

THE CATHEDRAL CONNECTION

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ST. JOHN'S UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Phone: 780.425.9692
Fax: 780.425.3991

10611-110 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС! ВОІСТИНУ ВОСКРЕС!

Дорогі Брати й Сестри в Христі!

З нагоди великого й радісного Свята Воскресення Христового, від себе та своєї родини, сердечно вітаю всіх членів та прихильників Катебри Св. Івана та бажаю всім веселих Великодних Свят.

There is no other greeting more solemn than **Christ Is Risen!** And the response **He Is Risen Indeed!** Each of us from early childhood remembers that no other feast or celebration is comparable to the Holy Resurrection of Christ. Even people of little faith, or no faith at all, on this **Lord's Day hasten to Church for the Resurrection services and willingly** observe the Paschal Feast and its customs. It is difficult to imagine that anyone would show ill-will towards others on this day, for everyone has the urge to embrace one another.

It is almost two thousand years since Jesus Christ appeared to the myrrh bearing women after His glorious resurrection and said **"Rejoice!" (Mt. 28:9). And even to this day no one can take away the happiness and joy from us.** As long as the Christian world exists, and it will exist until the end of time, Christians will always observe Pascha very triumphantly.

May Easter be for us, not just a happy annual holiday that is soon past, but also the renewal of a firm commitment to our Faith, which will be evident to others as they observe our way of life. If we walk in the light of the Resurrection, Easter will renew and refresh us. This Easter can be the beginning of a new life as well as of a new day. The shining Figure beside the empty tomb beckons to us. For almost twenty centuries many thousands have witnessed to His power and His love. May we all be among the immortal fellowship both this year and forever.

Нехай Великодне Чудо стане всім нам ясным запевненням, що ми всі міцно віруємо в Свого Господа Бога, і всі поспішаємо до Нього, і що ми надалі будемо любити один одного, як Воскреслий Христос любить нас! І що ми всі будемо завжди жити в братерській згоді та в міцній єдності, бо Христос Воскрес і Вічна Радість Його Воскресення! Ще раз, усіх сердечно вітаємо з Воскресенням Христовим і всім голосно й щиро проказуємо:

ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!

In Christ's love,

Father Stephan & Dobrodiyka Diana

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the first opportunity for me to communicate with the members of St. John Cathedral Parish, I wish to humbly thank you for the honour of being elected as President of the Parish Council for 2015. I have had the privilege of serving as your Treasurer for the past five years.

The leadership provided by the past Presidents, Dr. Geraldine Nakonechny and Eugene Topolnisky, has enabled the parish to accomplish many wonderful things in both the Cathedral and Cultural Centre. With God's Blessing and your support I commit to continuing the efforts in making us proud to be members of St. John Parish. At this time there is no need to mention past accomplishments as they are all clearly visible. Future projects will very much depend on financial support and priorities.

The topic I would like to address in this issue is about membership.

As of financial year end December 31, 2014, there were 320 paid membership pledges; a net decline of 2 members from the previous year. We were able to maintain the pledge at \$200 per individual members and \$175 per honorary individual members. This pledge has remained unchanged for the past 5 years. The 2015 pledge remains the same as well, with the following allocations: For a \$200 pledge, \$15 goes to the Western Eparchy, \$89 to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, and the remaining \$96 for the Parish use and only \$71 for Parish use from honorary members pledge.

We were able to keep this pledge unchanged thanks to the donations to our 3 campaigns: Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving. The Parish Council sincerely thanks all of those who so generously donated to these campaigns.

Congratulations to all members of the Parish Council for their commitment to serve our Church Community. A sincere thank you to all of the volunteers and parishioners for continuing to work with Christian love. Your comments, opinions, and greetings will always be welcome. Do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office at 780-425-9692.

On behalf of the Parish Council, we hope that you may celebrate in joy the Holy Pascha and the Resurrection of Christ.

Christ is Risen.
Truly He is Risen.

With Christian love,
Marshall Kachmar
Parish President

Members as of the end of 2014

Total Couples:	104	=	208 members
<u>Singles:</u>	<u>112</u>	=	<u>112 members</u>
Families	218	=	320 members

Members Rate 2015

Single	\$200.00
Family	\$400.00
Honorary Single	\$175.00
Honorary Family	\$350.00

PARISH COUNCIL 2015

The following were elected or appointed at the February 22, 2015 Annual General Meeting.

- President - Marshall Kachmar
- Vice-President – Pauline Mudry
- Secretary – Cheryl Moisey
- Treasurer - Michael Hnatiw
- Assistant Treasurer - Odarka Semotiuk Devlin
- Membership Chairman – Vacant
- Archivist – Larissa Ewanchuk
- Events Chairman – Paul & Marsha Jereniuk

- Property Manager (Hospodar) – Greg Yewchuk

The following were appointed:

- Past President - Eugene Topolnisky
- Church School - Merrie Zubritsky, Susan Jereniuk
- UWAC - Leona Bridges
- Cathedral Choir - Olesia Talpash
- St. John's Seniors - Eileen Yewchuk



UPDATE ON CHAIRLift project

For the convenience of many seniors in our congregation, a chairlift has been installed in the southwest entrance to the church vestibule. The chair lift (as of March 23, 2015) **isn't presently operational as we are waiting on an inspection and for our operating license to be issued.**

Revenue / Expenses—Financial Report—2015

			2014	2013
			\$	\$
	OPERATING	INTERNALLY	TOTAL	TOTAL
	FUND	RESTRICTED		
		FUNDS		
REVENUE				
Amortization of deferred contributions	30,964	0	30,964	30,964
Catering - net (Schedule 3)	83,767	0	83,767	60,396
Donations and collections	401,021	25,000	426,021	420,937
Government grants	0	0	0	10,593
Interest	221	10,433	10,654	8,581
Rentals	56,150	0	56,150	31,900
Sundry	4,008	0	4,008	2,658
	<u>576,131</u>	<u>35,433</u>	<u>611,564</u>	<u>566,029</u>
EXPENSES				
Accounting and legal	3,754	0	3,754	3,617
Advertising and promotion	12,553	0	12,553	11,704
Amortization	90,255	0	90,255	90,755
Church supplies	6,986	0	6,986	8,226
Consistory membership levy	28,050	0	28,050	27,945
Conventions	4,452	0	4,452	3,522
Donations	18,740	750	19,490	16,550
Insurance	20,015	0	20,015	19,600
Office and sundry	11,381	0	11,381	7,229
Property taxes	2,353	0	2,353	2,202
Repairs and maintenance	81,010	0	81,010	56,821
Salaries and benefits	252,660	0	252,660	241,729
Scholarships	0	600	600	300
Security	6,827	0	6,827	1,865
Utilities - heating	34,838	0	34,838	28,419
- power and water	37,523	0	37,523	40,027
- telephone	5,950	0	5,950	5,374
Western Eparchy membership levy	4,950	0	4,950	5,175
	<u>622,297</u>	<u>1,350</u>	<u>623,647</u>	<u>571,060</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE)				
IN NET ASSETS	(46,166)	34,083	(12,083)	(5,031)
Net assets, beginning of year	1,267,485	322,253	1,589,738	1,594,769
Transfer of funds (from) to	<u>14,201</u>	<u>(14,201)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>1,235,520</u>	<u>342,135</u>	<u>1,577,655</u>	<u>1,589,738</u>

NEWS FROM UWAC ST. JOHN'S BRANCH

Thank you to the parish priests, who announced the names of all of our deceased members on March 7, 14 and 21 during the panakhydas following the Divine Liturgies on each All Souls' Saturday. Our branch or a branch member provided kolachi for these occasions. Joana Janis is the keeper of our Memorial Book of Deceased Members. We thank her for this service!

We provided Fellowship coffee on March 22.

Our first in the Speaker Series for 2015 was held Monday, March 23, at St. John's Institute jointly with TYC Edmonton. Bohdan Harasymiw spoke about the situation in Ukraine.

Our Cathedral Committee headed by chairperson, Eileen Yewchuk, cleaned and decorated the Church for Easter on April 10.

Here are some photos of our Art Lovers' Membership Tea event which took place on February 8, 2015:



Valeriy Semenko, one of twelve artists in the Show.



Tea table with displays in the background.



Helen Elkow wins the door prize.

Submitted by Leona Bridges, President

ST. JOHN'S JUNIOR CYMK

St. John's Junior CYMK continues to stay active with a membership of 12 members. The following is a list of our activities between January and March 2015:

January

4- Monthly meeting and Malanka skit rehearsal

11- Carolling at Rt. Rev. Father Stephan and Dobr Diana's home. After carolling we held a monthly meeting followed by our final Malanka skit rehearsal.

16- Jr. CYMK members participated at the St. John's Parish Malanka celebrations by doing a Malanka skit as well as performing koliady for the guests in attendance. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Pani Julia Elaschuk and Halyna Elkow for creating a script for our skit and also to Pani Julia for the many hours she put in rehearsing with our members. We truly appreciate your dedication and commitment to our youth!

30- Skating at the Alberta Legislature Rink after which a religious discussion was held lead by Deacon Anton Lakusta over hot cocoa and donuts

February

8- Volunteered at the St. John's Women's Association annual Promin Tea and Art Lovers Show. Jr. CYMK members assisted by greeting guests and opening the door as they arrived as well as sitting at the sign-n guest table.

March

6- Monthly meeting and after the meeting, attended the Oil Kings game at Rexall Place

21- Our members attended the University of Alberta Fun Day giving them the opportunity to view science demonstrations and participate in hands on activities

27- Organized and ran a snack table during the Pysanka Bingo with proceeds going towards the needs of the parish

The upcoming months promise to be busy and exciting times for Junior CYMK. April plans include participating in Lazarus Saturday celebrations and a Yoga and Health night with Carla Hudyma. In May, our members are participating in the Western Eparchy Banff Youth Retreat from May 1-3 as well as taking in a day trip to Birch Bay Ranch on May 30.

If you have any questions about St. John's Junior CYMK please contact me at 780-468-9148.

Yours in Christ,

Nikolai Kruhlak
President 2014-15

ST. JOHN'S SENIOR CYMK

Our St. John's Senior CYMK currently has 12 active members and have participated in many events the past few months as highlighted here:

January

4- Monthly meeting and Malanka skit rehearsal

11- Carolling at Rt. Rev. Father Stephan and Dobr Diana's home. After carolling we held a monthly meeting followed by our final Malanka skit rehearsal.

16- Sr. CYMK members participated at the St. John's Parish Malanka celebrations by doing a Malanka skit as well as performing koliady for the guests in attendance,

30- Snowtubing at Sunridge Ski Club followed by a movie night at the Kruhlak home

February

8- Volunteered at the St. John's Women's Association annual Promin Tea and Art Lovers Show. Sr. CYMK members assisted by serving tea and snacks to the attending guests.

27- Members enjoyed dinner at St. John's pyrohy supper followed by a monthly meeting and a religious talk lead by Father Cornell

March

27- our members organized and ran the annual Pysanka Bingo event held at St. John's Cultural Centre. Many people enjoyed this fun-filled evening and had the opportunity to win some beautiful pysanky for their Easter koshyk! The proceeds of this event were donated towards the needs of the parish. We thank everyone for their support.

The upcoming months promise to be busy ones including our members participating in the Western Eparchy Banff Youth Retreat from May 1-3 and also going on a day excursion to Birch Bay Ranch on May 30.

Please contact Lukian Kruhlak at 780-468-9148 for further information on Sr. CYMK.

Respectfully submitted,

Lukian Kruhlak

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL SENIOR'S CLUB

Announces

NEW PROGRAMS

Activities are held on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. John's Cultural Centre 10611 – 110 Ave Edmonton. You may attend individual sessions during the day or all sessions. These expanded activities have been made possible through a New Horizons Federal Funding Grant.

There are no age barriers. Any adult interested in the topic or activity is welcome to attend.

There is no cost to members of St. John's Senior's Club to attend any of the sessions or activities. Annual membership fee is five dollars (\$5).

For those attending the entire day or through the lunch hour, a light lunch (make your own sandwich, salad, dessert and coffee) is available at the price of \$3. per person.

Please note that there will be no activities scheduled for April 08 since this is during Passion Week.

COMPUTERS

BEGINNERS BASICS

This beginner's course will teach you how to log-on, and use mouse controls. You will learn how to view things on Internet, create your own documents, and use email. A mentor will provide assistance, so you will not have to navigate alone.

Computers will be provided, however you may bring your own laptop if you prefer.

Available every Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. beginning April 01 at 1 p.m. Please contact **in advance St. John's Administrative Office at 780 425 9692 to indicate when you wish to participate.** This will ensure that a mentor will be present and that a computer is available for your use.

MUSIC

GROUP SINGING

This is a great way to start the day by singing traditional Ukrainian songs. Music and words are provided. You will have an opportunity to learn new songs as well as sing old favorites. Anna Zwozdesky leads the singing group with guest accompanists.

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. In Seminar room.

FITNESS

RANGE OF MOTION EXERCISES AND YOGA

Participants may attend a general exercise session in the Seminar room or they can choose to participate in gentle Yoga adapted for seniors and held in the auditorium. The Yoga is adapted for those who cannot get on the floor with ease. Equipment for range of motion exercises is provided.

Range of Motion exercises every Wednesday 11a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in Seminar room

YOGA

This is gentle Yoga that will focus on breathing, mind body connection, balance, strength, health and relaxation. Participants can use a chair or the support of a wall.

All equipment for the Yoga sessions is provided.

Yoga is limited to 15 participants. To reserve a place for the Yoga class please leave a message in the administrative office phone 780 425 9692.

Yoga instructor is Susan Lobkowicz who has had many years of experience in teaching Yoga to seniors. She is certified by the Alberta Yoga Association.

Yoga classes commence April 15 and there will be 10 weekly sessions concluding on June 18. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in the auditorium.

TRAVEL

BUILD YOUR OWN VACATION

Sit back and relax as Cobblestone Freeway Tours takes you on a story-telling journey back in time. Allow Cobblestone's cultural specialist **Vincent Rees** to introduce you to the many different ways of experiencing travel, including custom and small group tours, trips to explore your religious roots, ethnic travel focused on folklore and history, family research and genealogy services, etc.

Learn about Cobblestones unique, handcrafted tours to Western Ukraine, Eastern Europe, The Balkan, and Central America. We look forward to taking you down the cobblestone roads of adventure and cultural exploration through this Armchair Presentation.

Wednesday April 15, 2015 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Auditorium

Other upcoming armchair travel presentations:

Greece and Turkey presented by Donna Reed

Historical and Enchanting city of Lviv, Ukraine

HEALTH

BOOSTING YOUR MEMORY

This is a 6-week workshop presented by Alberta Health on Wednesdays 1p.m. to 3 p.m. from February 03 to March 09, 2016. Presenters include an Occupational therapist, Primary care Community Nurses, Dietitian, and Pharmacist.

Advance registration will be necessary because the sessions are limited to 25 participants.

Other programs in planning stage:

Issues related to hearing loss

Dealing with emotional stressors such as worry and anger.

RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL

Individual topics related to the Orthodox Faith will be addressed on Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on May 06, May 20 and June 03.

This will be followed by a series of Bible Study classes at the same time of day in October and November.

Rt. Rev. Fr. Stephan Semotiuk will lead all sessions.

Topic for May 06 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. is Cremation.

SOCIAL

Seniors also have an opportunity for social activities. Let us know if you are interested in Bridge, Other Card Games, Scrabble or joining a Knitting Circle and we will facilitate these.

EXCURSIONS

VEGREVILLE PYSANKA FESTIVAL

Seniors will travel to Vegreville by Bus on the morning of July 03 2015 and in addition to having the opportunity to view kiosks on the festival grounds, they will attend the afternoon Grandstand and Opening Ceremonies scheduled for 2 p.m.

There is no cost for transportation or the Grandstand but individuals are responsible for their own food costs.

Since busses have limited capacity, please register in advance. The bus will depart from St. John's Cultural Centre at 10 a.m. and will return by 5 p.m.

QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS? LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER WITH ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND A MEMBER OF THE SENIOR'S CLUB WILL RETURN YOUR CALL.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SCHOOL

On January 25th, a group of church school students led by Pani Iryna Krynytsky performed at the annual caroling concert. Their performance was outstanding and enjoyed by all. We thank Pani Iryna for sharing her talents with our children and we look forward to the children performing again next year.

On Saturday, April 4th we will honor five church school students, Isabella Bayda, Marcus Watson, Alexander Yereniuk, Alexander Zubritsky and Ephraim Zubritsky, and Andriy Shevchuk for their first confession during the Lazarus Saturday Liturgy. This is a special day for them and their families as they participate in the sacrament. Mnohaya Lita!

On behalf of church school, we wish everyone a blessed Pascha!

Susan Jereniuk and Dobr. Merrie Zubritsky

FAMILIAR FACES AT ST. JOHN'S



Norwood Family Centre, a meeting group of parents and children meet weekly at the Cultural Centre.



Olena, Office Administrator, and Anna, Cleaner/Custodian, take a break in the parish office.



Changing of the guard. Past President, Eugene Topolnisky and President, Marshall Kachmar.



Easter Baking at the Cultural Centre with Pauline Mudry, Maxine Zakordonski, Cathie Gordey, Rick Fyk, Nadia Opyr.

Ways of Donating to Our Parish

There are many ways in which you can donate to the Ukrainian Orthodox Parish of St. John. In addition to making a monetary donation, one can provide a donation in kind, or one can donate one's time.

A) Monetary Donations:

1. Membership Pledge.
2. Weekly/Monthly Pledges (Tithes)
3. Through the United Way, specifying our parish as the beneficiary. The United Way does keep 10% as an administrative fee.
4. **Assigning our parish as the beneficiary for RRSP's or RRIF's. Our parish would receive 100% of the remaining amount and the estate will receive a charitable tax receipt. If an individual is named as beneficiary, the remaining amount is subject to taxation.**
5. Assigning our parish as the beneficiary for a life insurance policy. A charitable tax receipt will be given for the amount of premiums paid.
6. Assigning our parish as the beneficiary of any securities, stocks or bonds and mutual funds held or make a donation of appreciated securities in kind and pay no capital gains but receive a charitable tax credit.
7. Bequests and wills.

B) Donations in Kind:

Inquire at our office for a reimbursement form for items you have purchased for the parish and indicate that the purchase is a donation in kind.

C) Donating Your Time by:

1) Volunteering within Church:

- a) Serving on the Parish Council
- b) Serving on a committee
- c) Singing with the choir
- d) Being a greeter during services
- e) Serving as a church elder
- f) Being actively involved with our church family organizations – UWAC, TYC, CYMK, etc.

2) Volunteering within the Cultural Centre:

- a) Serving on the Advisory Panel
- b) Serving as a Captain to contact volunteers for catered events
- c) Volunteering for any work bees (pyrohy making, etc.)
- d) Volunteering for any catered events (kitchen prep, serving, cleaning up, table setting, bartending)

*Volunteers are not paid!
Not because they are worthless,
But because they are PRICELESS!!!*

SURVEY RESULTS

St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral had circulated a survey to our membership asking for opinions on two items. A total of 93 had returned the survey questionnaire. The first question, regarding the start time of the Sunday Divine Liturgies, asked:

Would you want the start time to be at 9:30 a.m. year round?

47 said yes; 39 said no; 7 had no response.

Comments included the following:

"Could we use 9:30 AM for beginning the liturgy during March to October and 10:00 AM in November to February?"

"Prefer 11:00 AM year round!"

The second question, regarding the services on the second Sunday of the month, asked:

"Which would you prefer?"

a) Stay the same – 9:30AM in Ukrainian and 11:00 AM in English

50 said YES; 14 said NO

b) One service, ½ in Ukrainian and ½ in English

37 said YES; 12 said NO

c) One service all in English

21 said YES; 17 said NO

Comments included the following:

"We live in a bilingual country and should be offering bilingual services."

"Since we have so many mixed marriages, we should make every effort to accommodate those who do not speak the Ukrainian language. We want these young families to be welcomed and to become members of the church as well."

"Logic and common sense dictates that using two languages in ONE liturgy would cause a lot of distraction in our prayers"

"Would prefer a shorter service regardless of language."

"Separate liturgies divides the parish."

"At the present time with 2 services, church school doesn't have classes and the result is that about 95% of our church school families decide not to attend church at all on the bilingual Sundays."

These survey results are available in the office for anyone who wishes to see them.

NOTE: In our bylaws under Section 11. PARISH PRIEST it states that:

(2) It shall be the duty of the Cathedral Dean and/or Parish Priest to:

f) Determine, in consultation with the Parish Council, the time and order of the Divine Liturgy and other services.

These survey results have been shared with our clergy.

“BASKET CASES...”

There are two questions I get asked consistently around this time of year: 1) “What time is ‘basket blessing’ this year?” and, 2) “What are we supposed to put in our baskets?”

To the first question, I have a stock answer (which often causes perplexity or annoyance with the other party): “It’s right after Divine Liturgy,” I reply, “and you have two choices – 12:00 midnight or 8:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you!” The question, or rather the attitude that accompanies it, saddens me, though. It is normally asked by those who are not regular participants/communicants in the life of the Church and they usually haven’t paid any attention to the Holy & Great Fast which prepares us for participation in the Radiant Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Why this attitude exists and how to minister to these good folks is a topic for another discussion... It is, without doubt, one we need to confront – *all of us! Their focus, obviously, is on “blessing the paska” and not on celebrating Pascha... BUT WAIT! The rest of us may not be that far from this last statement either!*

Those of us who identify ourselves as *Ukrainian Orthodox Christians* are blessed with a cornucopia of beautiful and meaningful customs and traditions which enhance the expression of our faith. I certainly value very deeply a Paschal celebration with my family that includes paska, babka, pysanky, beets with horseradish, krashanky, etc., etc. I understand, however, that this is my Ukrainian-Canadian “wrapping paper” which is lovingly and carefully applied to the “gift” that is the Orthodox Christian faith. Now, gifts can be presented unwrapped; wrapping, however, gives them a unique, personal touch, it shows the sincerity and care of the one doing the presenting and certainly causes a bit more excitement and anticipation on the part of the receiver. To many of our non-Ukrainian friends and those have walked into the Orthodox faith through the door of her Ukrainian expression – these customs are interesting and beautiful. For them and for us, however, they should enhance the experience in the Faith and not distract from it. The wrapping paper should never upstage the gift itself, in other words!

By now, you’re probably asking yourself, “Where is Fr. Cornell going with this?” Well, I am most definitely NOT trying to discourage practising our wonderful customs – our family wouldn’t do without them! I want to first share a story (told to me by another Ukrainian Orthodox priest), to further illustrate my point in this article: A non-Ukrainian family – new converts to Orthodoxy – were completing their first Great Lent and preparing to celebrate Pascha. They turned to their priest to ask for guidance about “making the Easter basket,” because they’d never done so before. He gave them some articles and pictures of traditional Ukrainian Easter baskets and also told them, “Basically, we bring for blessing those foods from which we’ve been abstaining these last six weeks and would like to ‘break-the-fast’ with in celebration of the Feast.” The result? Well, following their participation in their first Paschal Matins procession and receiving Holy Communion during the midnight Divine Liturgy, the children joyfully unwrapped their “Happy Meal” boxes for blessing! The father – displayed some lovely, medium-rare Filet Mignon; the mother – a chunk of her favourite Black Forest ham (both accompanied by their favourite deli cheeses, organic vegetables and Paska – purchased at the parish “Soyuz” bake sale), all lovingly arranged in their wicker vessels (mom’s was lined with an embroidered *rushnyk* purchased from the parish kiosk). *Quite a fusion! Purists scoffed...*

BUT, the family got the basic message about why it is we bless these foods on Pascha – the message we *all hear in the*

Paschal blessing prayers: the first (read at the end of the Paschal Divine Liturgy), for the Artos, the bread shared by the Holy Apostles at agape meals following Christ's Ascension, representing the constant presence of "the Lamb," that is, the Lord, Himself among His faithful. For many of us the paska and/or babka, carry this same symbolism in our baskets. In the second prayer, for the blessing of meats, we hear mention of Abraham, Able and the Prodigal Son – blessed with sanctified lamb and a fatted calf in honour of their offerings and return to the Father – something we worked on throughout our lenten struggle. The meats in our baskets are blessed so that we may, "delight in those things that are sanctified and blessed... for the nourishment of us all." The last prayer, for the cheese and eggs, asks God to "preserve us in (His) goodness, that, as we partake of (the cheese and eggs), we may be filled with (His) gifts, ungrudgingly bestowed, and with (His) ineffable goodness." In summary – these prayers underline that our abstinence from these things was not for punishment but for an opportunity to renew and strengthen, through our prayer and fasting, our relationship – our communion – with the Lord, Who's Glorious Resurrection we celebrate on this Great Day; Who blesses and sanctifies all these things for our delight and enjoyment, because He loves us, and rewards us for our efforts!

Now, if we suffer anxiety because we couldn't get that fresh horseradish this year, or Easter is "ruined" because we realize (on our way, straight into the hall to find a "good spot" before everyone else who's still *praying in church gets there!*) that we forgot to put the green onion or favourite pysanka in the basket, then, quite frankly, we miss the entire point of preparing, bringing and blessing the basket at all. We forget that, first and foremost, we must glorify, give thanks to, and rejoice in the Resurrected Christ, Who by "trampling down death by death... bestows life" upon us all! If the basket becomes "the gift" and the Feast of Feasts "the wrapping paper," we aren't much different from the "basket-blessing phone callers," and we have much to learn from the "Happy Meal family." We bring the basket with meats, cheese, and eggs as a part of celebrating Pascha and not vice-versa!

Our Ukrainian customs and traditions are wonderful and beautiful; they should be taught and passed on! We practise and honour them, however, in the context of our Orthodox Christian Faith. That is, they serve to *express our faith in a unique way; they are not the faith in and of themselves. No one keeps "the wrapping paper" and ignores "the gift." If the "ki sta" gets more attention in our homes than the Gospel, should we be surprised if our family, friends, neighbours, our children wonder about what it is "the Orthodox Church has to offer" them in their struggle to have Christ in their daily lives?*

So – see a "non-traditional" basket next to yours this year? Wish the family standing behind it a wonderful Paschal breakfast and, most importantly – greet them with «*Xpucmoc Bockpec!*» or "Christ is Risen!" and invite them to come back soon! That's the first step in Christian fellowship! That's the Orthodox faith expressed with Ukrainian warmth and welcome! That's the Gospel in action!

I hope your lenten journey ends with many blessings and your Paschal celebrations are most joyous!

In Christ, our Lord,

Fr. Cornell

CATECHETICAL EASTER SERMON

(Which is read at Easter Service)

By St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople

If any man is devout and loves God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant victorious Feast. If any man is a wise servant, let him rejoicingly enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have worked from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the Feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in no way be deprived because of it. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him also be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, Who is jealous of His honor, will accept the last even as the first! He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour even as to him who had worked from the first hour. And He shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one He gives, and upon the other He bestows gifts. And He both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, all of you enter into the joy of the Lord; and receive your reward, both the first and also the second. The rich and the poor together hold high festival. The sober and the careless honor the day. Rejoice today, both

you who fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is fully laden; all of you feast sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go away hungry. All of you enjoy the feast of faith; all of you receive the riches of loving-kindness. Let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shone forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Saviour's death has set us free. He Who was held its prisoner annihilated it. By descending into Hell He made Hell captive. He angered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, said: Hell was angered, for it was abolished. It was angered, for it was mocked. It was angered, for it was slain. It was angered, for it was overthrown. It was angered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen. O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, became the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.



ST. JOHN'S FRATERNAL SOCIETY BINGO EVENTS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The members of St. John's Parish wish to express sincere thanks to St. John's Fraternal Society for their annual donation to the Parish. Over the years, the Society has contributed generously to the Cultural Centre and Cathedral. To date, the total amount of donations made by the Society to the Parish is roughly \$243,635. A major source of funding is derived from casino and bingo events.

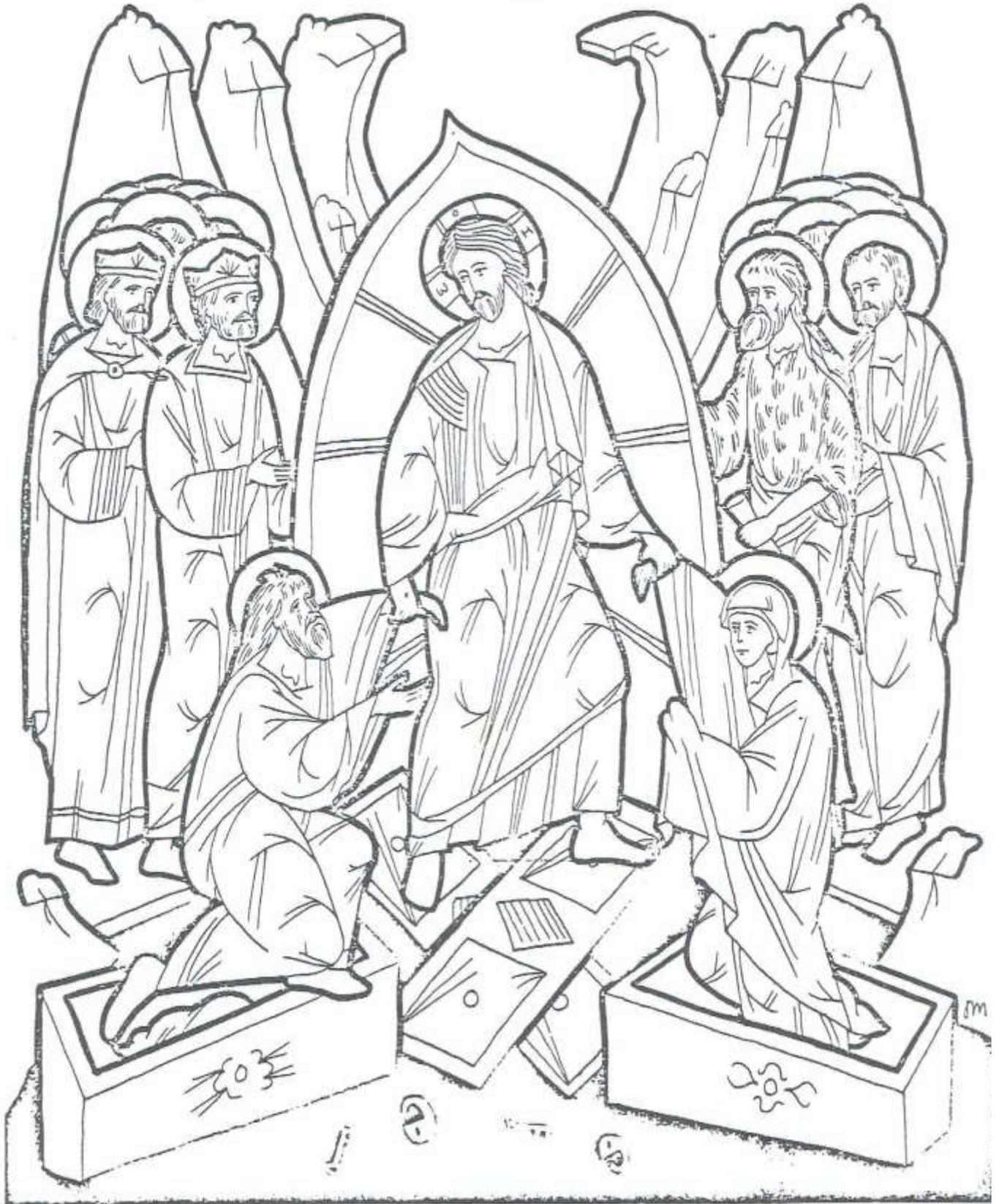
As your representative to the St. John's Fraternal Society Board, I have assumed the responsibility of providing volunteer workers for bingo events from the Parish. Only two to three workers per event are required from St. John's Parish. The bingos are held at Kensington Bingo Hall (12538 – 132 Ave) alternating between evenings and afternoons.

Please review the following bingo dates, and contact the church office (780-425-9692) with your preferred volunteering times. Contact Marshall Kachmar, representative of St. John's Parish to the Fraternal Society, for further information. Support for St. John's Fraternal Society is much appreciated and valued.

<u>Kensington Bingo Dates</u>	
Date	Time
Friday, April 24, 2015	Afternoon Event, Monthly Special
Wednesday, May 20, 2015	Evening Event
Wednesday, June 24, 2015	Afternoon Event
Wednesday, July 1, 2015	Afternoon Event, Canada Day
Thursday, July 30, 2015	Evening Event
Friday, August 7, 2015	Afternoon Event
Tuesday, September 22, 2015	Afternoon Event
Tuesday, October 27, 2015	Afternoon Event
Sunday, November 1, 2015	Evening Event
Tuesday, November 24, 2015	Afternoon Event
Monday, December 14, 2015	Afternoon Event
Wednesday, January 13, 2016	Evening Event

Marshall Kachmar
Assistant Bingo Chairman
Captain for Bingo Workers

A COLORING PAGE FOR OUR CHILDREN



The Holy Resurrection

In memoriam

The St. John's Cathedral Parish Family would like to remember the following individuals who have reposed to the Lord over the past months.



Anne Proniuk
Olga Kropodra
Anne Osadchuk



We pray that the Lord God will establish their souls where the righteous repose.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 27– Pyrohy Supper & Bake Sale	May 29, 30– St. Stephen Cemetery Open House
April 4– Lazarus Saturday, Pancake Breakfast	June 10– UWAC Members Dinner
April 19– Easter Dinner	June 26– Pyrohy Supper
April 24– Pyrohy Supper	June 28– Chram, Feast Day Dinner
May 14– Kyiv Konnection	July 14-19– Sobor of UOCC, Winnipeg
May 29– Pyrohy Supper	

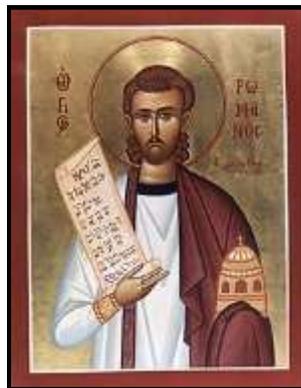
ST JOHN'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

10611-110 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 1H7

Phone: 780.425.9692
Fax: 780.425.3991

Email: info@uocc-stjohn.ca
Website: www.uocc-stjohn.ca

Monday to Friday
9:00am to 3:00pm



SINGERS! The Cathedral Choir invites you to join!
Rehearsals: Thursday at 7:30 pm. For information, call Lesia Chumer at (780) 418 1025.

СПІВАКИ-ХОРИСТИ! Просимо Вас вступити до Катедрального Хору. Пробі кожного четверга о 7:30 год. веч. По дальші інформації: Леся Чумер, диригент - (780) 418 1025.

HAWRYSH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Hawrysh Scholarships were established in 1988 and endowed by the late William Nestor Hawrysh and his wife, Katerina Hawrysh in memory of Mr. Hawrysh's parents, William and Mary Hawrysh of Edmonton. At the St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, two Hawrysh Scholarships are available annually to students who are members or whose parents are members of the Cathedral for at least three years. The value of each scholarship is equal to the amount of interest earned on the principal sum in any given year. Since 1988, 50 students have received this scholarship, some more than once or twice. The Scholarship is opened to students enrolled in the Faculty of Theology, St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Some notable recipients are Rev. Fr. Cornell Zubritsky, Very Rev. Dr. Jaroslaw Buciora, Rev. Fr. Wasyl Sapiha, Rev. Fr. Patrick Yamniuk, and Rev. Fr. Protodeacon Gary Boychuk. For the guidelines and application information, please contact our office.

The William and Mary Hawrysh Memorial Leadership Scholarships available at the University of Alberta, also established in 1988 and endowed by the late William Nestor Hawrysh and his wife Katerina Hawrysh in memory of Mr. Hawrysh's parents, William and Mary Hawrysh. Since 1988 over 650 students have received this scholarship. For the guidelines and application information, please contact the University of Alberta, Scholarships and Awards.

In 2013, Kate Hawrysh started the Babich/Babichuk Memorial Scholarship in memory of her parents. This Scholarship will enable a student from Ukraine to study agriculture at the University of Alberta and then to return to Ukraine to teach an agricultural program.

HAWRYSH SCHOLARSHIP

The Hawrysh Scholarship was donated by Bill and Kate Hawrysh in Memory of William and Mary Hawrysh to promote the Ukrainian language, culture, traditions and Ukrainian Orthodox religion. The value of the scholarship is equal to the amount of money earned on the principal sum in any given year. Two scholarships are awarded out annually, the value of each being half of the above stated amount.

Eligibility:

Member of Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John's (at least three years

Ukrainian background

Have credits for Ukrainian 30 with an average of at least 70% in grade 12 courses

Open to students who enroll in: Faculty of Theology, St. Andrew's College, Winnipeg, Manitoba; Faculty of Education, majoring in the teaching of the Ukrainian language; Faculty of Arts, majoring in Ukrainian language, history or Ukrainian-Canadian studies.

Requirements:

Full name

Address/Telephone number

Date of birth

Name and address of Educational Institute

Proof of Registration

Transcripts

Character References (minimum of 2 letters)

Covering letter

Deadline: June 15 for applications

August 15 for transcripts

Applications can be forwarded to:

Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John
Administration Office
10611-110 Ave.
Edmonton AB T5H 1H7

or email: info@uocc-stjohn.ca

HAWRYSH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Date of Birth:

Name & Address of Educational Institute:

SIN #

Schools attended: High School

University

Are you or have you been in an advanced placement program?

Please attach by June 15:

Cover letter
2 letters of reference

Before Aug. 15 Transcripts
Proof of Registration

Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John
10611-110 Ave
Edmonton AB T5H 1H7
780-425-9692
info@uocc-stjohn.ca