



“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

Holy Ascension - CALMAR

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

St. John the Baptist - HOREN

St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Dormition of Theotokos - MACNUTT (SK)

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



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Volume 61, Issue 5

CHRIST IS RISEN!

May 2024

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST - May 5 - HOLY EASTER

CHRIST IS RISEN! No announcement ever made in the history of the world has been more important. No announcement – no words – are more vital to each of us individually, and to all of us in communion with one another than the promise which these joy-filled words hold out to all mankind! And since then, every Christian can say: the most important event in my life took place in Jerusalem, "under Pontius Pilate"!

CHRIST IS RISEN! Thus, victory over death and sin has already been won for us, then we have no one and nothing to fear in this life or in the next, for the Risen Christ has gone before us to prepare a way for us! Regardless of how overwhelming the forces of death, sin and evil which come to us to block our way, we have the divine assurance of victory through the Risen Christ!

CHRIST IS RISEN! The Resurrection tells us that we Christians have a living Lord. He is alive now. He will live and reign forever. He Who loves His creation is with His Father, and we can turn to Him in every need, in every emotion, in every heartache.

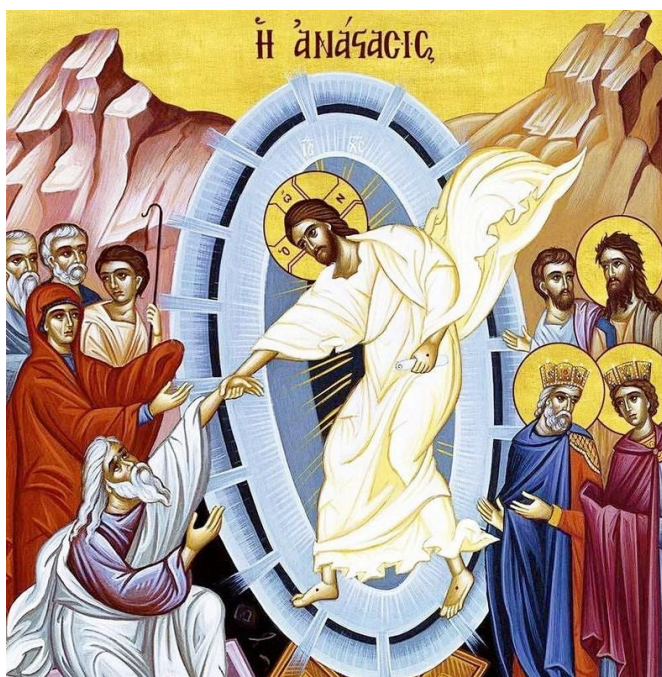
CHRIST IS RISEN! The Resurrection makes it perfectly clear that death has been conquered. The empty tomb has extinguished the fears and terrors of death. Death has a new name. Death is now the "falling-asleep" of us and our loved ones!

CHRIST IS RISEN! The Lord's Resurrection is our assurance that we will have our own resurrection. Everybody who is buried in the earth who has been obedient to God's commandments shall one day rise again just as Christ did. This is not wishful thinking. This is the truth of the Lord's word! Today we are reminded about our promise of life evermore. The Resurrection captures that promise. It solidifies that promise into a Resurrection theology that Christians are expected to live by – the theology for life here and in the hereafter.

Is the Risen Lord living in us? Let Him come and fill our life each day. Only then will we never die!

Because Christ is Risen! He has Risen Indeed!

With heartfelt love in the Risen Christ our Lord, V. Rev. f. Yevheniy Protsenko and family



**PASCHAL MESSAGE OF HIS GRACE MATTHEW,
Bishop of Sourozh, temporary Administrator of
the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA and Canada**

**Beloved in the Lord, all-honourable
fathers, brothers, and sisters!**



I cordially congratulate you on the Greatest Feast of the Radiant Resurrection of Christ and greet you with the all-joyous Paschal greeting:

CHRIST IS RISEN!

The long-awaited holy days of the universal triumph of the Church of God have come, and the words of the Easter troparion resound again and again as a victorious hymn: "**Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!**"

There is no more death that can separate us from God because the great Divine Love sacrifices the Only Begotten Son for the sins of the whole world, so that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

The incomprehensible life-giving Divine mystery reveals its salvific power to the entire human race through suffering, death on the cross and Resurrection. "For our sake, the Lord became a man," writes St. Gregory the Theologian, "and assumed the image of a slave, and was led to death for our iniquities. This is what the Savior did, who, as God, could save with a single act of will, for with one command He created everything." By sacrificing Himself for the sins of the world, the sinless Lord opened the way for the mankind to the immortality.

The Resurrection of Christ illumined the whole world with a radiant and saving light and became a source of the never-ending joy and inner peace, and today, filled with the Divine light of Christ's Resurrection, we strive to sanctify all our thoughts, deeds, feelings, and our whole lives with it. The bright Easter joy shines in our hearts, filling them with joy and hope, strengthening faith in the triumph of life, goodness, peace, and love.

Sharing the Easter triumph with you, I prayerfully wish you, honorable fathers, dear brothers and sisters, spiritual and bodily health, good spirits, a prosperous and peaceful life! May the good and joyful news of the Resurrection always sanctify our path of life and the light of Christ's Glory, shining from the Life-giving tomb, fill our hearts with rays of all-conquering Divine love!

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

+ Matthew

Bishop of Sourozh
temporary Administrator of the Patriarchal
parishes in the USA and Canada

The Pascha of Christ,
2024, London

THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN: SACRIFICIAL LOVE

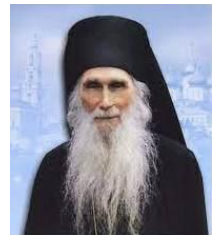


The third week after Easter is called the Week of the Myrrh-bearing Women. The Holy Church praises and glorifies these holy women for their devotion and love of Jesus Christ, as they did not spare themselves at a moment of severe danger and suffering. At a time when every disciple of Christ deserted Him, they stood at the Cross to see His crucifixion and washed and wrapped His body for burial.

When at the end of Saturday these "weaker vessels", departed in the dark to anoint the body of their Teacher, they became the first to find the great stone door rolled away

from the tomb, and were the first to learn, and proclaim, of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! They even became the first to see the resurrected Christ and to hear from Him the words that represent the essence of the Christian faith: "Rejoice!"

Nobody would dispute the great influence that women have on human deeds. We know from the Bible that it is through the first woman that sin has entered this innocent world. It is also through the woman that the Redeemer came to the world to renew and restore humanity. Indeed, the God-inspired author of the Book of Psalms speaks of the two ways that can be taken by the humankind. One is that of wisdom and devotion, while the other one is that of folly and vice.



God was not pleased to grant the woman the power to subjugate others by force or coercion. But He has given her the influence to overwhelm the strong in such a way that they do not feel it, submitting without feeling their freedom restricted in any way. That is why the woman's influence on people's fates and morals is so great. This influence will prove beneficial if the woman's life conforms to its original calling.

What is then the calling of the woman? They say sometimes that men and women have one and the same calling to glorify God by their good deeds. This is true, but the woman has a special calling. Let us turn to Holy Scripture. We read on the first page of the Book of Genesis: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Gen. 1:26). Further on it says this about the specific calling of the woman: "It is not good that the man should be alone; I shall make him a help meet for him" (Gen. 2:18). And this was not said about a married woman, as Eve was not only the first wife to the first husband, but also the first creature of female sex. Indeed, it was not good that the man should have been alone.

God endowed the first man with every blessing. He put him in Eden, but the man was lacking a help capable of thinking, talking and loving. He had no one to share his joy, thoughts and feelings, because all creatures around him were below him, while the Divine Being Who had created him was far above him. Adam, therefore, did not feel the perfect bliss. So God created a wife, a help, for the first man. She was that other "ego" which the first man was seeking. The wife as a God-given helpmate was to make the man's bliss perfect by her concern

and love. Thus, the calling of the woman lies in love. Being the help to her husband, she is his equal. She can give him the help he needs only if she is his equal.

Thus, a woman is called to be a help to her husband. Her calling is love. If you look deep in a woman's inner world, you will see the words "bashfulness and modesty" inscribed by the Creator in her heart. The very happiness and honour of a woman lie in this modest and dependent position. If she loses these qualities, she loses her image. Thus, according to the word of God, the nature of a woman lies in modesty and humbleness, and her calling is love.

There are two types of love. One is the joyful feeling of a person who is loved with a sacrificial love, while the other is the happiness of a person who himself or herself loves with a sacrificial love. Loved by others, a woman is happy, but this love is inconstant and changeable. To love her neighbours and to sacrifice herself for the love of them - this is the essence of a woman and the perfect law of her existence. Taken without the tumours of sin brought by the Fall, the love with which the Creator endowed the woman is what makes her courageous and capable of great deeds for all her weakness and gentleness.

Look how patient a woman is in her good works; how insatiable her love is. The love of a mother has always been revered as a model of this gentle and holy love. The mother's love has been glorified by writers and poets in all times and in all nations.

We are often asked whether men and women are equal in their abilities. They are equal and at the same time unequal. Women's abilities are intended for one goal, while men's for another. A woman has her own field of activity in which her abilities are, of course, incomparably higher than those of a man. It is her home and family. This is the field where a woman reveals all the power of her soul. This is where she is a full master, though her influence here is often inconspicuous. Her power is manifested not in oppression or rude force, but in captivating gentleness. It is in the family that her efficiency and her mysterious art to penetrate a man's heart is manifested. The ability to care, to share, to respond, to show tact and to encourage tired and grieving souls - this is the mainspring used by women for domestic control.

The abilities that the woman received from God, however, cannot be revealed in all their fullness. She is capable of fulfilling her calling, but at the same time she is incapable of it. She is capable because she does seek to accomplish her predestination and incapable because of sin that chokes and sometimes corrupts the good seeds that God planted in her heart. Instead of being active, she becomes fussy, resorting to intrigue, slyness and coquetry. The woman's heart so richly endowed with gifts of God's grace becomes sinful and graceless. Holy Scripture, while praising the woman's good qualities, also points to her viciousness. On its pages you can meet bad, senseless, fallen and thoughtless women who did much damage to people of God.

When Christ the Savior preached on earth, nobody sympathized with Him as much as women. Just as a woman's heart is attracted to Him, so His heart is attracted to hers, because the Son of God, by His very nature, is love. He performed His feat on earth as a humble servant for all. The woman, therefore, who is also called to love will find in our Savior the One Who is intimately akin to her in her modest and humble service. If Christian faith is precious to the human soul, it is especially precious to the woman's soul. A woman cannot be a true woman if she does not accept the Gospel as a real Christian whose place is by the side of the humble and loving Savior. In this lies her greatness, her holiness and her salvation. Amen.

orthochristian.com

**after the sermon by
Archimandrite Kirill (Pavlov)**

Christ is Risen! Chrystos Voskres!

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 Eternal to all the departed!

Phyllis Borys

June 17, 1935 - April 4, 2024



We are sad to announce that our beloved Mom, Baba and Great Baba, Phyllis Borys passed away peacefully with her sons by her side, April 4, 2024 at the age of 88 years.

Phyllis will be deeply missed and forever cherished by her sons, Michael (Darcie) and Julian (Shauna); her grandchildren, Melanie (Michael), Cameron (Miranda), Joshua, Colby (Kennedy), Marina, Devon (Annie), and Ryan; her great grandchildren, Maisey and Beau; as well as a community of relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her parents, Metro and Martha Babiak; brothers, Manuel and Samuel Babiak and her husband Lawrence Borys.

She was an active member of the St. Mary's Church and Lady's Aide laboring selflessly for the Church of the Lord. Her hobbies included cooking, baking, reading and gardening. In her later years she enjoyed spending time with her family.

As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations in Phyllis' memory may be made to St. Mary's Russian Greek Orthodox Church or a charity of your choice.

Walter Kochansky

July 29, 1944 - April 16, 2024



It is with deep sorrow and love that we announce the peaceful passing of Walter Kochansky on the evening of Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at Breton Long Term Care.

Walter's big smile and happy disposition will always be remembered.

He will rest in the Horen Cemetery, alongside his parents and brother Peter.

Walter is survived by his sister, Elsie Mielnichuk along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Walter was predeceased by his parents, Andrew and Barbara Kochansky; brothers, Eric, William and Peter Kochansky; brother-in-law, Harry Mielnichuk; sisters-in-law, Mary Kochansky and Olga Kochansky; niece, Helen Fuculak and nephew, Andy Mielnichuk.

Paul Spychka

Passed away on 31 March 2024



It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of Paul Spychka of Stony Plain, Alberta on March 31, 2024, at the age of 79 years. He is survived by his daughter Tammy Irg (Philip), as well as his cherished twin grandsons Ethan and Tristan. For his grandsons, he had arms that were always open for a hug, for books to be read, and a special love that is never-ending.

Paul will be dearly missed by his siblings Iris Mudryk (Steve), Edna Hirst (Geoffrey) and Orest Spychka (Dianna).

Paul was predeceased by his wife Olga, his parents John and Sophie; brothers Eddie, Steve, Bill and Roy, and his sisters Elsie, Mary, Ellen, Lil and Ann. Paul will also be fondly remembered by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

THE STORY OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST (for children)



When Jesus Christ died on the Cross, one of His secret disciples, a noble man named Joseph, received permission to remove His body from the Cross and bury It. Together with another disciple, Nicodemus, they took the body of Christ from the Cross, anointed it with fragrant oil, covered it with a clean cloth and put it in a new tomb — in a rock, not far from the place where Christ was crucified. There were also some women who always listened to the sermons of Jesus Christ. They agreed to prepare fragrant ointments and come to wash and anoint the body the day after the holiday. Joseph and Nicodemus closed the entrance to the cave with a large stone.

The Jewish leaders placed guards in front of the cave and put seals on the stone so that the disciples of Jesus would not take His body.

On the night of Saturday to Sunday, our Lord Jesus Christ ROSE FROM THE DEAD. An angel appeared and rolled the stone away from the grave. The soldiers who guarded the grave were afraid of the shining Angel, became like the dead, and then they fled from fear.

* * *

At dawn, the women, disciples of Jesus Christ, went to wash and anoint the body of their Teacher with fragrant oils - myrrh.

— Who will roll off a heavy stone for us? — they talked to each other on the way.

As they came closer, they saw that the stone was lying by an open tomb, and an Angel was sitting on it in shiny clothes and with a face sparkling like lightning.

"Don't be afraid, — he said. — I know that you are looking for Jesus crucified. He's not here. He rose again, as He told the disciples (the followers or students), on the third day after His death. Look at where His body lay, and tell His disciples about it.

The women gladly went to the disciples to tell them about what they had seen and heard. Peter and John immediately ran to the tomb, but John, the younger one, ran first and only saw that the body was not in the cave. When Peter came running, he entered the cave and saw that it was empty, and the cloth and handkerchief with which the Savior's face was covered lay folded side by side.

Jesus Christ is risen! He died on the Cross, but He was stronger than death: He rose again, began to live again. For forty days He came to His disciples, talked with them, and taught them. The disciples did not immediately recognize Him, He was not the same as before, but it was Him, the Lord Jesus Christ. And forty days later, He prayed with His disciples, blessed them, and ascended to heaven.

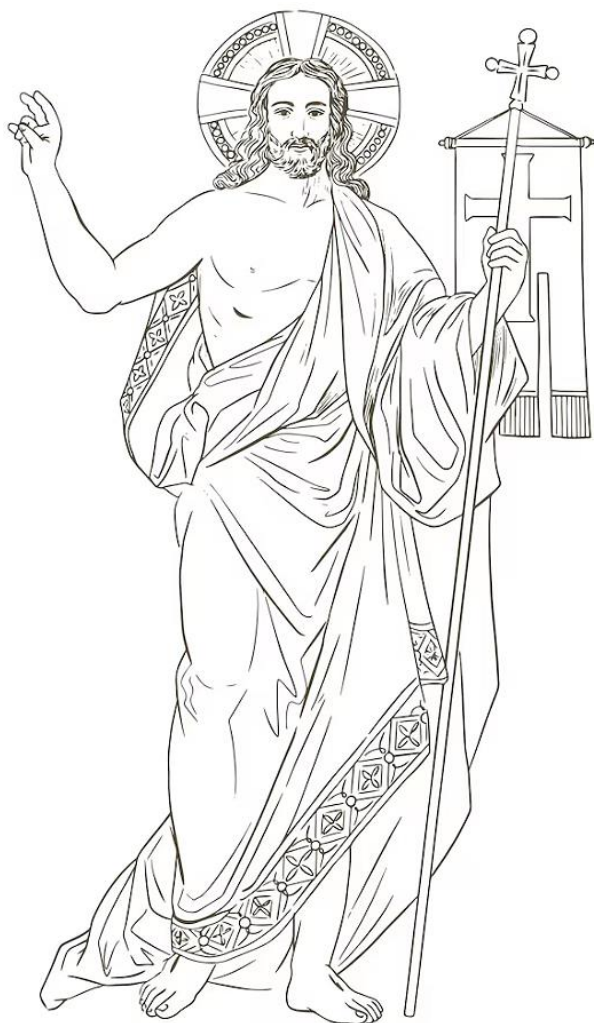
At Easter, we greet each differently than at other times of the year. We say: **CHRIST IS RISEN!**

And to this we answer: **TRULY HE IS RISEN!**

The Resurrection of Christ, or Easter, is the biggest Feast of the year. We know that God is stronger than death, that there is life after death for all of us, that the way to heaven to God is open to us.

You know how much fun it is in spring to watch how everything comes to life, how the branches become soft, covered with buds and leaves, turn green.

That's what Easter is: Jesus Christ conquered death, and He granted us a new, different life that will never end. People have always rejoiced and are rejoicing over the Feast of the Holy Pascha - Easter!



Look at the picture above!
Now look at the picture of
Jesus Christ risen (on the
left)!

Now compare them with
the icon on the first page of
this bulletin! And with the
icon of the story of the
Resurrection of Christ on
the previous page!

The shape of the glow
around the Lord is not
accidentally like an egg.

This is one of the greatest
symbols of the resurrection,
as from the stony shell of an
egg new life is going out into
this world!

Now add this shape to this
icon of the Resurrection!

From the Gospel story of the Resurrection of our
Lord and God Jesus Christ you got to know about
two disciples (they are also called Apostles), who,
when they learned from the Myrrh-Bearing women
about the empty tomb and the revelation of the
angel, ran there to see the Resurrection.
Here they are in the picture (on the right) trying to
find their way to the open and empty tomb (that is
the grave) of the Lord.
Help them to find their way to their Greatest Joy!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>May 5 - Holy Easter!</u> 8:00 pm – Vegreville; 11:30 pm – Paschal Matins and Liturgy with blessing of Easter baskets at St. Mary Church, at Nisku	<u>6</u> <u>Bright Monday</u> No Fast all Week 1	<u>7</u> <u>Bright Tuesday</u>	<u>8</u> <u>Bright</u> <u>Wednesday</u>	<u>9</u> <u>Bright</u> <u>Thursday</u>	<u>10</u> <u>Bright</u> <u>Friday</u>	<u>11</u> <u>Bright</u> <u>Saturday</u> 3 pm – Grave Yard Service at Thorsby
<u>May 12</u> 2nd Sunday of Pascha. Thomas Sunday, Anti- Pascha. 10 am – Liturgy and Grave Yard Services at Calmar	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> Universal Orthodox Memorial service. All names will be read at St. Mary's cemetery (10 am).	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>May 19</u> 3rd Sunday of Pascha. Sunday of the Myrrh- bearing Women. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy at NISKU;	<u>May 20</u> Victoria Day - 10:00 am - Liturgy - UKRAINIAN VILLAGE	<u>May 21</u>	<u>May 22</u>	<u>May 23</u>	<u>May 24</u>	<u>May 25</u> 10:00 am - Liturgy - Grave Yard Service – BONNY- VILLE
<u>May 26</u> 4th Sunday after Pascha. 10:00 am - Liturgy - Grave Yard Service - VEGREVILLE 3:30 pm - Grave Yard Service – WARWICK	<u>May 27</u>	<u>May 28</u>	<u>May 29</u>	<u>May 30</u>	<u>May 31</u>	

June 2 - 10:00 am – Liturgy – Grave Yard Service with tent and bake sale (the Bazar) to follow – NISKU

3:00 pm - Grave Yard Service - Old Cemetery – NISKU

June 9 - 11:00 am - Grave Yard Service – HOREN and TOMAHAWK (at about 2 pm)

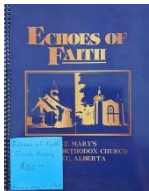
June 29 - 10:00 am – Liturgy - Grave Yard Service – MACNUTT; 5:00 pm - Grave Yard Service – INSINGER

June 30 - 9:00 am – Liturgy - Patronal Feast. After the service - Grave Yard Service - FOAM LAKE

Thank you for Church Cleaning!



The parishioners and the Parish Council are very much thankful to the people who contributed their time and strength to the cleaning of St. Mary's Church as well the grounds around the Church and the Graveyard on April 13. We extend our gratitude to David and Beverley Borys, Natasha Borys, Darcy and Tanny Doblanko, Kevin and Anna Wasiluk, Daniel and Anita Borys, Darrell and Marianne Lecapoy, Dennis Fedor and Cynthia Fedor, Connie Wasieczko, and everyone who took part in the event!



Republication of the books "Echoes of Faith" and "Centennial Cookbook"

We are glad to announce of the reprinting of our historic Church & Family book "Echoes of Faith"; and "Centennial Cookbook" from St. Mary's Ladies Aid Group, containing our best and favourite recipes for any occasion for the whole Church year. They are available now for distribution at St. Mary's Church at Nisku (for 55 and 15 dollars each)!

