



# ***“ORTHODOX 9” PARISHES BULLETIN***

**RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN CANADA**

Monthly Newsletter for the family of *Orthodox IX* Churches including:



**St. Mary’s (the Nativity of the Holy Virgin) - NISKU**

**Sts. Peter & Paul - BONNYVILLE**

**St. John the Baptist - HOREN**

**Holy Ascension - CALMAR**

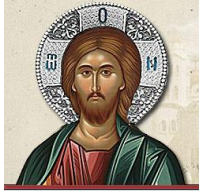
**St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)**

**Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY**

**Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)**

**St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE**

**Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)**



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**Volume 26, Issue 5**

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

**May 2021**



## **THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST - May 2 - HOLY EASTER**

Again and again, we greet each other with these eternally living and life-affirming words and always hear in response: **truly He is risen!**

The Savior's earthly life is an invaluable source of righteousness and moral self-improvement. And yet the Apostle Paul says that "if Christ has not been resurrected, then your faith is vain ... But Christ rose from the dead, the firstborn from the dead... As in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life...". This is the power and meaning of the Resurrection of Christ!

Though today not only do we see again how, "the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing" (Ps. 2,1), one more evil of our earthly life was added to these - a pernicious epidemic. And again, like a hundred years ago, this evil has, unfortunately, touched our parishes too...

But "*let not your heart be troubled*" (John 14,1), dear brothers and sisters. After all, we do not preach eternal life in this world full of suffering, which mainly come from the depravity of human nature, and therefore cannot be corrected by any compulsion or technology.

We preach, and the Lord confirms this in our hearts every year - the Resurrection of Christ and the Resurrection with Christ, *and the new life of the new world to come*, a completely different life, that even the greatest and most gracious saints did not dare to describe!

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? - asks the holy Apostle (1 Corinthians 15:55). And to continue his thought: when you kill a Christian, you now always kill with him/her, and instead of him/her – the Christ! This was His holy will - to die for the old Adam and all his descendants; but Christ is the True God, therefore he *was risen* and *is risen*, and everyone who lives by faith in the Son of God, taking part in Him (and calling others to Christ by one’s love), partaking of His Most Pure Body and Blood during the days of one’s life - *will be risen* with him!

*Christ is risen, and life reigns!* - says the great hierarch, John Chrysostom, today.

May the Paschal joy of Christ's Resurrection do not leave us, but always strengthen our faith, give courage and strength to resist all sinful temptations and tribulations. Amen!

***Wishing you all a Blessed and Happy Easter!***

***With heartfelt love in the Risen Christ our Lord,***

***V. Rev. f. Yevheniy Protsenko and family***

# Paschal Message of His Holiness KIRILL, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

to the Archpastors, Pastors, Deacons, Monastics and  
All the Faithful Children of the Russian Orthodox Church

Your Eminences the archpastors, honourable fathers,  
venerable monks and nuns, dear brothers and sisters!



On this *chosen and holy day*, full of Paschal joy and glorious light, the life-affirming glad tidings are being passed on from mouth to mouth, from heart to heart:

## CHRIST IS RISEN!

In these words, we confess the unshakeable faith in Him, by Whose Cross we stood on Holy Friday and for Whom we mourned along with His disciples and myrrh-bearing women when praying before the Shroud. And this very day, together with the Angelic Host, revealing the unity of the earthly and the heavenly Church, we triumphantly proclaim: *Today salvation has come to the world; for Christ is risen as Almighty* (Paschal Canon, Irmos of Ode 4).

The Pascha of the Lord is the most striking testimony to God's wisdom and the boundless love of the Creator for humankind. The dawn of history, as we know, was darkened by the spiritual tragedy – through the fall of the progenitors the doors of Heaven were closed to people, and from that time onwards suffering and death have been the inevitable consequence of human sinfulness. Yet, having lost the communion with God the Source of life, people were not deprived of His mercy and love.

At the same time, as Nicholas Cabasilas, a 14<sup>th</sup> century saint, wrote, *the love of God was boundless, yet there was no sign to express it* (The Life in Christ, VI). Love manifests itself in doing good for one's neighbours and in the willingness to endure hardships, distress and even sufferings for their sake, and the Saviour shows it all. By His Incarnation He renews the human nature damaged by sin, and by His death on the Cross He delivers us from the power of evil. *Thus we have received life in Christ*, St. Ephrem the Syrian concludes, *We have eaten His Body in place of the fruit of the Tree..., the curse has been washed away by His innocent blood and in the hope of resurrection... we walk in the new life* (Commentary on the Diatessaron, 21).

The Resurrection of the Saviour opened to humanity the doors of the Heavenly Kingdom and filled our earthly life with the intransient meaning. The Lord *gave Himself to all those believing in Him as the model of virtue, and acquired incorruption so that all who are being saved may tread in His steps*, as St. Maximus the Confessor writes (The Ambigua, 42). To do it, we must here, on earth, learn to breathe the air of eternity, putting off *the old man with his deeds* (Col 3:9), living our life in accordance with the Gospel and participating in the sacraments of the Holy Church, which is the heiress of God's great promises.

Faith in the Resurrection of the Saviour quenches the flame of worldly tribulations and allows a person to rise above the mundane vanity, helping resist temptations of sin and overcome various fears. In response to the Divine love we are called to demonstrate *charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned* (1 Tim 1:5); in response to His loving kindness – show mercy to people around us; and in response to His care – strive to build the life of society in accord with the lofty ideals of the Gospel.

Going beyond national and state boundaries, the Paschal celebration spiritually unites millions of Christians living in different countries. This polyphonic earthly choir, in concert with all the bodiless Powers of Heaven, gives praise to the Lord Jesus Who *shed His blood for all and has redeemed the world with a life-bearing ransom* (Octoechos, Tone 6, Saturday Matins Stichera).

From year to year, from century to century, from millennium to millennium, this thanksgiving triumphantly resounds throughout the world – resounds despite all temptations, hardships and ordeals. And it does not stop today, when the world is suffering from the baneful pestilence.

At these trying times it is particularly important to support those diseased and infirm, those grieving over the loss of their relatives and friends, those who have lost their livelihood, those who cannot come to church. Let us do what we can to help the afflicted, let us not walk with indifference past the people in need of our concern, attention and care.

Just recently, because of the epidemiological measures, many of us could not attend divine services. The experience we have gained shows how important it is to value and take every opportunity to pray together and participate in the services, holy sacraments and, above all, the Divine Eucharist that unites us with Christ and with one another.

My dear, I heartily greet you with the great feast of Pascha and wish you good health and abundant mercies from Jesus the Giver of life. May the gracious Lord vouchsafe all of us to *more perfectly partake of Him in the unending Day of His Kingdom* and to joyfully proclaim:

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

**INDEED, CHRIST IS RISEN!**



**PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA**

*Pascha of Christ,  
2021*



### ***Paschal Greeting of His Grace Matthew, Bishop of Sourozh***

*With all my heart I greet you by the universal joyful Paschal greeting of The Holy Gospel:*

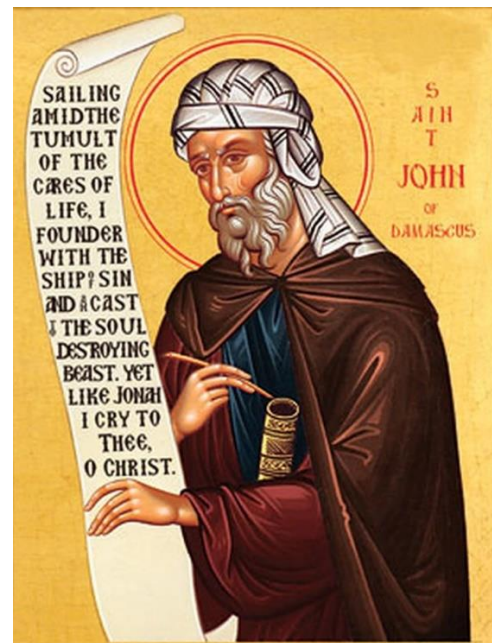
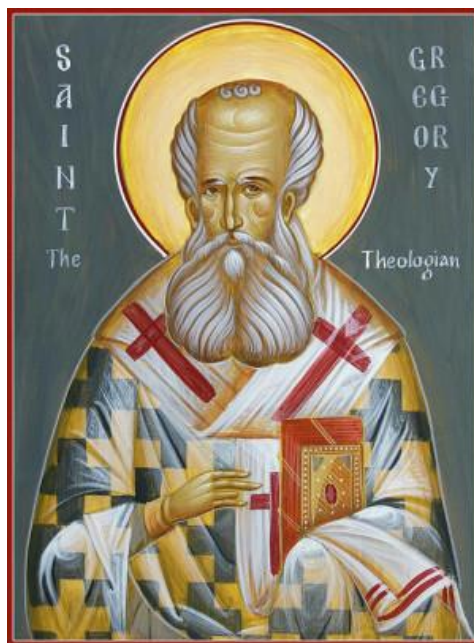
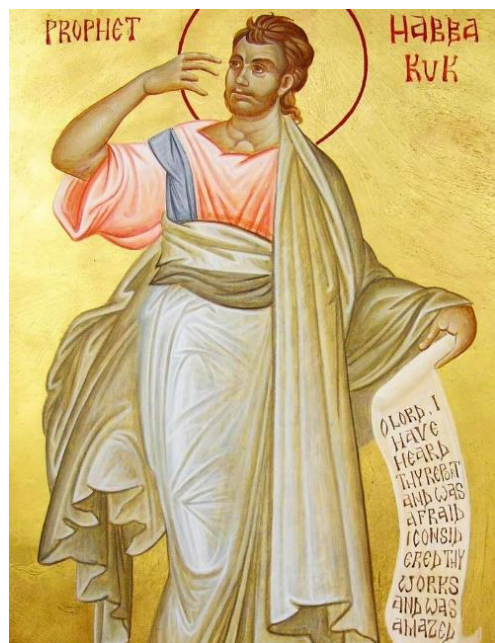
**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

*On this joyful feast of the great and radiant feast of the Holy Easter/Pascha, when the ineffable paschal joy fills our hearts, sanctifying all around us and in us with the heavenly light, inspiring us to works of love and charity, may the Risen Lord comfort you and fill your soul with ineffable joy, give you good health, peace and prosperity and send down His all-powerful help in all your good undertakings and blessed labours for many years!*

**With love in the Risen Christ,  
Matthew, Bishop of Sourozh  
Pascha of the Lord, 2021, London**

## Two Questions about the Holy Easter/Pascha

*Who is the "God-speaking Habakkuk" from the Easter hymns, and who was the first to say "a Feast of feasts and a Solemnity of solemnities" about the Holy Pascha?*



The creator of the Paschal Canon, **the Monk John Damascene**, when compiling the irmos of the 4th canon (the Ode IV Irmos), mentions **the holy prophet Habakkuk**:

*The inspired prophet Habakkuk now stands with us in holy vigil. He is like a shining angel who cries with a piercing voice: Today salvation has come to the world, for Christ is risen as all-powerful.*

That actually means: "On the Divine Guard, God-speaking Habakkuk will stand with us and show a luminous angel, clearly saying: today salvation to the world, as Christ is risen".

Here the words from his prophetic book are used: *I stood on my guard and, standing on the tower, watched to find out what He would say in me* (Hab. 2: 1).

The Hebrew word *mishmeret* (guard) is used not literally, but figuratively, indicating the peculiarities of the prophetic ministry. The prophets were the guardians of the house of Israel (Ez. 3:17; Jer. 6:17; Isa. 52: 8), whom the Lord - the Supreme Shepherd and Guardian of the chosen people - raised up to preserve the holiness of the Covenant. Always rising above their contemporaries, the prophets proclaimed the will of God to them. So, the prophet Habakkuk, standing on guard, expects revelation from the Lord God.

According to the statute of the church services, before the 4th Ode of the Easter Canon, the reading of the "Word On Easter" (Oration 45th) of **St. Gregory Nazianzen the Theologian**.

This word, spoken four centuries before the writing of the Passover Canon, helps to understand why the Monk John Damascene, when composing the 4th ode of the canon, turned to the book of this prophet.

"I will stand upon my watch, saith the venerable Habakkuk; and I [St Gregory] will take my post beside him today on the authority and observation which was given me of the Spirit; and I will look forth, and will observe what shall be said to me. Well, I have taken my stand, and looked forth; and behold a man riding on the clouds and he is very high, and his countenance is as the countenance of Angel, [4588] and his vesture as the brightness of piercing lightning; and he lifts his hand toward the East, and cries with a loud voice. His voice is like the voice of a trumpet;

and round about Him is as it were a multitude of the Heavenly Host; and he saith, Today is salvation come unto the world, to that which is visible, and to that which is invisible. Christ is risen from the dead, rise ye with Him. Christ is returned again to Himself, return ye. Christ is freed from the tomb, be ye freed from the bond of sin. The gates of hell are opened, and death is destroyed, and the old Adam is put aside, and the New is fulfilled; if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; [4589] be ye renewed. Thus he speaks; and the rest sing out, as they did before when Christ was manifested to us by His birth on earth, their glory to God in the highest, on earth, peace, goodwill among men. [4590] And with them I also utter the same words among you. And with that I might receive a voice that should rank with the Angel's, and should sound through all the ends of the earth."

So, this was the revelation to St Gregory the Theologian, that included both a reference to the prophet and his own mysterious vision, and both were compiled into the 4<sup>th</sup> Ode by St John Damascene.

Let us also recollect the words of St Gregory the Theologian written right after those words:

"With them, I (oh, if only I had a voice worthy of an angelic song and announcing the ends of the world!) I proclaim to you this: Easter! Lord's Easter! I will also say in honor of the Trinity [meaning, he says it the third time]: Easter! This is to us a Feast of feasts and a Solemnity of solemnities as far exalted above all others, not only human and earthly, but even those of Christ and for Christ, as the sun surpasses the stars."

\* \* \*

## *How can you color Easter eggs, and with natural paints?*



The symbol of the resurrection from the tomb made of stone, or a beginning a new life is an Easter egg.

St Mary Magdalene once use it as an illustrative example to show to the emperor how life can arise from the seemingly dead stone.

Since, it became one of the main symbols of the Holy Pascha.

Easter eggs are not only given some colour, but also painted, or decorated very artfully. So as the whole new art was born, and most surely is very popular in Ukraine, and even known by some special word – Pysanka or Krashenka. Every time we are travelling along

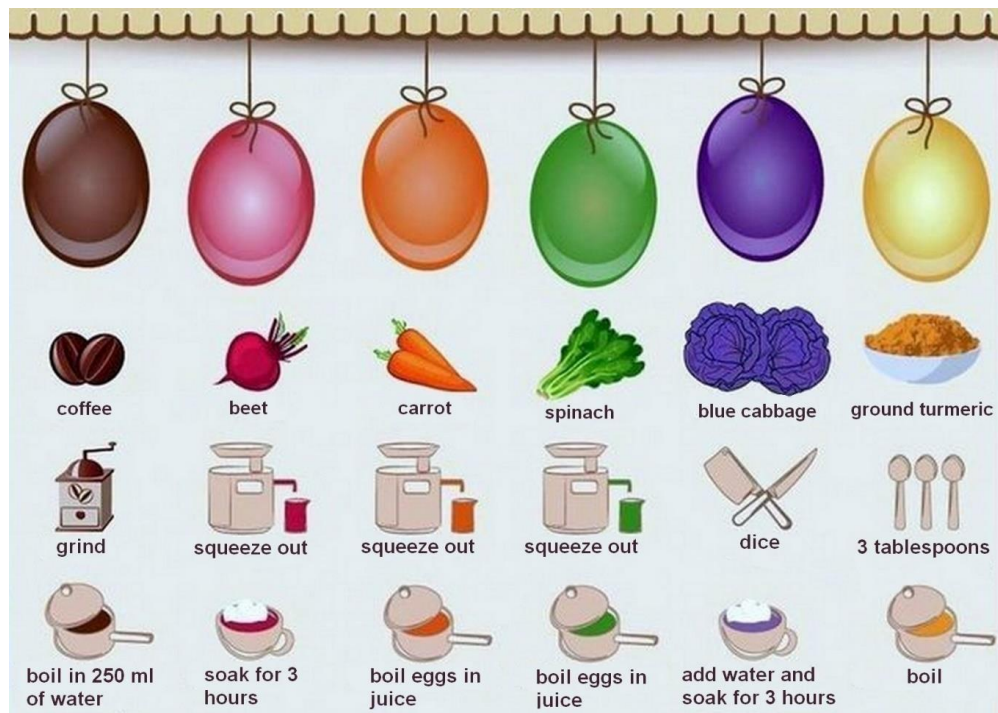
highway 16 (Yellowhead) we are reminded at the town of Vegreville, that this godly tradition is still kept even here in Canada by the Ukrainian people.

So, what are the basic rules for correct Easter eggs staining? And can we avoid using some unknown chemicals for that, but apply any natural paints?

There are several basic rules for correct staining:

- for a better and uniform color of the eggs, it is necessary to rinse and degrease an egg with soap and alcohol;
- you need to cook them only when they lie at room temperature for some time. Then, while heating them in hot water, there will be no sharp temperature drop, and the shell will not crack;
- it is better to cook eggs with the addition of salt, about one tablespoon per 1 glass of water;
- in order for boiled and painted eggs to have a beautiful festive look, they must be dried and wiped with a cloth dipped in vegetable oil. Then polish them thoroughly with a dry cotton cloth. Then the eggs will be shiny.

This picture is showing the variety of natural colors (in addition to the conventional red onion skin 😊) still accessible at our time and area. You might know even more ways and colors, which is perfect and can always be shared with everyone.



Compiled by f. Y. Protsenko

## Announcements

Dear brothers and sisters! Due to the sad state of things with covid19 in our province and the government restrictions the only service that we can conduct at the church – is **the blessing of the Easter baskets (and the distribution of the willow branches) – in the morning of May the 2nd at 9 am outside of the St. Mary’s church in Nisku.**

Unfortunately, the services of the Great Passion Week – Twelve Passion Gospels – April 29, 6 pm, and Holy Shroud Service on Great Friday – April 30, 5 pm, will be online, as well as the Easter – Pascha – night Liturgy – May 1, 23.30 (11.30 pm).

The graveyard services will be conducted according to the schedule of services, unless otherwise informed. As we can keep a safe distance there, spreading around, and do it in family groups (and on the additional days).

\* \* \*



We extend **sincere congratulations** to Pamela and Travis Toomey on the birth of the second son – Tedryk (Theodore) John Toomey on March 15 2021 at 1:08 pm, weighing 6 pounds and 15 ounces, the baby brother of Walker, as well as to Beverly and David Borys – the happy grandparents of Teddy, their eighth grandchild!

God grant your child/grand-child and you good health and many happy years!!!

\* \* \*

Dear brothers and sisters, the parishioners and friends of our holy churches!

I would like to encourage you to share your joyous events with us, to make the mighty and merciful work of our God known: the birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and the other events and achievements, that we could post in our monthly Orthodox IX bulletins!

## *In Memoriam*

***The parishioners of Orthodox IX extend our deepest and sincere condolences to the relatives of the newly departed. May God comfort you with His compassion, and may God settle them, where the light of His countenance shall visit! Memory iternal!***

### **Sylvia Livia Popik**

**APRIL 13, 1946 – MARCH 15, 2021**



On March 15, 2021, Sylvia Popik, formerly of Thorsby, passed away peacefully, surrounded by love and family. Sylvia will be remembered by her sister, Betty, niece, Karen (Anthony), two nephews, Todd (Wendy) and Curtis, sister-in-law, Sylvia and her aunt Eileen, as well as extended family and friends. Sylvia is predeceased by her husband, Ron, brother, Dennis and her parents, John and Mary Kuta.

May the Lord remember your faith and generosity in His Kingdom!

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### **Vera Kuhn**

**JANUARY 12, 1933 – MARCH 26, 2021**



Vera is survived by her loving family: children Dalace (Arden) Motiuk, Ken Kuhn, Karen Pederson, Carol (Jim) Brown and John (Laurel) Kuhn; grandchildren: Michelle (Trever), Larissa (Travis), Mason (Niki), Jessica (Tiffan), Kevin, Hannah and Davis; great-grandchildren: Tennyson, Brielle, Alex, Everly, Jaxon and Hunter; brothers: Myron (Angeline) Halushka and Jerry Halushka; as well as numerous relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her husband of 53 years, Walter; her parents: Michael and Angeline Halushka and her dear friend Nick Stachnik.

As Vera cared for the little ones of the Christ Church, may God accept her as a child of His Heavenly Kingdom!

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### **Nick Kuta**

**February 8, 1925 – April 16, 2021**



Nick was born in the Wilton Park district near Calmar, AB where he resided and operated the family farm until his passing following a brief illness.

Nick was known for his great sense of humour and he loved to reminisce about the good old days with family and friends over coffee. Nick loved to dance and attend the local jamborees, a passion that started as a teenager. Nick also loved farming and continued to do so until he decided to rent his land a few years ago.

Nick is survived by his brother Alec (Jeanette) Kuta; sisters, Eva Pyrch, Elsie Mryglod and sister-in-law, Millie Kuta.

Nick was predeceased by his parents, John and Joyce Kuta; brother, Bill Kuta; sisters, Mary Polok, Kay Pycrz, Helen Kendrick and Vivian Powlik as well as his longtime partner Susan Lessard. Also predeceasing Nick were his brothers-in-law, John Polok, Steve Prych, Fred Pycrz, Jim Kendrick, Mark Mryglod and Eugene Powlik.

A private burial was held on April 21, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the Holy Ascension Russian Russo Orthodox Church Cemetery.

May the Lord give rest to Nick with his godly parents – the founders of the Holy Ascension Church and cemetery – in His Heavenly Kingdom!

The Resurrection of  
our Lord Jesus Christ

*from the Gospels by Matthew and Mark*

**Christ  
is  
Risen!**

**Truly He is  
Risen!**

**Across**

1 Where they laid Jesus Christ after He died (Matt.27,60)

4 the place where Jesus Christ died (Matt.27,33)

5 Jesus Christ and two thieves were \_\_\_\_\_ together (Matt.27,38)

8 Mother of Jesus Christ

9 The angel said "He is \_\_\_\_\_ He is not here" (Mk.16,6)

10 They made Jesus Christ wear a scarlet \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt.27,28)

12 Jesus Christ was betrayed for \_\_\_\_\_ pieces of silver (Matt.27,3)

14 Jesus Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ of any crime (Matt.27,4)

15 The 12 disciples of Jesus Christ

**DOWN**

2 Jesus Christ shed His \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins

3 Judas Iscariot \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus (Matt.27,4)

5 Roman commander of a hundred soldiers (Matt.27,54)

6 Jesus Christ said "My God, My God why have you \_\_\_\_\_ me" (Matt.27,46)

7 a title of Jesus, that means anointed one (Matt.27,17)

11 They laid the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ in a tomb (Matt. 27,59)

12 Jesus Christ wore a "crown of \_\_\_\_\_"

13 our Lord, God and Savior



*Christ is risen!*

**May 2021**

*Christ has risen!*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b><u>2 - Holy Easter!</u></b>  <i>11:30 pm (May 1) - Paschal Matins, Liturgy - streaming</i></p> <p><i>9.00 am – blessing of Easter baskets at St Mary’s, Nisku</i></p>	<p><u>3</u>  <u>Bright Monday</u></p> <p>No Fast all week</p>	<p><u>4</u>  <u>Bright Tuesday</u></p>	<p><u>5</u>  <u>Bright Wednesday</u></p>	<p><u>6</u>  <u>Bright Thursday</u></p>	<p><u>7</u>  <u>Bright Friday</u></p>	<p><u>8</u>  <u>Bright Saturday</u></p>
<p><u>9</u>  10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.  2nd Sunday after Pascha. Thomas Sunday, Anti-Pascha.  <i>Grave Yard Service – HOREN – 3 pm (?)</i></p>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
<p><u>16</u>  10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.  3rd Sunday after Pascha. Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women.  <i>Grave Yard Services – Nisku, and Old Cemetery (Nisku) - 2 pm and 4 pm</i></p>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
<p><u>23</u>  10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.  4th Sunday after Pascha.  <i>Grave Yard Services – Calmar and Thorsby - 2 pm and 4 pm</i></p>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>
<p><u>30</u>  10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.  4th Sunday after Pascha.  <i>Grave Yard Services (on demand, please call)</i></p>	<u>31</u>					