the Yorkton Pastoral District******Please note: this schedule is subject to change, please check regularly****

CALDER	Sunday, March 25	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy (<i>Willow Sunday</i>)
	Friday, March 30	3:00 pm	Vespers & Shroud
	Sunday, April 1	9:00 am	Easter Divine Liturgy & Food Blessing
INSINGER (St. Nicholas)	Saturday, April 7	6:00 pm	Easter Divine Liturgy (Julian Calendar)
MELVILLE	Sunday, March 25	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy (<i>Willow Sunday</i>)
	Thursday, March 29	6:30 pm	Holy Thursday - confessions
		7:00 pm	Way of the Cross
	Friday, March 30	1:00 pm	Good Friday - Shroud Service
	Sunday, April 1	8:00 am	Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy

**FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION****WILLOW (PALM) SUNDAY****MARCH 25, 2018**

*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 in the Tropars, Kondaks, Epistle & Gospel Readings booklets that are found 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.....	First Solemn Holy Communion Class
MON	7:00 pm.....	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
TUES	7:00 pm.....	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
WED	7:00 pm.....	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Anointing
THU	7:00 pm.....	Vespers, Last Supper Divine Liturgy & Washing of Feet
FRI	10:00 am.....	Passion of Our Lord - 12 Gospels
	2:30 pm.....	Vespers & Enthronement of the Holy Shroud
	4:00 pm.....	Good Friday All Night Vigil begins
	7:00 pm.....	Jerusalem Matins
SAT	8:00 pm.....	All Night Vigil continues
	All Night Vigil continues
	10:30 am.....	Easter Divine Liturgy at Gladstone Seniors' Residence
	2:00 pm.....	Vespers & Divine Liturgy
	3:30 pm & 4:30 pm.....	Blessing of Easter Foods (at St. Mary's Cultural Centre)
	8:00 pm.....	Resurrection Matins & Easter Divine Liturgy (English)

CONGRATULATIONS**Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation & Eucharist**

Aria Sophia Wilson ~ Daughter of Michael & Jennifer (nee Ruf) Wilson
Многая Літа May God Grant Her Many Years Многая Літа

OFFICE HOURS - The Parish Office will be closed on Good Friday (March 30th) & Bright Monday (April 2nd).**WEDDING PLANS ??-** If you are planning to be married at St. Mary's or any of the Yorkton District parishes, **please contact Fr. Bohdan (306-783-4594) at least six months before the wedding date.****DEADLINE** for submissions to the bulletin is Tuesdays at 4:30 pm.**EMAIL BULLETIN** - If you would like to have the Bulletin emailed to you please send your request to: cssrmonastery@sasktel.net

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

Willow (Palm Sunday) / The Feast of the Annunciation *Philippian 4:4-9 ~ John 12:1-18*

MON Mar 26 *Synaxis of the Angel Gabriel* *Acts 10:34-43 ~ Matthew 24:3-35*

7:00 pm *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts*

TUES Mar 27 *Matrona* *Ephesians 1:1-9 ~ Matthew 24:36-26:2*

7:00 pm *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts*

WED Mar 28 *Venerable Hilary* *1 Corinthians 2:6-9 ~ Matthew 26:6-16*

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

THU Mar 29 *Holy Thursday* *1 Corinthians ~ 11:23-32 ~ Matthew 26:2-20;*
John 13:3-17; Matthew 26:21-39; Luke 22:43-44; Matthew 26:40-27:2

7:00 pm *Vespers, Last Supper Divine Liturgy & Washing of Feet*

FRI Mar 30 *Good Friday*

10:00 am *Passion of Our Lord - 12 Gospels*

2:30 pm *Vespers, Enthronement of the Holy Shroud*

7:00 pm *Jerusalem Matins*

SAT Mar 31 *Holy Saturday* *Romans 6:3-11 ~ Matthew 28:1-20*

2:00 pm *Vespers & Divine Liturgy*

8:00 pm *Resurrection Matins & Easter Divine Liturgy (English)*

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS - If you are making an offering for this service by cheque, please make your cheque payable to: Ukrainian Catholic Mission

In accordance with the New **Eparchial Stipend Schedule (effective November 1, 2017), the suggested **stipend (offering)** for a Divine Liturgy Intention is now **\$20.00**.



The Chaplet of Divine Mercy

"...one of the soldiers pierced His side with a lance and immediately there came out blood and water" John 19:34

Our Lord emptied Himself to the last drop of blood and water to show us His love and mercy.

On the nine days of the Divine Mercy Novena we petition Our Lord's love and mercy for a particular group of people to help gain their eternal salvation.

Copies of the Novena are available at the east entrance of the church.

Saint Mary's Building Fund Donations



Balance of the Fund to date: \$ 326,644.91 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

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DONATIONS

In Memory of Paul Lazurko

Karen Fransishyn \$ 50.00

Thank you very much

CHURCH DONATIONS

To ensure that your donation is properly recorded and acknowledged, please mark your envelope and the memo line on your cheque "***In memory of...***" or "***On the occasion of...***"

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT -There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on: Tuesday, March 27th and Tuesday, April 3rd.

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



ST. MARY'S PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Congratulations to the following parishioners who were elected to the Parish Council during the parish's Annual Meeting which was held on March 18, 2018.

Parish Council Executive

President:

Gwen Bilyk

Past President: Geraldine Koban

Vice-President:

Bill Prybylski

Treasurer: Kathy Rusnak /Leona Matisho

Secretary:

Vicky Ostrowercha

Parish Council Committees:

Children & Youth:

Lana Klemetski, Shelly Kluk

Communications:

Julie Abrametz, Tom Abrametz, Mary Prybylski

Education:

Pat Thompson, Janet Lawrence

Finance:

Fred Schrader

Liturgical:

Lorne Stechyshyn, Laurie Fedorowich, Ron Wizniak

Maintenance:

Peter Moroz, Bob Paskaruk

Outreach:

Verlee Zulyniak

Parish Activities:

Dolores Harris, Kathy Woychesko

Stewardship:

Vi Protz

Pastor's, President's, Treasurer's and committee reports were presented. (Transcripts available at the Parish Office)



A Traditional Ukrainian Easter Divine Liturgy

will be broadcasted on GX94 Radio

Easter Sunday, April 1st 10:00 am - 11:30 am

The program will consist of Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy & Easter hymns.

The Radio Broadcast on GX Radio is very costly. We are always very appreciative of our organizations - K of C, UCBC and UCWLC who continue to support this endeavour every year. If families or individuals are interested in contributing to this wonderful annual tradition, please come by the Parish Office with your contribution or place an envelope in the collection plate clearly marked for the Radio Broadcasts.

HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED ?? Please notify the Parish Office if you have a change of address or a new phone number. This will help to keep our records current and ensure that tax receipts go to the correct address. Thank you.



SPRING BOUQUET OF UKRAINIAN CULTURE

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018

WYNYARD CIVIC CENTRE

*Doors open at 4:00 pm * Concert at 4:30 pm *

* Supper at 6:00 pm * Dance at 8:00 pm *

Program, banquet and dance: \$20 adults. Dance only: \$10.
Tickets at Sacred Heart Parish office 306-560-8885



Sixth in the Podcast Series on Discovering the Unity of Life and Love :

This Sunday's segment of the Document will directly address the issue of how we are created as men and women to be gift to one another and the things that can get in the way of that mutual gift. On the Further Reflection we have a fresh look at the controversial Church teaching on natural family planning and how it is one of the Catholic Church's best kept secrets for blessing and protecting this gift of married love. Though this short video may not answer all your questions as to why you may not have heard this before with the fresh look at sexuality taken by Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body, and Pope Francis's promotion the now 60 year old Document Humanae Vitae in his recent Apostolic Exhortation, Amoris Laetitia, now is a great time to revisit the prophetic truths found in this teaching and it's implications for us as we approach marriage and family life in all its' beautiful and life-giving dimensions. Much more needs to be addressed on this topic to truly understand this much maligned teaching but hopefully we can open the doors to this conversation given it's profound implications as we come to a fuller understanding of the Unity of Life and Love.



Find the podcast and web links by going to the Eparchy of Saskatoon Family and Life Office website www.skeparchy.org/flo . Or go to www.skeparchy.org and click on the Family and Life Office icon. It is never too late to join us.... So take some time to go deeper in your faith...its just a few clicks away.



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



SATURDAY, MARCH 24

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 25 - WILLOW SUNDAY / FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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

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

MONDAY, MARCH 26

7:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

6:30 pm - Confessions

7:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

6:30 pm - Confessions

7:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy & the Sacrament of Anointing

THURSDAY, MARCH 29 - HOLY THURSDAY

7:00 pm - Vespers, Last Supper Divine Liturgy & Washing of Feet

FRIDAY, MARCH 30 - GOOD FRIDAY

10:00 am - Passion of Our Lord - 12 Gospels

2:30 pm - Vespers - Enthronement of the Holy Shroud

7:00 pm - Jerusalem Matins

SATURDAY, MARCH 31- HOLY SATURDAY

10:30 am - Easter Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Easter Foods
at Gladstone Seniors' Residence

2:00 pm - Vespers & Divine Liturgy

3:30 pm & 4:30 pm - Blessing of Easter Foods

8:00 pm - (English) Resurrection Matins & Easter Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, APRIL 1 - RESURRECTION SUNDAY

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

10:00 am - (English) Easter Divine Liturgy

MONDAY, APRIL 2 - FRIDAY, APRIL 6 - BRIGHT WEEK

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy



2018 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. 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.

2018 PASTORAL LETTER OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

To the Very 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,

Though You went down to the grave, O immortal Lord, You destroyed the power of Hades and rose victorious, Christ our God. You who said "Rejoice" to the myrrh-bearing women; give peace to Your apostles and offer resurrection to the fallen. (Easter Sunday Kondak)

Every human person longs for eternal life. Everything about how we live our daily lives points to how each of us was created for so much more than what we might encounter in our routine, and at times not-so routine, lives. After receiving so much, we still have an infinite desire for our infinite God. My soul is consumed with longing for your ordinances at all times. (Ps. 119:20) When we pause to reflect on this yearning in our hearts, we find this common, natural mystery uniting all of humanity. Indeed, salvation is both personal and communal – for each of us and for all of us.

At the same time, there are also forces that do not unite all of humanity. We witness both subtle and bold acts of greed, coercion and selfish hearts harbouring unspeakable thoughts that lead to horrible results all around us. The danger to human dignity with assisted suicide laws in Canada or the war that continues in Ukraine are but two examples. Division and destruction lead us to ask, "How can people give into such temptation and have such little regard for human dignity?"

Jesus Christ gives meaning to all things. As missionary disciples, we are challenged to share this meaningfulness with others as individuals, as families and as parishes. By recognizing our own sinfulness and God's forgiveness, we must say there is more to life than just the earthly existence of suffering when people wish to kill themselves owing to depression or chronic illness. We must show them hope. We are called to be signs of human dignity as we accompany others in their struggles to be better people, to be more like Christ, offering compassion and mercy in our common pursuit of the Truth, the person Jesus. The confusion of morals and values in society is a turbulent sea when we consider gender identity issues, suicide versus palliative care and letting one die, or being forced to agree to abortion if you apply for federal assistance for summer employment. What is needed is a harbour of trust, humility, patience and love that should be found in our vibrant parishes. Care for the body and soul of every person according to gospel values is what we must offer others. This is the fruit of internalizing the scripture, of partaking in the sacraments of the church, the fruit of common prayer, the fruit of service and charitable works.

Thus, meaningfulness in Christ is what gives purpose to life. He is present to us in all we experience. He is with us! We are invited to encounter Christ and then be a sign of hope to others so that together we proclaim, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life!" May Christ who dwells in our hearts, in our families and in our vibrant parishes, give life to all. On this Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that God's love fills your heart and, through you, the hearts of all. ***Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!***

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Lawrence Huculak, OSBM, Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg
+ Michael Wiwchar, CSsR, Bishop Emeritus of Saskatoon
+ Severian Yakymyshyn OSBM, Bishop 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, CSsR, Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon



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.