

# МАЯК - BEACON

APRIL 2008

ISSUE 2



Українська Православна Громада Св. Володимира



St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation

**Українська Православна Громада  
Св. Володимира**

**St. Vladimir's  
Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation**

404 Meredith Road N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 5A6

www.stvlads.com

**МАЯК  
BEACON**

**APRIL 2008**

**SPRING EDITION**



**St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation**

**2008 Parish Council**

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Beacon Word Processing and Editing: Joan Popowich

## A WORD FROM FR. TARAS

### CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST

*"Let us cleanse our soul and our flesh! Let us abstain from every passion as we abstain from food! Let us rejoice in virtues of the spirit and fulfill them in love! That we all may see the passion of Christ our God, and rejoice in spirit at Holy Pascha!"* (Forgiveness Vespers)

We are quickly approaching the celebrations of Holy Pascha, the joyous Feast of Feasts, and find ourselves at the very core of our spiritual preparation which we are called upon to carry out in order to properly understand and experience the meaning of this Feast of our salvation to its fullest. Before we can truly feast in celebrating the Good News of Christ's glorious Resurrection, we must prepare ourselves by sincere fasting and deep spiritual reflection. Orthodox Christians experience Holy Great Lent differently than do people of other confessions of faith. The central focus of Holy Great Lent is prayer, fasting and almsgiving, along with confession of our sins. Holy Great Lent is a spiritual journey that focuses our attention on the very meaning of Holy Pascha, the meaning of the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, and what His suffering means for each one of us.

Our journey of preparation for Holy Pascha begins at the Vesper Service of Forgiveness Sunday. At the end of this service every individual in the congregation, beginning with the priest, asks of and offers forgiveness to every other person present. What a solemn, deeply emotional and meaningful way to begin our spiritual journey to our Lord's empty tomb!

Even so, many see Great Lent as some form of "*deprivation*". While living in a world of plenty, it is difficult to deny oneself of the many things we are so accustomed to acquiring at a moment's notice. How difficult it is to strive to live our daily lives, as we are called to do during Holy Great Lent, merely with what we need, and only in measured portions. Such a change in lifestyle often comes as a shock to our bodies and wills.

Holy Great Lent was never meant to be a period of doom and gloom. Great Lent was established as a time of return from exile, as a time of genuine forgiveness and repentance. It was established as an aid to help turn us from our prodigal ways and assist us in returning to our loving and forgiving Father, after having lived for a time of separation from Him through a life in a "*far off country*" as described in the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

During Holy Great Lent we follow the example that was set for us by our Lord Himself, Who prayed and fasted for 40 days. In prayer and fasting we are to see whom we have become when left to our own devices. Secondly, we make use of this period of time to become that which we have been called to be by the grace of God – His co-workers through acts of almsgiving and mercy.

May this year's Lenten journey lead each of us to that spiritual renewal that our souls so desperately thirst for. May we become true co-workers of God and no longer be to Him as "*strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God*" (Eph 2:19). May this journey bring about in us the renewal and rededication to our Faith, which, in turn, will bring others home to their Father and to our Lord Jesus Christ Who has given us life eternal through His love of mankind and glorious Resurrection!





## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

*March 27, 2008*

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Again, it is my pleasure to report to our congregation members in the publication of the Beacon. Firstly, I would like to thank Father Taras and Dobrika Donna for their devoted spiritual leadership to our congregation. I would also like to thank the Cantors, Elder Brothers and Sisters, choir members, Readers and Sunday School Teachers for their ongoing participation in our religious services. In December 2007, our Parish Council resolved to balance the use of Ukrainian and English in our liturgical services and responses. To that end, our Council sought to achieve balance in such a way that congregation members who were unfamiliar with the Ukrainian language could, by participating in two consecutive services, have the benefit of the Liturgy in a language that they would understand. The decision of the Parish Council was made pursuant to a resolution of the Sobor of our church held in 1995 and pursuant to the blessing of Metropolitan John. It is the hope of Council that all congregation members will embrace the policy adopted by Council, which has as its purpose, the increased participation of the Congregation in Divine Liturgy.

After many years as our choir director, Cathy Lebedovich, resigned on December 16, 2007. On behalf of our congregation, I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to Cathy for the wonderful music that she produced over the years as the choir director. I am pleased to report that Greg Syrnick, Tim Michayluk, and Elena Baker have agreed to conduct the choir for the foreseeable future on a rotation basis.

To prepare a plan for dealing with the rental properties owned by our congregation, our Council has constituted a committee consisting of Ron Kurczaba, Jelle Braaksma, and Walter Semkuley, whose mandate is to bring forward plans for dealing with the rental properties. I will report further when the committee's report is delivered.

Rick Ramsey, our custodian, was recently hospitalized for a serious illness. He is now out of the hospital, and on behalf of all of us, I wish him a speedy and successful recovery.

My last but not least thanks go out to Michelle Faryina for her excellent work as our hall administrator, and to all the volunteers who tirelessly work for the betterment of our congregation, whether in the kitchen, cleanup, property maintenance, or as Council members.

Our congregation will be hosting a Lenten seminar on April 5 and 6, 2008, and an appreciation BBQ and graduates recognition on June 1, 2008. I encourage all members of our congregation to attend these functions.

Larry Yuzda  
President



## THE (WILLOW) BRANCH BEATS YOU, NOT I BEAT YOU, PASCHA IS ONE WEEK FROM TODAY!

Dr. Alexander Roman

**Each year, Ukrainians and other Slavs greet one another following the Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday with the above words. They do this while tapping each other with blessed willow branches that represent the branches used to welcome our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ during His entrance into Jerusalem the week before He suffered for our salvation. But why do we use willow branches? Is it because Eastern Europe always had difficulty importing palm branches from warmer climates?**

It is often assumed that the willow branch is the "second choice" created by necessity. In actual fact, nothing could be further from the truth regarding this specifically Ukrainian Palm Sunday tradition.

Other peoples use palm branches that they often twist into the shape of hand-held Crosses. Still others bind palm and olive branches together. In this, as in other spiritual matters, what the object represents is much more important than what it is in itself.

The palm tree was always believed to be holy to God. It was used in the Temple of Solomon, for example. It is still used in the decoration of Eastern Churches to this day. And it was also a symbol for the righteous person who lived in accordance with God's laws. The coconuts or fruit of the palm tree represented virtues. Thus, the "righteous shall flourish like the palm tree" as King David sings in the Psalms.

Olives and olive oil were likewise regarded as holy things. Olive oil was used in the consecration of kings and priests. It is regarded as a symbol of joy, which is why its use is strictly controlled during fast periods today. Olive oil represented the Presence of the Holy Spirit Himself. Grace was always envisioned as this Oil being poured on the righteous man, down to the fringes of his garments (Psalm 133).

"Mercy" in Greek and Slavonic came from the same root word for "oil." The Garden of Gethsemane itself was an olive grove and there was an olive oil press at its base in the time of Christ. Both palm and olive branches are entirely appropriate, as they are Scriptural, for use in Palm Sunday services.

However, the Kyivan-Ukrainian Church and other Slavic traditions adopted the use of the willow branch for its rich spiritual meaning to these cultures. The willow branch has, of course, a long history in pre-Christian times. But it was specifically adopted for its natural mystical symbolism relating to the Paschal mystery itself. The willow buds exploded into new life just a little before the time of Pascha. Like the Paschal Egg, the buds represent the Resurrection of Christ from the Tomb. The willow branch therefore not only welcomes Christ into Jerusalem where the Lamb of God was soon to be sacrificed for many. It also, at one and the same time, symbolically reaffirms our faith in His

Resurrection from the Tomb as our Lord, God and Saviour!

Willow branches are blessed by the Priests in Church and are then distributed to the faithful. The willow branches should be associated with the Paschal Egg, especially during blessings of food baskets, as the two are closely linked with the same meaning. We bless one another in preparation for the coming events of the Paschal Celebration, the Day of the Cross, the Day of the Tomb and the Day of the Resurrection.

We (gently) tap one another in so doing. For me, this always represented a kind of affirmation of the importance of the body in Orthodox Christian theology. It is the Body of Christ that will suffer and be crucified and we imitate His immolation in our Baptism and throughout our lives lived in union with Him.

And the wood of the willow represents Christ, the "Green Wood" as our Lord told the weeping women of Jerusalem on His way to Calvary. Just like palm branches are made into hand Crosses, so too is the Ukrainian willow branch made into an Orthodox three-bar Cross. These are most meaningful sacramentals that deeply express our Christian heritage and tradition.

To make them, we simply measure out four pieces of willow branch. The longest will be, of course, the central beam. The next in length will be the main Cross-beam to which the Hands of Christ were nailed. The next in length will be the slanted Foot-rest with the smallest in length that of the Title of Christ.

We then simply carve a little into the wood where the pieces will be attached. A good, strong (carpenter's) glue will keep the pieces together. The slanted Foot-rest rises up on our left, let's remember! These willow Crosses should then be hung on our walls or kept with our icons in our special "Blessed Corners" throughout the year with our other holy things. We might even pray while holding it in our hands as a symbolic reminder that we are to "take up" our Cross and follow Christ!

This tradition also reminds us of God as Creator in Whose Son the entire Cosmos is transfigured and divinized through His Life, Death and Resurrection. We greet our Saviour on His way to Jerusalem on this day. Many of those who greeted Christ loudly on that day were also loud in accusing Him a few days later as He walked under the weight of His Cross. With the willow branches in our hands, we proclaim our faith in Him who died for us as Man and rose on the third day as God.

This is why the first seventeen verses of the Gospel of John are read on Pascha. It is that portion of the Bible that proclaims loudest the Divinity and Power of the Sacrificed and Risen Lamb of God.



# What Goes in an Easter Basket

Every year, many of us spend a great deal of time preparing the food for the baskets that we will take to our Church to be blessed. It is a beautiful custom which we have the great honour of handing down to our children and grandchildren. Have you ever wondered why we include the foods that we do? The following is a partial listing and brief explanations:



## PASKA BREAD

The bread symbolized the Risen Christ. It reminds us that Christ is the Living Bread Who came to earth. Christ is our nourishment and support in life through His grace and help. The bread is decorated with braids, wreaths, ropes or flowers to remind us of the crown of thorns that Christ wore on His head on Great Friday.

## CHEESE AND BUTTER

These dairy products remind us of the rich life we receive because of Jesus Christ who opened the gates of Heaven for us. Sometimes the butter is made into the shape of a lamb. Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God Who sacrificed His life for us.

## DECORATED EGGS

Eggs are the most ancient symbol for new life. It is the ultimate symbol of fertility. An egg is a promise and expectation of new life. Christians see the egg as a shape for the opening in the tomb from which Jesus Christ was raised. The hatching of eggs is a potent symbol of the New Life promised to us by the Resurrection. The egg can be brightly decorated with beeswax and can contain many additional symbols and markings.

## HORSERADISH

Horseradish, a bitter root, reminds us of the effect sin has on us. It also reminds us of the bitter gall Christ was given to drink on the Cross. Horseradish is usually mixed with grated red beets to remind us of the Blood of the Passion and suffering of Christ. It is sweetened with some sugar because of the unlimited hope we are given as a result of His Resurrection.

## MEATS ( HAM, KOVBASA, LAMB, ETC. )

We have been fasting during Lent, some of us entirely and others of us as much as we can. Pascha brings the end to fasting. The first meats eaten to break the fast are those blessed in Church. The meats symbolize the animals sacrificed in the Old Testament which prepared the way for the sacrifice of the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. Meat symbolized God's favour and generosity to us. It also symbolizes the festiveness and joy of the Resurrection, reminding us of the fattened calf that was prepared for the Prodigal Son when he returned to his father.

## SALT

Salting foods changes the taste of them, usually making them more appealing. As Christians we are called the salt of the earth. It is our job to change the evil we see in the world with the Light of Christ. We are to be the example in the world. Salt is also a preservative. Just as salt preserves foods, so the teachings of Christ preserve us for Eternal Life.

## CANDLE

Jesus Christ, Who rose from the dead, is the Light of the World. The candle in our basket emits a light to remind us of the True Light.

## ICON REPORT

On behalf of the Icon Committee and Parish Council, I wish to update our Orthodox Community in the continuation of the next phase in the narthex. The installation should begin in April 2008 and be completed December 2009 or beginning of 2010. The Committee felt that rather than our Iconographer take on other projects, we should continue with the beautification of our temple. Our congregation, at the second quarterly meeting had approved the go ahead.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Dan Zukiwsky, Tanya Sotnikow, Olga Nikolaeva and anyone else who so graciously helped with the installation with the icons. Mrs. Senchuk was truly very grateful for your endless hours. To Sas-Can Masonry Ltd., we continue to recognize with sincere gratitude your supplying of the scaffolding.

We sincerely thank all those who so generously sponsored icons beautifying our Temple. It is truly beginning to resemble an Orthodox Church. We thank Very Rev. Fr. Taras Krochak for the prayers for our Iconographer, as well to all of our members who pray for her spiritual and physical health.

The following is a list of the icons included in this phase. "SP" denotes icons already sponsored:

St. Demetrius – wood panel (gold leaf background)	4,000.00
Old Testament Trinity in a rondel & ornamentation	5,000.00
Mother of God of Canada – wood panel	SP
Elevation of The True Cross -	
St. Constantine	2,500.00
St. Helen	SP
St. Nestor	SP
Anthonij and Theodosy of the Caves	3,000.00
St. Barbara	1,800.00
St. Mary of Egypt & St. Zosimas	SP
Ornamentation of ceiling areas with pot lights	2,000.00
Baptism of Kyivan Rus' - Ukraine	20,000.00
St. Andrew on the Hills of Kyiv	15,000.00
St. John the Baptist "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at Hand"	1,200.00
The Thief on the Cross in Paradise	1,200.00
St. Titiana	SP
Ornament of back walls & below windows around	
Narthex of church	5,000.00
Dormition (Choir loft)	40,000.00

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Din





# CHOIR



The choir has very much enjoyed embarking on its new direction in 2008. There are now 3 conductors working with the choir. They are Elena Baker, Tim Michayluk and Greg Syrnick who is the Lead Director. Having 3 conductors will reduce the burden of conducting on each person. All 3 enjoy each other's input and contribution, they learn from each other and the choir enjoys the variety of styles presented.

So what is this new direction? It consists of learning all parts of the Divine Liturgy in English so that the choir can sing responses in both languages. Eventually, each service will be 50% Ukrainian and 50% English – whatever is sung in Ukrainian on one Sunday, will be sung in English the following Sunday. In that way, a person attending St. Vladimir's on 2 consecutive Sundays will hear all parts of the service sung in both languages. The choir remains committed to singing in Ukrainian and looks forward to the challenge posed to learning hymns in English.

We have already successfully introduced a number of English pieces into the Liturgy. The response from people in the congregation has been very warm and we appreciate everyone's words of encouragement. Several more pieces are ready to be introduced after having been learned by the choir at practices. And still others are will be learned and unveiled later this year.

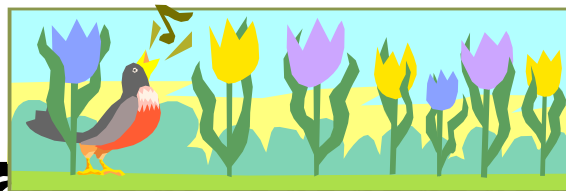
A number of choir singers have chosen not to continue to sing with the choir in 2008 – primarily due to the change in language format. We thank them for the past dedication. A number who have expressed opinions against introducing more English into the choir repertoire have still come to sing on Sunday mornings and they will continue to be welcomed. And there is a dedicated, strong, core group who has chosen to continue to sing with the choir since the beginning of the year. We are especially indebted to them for keeping the choir vibrant.

Most importantly and most gratifying to the directors, we have welcomed 9 new people to the choir, with several more expressing great interest to join! Some are rather new to our congregation and are happy to have this opportunity to sing. Others are existing members who wanted to see more English introduced while still maintaining an equal amount of Ukrainian.

If you are someone who is interested in singing with the choir – you will be warmly welcomed. We will continue to learn new pieces in Ukrainian and will work hard to learn the remainder of the service hymns in English. Please contact any of the choir conductors for more information – we will be pleased to answer all of your questions. If you have some ideas for music or feedback about what we have sung, please talk to us.

The choir looks forward to the challenges of learning new music and preparing for the greatest feast day in our Church year – that of the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Submitted by Greg Syrnick, 246-0610, [gsyr@shaw.ca](mailto:gsyr@shaw.ca)



# *Order of St. Andrew*

*Calgary Chapter*  
404 Meredith Rd. N.E., Calgary, AB T2E 5A6

*Submitted by Paul Amiot*

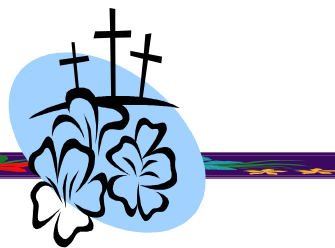
*Slava Isusu Khrystu!*  
*Glory to Jesus Christ!*

April 2008

The Calgary chapter of the Order of St. Andrew launched its 2008 calendar of activities with its annual acolyte recognition pizza lunch on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is the occasion when the Order pays tribute to our parish acolytes. Fifteen young men, accompanied by siblings and parents, joined us for good fun as we enjoyed learning a little more about our youth who serve behind the Iconostasis. In order to qualify for a draw for rink side Calgary Hitmen hockey tickets, this year we asked the acolytes to tell us a little about themselves and about one of their favourite activities. A good time was had by all.

The Order will again this spring hold a dinner fundraiser in support of St. Andrew's College, our theological seminary in Winnipeg. Final arrangements have been confirmed. The dinner will take place on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Newport Grill on Lake Bonavista (formerly the Inn on Lake Bonavista). This marks the fifth consecutive year that we host this fundraiser. Proceeds will be directed to the P. Macenko Chair of Ukrainian Church Music campaign at St. Andrew's College. This function has traditionally been well attended by parishioners and friends; all are welcome to join us for an evening of fellowship, all for a good cause. Cocktails will be available from 6:00 PM; dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. Guests will be treated to a choice of either Roast Prime Rib of Alberta Beef or Fillet of Atlantic Salmon. Tickets are \$80 and, as in the past, half the cost of your ticket is a donation to St. Andrew's College (an income tax receipt for all donations will follow from the College). Door prizes will be drawn. We thank you for your continued support of this endeavour.

We wish you Easter joy and blessings.



## **Membership Dues**

With the blessing of the Church Council, I will be sending out to each member and member couple a statement which will provide each with a balance outstanding for the current year dues (excluding those members who have already paid their dues). For members who choose to pay their dues on an installment basis, this statement will provide an up-date for your records.

If any member wishes to learn about the status of their membership dues account, please phone Walter Ozimko at 282-4272.

## Calgary Sr. CYMK – Ivan Bohun Branch

Over the past few months, Sr. CYMK has been very busy. We have taken on many projects that we attended, helped, and hosted.

In October, several of the Sr. CYMK members attended the AUSRL Conference – AB Regional Conference in Edmonton. This weekend was full of fun cultural and athletic activities and ended with a Zabava. Our CYMKivtsi also participated in the Divine Liturgy served at St. John's.

In November, Sr. CYMK participated in planning games and activities for Puschenia. Each member had a shift to volunteer in the coat room - a fundraiser that CYMK enjoys. The sucker pull for the younger children and the Western games for youth of all ages were the highlight of the evening – especially the milking contest! Sr. CYMK participated in the annual Remembrance Day Memorial Service and Holodomor Service, both held at St. Vladimir's.

December brings on the yearly Christmas tradition of participating in the Socks for Street Souls program. The evening starts off with everyone filling socks with different toiletries and goodies, such as Tim Horton's cards and stuffed animals. After each sock has been filled, the CYMKivtsi drop off all of the socks at the Mustard Seed. We end off the evening by going to a movie. CYMKivtsi also assist with and participate in the annual St. Nicholas concert.

In February, Sr. CYMK hosted a Valentine's bake sale. There were a lot of sweets for sale, and as usual, we sold out very quickly. The proceeds of the sale support the child we have sponsored in Romania. Sr. CYMK hosted their first ever "Coffee Fellowship" for the congregation – it was a learning, yet fun, experience for us.

Earlier this year, a member of CYMK was hit by an alleged drunk driver. Members of the church decided that we should host a fundraiser for Jonathon Silvernagle. The Sr. and Jr. CYMK members helped out in whichever way they could. Some volunteered in the coat room, and others helped out with the children's silent auction, while some served beverages in the non-alcoholic bar. This fundraiser was a huge success and we were all thrilled to see Jonathon!

A Sr. CYMK Spring Jamboree was an event planned by Calgary Sr. CYMK. We hosted CYMKivtsi from both Edmonton and Saskatoon. The weekend included learning 3 new choir pieces that we sang on Sunday morning, an interesting religious talk from Rev. Fr. Taras Krochak, golfing at the Golf Dome, and a Western themed Zabava. We played some great western themed games and the DJ played a mix of Ukrainian, western, and pop music. Several Pan-Orthodox youth, from other Orthodox churches in Calgary, came to the Zabava and had just as much fun as everyone else. Sunday morning, CYMK sang the Divine Liturgy, regardless of how tired we were!

Sr. CYMK has been very busy this year. We would like to thank St Vladimir's Congregation for supporting all of our activities this year!

Submitted By:  
Larissa Syrnick



## **Congregational Report of St. Vladimir's Golden Age Club**

Glory to Jesus Christ, Glory Forever.

St. Vladimir's Golden Age Club in the year 2007 celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its inception. Presently there are over 40 members enrolled. We meet every Tuesday from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm.

This past year a great sense of loss was felt in the passing of four of our members, Helen Topolnypski, Mary Faichuk, John Cherneski, and Maria Swityk. Tributes to their eternal memory were made in donations to our church. As well annual donations were made to Medical Mercy and The Mustard Seed

### **Social Events**

February – Heritage Park Luncheon  
May – Calgary Forever Luncheon  
December – Annual Christmas Party

### **Cultural Events**

A presentation was given by Dr. Myron and Elaine Semkuly on their mission in Ukraine.

We sincerely thank Very Rev. Father Taras Krochak for his prayers and his spiritual support throughout the year.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all members of our club for their continued dedication and support.

May the abundant blessing of our Risen Lord be yours now and always.

With Christian Greetings

Laurie Collins, President



**"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5**

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*Slava Isusu Khrystu! Slava Naviki!*  
*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*

Our year started with the co-ordination of the 2008 St. Vladimir's Pocket Calendar already in the works thanks to Fr. Taras and our Past Chairman of the Membership Development Committee Peter Charuk who once again successfully raised a \$1000 donation from Leyden's Funeral Home to offset a considerable portion of this cost. These are available from the office or the greeter's.

As this term's second Beacon goes to print, this committee is eagerly planning the 2008 Great Lenten Seminar April 5th & 6th, with guest speaker The Right Rev. Fr. Dr. Oleh Krawchenko who comes highly qualified being a member of the faculty at St. Andrew's College and a member of the Consistory of the UOCC. He has served as President of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts & Sciences in Canada, on the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, chairing the "Vision Quest" Steering Committee and also as Chair of the Presidium of the Consistory of the UOCC. We extend an invitation to all to join us.

As we prepare ourselves, by participation in the Lenten almsgiving, to celebrate the bright and joyous Feast of Pascha, we are again co-ordinating the financial sponsorship, preparation and serving of meals for the street people of Calgary through the Mustard Seed Program. We have always had a heart-warming response of volunteers to help with these meals. The Paschal Charity Appeal donations will also be used to brighten the lives of children in an orphanage in Ukraine.

We hope you are being blessed by our faithful greeter's when you join us for Sunday Divine Liturgy. We would welcome new participants in this very important lay ministry to our congregation and visitors.

The Membership Pictorial Directory is finally available, after a long process which included attempting to include as many as possible of our congregation in the photo sittings, establishing a Privacy Policy that applied to the information in the Directory and a few other unforeseen difficulties. It is hoped that it will be a great help in facilitating closeness in our congregation.

We look forward as a new committee to serving this congregation with love and commitment and wish to express our appreciation for all those congregation members who step up when we need assistance.

Joan Popowich  
Chair,  
Membership Development Committee



**MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION LUNCH:** The Membership Development Committee of our Congregation invites you and your family and friends to our annual Year-end Membership Appreciation Lunch and Graduate Recognition which will be held on Sunday, June 1, 2008 immediately following the Divine Liturgy. We hope to see all of you there!

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION:** St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation Graduate Recognition will occur on Sunday, June 1. This is an opportunity for our congregation to recognize this special milestone in our members' lives and celebrate with them. We will be recognizing those graduating from high school, technical school, trade school, college, university, professional certifications, etc. If you are graduating, or know of someone who is, please inform Greg Syrnick @ 246-0610.



**St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation**

404 Meredith Rd. N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 5A6

is pleased to present

**A GREAT LENTEN SEMINAR**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, APRIL 5 AND 6, 2008**

# **THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW**

**With the Rt. Rev. Fr. Dr. Oleh Krawchenko**

## **PROGRAM**

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 5**

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

**Divine Liturgy** *“Again we offer unto You this rational worship for those who have fallen asleep in the faith” (Good Shepherd Prayer Book – page 307) – Please bring a list of your departed loved ones for commemoration during this Divine Liturgy.*

11:00 a.m.

**Registration**

12:30 p.m.

**Lenten Potluck Lunch**

1:30 – 1:40 p.m.

**Opening Prayer / Introductions**

1:40 – 2:45 p.m.

**SESSION 1 – The Need For Priestly Vocations:** *“Remember, O Lord, the priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and every order of the clergy. Let none of us who stand about Your holy altar be put to confusion” (Good Shepherd Prayer Book – page 317). Why does the Orthodox Church need deacons, priests and bishops? Why can't the Church function without them? The Church is the Body of Christ and the priesthood is not something, which belongs to the priest, but to Christ Himself.*

**Coffee Break**

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Video Presentation – 2007 Orthodox Youth Conference In Constantinople** – **Kathy Kulmacz:** *“Raise the infants, train the youth, support the aged, encourage the scattered, lead back those who wander astray and unite them to Your Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church” (Good Shepherd Prayer Book – page 313) - About 900 Orthodox young adults, from all over the world took part in the Second International Orthodox Youth Conference in Constantinople July 10-16, 2007. This conference was a memorable experience for all who attended and proved to be a learning experience about the Orthodox Faith, and the creation of friendships that will last a lifetime.*

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

**SESSION 2 – The Meaning of Church Membership:** “O our God, the God of Salvation, teach us how we may worthily give thanks to You for the benefits You have given, and continue to give to us” (*Good Shepherd Prayer Book – page 319*). Christ is the very heart of the Church and each one of us is a constituent part of His Body - being “*bought with a price*” for Worship, reading of scripture, participation in Holy Mysteries, common prayer, almsgiving, liturgical fasting. There is no Christianity without community.

5:30 p.m.

**Vespers/Confession** “In the evening, in the morning, and at noonday, we praise, bless, give thanks, and pray unto You, O Master of all” (*Good Shepherd Prayer Book – page 97*).

## SUNDAY, APRIL 6

9:30 a.m.

**Divine Liturgy** “*Again we pray to You, remember Lord, Your Holy Catholic, and Apostolic Church which extends from one end of the universe to the other, and give peace to Her Whom You have obtained with the Precious Blood of Your Christ, and establish this holy house until the end of the age*” (*Good Shepherd Prayer Book – page 311*).

11:30 a.m.

**Registration for Session Three:** Anyone wishing to attend Lunch and Session Three only on Sunday, April, 6 may do so by registering for this session following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Registration for Session Three is set at **\$15 per adult – Youth and Children 17 and under – free.**

12 noon

**Lunch** (Cultural Centre)

1:00 p.m.

**SESSION 3 – The UOCC: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow:** “O Christ, our God, You are the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets; You have fulfilled the Father’s dispensation; Fill our hearts with joy and gladness” (*Good Shepherd Prayer Book – page 335*). – 2008 marks the 90th Anniversary since the establishment of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. What have we, as a Church, accomplished in those 90 years? Where are we now? What have we been called to realize in the years to come?

***z Bohom / God be with you!***

***“Let us commit ourselves, and one another, and all our life,  
to Christ our God.”***

**Advance Registration Fee \$30 per adult up to and including 30 March 2008**

**Late Registration Fee \$35 per adult after 30 March 2008**

**Anyone wishing to attend Lunch and Session Three only on Sunday, April 6,  
separate registration (advance and at the door following the Sunday Divine Liturgy) is  
available at \$15 per adult  
Youth and Children 17 and under—free.**

**GOD IS VERY MUCH ALIVE:  
THE RESURRECTIONAL OPTIMISM OF THE EASTERN CHURCH**  
Dr. Alexander Roman

**There was a time when the "God is Dead" perspective was espoused by a number of western theologians. Today, this movement has been transformed into a series of so-called "debunking" ventures, the most notable of which is the "Jesus Seminar." It was St Paul who made the sober statement that if Christ is not risen from the dead, we are still in our sins and of what use is anything? Why is the mystery of the Resurrection so central to our faith? What does it really mean?**

The Gospel of Pascha or the Resurrection is the first seventeen verses of the Gospel of John that is often read in several languages. In actual fact, this reading makes no overt reference to anything historically associated with the Resurrection of Christ itself. But it is one of the clearest statements ever on the Divinity of Christ, His relationship to the Father and to us as well as His role in our salvation. The Resurrection of Christ is the most powerful of demonstrations of our Lord's Divinity as the Son of God, True God of True God, Light from Light.

It was God Who hung in the flesh on the Cross and died. And it was God who rose from the dead in His Divinized Body and whose being among us for forty days we now celebrate as we experience the power in our lives of that same Body in Holy Communion and in other ways! The Eastern Church is permeated with John's theology of Divine Light and with the optimism that the Resurrection of Christ engenders. Eastern Christian spirituality is constantly occupied with the praise of the Risen Christ, the Son of the Father, Who went so that the Holy Spirit could come upon His Church.

The grave is not the end, it is the beginning. The Tomb of Christ is likened to the rock which Moses struck in the desert from which issued water. Christ Himself, our life-giving Water, springs forth from His Tomb to nourish all who believe in and glorify Him! The Tomb of Christ is also likened to the Virginal Womb of His Mother from which Christ came forth without disturbing the seals. Christ's Divine Power and Authority as our Lord and Saviour is proclaimed with His rising, roaring like the "Lion of Judah!"

It is because Christ has taken on our human nature, that which makes Him "Brother" at the same time as He is "Other," that we too were crucified with Him, entombed with Him and are risen with Him. The Resurrection of Christ links the glorification of the Incarnate Word with our own destiny. What we celebrate is not only something that has to do with God, but also the salvation of Christ that is offered so abundantly to each of us!

What Christ offers us is life eternal, great grace and mercy along with participation in His own Body through the Mysteries of the Church. As we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, we don't dwell on our own sinfulness. The Psalter is not read, in fact, during the week of Pascha or Bright Week for this reason, so as not to call to our attention the penitential aspects of worship in the radiant Light of Christ's Love for humankind and His merciful forgiveness and acceptance of us all.

We don't make prostrations during the Paschal period either or kneel in penitence. There is no fast during Bright Week and some Eastern traditions relax fasting completely for the entire Paschal period! Our sole occupation is to glorify Christ our risen Lord, to lose ourselves in His love and to be, as one writer said, like porpoises playing against the sun in the refreshing water of the ocean of God's benevolence.

Our gaze is toward Christ alone as our joy is multiplied many times over. Our depressions, anxieties and worries are truly overcome in the happiness that is ours now and in the next life. We feel compelled to live our lives differently. As St Paul says, how can we neglect so great a salvation? One saint once wrote that it is no longer for the gifts that he continues in his prayers, but for the Giver. The meaning of our lives is Christ the Crucified and the Resurrected. Just as He came to His Apostles when they least expected it, so too He comes upon us individually in the same way. He is present in our liturgical and family celebrations of prayer and worship. He is there when we feel pain either within ourselves or when we share the pain of others. He manifests Himself in those who come to us for advice or assistance and in those who depend on us in so many ways.

His Light is reflected in the rays of the morning sun.

He is never too far from us. That we don't always feel His nail-marked Hand on our shoulder or His warm embrace has to do with our inability, at times, to shake ourselves free from the complicating distractions in our lives. The Eastern liturgical texts contain an interesting, mysterious meaning. Very often, they refer to our "seeing the Risen Christ." And how can we do that, some might ask? What are we, myrrh-bearers or something?

And yet, we too can experience the Risen Christ, and see Him with the eyes of faith. There were those who saw the Risen Christ, but didn't even know who He was! On the road of Emmaus, even Christ's uncle, Cleopas didn't know who this apparent Tourist was who joined him and his friend as they walked in mourning after Christ's Crucifixion. Why were they so sad, the Tourist asked? The two then asked their new travelling Companion if He was the only Tourist to Jerusalem who didn't know what had happened during the last few days. "What did happen?" the Tourist asked. They then explained to Him the events of the Passion of Christ. The Tourist then began to tell them about the prophecies concerning the Messiah, His suffering and rising from the dead. Still, they didn't recognize Him, people who had personally known and were related to Christ... They obviously thought the Biblical lessons were exciting, though! So much so that they invited their Tourist friend to join them for supper. It was when Christ broke the bread at table that they finally recognized Him with the eyes of inspired faith. It was at that point that Christ physically was taken from their sight.

That didn't mean that He was no longer there. Only that they were now seeing Him in another, and as valid, way! They remembered how their hearts were set on fire when He was expounding the Scriptures to them. As a tourist to Israel myself, I stood on that road to Emmaus. The spot that tradition says is where Christ met the two is where there now stands a Franciscan monastery. Olive groves grow there today, as a token or symbol of God's Grace that we require in order to see Christ with the eyes of faith. Christ teaches us that it is through partaking of Him as the Bread of Heaven, our Daily Bread as He also referred to Himself in the Lord's Prayer, through the Scriptures and through Holy Communion, that we are enabled, through the Holy Spirit, to see Him with the eyes of faith.

We also imitate St Thomas the Apostle in reverencing Christ's Wounds and in exclaiming, "My Lord and my God!" With Thomas, we too share in the promise to all those who are blessed for having believed, even though they have not seen. It was St. Louis IX, King of France who used to hear two Masses each day. One day, after hearing his second Mass, someone came to the King in an agitated state shouting, "Your Majesty, come quickly to the Chapel! Christ has appeared on the Altar!" To this, the King replied, "I have seen Him there twice already this morning, friend!" And he did not go... As Christ revealed Himself to His apostles and disciples and the myrrh-bearing women, so He will reveal Himself to us in a way that only we - and He - will know.



### Cherokee wisdom

An old Cherokee was teaching his grandson about life.

"A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves."

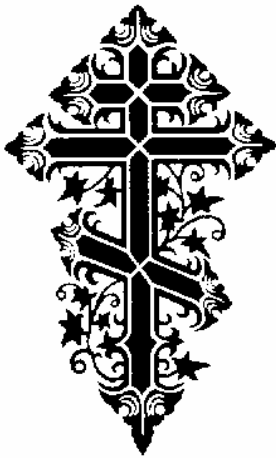
"One is evil—he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego."

"The other is good—he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

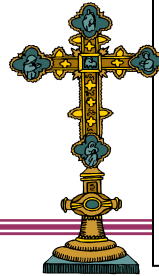
"This same fight is going on inside you—and inside every other person, too".

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."



SAYINGS  
OF  
THE  
FATHERS ....



**From Saint Macarius of Optina:**

"Pray that you may be granted the grace to read the Fathers with the right understanding, the grace to live up to the standards they put before you, and the grace to clearly see your own frailty. You will not long be left wanting and waiting. God will give you help."

Again we pray  
for those who bring  
offerings  
and do good works  
in this holy and all-  
venerable temple;  
for those who serve  
and those who sing.....

*...from the Divine Liturgy  
of  
St. John  
Chrysostom*

**"Thou shalt love  
thy neighbour as  
thyself."**

**(Matt 22:39)**

**"Love is patient and kind;  
love is not jealous or boastful;  
it is not arrogant or rude.  
Love does not insist on its own way;  
it is not irritable or resentful;  
it does not rejoice at wrong,  
but rejoices in the right.  
Love bears all things,  
believes all things,  
hopes all things,  
endures all things.  
Love never ends;"**

**I Corinthians 13:1-13 RSV**



**From St. Cyril of Jerusalem  
(Catechetical Lectures:  
Lecture 22 no. 3):**

**"...with full assurance let us partake of the Body and Blood of Christ: for in the figure of Bread is given to you His Body, and in the figure of Wine His Blood; that you by partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, may be made of the same body and the same blood with Him. For thus we come to bear Christ in us, because His Body and Blood are distributed through our members; thus it is that, according to the blessed Peter, 'we become partakers of the divine nature' (II Peter 1:4)."**



# *The Didache*

## **The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles**

### Chapter 16

16:1 I watch concerning your life; let not your lamps be quenched or your loins be loosed, but be you ready, for ye know not the hour at which our Lord cometh.

16:2 But be ye gathered together frequently, seeking what is suitable for your souls: for the whole time of your faith shall profit you not, unless ye be found perfect in the last time.

16:3 For in the last days false prophets and seducers shall be multiplied, and the sheep shall be turned into wolves, and love shall be turned into hate;

16:4 and because iniquity aboundeth they shall hate each other, and persecute each other, and deliver each other up; and then shall the Deceiver of the world appear as the Son of God, and shall do signs and wonders, and the earth shall be delivered into his hands; and he shall do unlawful things, such as have never happened since the beginning of the world.

16:5 Then shall the creation of man come to the fiery trial of proof, and many shall be offended and shall perish; but they who remain in their faith shall be saved by the rock of offence itself.

16:6 And then shall appear the signs of the truth; first the sign of the appearance in heaven, then the sign of the sound of the trumpet, and thirdly the resurrection of the dead.

16:7 -not of all, but as it has been said, The Lord shall come and all his saints with him;

16:8 then shall be world behold the Lord coming on the clouds of heaven.

*(The End of the Didache)*



# Thoughts for inspiration, meditation ..... & laughter

*Only in America.....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.*

The 7UPS of another day.....

1. WAKE UP- decide to have a good day!
2. DRESS UP- The best way to dress up is to put on a smile  
A smile is an inexpensive way to improve our looks.
3. SHUT UP- Say nice things and learn to listen with ears and one mouth,  
Its meant for us to do twice as much listening.  
"He who guards his lips guards his soul!"
4. STAND UP- ...for what you believe in.  
Stand up for something or you will fall for anything.
5. LOOK UP-....for something higher. "Trust with your heart and lean not unto your own understanding".
6. REACH UP- Keep yourself centered. Remember you ARE important.
7. LIFT UP- ....your prayers. "Do not worry about anything, instead pray about everything."

## church signs



Try Jesus.  
If you don't like Him,  
the devil will always  
take you back.



- While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign...
- Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

Gido, if our priest is so wrong in so many things, how can I believe him when he says there is a God, and Jesus is His Son?

## QUILL & QUIRE



**Roman Fodchuk, a member of our congregation .....honoured at the Kobzar Literary Awards** (which honours writing with Ukrainian-Canadian themes) in Toronto on March 13 2008 was one of.....The four Kobzar finalists: Lisa Grekul, Keefer, Marusya Bociurkiw, and Roman Fodchuk. He was also awarded a plaque from Senator Andreychuk.

His book ZHORNA was one of 4 that was short listed for this event. Only one was chosen for the cash award. These were the rules. However all were winners; as the initial submission by Publishers were 18 books.

He wore his "writing hat" at the request of the committee to do a reading from his book.



You can read more about it..... visit:

<http://www.quillandquire.com/blog/index.php/2008/03/13/event-photos-scenes-from-keefers-kobzar-win/>

Happy  
Mother's Day



Happy  
Father's Day

*To all our Mothers and Fathers;  
and Babas and Gidos  
With Love...*

*A Mother  
teaches by example the importance  
of Truth to the character,  
Laughter to the heart,  
and Beauty to the soul.*

**"He'll always listen,  
Always care,  
No matter what,  
He's always there  
That's Dad."**