



February 2024 Parish Bulletin

Prepare, Celebrate, Prepare, Celebrate

This year we have a very quick turnaround from the Christmas season to the start of the Great Fast. Of course, we know that this is not some guy at the Vatican picking random dates as to when Pascha should be and just messing with the world. The date of Pascha is based on the lunar cycle. Pascha occurs on the first Sunday after the full Moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. But regardless of how or when it is celebrated, why do we prepare and celebrate so much in the Church?

If we look at the liturgical calendar for the year (which starts on Sept. 1) we see that our first fasting period is St. Philip's Fast (Advent). We begin on November 14 all the time and prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord in the flesh. Then we celebrate that feast for 40 days after taking us all the way to February 1. Then sometime usually in February, we begin the Great Fast (Lent) and prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of our Lord. Then once again, we celebrate for 40 days after taking us to the Ascension of our Lord, and then 10 days later, we celebrate Pentecost. After this, we often will spend much of June fasting again as we enter into the Apostles Fast that prepares us for the Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul on June 29. We then close out the year with two weeks of fasting at the beginning of August in preparation for the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God on August 15. These last two feasts have less post-festive periods than Nativity or Pascha. But as we can see, we spend a minimum of 100 days fasting throughout the year and a minimum of 80 days celebrating these various feasts. So why do we have to prepare so much and celebrate so much?

With a quick analysis we can see the significance of the 40 days having a biblical connection both in the Old Testament and the New Testament. But still, why fast at all? Why celebrate so much? Well, fasting is much more than a test of obedience to the Church or even to ourselves. Fasting, giving up things leads us to hunger. And this hunger should not just be a physical sort but also a spiritual kind of hunger. As we fast, we are called to turn our focus to God and rely on the food that He provides for us, His Word.

In terms of celebration, well who doesn't like to celebrate? The things we celebrate are not simply a birthday or a promotion, but it is the gift of our Creator's love and salvation that He provides us with through these feasts. We celebrate and give thanks for all that which God has given us, and so we do not simply take one day, but many weeks to show our thanks for that which we are not worthy of.

My prayer for all parishioners throughout our district is that we all have a holy, peaceful and meaningful Great Fast. If you feel like it's been a while since Lent actually meant something to you, then try some of the tips you'll find on the next page and guide yourself through a holy Great Fast.



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

THANK YOU! On behalf of my family, I would like to thank all of the parishes and the individuals who gave generous gifts throughout the Nativity season. We are always very gracious for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Please know each parish is constantly in my prayers, especially on Sundays at the Divine Liturgy.

Fr. Jay

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Alpha

EVER WONDER?

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

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LENT STARTS FEBRUARY 12!

How are you going to prepare?

The Great Fast starts on Monday, February 12. Throughout the days that follow leading up to Pascha on March 31st, there are many ways that we can prepare for this most joyous feast in our Church.

Increase your prayer: not just personal prayer, but public prayer options are plenty during Lent. Stations of the Cross will be prayed publicly in various parishes on Wednesday evenings. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will be served on Friday evenings in Rossburn & Russell. Lenten Matins take the place of the regular Divine Liturgies on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Increase your fasting: we should be used to not eating meat on Fridays, but try to push yourself on Wednesdays, maybe even Mondays to not eat meat on these days as well.

Increase your giving: give an extra special donation to your parish this year, or give to your local food bank or thrift store. Look for options throughout the province of how you can give to a charity of your choice during this Lenten period.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is being hosted at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary) Parish in Russell this year on March 1st at 2pm. Everyone is invited to come and attend this special day of prayer for peace and justice. The theme this year is "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love"



Living Word Library

What if reading could bring you closer to Christ?

FEBRUARY

1. **WORD OF GOD** - LUKE 5-6
2. **PRAYER** - FAMILY PRAYER BY DOLORES CURRAN
3. **SPIRITUAL LIFE** - JOSAPHATA BY SR. DOMINICA, SSMI
4. **SERVICE** - COME, FOLLOW ME BY ANTHONY J. GITTINS
5. **LEADERSHIP** - HAVE A LITTLE FAITH BY MITCH ALBOM
6. **MISSIONARY SPIRIT** - WHAT IS THE NEW EVANGELIZATION?
7. **FAMILY FEATURE** - LETTER TO FAMILIES FROM JOHN PAUL II
8. **YOUTH CATECHISM**
9. **KIDS' CORNER** - THE GOAT OF MANY COLORS
10. **LEAP OF FAITH** - UNWARP IT AT HOME!



Vigil Candle Intentions for the month of February

February 1 - 5

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

February 8 - 12

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

February 15 - 19

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

February 22 - 26

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



On behalf of the entire Rossburn Ukrainian Catholic Pastoral District, we wish to extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of those who have passed away in our districts over the last month.

Naddia Swereda (Olha) - January 10
Bill Slashinsky (Sandy Lake) - January 14
Terry Geletchuk (Erickson) - January 14

We extend our prayers as a community for all those who have passed.
Eternal Memory - Вічна Пам'ять!

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

Rossburn PCH: Bill Kalyniak, Kay Luba, Helen Sidoryk

Russell PCH: Anne Snytynski, Sofia Jawa, Lee Souchuk

Shoal Lake PCH: Frances Susinski, Donnie Drozda, Olga Bomak, Tony Woychshyn, Matt Kowalchuk, Anne Kowal, Gladys Bonchuk,

Liturgical Schedule and Sacraments

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

3rd Sunday: Rossburn 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 - Rossburn

Confessions: 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.

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Rosburn
Ukrainian Catholic Pastoral District
Український католицько-пастирський округ Росберн
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February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Major Feasts in February February 2: Presentation of our Lord in the Temple (day of obligation) February 14: St. Cyril (strongly encouraged)		Days of Fasting: February 12: strict fasting February 9, 13-16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28: meat		1	2	3
4 Meatfare Sunday 9:00am - Shoal Lake 11:30am - Rossburn with fellowship	5	6 Divine Liturgy 10:00am +Melvin Woychyshyn by Olga Woychyshyn	7 Divine Liturgy 10:00am Rossburn PCH	8 Divine Liturgy 10:00am +Eileen & +Metro Marcinyk by Spicula Family ALPHA - 6:30pm Russell	9 Divine Liturgy 10:00am Feast of the Presentation of our	10 10:30am - Mtn. Rd. 2pm - Divine Liturgy +Matt & +Harry Antoniuk
11 Cheesefare Sunday 9:00am - Oakburn 11:30am - Russell with fellowship 6pm - Forgiveness Vespers	12 Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew 6pm - Rossburn	13 Lenten Matins 10:00am Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew 6pm—Rossburn	14 Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew 6pm - Russell	15 Divine Liturgy 10:00am Shoal Lake PCH ALPHA - 6:30pm Russell	16 Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts 6pm - Russell	17
18 Sun. of Orthodoxy 9:00am - Rossburn 11:30am - Shoal Lake with fellowship	19	20 Lenten Matins 10:00am	21 Stations of the Cross 6pm - Shoal Lake	22 Lenten Matins 10:00am ALPHA - 6:30pm Russell	23 Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts 6pm - Rossburn	24
25 Gregory of Palamas 9:00am - Russell 11:30am - Oakburn with fellowship	26	27 Lenten Matins 10:00am	28 Divine Liturgy 10:00am Russell PCH	29 Lenten Matins 10:00am ALPHA - 6:30pm Russell		