Rossburn Ukrainian Catholic Pastoral District

Український католицько-пастирський округ Росберн

Serving the communities of Rossburn, Russell, Oakburn, Shoal Lake, Olha, Birtle, Lakedale, Angusville, Ruthenia, Rossburn Farms, Dolyny and Seech Lake

May 2021 Parish Bulletin

April Showers bring May Devotions!

In April we had a bit more snow than we did showers, but regardless we will always have devotions to the Theotokos (Mother of God) during the month of May. But where did these come from? In our Eastern Church, we often have a deep devotion to Mary, especially as Ukrainian Catholics. We have a number of very special Marian pilgrimage sites and icons that are venerated throughout the world. It was in the East where crowning or adorning icons of the Theotokos with flowers became a thing. It was soon adopted by the West and changed a bit to what we commonly see in the Roman Catholic Church with the crowning of statues of Mary during the month of May. Although the specific practice of May devotions is hard to pinpoint, we can trace certain practices in the Roman Catholic Church back to the 13th century.

During May, I invite you all to participate (in person or online) every Wednesday evening at 7pm for either a Moleben to the Mother of God or the Akathist service. **May 5th & 19th will be in Russell** and **May 12th & 26th will be in Rossburn.** I also encourage special daily devotions in your own homes as well as to reflect on the role that Mary plays in our salvation throughout the entire month of May.

May the protection of the Theotokos be upon all of you at this time!

Pastor: Fr. Jav Korban

Parish Office: P.O. Box 216 81 Victoria Ave. E Rossburn, MB. ROJ IVO

Cell: 204.773.6594 Residence: 204.859.3025

Email: rossburn.pastor@gmail.com

NOTE THE NEW P.O. BOX!

May Feasts Days

In May, we have a number of special days that we celebrate in our Ukrainian-Greek Catholic Church. There are a number of higher-ranked feasts such as John the Theologian and Sts. Cyril & Methodius. We also continue our Paschal celebrations 5th & 6th Sundays of Pascha and we conclude with the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord and Pentecost Sunday, the birth of the Church.



John the Theologian (May 8)

The holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle and Evangelist John was one of the original twelve Apostles, and wrote the Gospel bearing his name; three canonical letters: I John, II John, and III John; and the Book of Revelation. His primary feast day is celebrated on May 8, that of the twelve apostles on June 30, and his repose on September 26. His symbol is the eagle because of the loftiness of his gospel.

Equals-to-the-Apostles Cyril & Methodius (May 11)

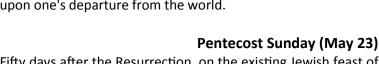
Our fathers among the saints Cyril and Methodius were brothers who brought Orthodoxy to the Slavic peoples of central Eu-

rope in the ninth century. They created the Cyrillic alphabet which is now used in a number of Slavic languages. The two brothers have been recognized as saints, equals to the apostles, for their missionary work. Many details of their lives have been obscured by the legends that have arisen about them. Cyril was a monk and Methodius became a bishop.



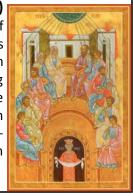
Ascension of Our Lord (May 13)

The Ascension of Jesus Christ is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated forty days after Pascha. Forty days after the Resurrection, while blessing his disciples, Christ ascended into heaven, taking his place at the right hand of the Father. The Ascension of Christ shows the last stage in God's plan for mankind: total union with Himself upon one's departure from the world.



Fifty days after the Resurrection, on the existing Jewish feast of Pentecost, while the disciples and many other followers

of Jesus Christ were gathered together to pray, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in the form of "cloven tongues of fire," with the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and they began to speak in languages that they did not know. There were many visitors from the Jewish diaspora to Jerusalem at that time for the Jewish observance of the feast, and they were astonished to hear these untaught fisherman speaking praises to God in their alien tongues. This account is detailed in the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2.



Cancelled Parish Praznyks

As this global pandemic continues to be part of our lives, it comes with a plethora of changes almost monthly. As the summer roles around that means Praznyk season is upon us as well. But unfortunately due to the current public health orders from the Province of Manitoba, we are limited as to what we can do and how we do it.

With keeping all of these rules in mind, many parishes (in particular the rural parishes that only have a couple services a year) have opted to cancel their services at the current time. The limit on number of attendees combined with the orders of distancing and so forth, make it difficult to carry out these services. Cancellation of praznyks will be a case by case decision when the time comes.

Fr. Jay will continue to do a Panakhyda service and bless the graves on the scheduled days. Gatherings are still limited for this as well, so we encourage if you wish to attend, come and stay in your cars during the service. Only 10 people are allowed to gather outside at a time.

These are difficult times for all of us, and none of this is normal. But we must do our part to keep our parishes and our neighbours healthy and safe. As Christians, we can follow the rules and pray.

Covid-19 Vaccine, should I get it?

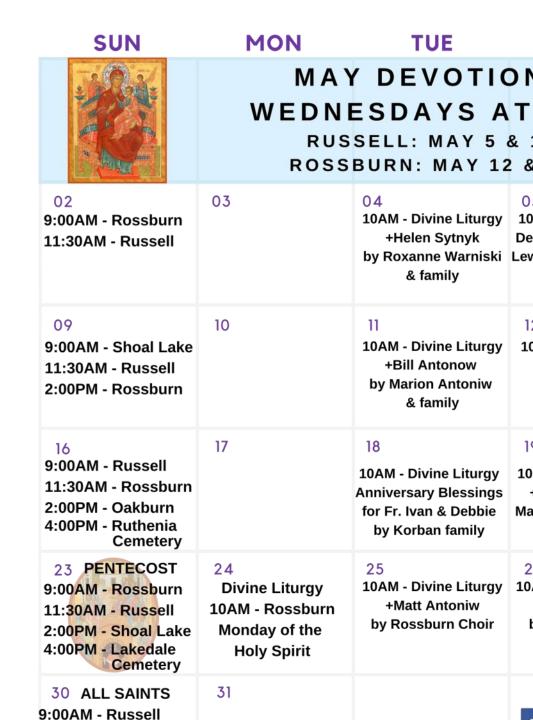
As Covid-19 continues to spread in our communities around the world and as new variants continue to appear, we are faced with the question as to whether or not we should be getting vaccinated when it is an option. Often the question of the morals of receiving the vaccinations arises. And the best answer is that yes, we should all be doing our part to receive the vaccine. When the opportunity is there and when we are eligible, we should go and get vaccinated. Our Patriarch Sviatoslav had this to say in an interview: "Obviously, the safety or effectiveness of the vaccine is within the competence of physicians. When it comes to the perception of vaccination as a phe-



His Beatitude, Patriarch Sviatoslav receives his vaccination March 16.

nomenon, there is no religious reason to avoid it. Today, all world leaders: the Holy Father, Patriarch Bartholomew, spoke in unison that vaccination is needed. Because this is one of the possible ways to prevent this disease." "The document [put out by the Vatican] states that not only can you be vaccinated, but it is also a moral imperative. We must take care of our lives and the health of ourselves and our neighbors, and therefore we must take care of the common good and obviously work on it together," the Head of the UGCC added.

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11:30AM - Rossburn

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NS 7PM 19 26			01
5 AM - Divine Liturgy ceased members of vandosky & Prosken families by Joan & Henry	06 10AM - Divine Liturgy +Steve & +Elsie, +Elmer & +Gemma Trakalo by Walter & Adele	07 10AM - Divine Liturgy +David Melnyk by Elaine Bowman	08
2 IAM - Divine Liturgy +Helen Sytnyk by David & family	Divine Liturgy 10AM - Rossburn Ascension	14 10AM - Divine Liturgy +David Melnyk by Dr. Taras & Pat Babick	15 10AM - Divine Liturgy +Matt Antoniw by Marion & Family
AM - Divine Liturgy FDavid Melnyk by rvin & Gloria Lucyk	20 10AM - Divine Liturgy +Helen Sytnyk by David & family	21 10AM - Divine Liturgy Kobyletskyy Family by the Seminary family	22 10AM - Divine Liturgy 40 Days for +Mary Kalyniak by Walter & Sylvia Shwaluk in Russell
, ,	27 10AM - Divine Liturgy Fr. Michael Winn on his return to ministry in the Archeparchy of Winnipeg	28 10AM - Divine Liturgy +David Melnyk by Dr. Taras & Pat Babick	29 10AM - Divine Liturgy 40 Days for +Helen Sytnyk by David & family
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Vigil Candle Intentions for the month of April

May 3 - 7

Icon of Our Lord

In memory of +Helen Sytnyk by David & family

Icon of the Theotokos

For Sytnyk family

May 10 - 14

Icon of Our Lord

In memory of +Peter Shewchuk by Stella Shewchuk & family

Icon of the Theotokos

Health & healing for Marlene Gerelus by Sytnyk family

May 17 - 21

Icon of Our Lord

Health of Penny Mychasiw by Sytnyk family

Icon of the Theotokos

For Edward & Andrea Tokaryk by Sytnyk family

May 24 - 28

Icon of Our Lord

In memory of +Helen Sytnyk by David & family

Icon of the Theotokos

In memory of +Helen Sytnyk by David & family



On behalf of the entire Rossburn Ukrainian Catholic Pastoral District, we wish to extend our deepest condolences to the Kalyniak & Shwaluk families on the passing of +Mary Kalyniak of Russell. Mary passed on April 9th and services were held at Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Russell.

The district would also like to extend condolences to the Sytnyk family of Oakburn on the passing of their wife, mother and grandmother, +Helen Sytnyk. Helen passed early in the morning of April 19th. Private services were held on April 26-27 at Holy Eucharist parish in Oakburn.

Losing a loved one is never easy, especially during a pandemic. We extend our prayers as a community for +Mary & +Helen and all their families at this time.

ВІЧНАЯ ПАМ'ЯТЬ! XPИCTOC BOCKPEC! ETERNAL MEMORY! CHRIST IS RISEN!

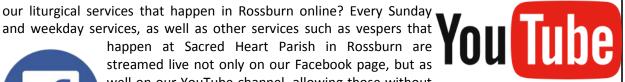


COVID-19 UPDATE: Currently (at time of publishing) as per the Province of Manitoba's #RestartMB response system, the province has new restrictions. We are now allowed to have services opened to the public, with a maximum of 25% of our capacity as long as people are wearing masks and everyone is properly distanced at a minimum of 2m (6ft). Funerals are allowed to have a

maximum of 10 people in attendance (not including clergy, cantor & funeral staff). You are also now allowed to remove your masks once you are seated in your pew, and are **not** singing or chanting. For further information on church restrictions, please contact Fr. Jay or visit the Archeparchy of Winnipeg website at: archeparchy.ca. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in due time!

Please be advised, in the event of Public Health Orders changing throughout the month, that services will be limited to Rossburn only where they will be streamed online. Sunday services will be at 10am.

Pray with us online! Did you know that you can access all of our liturgical services that happen in Rossburn online? Every Sunday,





streamed live not only on our Facebook page, but as well on our YouTube channel, allowing those without

a Facebook account to be able to still access the services. For Facebook, search @Rossburn.UGCC and on YouTube search: Rossburn Ukrainian Catholic Pastoral District. Now also available on our new website at rossburnugcc.ca

Private Property Signs in the District

As summer arrives and you start to visit family in cemeteries throughout the district, you might notice some new signage up. These signs are "Private Property—No Trespassing" signs. Many of these signs went up in the fall and were met with mixed emotions. These signs were provided to us by the Archeparchy of Winnipeg, to assist with our insurance on properties throughout the province, keeping our churches and the Archeparchy safe from possible legal action.

So what do you as the faithful need to know?

- If you have legitimate purpose to being there, you are **not** trespass-
 - Cleaning churches, maintaining the grounds, visiting loved ones in the cemetery. These are legitimate reasons to be there.
- If a tourist or visitor wants to come and see the beautiful historic churches, they are **not** trespassing and are welcome as long as they are still respecting the property.

There are many abandoned or what appear to be abandoned places in our province and many of them are places of worship. Some have been vandalized. These signs are to help limit this, and to also protect the Church in event of injury or anything else by those who should not be there.

Please, if you are a parishioner or you have loved ones in the cemeteries, you are more than welcome to be there on the property. These signs are not meant to keep you away.

PRIVATE PROPERTY NO TRESPASSING PLEASE

UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS MAY BE PROSECUTED





Q & A with Fr. Jay!

Submit your questions to Fr. Jay however you want. Email, text, phone or write to Fr. Jay asking him any of those questions you've been wanting to ask about our faith. Why do we abstain from meat on Fridays? How is incense made? What does a bishop do? What does our Church teach about MAiD?

The identity of those asking questions will be kept confidential at all times. Each week a couple of questions will be answered, and some will even be featured in future bulletins. So please submit questions whenever you'd like! By asking questions, we can grow in our faith together!



Question: I have some health issues that make it hard to stand all the time and kneeling can be difficult. Is it ok that I sit during church?

Answer: Traditionally our churches in the Byzantine faith did not have pews. Our worship consisted of a lot of standing, sometimes kneeling on the ground. With pews, the different postures help us to engage in prayer with our bodies. We kneel and stand at the most important moments. By all means sit if you need to and don't feel bad! Just remember to pray in a more focused way at those times. Important parts of the Divine Liturgy to stand (if possible) would be the reading of the Gospel, the two entrances, the Consecration of the Gifts, and during Our Father. Good times to sit are during the litanies and during the homily.

Ouestion: What is matins?

Answer: Each day, our Church has a cycle of liturgical services known as Divine Praises. They start in the evening before with vespers, followed by compline and midnight office through the night. Early in the morning we begin with matins and then 1st, 3rd, 6th & 9th hours ending with typika. The Divine Liturgy is not part of this cycle because it does not always happen, but if it does it would come after matins, or between the hours. The matins service is a supplication and praise of the Almighty God. Most of these services are not done in parishes but rather in monasteries. A parish may have vespers on Saturday evenings or major feasts and sometimes matins as part of the regular schedule. They are slowly being reintroduced in some parishes.

Liturgical Schedule and Sacraments

Sundays: 9am, 11am & 2pm (please refer to calendar for locations)

Weekdays: 10am - Rossburn

Confessions: Prior to Divine Liturgies or by appointment (always available!) Baptisms & Funerals: By appointment. Please contact Fr. Jay to arrange.

Weddings: By appointment with minimum 6 months notice.

Anointing of the Sick: By appointment. Please contact Fr. Jay on the parish cell phone for emergencies at

204.773.6594.