



February 2026

Presentation of our Lord in the Temple

This is the third Winter Feast of Light. The Nativity of Christ, Theophany and the Presentation of the Lord are all about the revelation of God, the one true Light, to the world.

Simeon and Anna had nurtured the art of seeing over their long lives. The scripture tells us that they had been preparing for this moment. Of Simeon St. Luke writes: "Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." He had been looking and because of his devout vigilance the Holy Spirit let him in on a secret. He would see the Lord's Christ before he died.

Of Anna Luke writes: "She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem." She, too, had been looking. She had been vigilant and watchful like Simeon, preparing herself to see and receive the Messiah.

The ability to see does not come overnight. It must be nurtured and practiced as we see here, sometimes for a very long time. Eighty-four years for Anna. For us, how long? The practice of seeing is known as watchfulness, vigilance, or mindfulness. It is the fundamental practice of an authentic spiritual life. Without it the spiritual life is anemic. The soul grows weak.

Simeon and Anna show us what mindfulness, vigilance and watchfulness is. They watched and waited. How long their journey of stripping away the layers of skin from their spiritual eyes - skins of sin, desire, fear, self-centeredness and unconsciousness - took before they were prepared to see the infant Messiah is told by the years of their lives. It is significant that only two among the crowd in the Temple that day were able to see him. Only a few take the narrow path of vigilance it seems, but it is open to all of us.

Simeon and Anna show us what can happen when the virtue of watchfulness is practiced consistently and patiently. Sooner or later when God wills (for it is always a gift, never automatic) and we are able at last to see, the revelation that Christ and his kingdom are present here and now will dawn in our hearts as dramatically and powerfully as the Second Coming.



Sorokousty Lists

Lent is fast approaching this year, and with that comes a time when we specifically pray for the deceased. We call these services, sorokousty services. As we prepare for those services, we ask that if you have any names to add to your lists, please find the Sorokousty binder at the entrance of each parish on Sundays. Find your family page under the corresponding parish section and write in any names you wish to add.

Sorokousty will be served on Friday evenings following the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.

Entrance of our Lord into the Temple

On February 2, we celebrate the feast of our Lord's Entrance into the Temple. On this feast we traditionally bless candles. On Monday, Feb. 2, we will bless candles following the Divine Liturgy. If you have candles of your own you wish to have blessed, please bring them with you.

The Great Fast

This year the Great Fast, or Lent, starts early on February 16th. We are already in the weeks leading up to this time of fasting in preparation for our Lord's glorious Resurrection. We wish to remind everyone that the first week of the fast (Feb. 16-20) is an entire week of fasting. Monday itself is a day of strict fasting. We encourage everyone to do their best on the entire first week of Lent, then the following Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. However, those who may be excused from fasting are those who are under the age of 12, over the age of 65 or those who are pregnant. With that in mind, you are still encouraged to fast in your own way, according to your abilities. Remember it is not about the foods we give up, but rather the idea of sacrifice and hungering for Christ. Fasting helps us to focus on what Lent is about.

A Note of Thanks...

My family and I would like to thank all of you for your prayers, greetings and generosity throughout the Christmas season! We are truly blessed to call this district our home and have such amazing support from you, the parishioners.

*Life Shared:
Fulfilling our Mission*

PARISH MISSION 2026

Join the entire pastoral district in prayer, learning and fellowship as we embark together in a 4-hour seminar to explore how we can share our faith using simple methods.

7 March
2026

Sacred Heart
Parish, Rossburn
1:00 - 6:00pm

COFFEE & SNACKS PROVIDED THROUGHOUT,
FOLLOWED WITH A DINNER AT THE END

Parish Survey

Thanks to all those who took time to complete the parish survey throughout January. Although not everyone submitted a survey, we did get many responses back, which provided a lot of great information and insight to our operations as a district. We look forward to making some changes based on the feedback you provided.

Sacred Heart Parish Wish List

 Sacred Heart Parish in Rossburn is looking to add or replace a number of liturgical items. This is an excellent opportunity to make a donation to the parish to help with the purchase of these items. You can make the donation in honour of someone living or in memory of someone who has passed on. You may also simply choose to just make a donation without a cause. A list of items is available on the bulletin board at the entrance of the church with prices listed. If you have any questions, please talk with Fr. Jay.



Unpack the Christian faith together.

January 29, 2026 - Rossburn
Invite a friend. Come by yourself. Spread the word.



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 months.

- +Gene Twerdun (Rossburn) - Dec. 2
- +Matt Kowalchuk (Dolyny) - Dec. 4
- +Josie Gerelus (Dolyny) - Dec. 4
- +Donnie Drozda (Olha) - Dec. 5
- +Elsie Spitula (Sandy Lake) - Dec. 27
- +Alice Peech (Oakburn/Neepawa) - Dec. 28
- +Tony Wochyshyn (Rossburn) - Jan. 3

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



Vigil Candle Intentions

Week of Feb. 2 - 6: *In memory of +Josie Geralus by the Sytnyk Family*
Week of Feb. 9 - 13: *In memory of +Helen Sytnyk by Sytnyk Family*
Week of Feb. 16 - 20: *In memory of +Alice Peech by Sytnyk Family*

Please remember in your prayers all of our parishioners who are in our local care homes and feel free to visit them whenever!

Rossburn PCH:
Kay Luba
Helen Sidoryk
Pauline Sidoryk

Shoal Lake PCH:
Frances Susinski
Olga Bomak
Winnie Danyluk
Anne Kowal
Eileen Ewachewski
Olga Melnyk

Sandy Lake PCH:
Anne Macksymchuk
Eugene Yanick
Zenon Gerelus
Ernie Dmyterko
Teenie Buternowsky
Lena Kalyniak

Liturgical Schedule and Sacraments -- **SCHEDULE CHANGES PENDING FOR 2026!**

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

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

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

Tuesday - Fridays: 10am - Rossburn (check schedule)

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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Ukrainian Catholic Pastoral District
Український католицько-пасторський округ Rossburn

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UARY
2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Sun. of Prodigal Son</i> 9:00am - Shoal Lake 11:30am - Rossburn	<i>Presentation of our Lord in the Temple</i> Divine Liturgy 10:00am	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Meatfare Sunday</i> 9:00am - Oakburn 11:30am - Rossburn followed by AGM	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>Cheesefare Sunday</i> 9:00am - Rossburn 11:30am - Shoal Lake followed by AGM	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Sun. of Orthodoxy</i> 9:00am - Rossburn 11:30am - Oakburn followed by AGM	22	23	24	25	26	27
						28