



St Stephen Protomartyr

Address:

4903 – 45th Street S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T3E 3W5 Canada

Office Hours (during outbreak)

Mon-Friday 9:00 am—12:00 pm
Phone enquiries only

Telephone:

403-249-4818, press 0

Pastoral Emergencies:

403-249-4818, press 9

Email:

Office@Protomartyr.ca
Coordinator@Protomartyr.ca

Parish Website:

www.saintstephencalgary.ca

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/protomartyr.ca>

Eparchy Website:

www.edmontoneparchy.com

DIVINE LITURGIES:

Sunday Services:

8:30 am—Ukr/Eng
10:30 am—English
5:00 pm—English (children choir)
Pre-registration recommended :
<https://bit.ly/2N4H1CH>

Weekday Services:

Wednesdays at 9:00am (seniors and those at higher risk)

Saturdays

5:00 pm Confessions
6:00 pm Vespers

Pascha

The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord God and Saviour, Jesus Christ

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Христос воскрес! Воистину воскрес!

After the priest has exclaimed, Blessed be the Kingdom... and the people have responded, Amen, the clergy sing the Paschal Troparion once and the people repeat it. Then, the clergy sing the first half, and the people conclude it.

Paschal Troparion

Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

First Antiphon

Shout to the Lord, all the earth,* sing now to His name, give glory to His praise.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

Say unto God, "How awesome are Your works!* Because of the greatness of Your strength Your enemies will flatter You."

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

Let all the earth worship You and sing to You,* let it sing to Your name, O Most High!

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

Glory... Now... Only-begotten Son...

Third Antiphon

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

As smoke vanishes, let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire.

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

So let sinners perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad.

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Entrance

In the churches bless God, the Lord from the fountains of Israel.

Troparion and Kontakion

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 8: Though You descended into a tomb, O Immortal One,* yet You destroyed the power of Hades,* and You rose as victor, O Christ God,* calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice!* and giving peace to Your Apostles:* You, who grant resurrection to the fallen.

Instead of Holy God

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia! (3)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

You have put on Christ! Alleluia!
All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia!

Prokeimenon, Tone 8

This is the day which the Lord has made;* let us rejoice and be glad in it.

verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. (Psalm 117:24,1)



HOLY MYSTERIES

CONFESSION:

Saturdays 5:00 to 5:45 pm
or by Appointment
403-249-4818, ext. 2

MARRIAGE, BAPTISM-CHRISMATION- EUCHARIST, FUNERALS :

Arrangements with the Pastor
403-249-4818, ext. 2

ANOIDTING OF THE SICK:

For emergencies call
403-249-4818, ext. 9

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS :

Arrangements with the office

CLERGY & RELIGIOUS

Pastor :

Fr. Michael Bombak
FatherMichael@Protomartyr.ca
Office:403-249-4818, ext. 2

Pastor, St. Basil's Melkite Greek Catholic Church

Pastor: Fr. Samer Naaman
403-249-4818, ext. 3
stbasilmelkitecalgary@gmail.com
Facebook: St Basils Melkite Greek
Catholic Church Calgary

PARISH OFFICE

Office Administrator:

Linda Buck 403-249-4818, ext. 0
office@Protomartyr.ca

Communications Coordinator:

Mirna Farahat
coordinator@Protomartyr.ca

HALL RENTAL INQUIRIES

John Kowal
403-249-4818, ext. 4
Cell:403-880-0577
maintenance@Protomartyr.ca

HALL & KITCHEN

403-249-4818, ext. 6

Epistle

Acts 1:1-8

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Alleluia, Tone 4

verse: When you rise, You will have compassion on Sion. (*Psalms 101:14*)

verse: The Lord looked down from heaven to earth to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free the sons of those put to death. (*Psalms 101:20*)

Gospel

John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Hymn to the Mother of God

The Angel cried out to the One full of Grace: O chaste Virgin, rejoice! And again I say, Rejoice! Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day, and raised the dead. Let all people rejoice! Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exult now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn

Receive the Body of Christ;* taste the fountain of immortality.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

Instead of Blessed is He Who comes... we sing:

Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Instead of We have seen the true light... we sing:

Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Instead of May our mouths be filled... we sing three times:

Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life. (3)

Instead of Blessed be the name of the Lord... we sing three times:

Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life. (3)

Paschal Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

All: Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!* for the glory to the Lord has risen upon you!* Exult now and be glad, O Sion!* And you, O chaste Mother of God,* take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

Priest: Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

All: Christ is risen from the dead trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs giving life!* Lord, have mercy. (3)* Give the blessing!

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life! through the prayers of His immaculate Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-praiseworthy apostles; of our venerable and godly fathers; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople; and all the saints, will have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

All: Amen.

After the final Amen, the priest, with cross raised on high, exclaims "Christ is risen" thrice and we respond "Truly, He is risen" each time. Then, the Troparion "Christ is risen" is sung as at the beginning of the Liturgy, but with the addition:

And to us he has granted life eternal;* we bow down before his resurrection on the third day.



Pascha — The Resurrection of Our Lord - April 4

- 7:30am † Resurrection Matins & Easter Divine Liturgy (Bilingual - Choir)
Pre-registration required: <https://bit.ly/3txBW9U>
Watch online : https://youtu.be/vTzISuy5_h8
Blessing of Food in the parking lot
- 10:30am † Easter Divine Liturgy (English - Cantor)
Pre-registration required: <https://bit.ly/3txBW9U>
Watch online : <https://youtu.be/wpJIOHVIV3Y>
Blessing of Food in the parking lot
- 6:00pm Agape Vespers (A joyful evening Resurrection service)
Pre-registration required: <https://bit.ly/3txBW9U>

Please refer to the COVID-19 regulations on: www.saintstephencalgary.ca/covid-19-regulations.html

Ushering and cleaning volunteers are required for ALL Divine Liturgies.

We would appreciate any assistance that you are able to offer. Please join our volunteer crew by contacting our Liturgical Director, Darrell Maleski by email at liturgical@protomartyr.ca or the office by phone 403-249-4818.

OFFICE CLOSED

St. Stephen's office will be CLOSED from Friday, April 2 to Wednesday, April 7 (Good Friday to Bright Wednesday). If you have an emergency, please call 403-249-4818, ext 9.

*****NEW! After Bright week starting April 13, 2021 we will be offering weekday Divine Liturgies on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9:00am, open in the church to a maximum of 50 people.**

Given the amount of vaccinations that have been administered we will be opening up these services to all the faithful. Every measure will continue to be taken to keep everyone safe from the virus with social distancing, sanitizing and mandatory face masks. We look forward to you joining us!



DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 3: HOLY SATURDAY

- ❖ 3:00pm – Vespers / Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
- ❖ 7:00pm – Nadhrobne (Tomb service)

Sunday, April 4:

PASCHA – EASTER SUNDAY

- ❖ 7:30am – Resurrection Matins & Easter Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 10:30am – Easter Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 6:00pm – Agape Vespers

Wednesday, April 7: CANCELED

Saturday, April 10:

- ❖ 5:00pm – Confessions
- ❖ 6:00pm – Great Vespers

Sunday, April 11:

- ❖ 8:30am – in thanksgiving for answered prayers and health and blessings for a parishioner
- ❖ 10:30am – belated happy birthday blessings to Most Rev. Bishop David Motiuk. Mnohaya Lita!
- ❖ 5:00pm – in memory of the repose of the souls of +Joseph and +Julia Cachay

St Stephen's UCWLC Scholarship for \$1000 Guidelines



- Eligibility : A daughter or granddaughter of a St Stephen's UCWLC Member who will be attending an undergraduate Post Secondary program. (E.g.) University, College, Apprenticeship, Technical School or Specialized program (Cosmetology, Hairdresser, Secretarial, etc....)
- Age of applicant will be 16 to 24.
- Include a resume
- Reasons for the choice and location of the Post Secondary School.
- Include a description of your Parish, Community and School Involvement .
- Explain your Financial Need to receive this scholarship.
- Include a reference letter.
- Submit to scholarship committee c/o nettiekost@gmail.com
- Deadline is May 14, 2021

K of C 50/50 Raffle



Please support your St. Nicholas Byzantine K of C Council by purchasing 50/50 tickets.

Go to www.koc5050.com click on the "in support of" button, scroll down, select **"07659 St. Nicholas Byzantine"** and then continue with your online purchase. This will ensure that proceeds from your purchase will be directed to our Council. Last year's proceeds were directed to youth programs in our Parish.

Thank you for supporting our Council by purchasing tickets. The winner will receive between \$20,000 and \$50,000 (depending on how many tickets sold). Tickets are limited so please act quickly.

Sales End: Wed Apr 28 2021 - **Draw Date:** Fri Apr 30 2021

UCWLC is Collecting and Recycling old used Greeting cards (Birthday, Easter, Christmas, Get well, Mother and Father 's Day.....) for a project in the Spring. There is a box in the Foyer by the registration desk. This is a great opportunity for you to go through cards and they will be put to good use.



LOCATION
TRYZUB STUDIOS
118, 3863 112 AVE SE
CALGARY AB

REGISTER ONLINE
WWW.TRYZUB.CA

OUR CAMPS

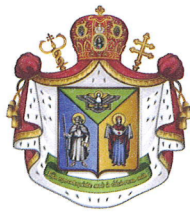
July 12 - 16
AGES 4-6: 9AM-12PM
AGES 1-12: 1PM-4PM

July 19-23
AGES 7-9: 9AM-12PM
AGES 13+: 1PM-4PM

Ukrainian SUMMER DANCE CAMPS 2021

www.tryzub.ca

DANCE FOOTWEAR IS RECOMMENDED
(NO TRAINING SHOES ALLOWED)
USED DANCE SLIPPERS ARE AVAILABLE TO BE
SIGNED OUT (BORROWED) IN LIMITED SIZES.



UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Prot. N. 21/135 ENG

EASTER PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE 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**

Christ is Risen!

*Bearing torches let us meet the bridegroom, Christ,
As He comes forth from His tomb,
And let us greet, with joyful song, the saving Pascha of God.
Ode 5, Paschal Canon*

Beloved in Christ!

Today the heart is jubilant, the soul rejoices, feet rush to church, arms stretch out to the Lord, resounding song comes from our mouths, for this day is truly the feast of feasts and solemnity of solemnities: "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life!" As smoke which is blown away by the wind, and as wax which disappears in fire (see. Ps 67:2-3), so today all our anguish, worries, doubts, and fears dissipate and lose their power over us: "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps 117:24).

Let us meet... Christ, as He comes forth from His tomb...

We go to encounter the One, who emerges from the grave, having undergone horrific torture, suffering, and death. In rising, Christ passes from death to life. He emerges from the confines of a limited and narrow tomb, with the entrance closed by a stone and signed with a seal. Christ passes by the guard, placed there at Pilate's command. The glorified body of the Saviour cannot be held, neither by time, nor by the space of earthly human existence, as we pray in the Anaphora of the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: "He loosed the pangs of death, rising on the third day and making a way for all flesh to the resurrection of the dead – for it was not possible for the Prince of life to be mastered by corruption."

Christ opened a new Pascha of God, for not Moses, but the God-Man leads humankind – not from Egyptian captivity, but from death to life, and from earth to the heavens. The paschal matins service depicts this paschal movement, this exodus of the New Covenant as that of a Bridegroom emerging from the wedding chamber., This image is familiar to us! Already, during Passion Week, the Church prepared us for the coming of Christ the Bridegroom: "O faithful, let us be on fire with love for the Bridegroom, and with lamps burning, let us go out to meet Him. May the light of our virtues shine brightly, and may our faith be radiant. With the wise virgins, let us prepare to enter the banquet hall of the Lord; for the divine Spouse offers us the crown of immortality." (Great Tuesday, Matins, Lenten Sessional Hymns). And lo, the grave is transformed into a chamber, with Christ's Resurrection funeral services are transformed into the joy of encountering the Bridegroom, who dispels sorrow, fulfills the time of expectation, and invites us to the paschal feast of the Heavenly Kingdom. With Christ's Resurrection, we become partakers of eternal life – not observers, but real participants in the life of God's children.

Bearing torches let us meet the Bridegroom!

This past year we have lived as if in a tomb "behind the locked doors" of quarantine restrictions that periodically intensified. Our churches and monasteries in some parts of the world were truly inaccessible to worshipping faithful, out of concern for the safety and health of both clergy and religious, as well as the laity. However, today Paschal Matins help us accept these restrictions as a form of expectation – of the exodus and of the risen Bridegroom-Christ, whose arrival is awaited vigilantly in the night by the wedding guests (see Mt 25:1-13). And here we sense that this time is approaching. The Bridegroom draws near, announcing to us that the exodus has begun. The light of hope shines through, that with God's help

we will be able to emerge from this global “incarceration,” to return from the virtual world to the expanse of our churches and communities, in order to pray together “with one heart and one voice” in God’s assembly. But for this to happen, is it especially important that the torch of the Resurrection – the light of faith, hope, and love – not be extinguished.

In going out to meet the risen Christ this paschal night we carry our torches of faith! Even in circumstances of strict quarantine we’ve learned to practice our faith, to differentiate between its substance and its forms of expression. We may have had to change our practices and customs, but we did not weaken our relationship of faith with our Lord God, a faith that filled our life with light through prayer and daily reflection on the Word of God, through participation in the Divine Liturgy in a different way, through a heartfelt desire to receive the Body and Blood of our Saviour. The torch of faith in us did not go out.

We carry today the torches of our hope! Drawing strength from our faith, we have fostered expectations that we will overcome and survive these complex times. Christian hope gave us strength to continue living, to adapt to a culture of preserving a healthy life in these new circumstances. We shone our torches of faith and hope in the resurrection even as we mourned our dead. When the world became disoriented and lost its bearings, the torch of Christian hope helped us find an exit-exodus, move towards an encounter with the Bridegroom, who today joyfully and victoriously emerges from the tomb!

We are encountering the risen Christ, carrying our torches of love in action – of God and neighbour. As the wise virgins of the Gospel parable (see Mt 25:1-13), this pandemic night of waiting for the coming of the Bridegroom filled our lamps with works of mercy and service to our neighbour. We understood that we will find our way out of these complex circumstances of life only if we create authentic and vibrant Christian communities, built on mutual assistance and sacrificial service to one another. The torch of love for neighbour in us did not die out, and on this paschal night it allows us to go out to meet the risen Christ!

And let us greet, with joyful song, the saving Pascha of God.

We joyfully praise Christ, who emerges from the tomb, as a spring bird, who, with the thaw, begins to sing louder and more cheerfully, and does not cease, even when it senses that the branch on which it is perched is swaying – for it knows that it has wings of faith, hope, and love! Let us gaze upon the body of Christ, covered in wounds from brutal scourging, without breath or life. A body crucified and buried, it would seem, irrevocably and forever. And yet, the Spirit of God revives this broken human body, which in the brightness of Divine glory comes out to meet us and lay a path for us to eternity. This is the salvation of which we sing today: “O Son of God, who are the giver of life to the whole world, for this the whole world glorifies You.”

Therefore, if we are under the impression that humanity has become like a body tortured unto death by the pandemic – and our people suffer this evil in the midst of the horrors of war, which continue now for the eighth year – let us gaze towards the Bridegroom, who emerges from the tomb fully alive and surrounded by light, and let us not doubt even for a moment, that a light-filled resurrection also awaits us, that we too are true partakers of the Resurrection which we celebrate today by the power and action of the Holy Spirit!

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ! On this bright, joyful day I greet all of you with the Pascha of our Lord. Especially in this Year of St. Joseph the Betrothed I greet all our husbands-fathers. My wish for you is that you be a light of faith, hope, and love for your families, models and icons of God’s love, fidelity, courage, creativity, industriousness, patience, openness – for your beloved spouses and children. Christ is the only icon of God the Father, but children, as they grow up, develop an image of Him on the basis of their family experience and the example of their dad.

I greet those who in this pandemic feel lonely and abandoned. Remember: when you pray, the risen Lord is always with you, and by the power of Christian prayer you are united with the entire community of His Church. You are not alone!

I greet all the sick and frail, as well as medical professionals and your family and friends, who care for you. On this feast of victory over death I ask you: cherish the gift of life, and embrace bodily suffering as sacrifice in prayer, for this is “a spiritual fragrance” pleasing to the Lord.

To our soldiers and to those who remain in occupied territories and in Crimea, I send you my sincere paschal greeting and assure you of my prayers, that the risen Lord strengthen you and keep you alive and healthy.

I embrace with a fatherly love all the clergy, religious, and faithful in Ukraine and throughout the world, and sincerely wish you all a blessed Easter feast, a tasty sharing of our traditional blessed egg, and a Paschal joy that is full of light.

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 day of our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophanes of Sigriana,

Our Holy Father Gregory the Dialogist, Pope of Rome
and Blessed Priest-Martyr Omelian Kovch

March 25 (12), 2021 A.D.

2021 PASTORAL LETTER
OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

To the Very Reverend Clergy, Monastics and Religious Sisters and Brothers, Seminarians and Laity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24)*

The Easter event is filled with much dramatic activity! The women go to the tomb where Jesus' body was placed. We are told that there was a great earthquake. An angel appears to the women telling them not to be afraid. Jesus is not there. Jesus has been raised. The angel then tells the women, "Go quickly and tell his disciples, He has been raised from the dead, and indeed He is going ahead of you in Galilee. There you will see him" (Mt 28:7). The women began to run from the tomb. They suddenly meet the Risen Christ who tells them not to be afraid. Jesus tells them to "go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me" (Mt 28:10). That same message to go and tell others of what you have seen and heard, that Jesus, the Messiah, our Saviour, has risen from the dead is repeated again and again in our Easter Sunday Divine Liturgy.

When the eleven disciples went to Galilee, the Risen Christ greets them and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt 28:16-20).

This great commandment is directed not only at the disciples. It is directed to all of us, to the followers of Jesus Christ. All of us share in the duty and privilege to announce the Gospel. All of us share in the mission to preach the Good News to all people. Our nature as Church, as the people of God is always missionary. We are all called to evangelize and to give witness to Christ's presence in the world through action and love. This is why the Gospel message is read in so many languages during the Easter Divine Liturgy.

Let us begin by telling our family members of God's love. Many of our family members experience God's presence through the light of a dimly lit candle. Sometimes this happens through one's own choice. At other times, it can happen through circumstances beyond one's control. Yet, even with a dimly lit candle, there is always hope. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. Christ can fan the light of that dimly lit candle into a light that burns brightly and is inextinguishable.

With confidence and courage, let each of us share our faith with others. Our faith is a precious gift that has been given to us by Jesus Christ to be shared. It should not be kept to ourselves but shared with others, beginning with our family members whom we love. Together, we are on a mission. May we find hope and courage to go out and preach the Good News. Take as an inspiring example the creativity of many who have provided online sharing of worship and prayer as we responded to the challenges of this pandemic. While the light from gathering in our parishes was dimmed, the light of sharing our faith was illuminated through the internet.

Remember, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, that we do not walk alone in this mission. Jesus Christ promises, "I am with you always until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). May your hearts be aflame with passion to know the Risen Christ. May you be inspired to share your faith in Jesus Christ with others. May your hearts be filled with overflowing joy on realizing the presence of the Risen Christ within you. May you know the peace of the Risen Christ. May your Easter celebrations be filled with much joy, inner peace, and heartfelt love shared with your family and with all whom you love and meet in the exciting journey of life.

God's choicest blessings be upon you, because Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Lawrence Huculak, OSBM, Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg
+ David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton; Apostolic Administrator of New Westminster
+ Bryan Bayda, CSsR, Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon; Apostolic Administrator of Toronto
+ Michael Wiwchar, CSsR, Bishop Emeritus of Saskatoon
+ Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Bishop Emeritus of New Westminster
+ Stephen Chmilar, Bishop Emeritus of Toronto

A Reader Service for Blessing Paschal Foods



***Served by Lay Faithful in extraordinary times
when a Priest is unavailable***

With the Bishop's blessing, in times of extraordinary circumstances such as war, natural disaster or pandemic, when one cannot attend the Holy Paschal Services or the priest is unavailable, this Reader Service may be used

by the lay faithful to bless their Paschal foods on the Feast of Pascha.

What is given here is the Ukrainian Kyivan-Catholic service for 'The Blessing of Foods on the Radiant Feast of Pascha', as found in The Divine Liturgy – An Anthology for Worship, Ottawa, 2004, but formatted and amended

according to the general rubrics of a lay-led Reader Service.

May it serve amidst great challenges to fill a great need on the Great Day!

After having observed the Paschal Service as best they can at home, the Paschal Basket is placed on a prepared table that is oriented to the East;

a lit candle is placed in the Basket; Holy Water and sprinkler (or, if no Holy Water, a Cross or an Icon of the Saviour or the Mother of God) are at hand.

When all is ready, the family gathers at the table.

The father of the family, or mother, or eldest child, acting as the Leader and standing before the Paschal Basket, either chanting or simply reading, begins...



Opening Prayers

*Leader/All: Å In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen. (3x)*

Leader: Å Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, risen from the dead, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

We sing the Paschal Tropar alternating between Leader and All...

*Leader: Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling death by death,
and to those in the tombs, giving life.*

*All: Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling death by death,
and to those in the tombs, giving life.*

Leader: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death,

All: and to those in the tombs, giving life.

*The Leader now recites the following
Blessing Prayers for the Paschal Foods...*

Blessing of Bread

Leader: O Holy Master, Father almighty, pre-eternal God: be pleased to sanctify this bread by Your holy and spiritual blessing, so that it might be unto salvation of soul as well as bodily health for all who eat of it. May it also protect against all illness and every attack of the enemy.

Å Through the mercy and compassion of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Blessing of Meat

Leader: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, look upon these various meats, and sanctify them as You sanctified the ram, which Abraham, the faithful one, brought to You, and the lamb which was offered to You by Abel as a total offering of his fruits. Sanctify them also as You sanctified the fatted calf, which You ordered to be slain for Your prodigal son when he returned to You, so that just as he was made worthy to enjoy Your goodness, we too might delight in these foods that You have hallowed and blessed to nourish us all. Å For You are the true Nourishment and Bestower of good things, and we render glory to You, with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your all holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Blessing of Cheese and Eggs

Leader: O Master, Lord our God, Creator and Builder of all things: bless these milk products along with these eggs, and preserve us in Your goodness, so that partaking of them we may be filled with Your gifts, which You, because of Your unspeakable goodness, bestow on us so ungrudgingly. Å For Yours is the dominion, and Yours the kingdom, the power, and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Then the Leader recites this Blessing Prayer...

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our

God, risen from the dead, may these foods be blessed and sanctified by [the sprinkling of this holy water and] the grace of the Holy Spirit, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Leader then sprinkles the Paschal Foods with Holy Water in cross form +

or, if there is no Holy Water, the Leader omits the bracketed parts and signs +

the Paschal Foods with a Cross or Icon, while All sing the Paschal Tropar...

All: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death,
and to those in the tombs, giving life.

After which the Leader/All intone the Dismissal Prayers...

Dismissal Prayers

Leader/All: Å Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death,
and to those in the tombs, giving life.

Lord, have mercy. (3x) Lord, bless!

Leader: Å Through the prayers of our holy fathers, may Christ our true God, risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-praiseworthy apostles and of all the saints, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

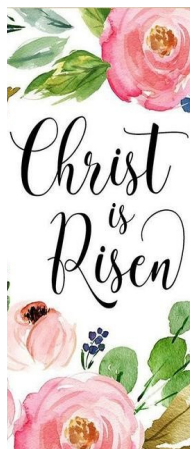
*Again, the Leader/All may sing the Paschal Tropar: "Christ is risen..." (3x)
as before, while the Leader sprinkles each family member with Holy
Water or signs + them with the Cross or Icon. And we conclude with:*

Leader/All: And to us He has granted life eternal;

Å we bow down before His resurrection on the third day!

Å In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3x)

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!



French: Le Christ est réssuscité! En verite il est réssuscité!

Arabic: El Messieh kahm! Hakken kahm!

Swahili: Kristo amefufukka! Kweli amefufukka!

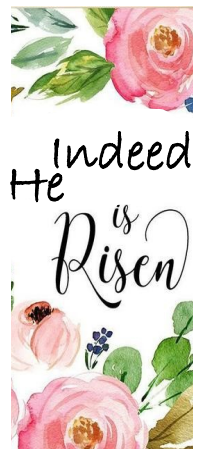
Greek: Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!

Syriac: M'shee ho dkom! Ha koo qam!

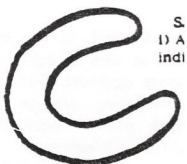
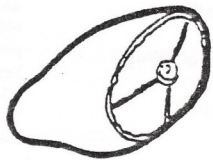
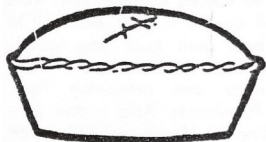
Latin: Christus resurrexit! Vere resurrexit!

Swahili: Kristo amefufukka! Kweli amefufukka!

Slavonic: Khristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!



Catechesis of the Easter Basket



PASCHA - The Easter Bread (pronounced "Paska.") A sweet, yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc. Symbolic of Christ Himself, Who is our "True Bread." Usually a round loaf baked with a golden crust, decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ. Sometimes a cross † of dough is placed on top, encircled by a plait, giving it a crowned effect; or the Greek abbreviations for the name of Christ, IC XC (Jesus Christ), may be used. The letters XB are an abbreviation for "Christ is Risen" in Old Slavonic or Ukrainian.

HAM (Slav, "shynka") - the flesh meat popular with the Slavs as the main dish for Holy Pascha, because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Some may prefer lamb or veal. These meats are usually well roasted or cooked ahead of time so that the festivity of the day will not be burden anyone with food preparation, and that all may be free to enjoy the Feast.

SAUSAGE (Kobassa). A spicy, sausage made of pork products and garlic; indicative of God's favour and generosity.

EGGS (Pysanky or Krashanky). Pysanky are eggs brightly decorated with symbols and designs made with beeswax, indicative of new life and resurrection. Krashanky are hard boiled eggs that are dyed with one bright colour, and eaten during the festive meal.

Continued ...



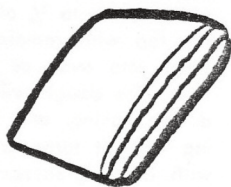
HORSERADISH (in Ukrainian, “khrin.”) Horseradish alone, and/or mixed with grated red beets. The white horseradish alone is symbolic of the resurrection. The horseradish mixed with grated red beets is symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds, yet sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. The bitter-sweet red coloured mixture reminds us of the sufferings Christ endured for us.



CHEESE (“Hrudka” or “Syretz.”) A custard-type cheese shaped into a ball, with a slight sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. Also, creamed cheese is placed in a small dish. Both cheeses are decorated with symbols (IC XC, or XB, or the cross) using cloves or pepper balls.



BUTTER (in Ukrainian, “Maslo.”) This favourite dairy product is often shaped into a figure of a Lamb, or small cross. If set into a container, it is decorated in the same way as the cheese, using cloves or pepper balls.



BACON (in Ukrainian, “solonyna.”) A piece of uncooked bacon cured with spices. Symbolic of the super-abundance of God’s mercy and loving-kindness to us. It is also a reminder that with the New Testament, God has abolished the Old Testament dietary laws and has pronounced all foods clean for human enjoyment.



SALT (in Ukrainian, “sil.”) A condiment which gives flavour and preserves food. It is a reminder of Christ’s words, “You are the salt of the earth.” As Christians, we are called to be the “salt of the earth,” to give “flavour” and meaning to human life on earth by living according to the Gospel; and thus, to preserve human life from moral corruption and decay.



OTHER - if the origin of the people was a wine growing area, a sweet wine was also included in the basket for the blessing.

THE EMBROIDERED PASCHAL CLOTH. The articles mentioned above are placed in a wicker basket and a ribbon or bow is tied to the handle. A decorated candle is placed in the basket and is lit at the time of blessing. A linen cover, usually embroidered with an image of the risen Christ, the cross or another appropriate symbol, together with the words “Christ is Risen - Truly He is Risen,” is placed over the food when brought to Church. Before the blessing, the cover is removed, set on the ground or table, and the basket is placed upon the cloth for the blessing.

The above is a description of **TRADITIONAL EASTER FOODS** included in an Easter Basket in Central and Eastern Europe. **However, you may substitute Traditional Easter Foods with foods common to your own country of origin.** Almost every nationality has its own type of sausage or prepared meat. The important thing is that after the Great Fast, the first food you eat should be blessed food, which should be eaten and enjoyed together as a family on **EASTER SUNDAY**, after church services. Another popular custom is to let children have (or make up themselves) their own baskets, to instill in them the tradition for the future. These may be filled with eggs, chocolates, toys, etc.