



April 2026



Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

With hearts full of joy and gratitude, I greet each of you on this radiant and life-giving Feast of Feasts—the Holy Pascha of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ. Today, the darkness of the tomb is shattered, death is overthrown, and the light of the Resurrection shines forth upon all creation.

In His rising, Christ has trampled down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowed life. What greater hope could we have? What deeper joy could fill our hearts? No sorrow, no burden, no fear has the final word—for Christ is victorious, and in Him, we too are made victorious.

As we gather in prayer, in our homes, and as a parish family, may this Paschal season renew in us a living faith, a steadfast hope, and a fervent love. Let us carry the light of the Resurrection into our daily lives—into our families, our work, and our community—so that all may come to know the peace and joy that flow from the empty tomb.

May the Risen Christ bless you and your families abundantly. May He grant you health, strength, and every good gift from above. And may the joy of Pascha remain in your hearts not only today, but throughout the days to come.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Fr. Jay

THANK YOU ROSSBURN THRIFT STORE

We want to extend a huge thank you to the Rossburn Thrift Store for their generosity in supporting a couple of projects throughout our district.

The porch of the *Olha Hall* is currently undergoing some renovations, and we were able to receive financial support for this project. We look forward to walking across a brand new floor at our Praznyk this spring!

Sacred Heart Parish is also working on a project to upgrade our tables and chairs in our hall. We want to thank the Thrift Store for also helping us financially make this project a reality!

Have you stopped by the Thrift Store lately? Check out all their great items and incredible prices. Every time you shop there you are supporting our local community!

Wisdom! Let us be attentive... for the next 40 days of Pascha!

Just a reminder that during the 40 days of Pascha (plus 10 between Ascension & Pentecost), we are encouraged to remain standing throughout all of our prayer. Whether that's at home, or during the Divine Liturgy, or in our pew before a small service, we are invited to stand for our prayers as a celebratory stance. Kneeling is a sign of repentance, and while we celebrate our Lord's Resurrection, we stand in joy and celebration!

Restoring Liturgical Practices

Over the past years we have revived a number of ancient liturgical practices within our district. We want to remind everyone that everyone is welcome to participate in these at any time!

- **Kissing the Gospel** at the 'Little Entrance' is not just for kids, but open to anyone wanting to reverence the Holy Word of God.
- **Holding candles** at the reading of the Gospel is how we express that the Word of God how we witness the Light of Christ coming into the world.
- **Lighting candles** (in particular in Rossburn) is how we offer a visual sign of our prayers being offered up to God. Light a candle for your intention or in memory of a loved one.
- **Singing**, well that's just a given, we should all be singing during our services!

2026 Praznyk Schedule

As we get closer to the start of our Summer Praznyk Season, we invite you to pencil in all these dates in your calendar, and plan on celebrating many of these glorious feasts with the various communities that have them as their patronage. See you there!

May 14 - Crawford Park

May 16 - Ruthenia

May 23 - Sandy Lake

May 24 - Lakedale

May 31 - Oakburn

June 6 - Horod

June 7 - Olha

June 14 - Rossburn

June 21 - Ozerna

July 7 - Dolyny

July 12 - Rossburn Farms

July 19 - Angusville

July 25 - Birtle

July 26 - Shoal Lake

Aug 23 - Seech

Oct 10 - Mountain Road

AGM Outcomes

A common theme at many of our AGMs this winter was that of finances. Many parishes are either struggling or just getting by when it comes to our operational costs. As we've seen in recent days, the costs of things are constantly increasing. This rise of costs makes it hard for parishes to keep up with. We encourage each parishioner to donate regularly to your parish. In many places, fundraising is not an option and so we heavily rely on the generosity of our parishioners and guests. So please give generously to ensure our parishes stay open for many years to come!

There are also a number of on going projects that could use extra support in some of our parishes. Consider making an extra donation either as an individual or from your farm or business.

Sandy Lake: exterior painting and front steps

Olha: hall porch new floor

Rossburn: replacing of tables & chairs in hall

FREE
Kids of All
Ages

SAVE THE DATE!
SUMMER
CATECHISM

AUGUST
17-21
10AM-3PM



HANDS ON FAITH & TONS OF FUN! - EVERYONE WELCOME!
More information in coming months!



Vigil Candle Intentions

Week of Mar. 29: *Birthday blessings for Kay Wilk by the Sytnyk Family*
Week of Mar. 29: *Birthday blessings for by Sytnyk Family*
Week of April 5: *In memory of +Frank Wilk by Kay Wilk*



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.
+Roxanne Warniski (Winnipeg/Dauphin) - March 21
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 care homes and feel free to visit them whenever!

<p>Rossburn PCH: Kay Luba Helen Sidoryk Pauline Sidoryk Mary Magnowski Verna Juba</p>	<p>Shoal Lake PCH: Frances Susinski Olga Bomak Winnie Danyluk Anne Kowal Eileen Ewachewski Olga Melnyk Milton Ostash Raymond Mychasiw</p>	<p>Sandy Lake PCH: Anne Macksymchuk Eugene Yanick Zenon Gerelus Ernie Dmyterko Teenie Buternowsky Lena Kalyniak</p>
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Liturgical Schedule and Sacraments -- SCHEDULE CHANGES PENDING FOR 2026!

Sundays: 9:00am & 11:30am (check schedule for locations) **Saturdays:** 10:30am (check schedule for locations)
Tuesday - Fridays: 10:00am - 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 Росберн

Rosburn

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APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<i>Great & Holy Wednesday</i> 1 Presanctified Liturgy with Anointing of the Sick 6:00pm	<i>Great & Holy Thursday</i> 2 10AM - Vespers with Divine Liturgy 6PM - Matins of 12 Gospels	<i>Great & Holy Friday</i> 3 Plaschentyisia 10am - Sandy Lake 1pm - Rosburn 4pm - Oakburn 7:30pm - Jerusalem Matins	<i>Great & Holy Saturday</i> 4 10am - Vesperal Divine Liturgy 5pm - Paschal Matins & Divine Liturgy (Sandy Lake)
<i>Great & Holy Pascha</i> 5 Paschal Matins & Divine Liturgy 6:00am - Rosburn 10:00am - Oakburn 4pm - Agape Vespers	BRIGHT WEEK 6 Matins & Divine Liturgy 10:00am For all parishioners	BRIGHT WEEK 7 Matins & Divine Liturgy 10:00am +Elsie & +Harry Spitulala	BRIGHT WEEK 8	BRIGHT WEEK 9 Matins & Divine Liturgy 10:00am - +Alice Peech by Kay Wilk Alpha - 6:30pm	BRIGHT WEEK 10 Sandy Lake PCH 10:00am Health of Michael Sytryk by David	BRIGHT WEEK 11 10:30am - Mtn. Rd. Good health for David & JoAnn Ilkew
<i>Thomas Sunday</i> 12 9:00am - Shoal Lake 11:30am - Olha	13	14 Divine Liturgy 10:00am Health of Andrusiak Family	15	16 Shoal Lake PCH 10:00am Alpha - 6:30pm	17 Divine Liturgy 10:00am +Elsie & +Harry by Spitulala Family	18
<i>Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women</i> 19 9:00am - Shoal Lake 11:30am - Rosburn	20	21 Divine Liturgy 10:00am +Diane Mackadenski by Joe & Shirley Slobodian	22 Rosburn PCH 10:00am	23 <i>Great Martyr George</i> Divine Liturgy 10:00am Health of Michael Sytryk by Nelie Juba	24 Divine Liturgy 10:00am Good health for Fr. Jay & family	25 10:30am - Sandy Lake
<i>Sunday of the Paralytic</i> 26 9:00am - Rosburn 11:30am - Oakburn	27	28 Divine Liturgy 10:00am +Elsie Spitulala by Sam & SYMIA Szwaluk	29 Divine Liturgy 10:00am +Andrusiak Family	30 Divine Liturgy 10:00am +Diane Mackadenski by Kaskiw Family		

2026 PASTORAL LETTER
OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

To the Reverend Fathers, Religious Sisters,
Venerable Monastics, Seminarians, & Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Dearly Beloved in Christ!

As we approach the great feast of Easter, which our Catechism rightly describes as the “feast of feasts” (*Christ our Pascha*, 559), we want to engage in joyful preparation. Yet, for many of us, the desire for the natural happiness of the season is clouded by the war in Ukraine, other looming conflicts, and the social and moral uncertainty within our own society.

At such a time, we may come to feel powerless, whether in our own personal lives or gathered with others in the society in which we presently find ourselves. We are somewhat like the Lord’s disciples at the time of the Passion—standing at a distance, confused and afraid, observing an unthinkable turn of events. Or we are like the Mother of God, the woman, and John at the foot of the cross, standing helplessly and gazing upon the King of Kings, Who sacrifices all out of His love for us. However, no matter what we may be feeling in the present day, history tells us that dark times do eventually pass and even the most barbarous wars always end.

Our comfort, however, is not derived from waiting for an inevitably better wave of human civilization. We derive peace from the light of our Christian faith. Christ clearly gives us a message of hope and new life. He demonstrated this through His life-giving Passion and Resurrection, which we celebrate especially during this season. This message of hope

and courage is found in His living Word and pervades the teachings of His Church. We are invited to learn this message well and to participate in its salvific power by sharing it throughout a world that so desperately needs to hear it today.

One of the most dramatic and impressive liturgical practices that we have in our Church year happens in the wee hours between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. We enter a darkened church, venerate the *plashchanytsya* (burial shroud of Christ), and contemplate that sad mystery of the Lord’s plan for our salvation. The shroud is taken away to the sanctuary and we exit the church, leaving behind the trappings of death and sorrow—the cross of execution, the tomb, and the mournful purple coverings. As we are leaving, the cantors begin to solemnly chant the hymn that speaks of the angels already singing about the Resurrection of the Saviour. We ask the Lord if we upon the earth may join them in their song, as our own souls cry out to enter into that joy.

We process around the church in the chilly darkness before sunrise. We stand at the closed doors of the church and proclaim, repeatedly, our faith and trust in the Resurrection. After the priest resolutely knocks thrice on the doors, they are flung open and we joyfully enter into a new reality. The tomb is moved aside, and the somber trimmings are replaced by bright candles, flowers, and embroidery. The whole congregation boldly and joyously sings the proclamation: Christ is risen! Death is conquered! And the grave will never be an end to life. Our Lord, by His own love and sacrifice, has won this for us.

May each of the faithful throughout our Church and beyond have such an uplifting experience! May our Easter morning experience—as grandiose or humble as it may be—give each of us the joy and hope that we need for our times. Lately, not a few have wondered if we are passing through the challenges described in the 24th chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, where the Lord speaks of times of darkness and turmoil. Nevertheless, in this Paschal season, let us allow ourselves to also contemplate the 28th chapter of hope and courage. For we are called to always remember that our Lord came into our hopeless world to lead us into the

light of a new and resurrected life with Him, where suffering passes and death is no more. “... for Christ our God has taken us from death to life, and from earth to heaven!” (*Ode 1*, Canon of Pascha).

The blessing of the Resurrected Lord be upon all of you!

Sincerely Yours in the Risen Lord,

+ **Lawrence Huculak, OSBM**
Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg

+ **David Motiuk**
Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton

+ **Bryan Bayda, C.S.s.R.**
Eparchial Bishop of Toronto

+ **Michael Kwiatkowski**
Eparchial Bishop of New Westminster

+ **Michael Smolinski, C.S.s.R.**
Bishop of Saskatoon

+ **Andriy Rabiy**
Auxiliary Bishop of Winnipeg

+ **Michael Wiwchar, C.S.s.R.**
Bishop Emeritus of Saskatoon

Given on March 28, 2026

On Lazarus Saturday and commemoration of venerable Hilarion

EASTER PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATIITUDE SVIATOSLAV

Most Reverend Archbishops and Bishops,
Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers,

Venerable Brothers and Sisters in Monastic and Religious Life,
Dearly Beloved Laity in Christ of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church

The godly-wise women listened after you with myrrh

And sought You, as dead, with tears

*But, rejoicing, they worshipped you as the living God,
and proclaimed to Your disciples, O Christ, the mystical Pascha!*

Ode 7, Paschal Canon

Christ is risen!

Beloved in Christ!

Today, when the sun rises with dawn and reveals its paschal light, the Church invites us to set out on a journey together with the myrrh-bearing women. They are heading to the tomb – to the place where they witnessed the burial of Jesus Christ: “It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid” (Luke 23:54–55).

In the Ode of Paschal Matins, the Church emphasizes a particular haste. Christ was hastily taken down from the cross, hastily buried without [home] and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment” (Luke 23:56).

And now the women hasten once again: “But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus” (Luke 24:1–3). The words of the canon of Matins confirm that they were hastening not so much to the tomb as to Christ.

The godly-wise women listened after you with myrrh...

The women disciples followed their Teacher from the very beginning of His preaching in Galilee. Christ Himself leads them to where they never expected to arrive. They are motivated by love and mercy for the Scorned and Deceased One.

Those who followed Christ, listened attentively to His teaching, witnessed various signs – miracles and healings, now become godly-wise myrrh-bearers. This is also our path of Christian discipleship, which we have traveled in a particular way during Great Lent.

Although Christ warned His disciples about what was to happen – be-

trayal, arrest, unjust conviction, cruel mockery and death on the cross – the myrrh-bearing women were not prepared either for the horror of the passion, or for an encounter with the risen Lord. They come to the tomb with indescribable pain in their heart and their soul crying out.

...and sought You, as dead, with tears.

Like the myrrh-bearing women, our people have come to this paschal moment with sorrow in their hearts. We experience ever deeper pain and ever greater fatigue from this sacrilegious war.

Many women of Ukraine, setting out on their paschal journey to Christ, rush to the graves of our Heroes and innocent victims of enemy attacks. But this paschal longing for Christ especially cries out to the Lord through the mouths of the families of those missing-in-action and those who have not been able to bury their dead. One mother shared her grief with me: “My daughter has remained forever under the ruins of Azovstal in Mariupol. When will I be able to bury her?!”

With bitter sadness we search for the bodies of our dead. But we believe in the risen Savior! We believe that Christ, who today triumphantly emerges from the tomb, grants life and resurrection to all our departed. This truth is confirmed by the myrrh-bearing women, whom He leads to an encounter not with one who is dead, but with the living God. They become the first witnesses of the risen Lord Jesus. Only after hearing from the angel that He is risen, and having worshiped, rejoicing in the living God, will they be able to proclaim the mystical Pascha to Christ’s disciples (cf. Mt 28:5–8).

... But, rejoicing, they worshipped you as the living God...

The paschal hate of the myrrh-bearers is now prompted not by the desire to complete the funeral ritual, but by the joy of having experienced an encounter with the living God! They bring news of the Resurrection of Christ, because they themselves had accompanied Christ from His crucifixion, death and burial – to His resurrection.

The true spiritual joy of Pascha does not flow from the fulfillment of an annual ritual. It is born from the personal experience that Christ is alive. He remains present in His Resurrection in the midst of His Church. Today, the Church hurries to convey to each of us the joy of meeting the Risen One, inviting us, together with all of God’s people, to worship in joy the living God, and to proclaim the mystical Pascha to all people. For Christ is risen!

We encounter the living God – our risen Savior – in the Holy Mysteries–Sacraments of Christ’s Church. Since the times of early Christianity, it was on the Easter vigil that the Church in the Sacrament of Baptism gave birth to new Christians.

We prepared for this encounter with the living God with a forty-day fast, and today we approach Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Savior, bringing to Him, like fragrant myrrh, our Christian life and the daily witnessing of our faith, renewed by repentance, fasting, and prayer.

To be a Christian in our time means to believe in the resurrection, to share the joy of a personal encounter with Christ, to proclaim to everyone the mysterious Pascha of Christ. That is what it means to proclaim today to

everyone we meet our Easter greeting: "Christ is risen!" – and to answer aloud and with conviction: "Truly, He is risen!"

And proclaimed to Your disciples, O Christ, the mystical Pascha!

Pascha is the moment of transformation! We hear how women, filled with pain, sought the Deceased One, but instead found the joy of the Risen One. Today, indeed, in this mystical encounter with the risen Lord in the community of the Church, through the power and action of the Holy Spirit, tears are transformed into joy.

It is important to note that Christ does not eliminate the weeping of the women, does not take away their tears, but transforms them. He transforms their sadness into a place of encounter, which becomes the source of a joy that no one can take away from us.

Christ announced this to the apostles at the Last Supper, saying: "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy... So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:20-22). This is the mystery of Christ's Pascha: this joy of the heart does not fade but is renewed from generation to generation for those who receive it and share it.

We celebrate Pascha, and therefore, we believe in the victory of life over death. We believe that our sadness will also turn into joy because "Christ is truly risen!" Even though deadly missiles and drones fly in "from the east" every day, we already see that the paschal sun shines above them with heavenly radiance, which carries within itself the pledge of victory and the basis of our hope for the complete liberation and revival of our people.

This light will become a source of strength and endurance for us: in the task of worthily honoring of our fallen Heroes; in the return of our captives to their homes; in the release of illegally detained, forcibly deported and kidnapped Ukrainian children; in finding the missing-in-action; and in healing our physical and spiritual wounds and traumas because "Christ is truly risen!"

With faith in the risen Christ and the power of His holy Resurrection, we will rebuild everything that has been destroyed, return to our native lands and unite the sons and daughters of Ukraine scattered throughout the world because "Christ is truly risen!"

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Let me greet each of you on this bright day that the Lord made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Today, the victory of the living God is our victory because despite the evil days caused by the forces of darkness, God's love, life and joy remain invincible. We ourselves are witnesses to this.

First of all, I would like to address our soldiers and all those who defend Ukraine, as well as their loved ones. On behalf of our Church, I express my deep gratitude to you for showing steadfastness and indomitability of spirit. I wish you Easter's joy, victory and peace.

To the families of the dead and missing-in-action, I want to wipe away your tears and strengthen you with paschal faith and hope that the risen Lord embraces your loved ones with His love and rewards with eternal life

every sacrifice made out of love for one's people and neighbor.

I greet all who are presently healing their wounds – physical or spiritual. I entrust you into the loving hands of the heavenly Healer – the risen Christ, who bears wounds on his body as a sign of boundless love, in which you also participate, dear brothers and sisters. I greet our doctors, nurses, rehabilitation specialists and chaplains. I accompany their efforts with daily prayer.

I share the paschal joy with all workers and volunteers of civil infrastructure: energy supply, transport, education, medicine. I greet our authorities and all who work tirelessly to preserve human life and human dignity, the country's independence and integrity.

I especially greet all our families – domestic Churches, so that in the family circle you may experience paschal joy and peace together: parents with children, youth and the elderly. May the risen Lord be at the center of your family life, so that, having worshipped the living God with joy, you may proclaim to others His faithful and all-conquering love.

I convey paschal greetings and thank those who in Ukraine and abroad continue to support their needy and suffering sisters and brothers materially and morally. I greet and bless our pastors, military, hospital and academic chaplains, as well as our monastic communities, especially in the frontline and combat zones.

I embrace you all – those who celebrate at home and those who are far from their homes. I wish you a joyful and blessed Easter feast, a sincere sharing of the Easter basket, of a tasty blessed egg and lushly colored eggs. May our traditional hayivka dances fill your hearts with joy and a sense of God's peace.

The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!

† SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv,

at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ,
on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos
and on the day of the Blessed priest-martyr Omelyan Kovch,
March 25, 2026 A.D.