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 Also serving Sandy Lake & Mountain Road

August 2022 Parish Bulletin

Metamorphosis: A time to transform

On August 6, we celebrate one of the final great feasts of our Church for the year: the Transfiguration of our Lord. This is the day in which our Lord revealed His divinity to His disciples, to us. And through this transfiguration, we too follow a change throughout our lives, a metamorphosis.

On this feast day, we traditionally bless the fruits of our labours: fruit! We especially bless grapes on this day as a grape undergoes a great metamorphosis. From their tiny seeds to the vines to their clusters of grapes. But beyond that, the grapes have the potential to become wine and that wine has the potential, through the power of the Holy Spirit to become the Precious Blood of our Lord God and Saviour, Jesus Christ! How incredible is that? We too have the potential to be transformed in great ways too. From the moment of our baptism we are already being changed into something else. We then spend a lifetime growing and evolving, and through God's presence in our lives, especially through the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) we are guided to that Promised Land, the Eternal Kingdom upon our death. Then at the final resurrection of the dead, we will be transfigured totally—body, soul and spirit—in the likeness of God. Who wouldn't want to experience all of that?

My prayer for all of you is that you may all experience a metamorphosis. Through constant reception of the Holy Mysteries and the presence of God in your lives, may you all be transformed into the likeness of God, in whom we are all created!

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Catechesis Corner

Our next series in Catechesis Corner will be focusing on the Divine Liturgy and what it all means through the various elements of the service. These reflections are taken from the book titled, "Serve the Lord with Gladness" by a Monk of the Eastern Church. Our hope is that we grow in our understanding and appreciation of the Divine Liturgy and that these reflections will help us to pray better.

Drawing Near with Repentance & Peace

Our Liturgy of St John Chrysostom does not begin, as do certain other Christian liturgies, with a special prayer of confession of sin and a declaration of divine forgiveness. These elements are certainly found in our liturgy, but they appear in a less formal way than elsewhere. They are most evident in the prayer, unfortunately little known by our faithful, which the priest pronounces before the reading of the Epistle.

This prayer reads as follows: "[Thou] who dost not despise the sinner, but instead hast appointed repentance unto salvation...Thyself, O Master, accept even from the mouths of us sinners the thrice holy hymn, and visit us in Thy goodness. Forgive us every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary. Sanctify our souls and bodies..."

All that needs to be said is said here. There is no enumeration of sins, but only humble acknowledgment of our sinfulness, together with trusting reliance on the infinite mercy of God.

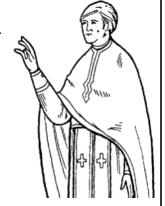
In this same prayer the priest speaks to God: "[Thou] hast vouchsafed to us, Thy humble and unworthy servants, even in this hour..." Thou hast granted us, or more accurately, Thou hast made us worthy: worthy to stand before the glory of Thy holy altar. We sense the calm, childlike assurance expressed by this prayer. We do not say, "Make us worthy," but "Thou hast made us worthy." We have no doubt that in our longing for the grace of forgiveness, our merciful Lord has already responded by restoring us to our condition of reconciled and beloved children of God.

Peace be with all! This phrase, spoken by the priest as he turns toward the faithful with a gesture of blessing, is the one he repeats most often throughout the liturgy.

At the outset of these reflections we saw the meaning and importance of the request for peace, so often repeated by the priest or the deacon.

The words "Peace be unto all!" are in some measure the reply that God makes to this request. Yet we have become so accustomed to the formula "Peace be unto all!" that most of us are no longer able to sense the value and meaning it offers to us.

When the priest extends his hand towards the faithful and says "Peace be unto all!" he is communicating something real. On behalf of God he confers a gift of grace. Peace, not our peace but the peace which comes from God Himself, descends upon us and enters into us.



Do we sense this peace in our heart? Are we really conscious of the fact that the Savior grants us His peace? Have we the faith to believe that the peace thereby bestowed upon us possesses what is necessary to calm our anxieties and our suffering? It may be that we have heard this expression "Peace be unto all!" hundreds of times during the liturgy, without ever having paid it serious attention. Now is the appropriate moment for us to try finally, with a renewed heart, to receive and preserve within us this peace of Jesus which is offered to us.

POPE FRANCIS VISITS CANADA

"I am here because the first step of my penitential pilgrimage among you is that of again asking forgiveness, of telling you once more that I am deeply sorry," he said in his official apology on Monday. "Sorry for the ways in which, regrettably, many Christians supported the colonizing mentality of the powers that oppressed the Indigenous peoples. I am sorry."

From July 25-29, Pope Francis made a historical visit to Canada in what he called a 'penitential pilgrimage.' In response to one of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the many invites of the First Nations of Canada, Pope Francis visited Canada to extend an apology for the role of the Catholic Church in the establishment and running of Indian Residential Schools throughout Canada. Although apologies have been offered before from the pope and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, this is the first time that the apology came from our Roman Pontiff on Canadian soil.



Pope Francis has a traditional First Nations headdress placed upon his head. This visual shows how Francis was welcomed

Pope Francis made a number of emotional visits to places in Alberta, Quebec & Nunavut. We thank Pope Francis for making this historical visit, and we off our prayers for all First Nations of Canada, especially our neighbouring communities of Gambler, Waywayseecappo & Keeseekoowenin, as we all continue on this journey of Truth and Reconciliation.



Over the last number of months, the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg has been working on developing an app for use within the Archeparchy and all of it's parishes. A testing stage is about to be released for select parishes to try it out and see how it works and how it can best assist our parishes throughout the Archeparchy.

The Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Russell (St. Mary) has been selected as one of the parishes to be part of this pilot. Please watch for announcements in the near future of how to download the app and how to use it! The hope is that each parish will benefit from the use of this app, especially in terms of the online donation feature.

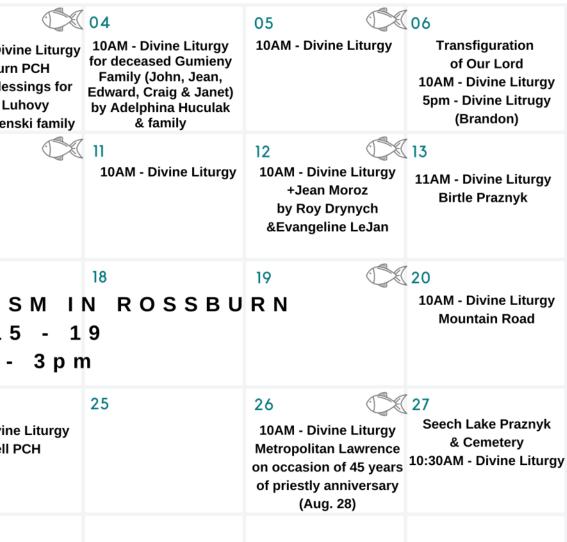
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ROSSBURN UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC PASTORAL DISTRICT

ROSSBURNUGCC.CA

@ROSSBURN.UGCC

Vigil Candle Intentions for the month of August

August 1 - 5

Icon of Our Lord For all parishioners

Icon of the Theotokos For all parishioners

August 8 - 12

Icon of Our Lord For all parishioners

Icon of the Theotokos For all parishioners

August 15 - 19

Icon of Our Lord For all participants in our Summer Catechism

Icon of the Theotokos For all participants in our Summer Catechism

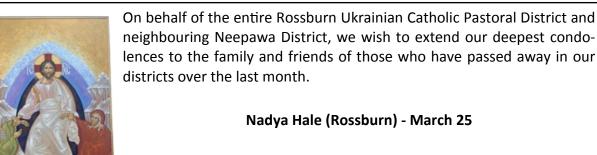
August 22 - 26

Icon of Our Lord For all parishioners

Icon of the Theotokos For all parishioners

CONFESSIONS will **not be** scheduled in any parishes during the summer months. However, Fr. Jay is always available for confession and is just a phone call away. Regular confession is a good practice for all Catholics. Take advantage of the opportunity when you can. Fr. Jay will be rotating through different areas of the district each month once again starting in September.

To book with Fr. Jay all you need to do is to give him a call, send him a text or an email and book a time. Fr. Jay will meet you at any parish for confession.



We extend our prayers as a community for all those who have passed.

Eternal Memory - Вічная Пам'ять!



Please remember in your prayers all of our parishioners who are in our local personal care homes:

Rossburn PCH: Alice Hrubeniuk, Bill Kalyniak, Melvin Luhowy, Anne Shust **Russell PCH:** Anne Snytynski, Shirley Burtnyk, Sofia Jawa, Bill Kalyniak

Shoal Lake PCH: Rose Gerelus, Frances Susinski, Nick Bonchak, Donnie Drozda, Olga Bomak,

Penny Mychasiw, Tony Woychyshyn



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Summer Catechism Day Camp is back! Kids and volunteers of all ages are invited to spend August 15-19, 10am-3pm, at the Sacred Heart Parish in Rossburn celebrating their relationship with God and each other. Each day will include prayer, interactive lessons, hands on projects like candle making and icon painting, and plenty of play time. We are thinking water fight, trampoline, bouncy castle, and capture the flag for starters. Our program will explore faith from the Ukrainian Catholic perspective and everyone is welcome. We like you the way you are and would love to hang out with you! There is no cost. Snacks and three lunches are provided. For more info contact Sophia at rossburnugcc@gmail.com.

Church Cleaning Schedule for Sacred Heart Parish in Rossburn is back and ready to be filled out. All those who wish to volunteer to volunteer during a certain month to clean, you are invited to sign-up at the entrance of the church.

THIS SPACE WAS INTENTIALLY LEFT BLANK



While the war in Ukraine continues to wage on, we continue our prayers for Ukraine. We invite everyone to start a daily practice of praying for Ukraine.

We would especially like to welcome all families that have moved into our pastoral district from Ukraine. There are families that have or will be joining our communities in Oakburn and Russell. Please welcome them warmly and help them in any possible way.

In light of the heightened activity surrounding the many newcomers from Ukraine on the part of our Archeparchy, other faith communities and organizations such as the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, His Grace, Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, wants to encourage all our Faithful to continue supporting the refugee-help efforts.

A lot of volunteers and financial resources are needed as more and more newcomers arrive in Manitoba every day. There is a need for housing, jobs and mentorship to help our brothers and sisters who have left their destroyed homes to escape the death and horrors of war. Then, aside from typical newcomer challenges, there are even incidents like the newcomer who was assaulted at the Forks in Winnipeg last month.

Please, continue to donate toward aid to refugees via the charities that we have promoted since the beginning of the war. Please also take note of the various appeals for volunteers, housing and other ways of assistance, and respond as generously as possible.

ON HOLIDAYS? GOD ISN'T! As we approach the summer months and as many people start heading on holidays or out to the lakes, cottages & campers, a friendly reminder to remember to still attend church! Wherever you may be travelling to this summer, I encourage everyone to find the local Catholic Church and attend it on Sundays. If you can't find a Ukrainian Catholic church, go and attend a Roman Catholic church, and if you can't find that, then maybe look for an Orthodox church.

Also, just because you may not physically be present in one of our parishes this summer, that does not mean that the needs of the parish are gone too. *Please be sure to donate to your parish even if that means making up for the Sundays you have missed!*

Liturgical Schedule and Sacraments

Sundays: 9am, 11:30am & 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 204.859.3025.