



## December 2023 Parish Bulletin

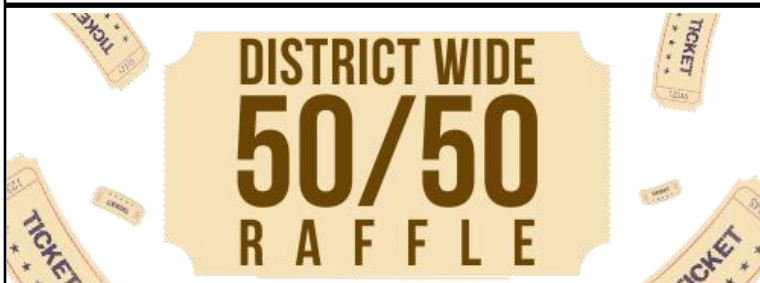
### Celebrate or prepare to celebrate?

When the Winnipeg Blue Bombers won the Western Final, they no doubt celebrated their victory over the B.C. Lions. But in a weeks time, they knew they would be playing for far more than half of a maple leaf. You can almost bet that come the Monday after their win, they were back on the field or in the locker room working and preparing for the Grey Cup. They would be working out, reviewing plays, reviewing game tapes of the Alouettes in preparation for the biggest game of the year. One thing they are not doing, is celebrating a Grey Cup win. They are not having a Grey Cup parade hoisting the Cup above their heads. That will come *after* they win the Grey Cup!

In the Church, this is exactly how we operate. Before the Nativity of our Lord and before Pascha, we prepare ourselves for these feasts. We do not celebrate them before, but rather prepare our hearts for these great feasts of our Church. We prepare ourselves physically through fasting and spiritually through increased prayer and reflection. Just as the Bombers are preparing themselves in many ways for the big game, so too are we called to prepare for these big events.

Then once we arrive on these days, we celebrate for not just one day, but for 40 days after! You'll notice that we never greet each other with Christ is Born prior to Christmas, but for 40 days afterwards. So I encourage everyone to be aware of this and work on preparing ourselves *prior* to Christmas, then celebrate *after* the day for many weeks! Do our best to increase our prayer every day, attend liturgy every Sunday leading up to Christmas. Be sure to keep our fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays, remembering that is it not simply a meaningless act, but something where we are to remind ourselves of the sacrifice that Christ gave for us.

May we all have a holy and blessed journey to the Nativity of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ!



### Congratulations to our three winners!

- **1st Prize (\$10,000):** Cheryl Leganchuk
- **2nd Prize (\$1000 at Meat Man):** Avery Evans
- **3rd Prize (\$500):** Andy & Sherri Shewchuk

# Catechesis Corner

## We Have Seen the True Light

The liturgy culminates in an atmosphere of thanksgiving, of joy, and (if we may speak in these terms) of exultation in God. Let us examine our conscience to see if these powerful words express for ourselves a personal, living and authentic experience, or if they remain nothing more than ritual formulas.

We have received the divine Mysteries of Christ. But have we really received them? How have we received them? We have received communion, perhaps. But have we really participated, in Spirit and in truth, in the Mystery of Christ? And if we have not received communion, does that mean that we can and should leave emptyhanded, without really having tried to "receive" a divine reality? Even a person who has not received Holy Communion should in the course of the liturgy be touched by the breath of the Spirit, by grace emanating from the Savior, by a certain purifying and transforming inspiration. Whether we have communicated in the holy eucharistic gifts or not, we should leave the church other than we were when we entered.

The choir sings: "We have seen the true Light! We have received the heavenly Spirit! We have found the true Faith! Worshiping the undivided Trinity, who has saved us." And the priest declares: "Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ..." Has this liturgy meant for us an encounter with Christ, not only sacrificed but also resurrected? Have we received from it the vision of Him who is the Light of the world? Has this liturgy been for us a true Pentecost, in which not only the person of the Savior, but His powerful and active Spirit as well have been granted to us? During this liturgy have we discovered the true faith, faith in a divine Love so great that He offered His life for the life of the world, for me, and for all those whom the God of Love has truly loved? If not, then as far as we are concerned, the liturgy has been nothing other than empty words and gestures rather than being a decisive interior event.

In a final prayer before the ambon and before the icon of Christ, the priest speaks of "those who trust in Thee." The key is Trust, whatever the degree of our weakness, whatever the dangers that surround us. The liturgy should have created within us just such an attitude of trust: "Forsake us not who put our hope in Thee..."

The priest also prays: "Preserve the fullness of Thy Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Thy house; glorify them in return.." Here we should be particularly careful and attentive. Fullness of the Church, beauty of the divine house, glorification of those who love that beauty: these are great and beautiful words, but we seriously deceive ourselves if we think of a Church upon the earth, triumphalist, beautiful, powerful, and prosperous. Saint John Chrysostom speaks of those who bring to the stone altar precious offerings, but remain unaware of the living altars that stand in our streets in the form of the poverty stricken. Can we speak of the beauty of God's house as long as it is possible for someone to partake of the Eucharist, then having left the church building, to die of hunger? Can we speak of the fullness of the Church as long as it is possible for someone to be numbered among members of the congregation, without anyone ever paying attention to him or seeking to enter into contact with him? What kind of beauty is this? What kind of fullness?

The last word of the text of the liturgy sets forth in a marvellous way the divine reality which the liturgical signs express as if from beneath a veil. The priest asks Christ our God to have mercy on us and to save us. And he concludes: "for He is good and loves mankind."

The Divine Liturgy engages us vitally and pours out upon us both supreme Goodness and unbounded Love.

## Assumption Alpha February 1, 2024



## Family Movie Night

with Cookie Decorating,  
Hot Chocolate & Popcorn

Everyone Welcome!  
No Cost

Friday, December 8  
Sacred Heart Parish, Rossburn

6pm Doors Open  
6:30pm Movie Start

RSVP by Dec 1:  
204-979-5924  
info@rossburnugcc.ca



## Living Word Library

What if reading could bring you closer to Christ?

### DECEMBER

1. **WORD OF GOD** - LUKE 2:1-20
2. **PRAYER** - PILGRIM YEAR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS BY STEVE BELL
3. **SPIRITUAL LIFE** - THE WINTER PASCHA BY THOMAS HOPKO
4. **SERVICE** - WOMEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT BY IRENE NOWELL
5. **LEADERSHIP** - UNDISTRACTED BY BOB GOFF
6. **MISSIONARY SPIRIT** - STRANGERS IN A STRANGE CHURCH BY CHRISTOPHER GULY
7. **FAMILY FEATURE** - THE BOOK OF TOBIT RETOLD BY JOE YAWNEY
8. **YOUTH CATECHISM** - TBD
9. **KIDS' CORNER** - NATIVITY STORIES!
10. **LEAP OF FAITH** - UNWARP IT AT HOME!



## Vigil Candle Intentions for the month of December

### December 4 - 8

Icon of Our Lord	For all parishioners
Icon of the Theotokos	For all parishioners

### December 11 - 15

Icon of Our Lord	For all parishioners
Icon of the Theotokos	For all parishioners

### December 18 - 22

Icon of Our Lord	For all parishioners
Icon of the Theotokos	For all parishioners

### December 25 - 29

Icon of Our Lord	For all parishioners
Icon of the Theotokos	For all parishioners



*You're Invited*

**PARISH FELLOWSHIP  
EVERY SUNDAY!**

*Food & fellowship will follow each 11:30am service each Sunday.  
Join us!*

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

**Rosburn PCH:** Bill Kalyniak, Kay Luba, Helen Sidoryk

**Russell PCH:** Anne Snytynski, Shirley Burtnyk, Sofia Jawa

**Shoal Lake PCH:** Frances Susinski, Donnie Drozda, Olga Bomak, Tony Woychshyn, Sylvia Yarish, Matt Kowalchuk, Anne Kowal

## Liturgical Schedule and Sacraments

**1st Sunday:** Shoal Lake at 9am & Rosburn at 11:30am; **2nd Sunday:** Oakburn at 9am & Russell at 11:30am.

**3rd Sunday:** Rosburn at 9am & Shoal Lake at 11:30am; **4th Sunday:** Russell at 9am & Oakburn at 11:30am.

**2nd Saturday:** Mountain Road @ 10:30am; **4th Saturday:** Sandy Lake @ 10:30am

**Tuesday - Fridays:** 10am - Rosburn

**Confessions:** Last Friday of the month (check calendar) 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 for emergencies.

**Fr. Jay Korban**

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*Rosburn*  
Ukrainian Catholic Pastoral District  
Український католицько-пастирський округ Росбурн  
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# December 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

## MAJOR FEASTS THIS MONTH:

**December 6:** St. Nicholas  
**December 9:** Conception of St. Anne  
**December 25:** Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ (*attendance encouraged*)  
**December 27:** St. Stephen

3 27th Sun. after Pentecost 9:00am - Shoal Lake 11:30am - Rosburn with fellowship	4	5 10:00am Divine Liturgy +Margaret Kostuik by Marion & Jack Kostuik	6 10:00am Divine Liturgy Feast of St. Nicholas	7 10:00am Divine Liturgy +Stefy Novakowsky Sheila & Dennis Martin	8 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sandy Lake PCH	9 10:30am Divine Liturgy Conception of St. Anne
10 28th Sun. after Pentecost 9:00am - Oakburn 11:30am - Russell with fellowship	11	12	13 10:00am Divine Liturgy Russell PCH	14 10:00am Divine Liturgy +Steve Chuhai by Diane Twerdun	15 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sandy Lake PCH	16
17 Sun. of the Holy Ancestors 9:00am - Rosburn 11:30am - Shoal Lake with fellowship	18	19 10:00am Divine Liturgy +Steve Chuhai by Nellie Nychuk	20 10:00am Divine Liturgy Rosburn PCH	21 10:00am Divine Liturgy Shoal Lake PCH	22	23 10:30am - Mountain Road - Anniversary Blessings for David & JoAnn from Marlene
24 Eve of the Nativity 10:30am - Sandy Lake 4:00pm - Rosburn 8:00pm - Russell	25 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00am - Shoal Lake 11:30am - Rosburn				FASTING DAYS THIS MONTH: Fridays (1, 8, 15, 22): day of fasting (meat) Wednesdays of the Fast (6, 13, 20): day of fasting (meat) December 24: strict day of fasting (meat & dairy)		