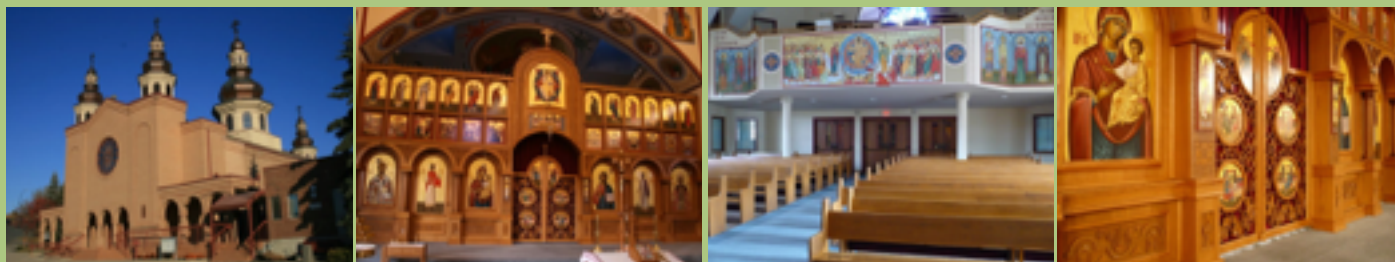


# МАЯК - BEACON



January 2015

## Українська Православна Громада Св. Володимира

### St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation

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

[www.stvlads.com](http://www.stvlads.com)

Parish Priest	Rt. Rev. Fr. Taras Krochak
Associate Priest	Rev. Fr. Timothy Chrapko
Past President	Greg Syrnick
President	Don Popowich
1st Vice President	Greg Faryna
2nd Vice President	Subdeacon Ted Yarmuch
Secretary	Joan Popowich
Treasurer	Rick Trischuk
Property Manager	Walter Semkuley
Assistant Property Manager	Daniel Zukiwsky
Member at Large	Janet Godwin
Member at Large	Michael Zubkow
UWAC Representative	Maryann Kowalsky

Українська Православна Громада Св. Володимира

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation

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

**...is putting a LIGHTED CANDLE in our window AS THE TIME HONORED TRADITIONAL  
INVITATION TO COME IN AND JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN CELEBRATING THE  
BIRTH OF CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR!**

**You are Cordially invited to our**

## **Potluck Holy Supper**



## **Свята Вечеря**

6:00 pm, Monday, January 6, Doors open at 5:00 pm

Koliady /Carols at 7:30pm Compline Service 10:00pm Divine Liturgy 11:00pm

Items to bring:

1. Kolochi (3)
2. Kutia
3. Borsch
4. Pickled Herring
5. Pickled Beets
6. Fish
7. Pyrohy
8. Holobtsi
9. Vegetables: Bean Dish
10. Beet Dish
11. Mushroom Dish
12. Dessert
13. Pastries

to make reservations and pick your Potluck item please call: Michele @ 403-264-3437/403-256-9060  
or Greg Faryna at 403-703-2927

## Greetings From the Clergy

- + Today is born of the Virgin Him Who holds all creation in the hollow of His hand.
- + He Whose essence is untouchable is wrapped in swaddling clothes as a babe.
- + The God Who from of old established the heavens lies in a manger.
- + He Who showered the people with manna in the wilderness feeds on milk from the breasts.
- + And the bridegroom of the Church calls the Magi.
- + And the Son of the Virgin accepts gifts from them.
- + We worship Thy Nativity, O Christ.
- + Show us also Thy divine Theophany!

With these joyful words, we greet you with the proclamation of the Birth of our Great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. This truly is a birth that has changed the entire course of human history, as the transcendent God in the second person of the Holy Trinity humbles Himself to take on our broken humanity. Though this self-emptying act of Love for us, God becomes approachable to us, as we are able to participate in a deepened sense of communion with God. This event, although it took place at the “fullness of time,” that is, at a specific point in human history, is not something that is relegated to the past; rather, it should remain as an impactful reality of the continual salvific work of God for us. We have the opportunity to participate in this joyous feast, not only through a remembrance of those “things that were done for us,” but also through the preparation of the manger of our heart that we may welcome anew Christ into the world and that the glory of His incarnation may continue to shape our view of the world around us, enabling us to see the Image and Likeness of God in our fellow human beings.

On behalf of Fr. Taras and myself, as well as our families, I greet you with the joy of this feast, that it may be for us as a parish family a new opportunity to be bearers of Christ into the world, the we may truly say with full depth of meaning: “Christ is Born! - Let us Glorify Him!” Let us glorify His in not only our words and thoughts, but with our deeds and especially our Love for each other and love for those whom He has placed in our lives.

priest timothy

## **Schedule of Services and Events for the Nativity Season**

### **January 6:**

Nativity Eve Potluck Supper 6 pm  
Compline Service 10 pm  
Nativity Liturgy 11 pm

### **January 7:**

NO SERVICE

### **January 8:**

Synaxis of the Theotokos, Divine  
Liturgy 10 am

### **January 9:**

St. Stephen's Day, Divine Liturgy 10 am

### **January 10:**

Vespers and Confession 6:30 pm

### **January 11:**

Divine Liturgy 9:30 (Parish Council  
Pledge of Office)

### **January 13:**

Vespers and Litia 6:30 pm

### **January 14:**

Julian New Year's Day  
Circumcision of Our Lord  
St. Basil the Great  
Divine Liturgy 10 am

### **January 17:**

Vespers and Confession 6:30 pm

### **January 18:**

Theophany Eve  
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  
Great Blessing of Water 5pm  
Jordan Feast Day Supper 6:30pm

### **January 19:**

Theophany  
Liturgy and Blessing of Water 10 am

**ST. VLADIMIR'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CONGREGATION  
ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY DECEMBER 7, 2014**

**INFORMATION FROM FR. TARAS**

Пане Предсіднику, Шановні Члени Церковної Управи, Дорогі Члени Української Православної Громади Святого Володимира! Слава Ісусу Христу!

Today we gather at this Annual General Meeting of our congregation as a legal requirement of the By-laws of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada which itself was established as a corporation by an Act of the Parliament of Canada in 1929. Being an affiliate member of this corporation, this congregation must fulfill certain legal requirements in order to maintain good standing within the parameters established by that Act of Parliament in 1929. In other words, our congregation must meet certain legal requirements in order to maintain its legal status within the framework of the Laws of Canada.

In addition to such legal obligations and requirements, we also gather at this Annual General Meeting because of certain moral and ecclesiastical obligations which are of no less magnitude than the legal ones. In both cases, the legal and ecclesiastic obligations placed upon this and every congregation of the UOCC mandate, which is the fundamental function of the congregation. The primary "business", if you wish, of every congregation is to bring people to the salvation of their souls by way of the doctrines of the Holy Orthodox Church as *"established by the Holy Scriptures, Sacred Traditions, the Seven Ecumenical Councils, Ten Local Councils and the Holy Fathers"*. (By-Laws of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada - passed at an Extraordinary General Council (SOBOR) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on August 23, 2008, and amended at the XXII General Council (SOBOR) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on July 15, 2010).

As we gather today, we must reflect upon whether or not we, as a congregation, are fulfilling the very business for which this congregation was established by both legal and ecclesiastical authority. Are we doing the business of saving souls by fulfilling the teachings, requirements and fundamental principles of our Holy Orthodox Faith as defined by our legal and ecclesiastical governing covenants? May this meeting confirm that we indeed are fulfilling these sacred responsibilities before God and nation.

Some of the highlights and accomplishments of this year include the following:

- ❖ January and February – annual Home Blessings.
- ❖ January to December – numerous church tours conducted.
- ❖ January to December – Little Lambs Group met on various occasions throughout the year.
- ❖ January to December – our Congregation sponsored at least one dinner at the Mustard Seed
- ❖ January to December – our Congregation continues to provide the use of our church to other Orthodox parishes of the city for their use for funerals, marriages and baptisms. Such usage provides our congregation with a peripheral source of other income.
- ❖ September to December and February to April – Orthodoxy 101 sessions are held as an Adult Education series to enhance our member's knowledge of the teachings and precepts of our Faith.
- ❖ Monday, January 6 – Pot Luck Nativity Holy Supper and Program.

- ❖ Saturday, January 18 – Our congregation celebrated the Feast of Theophany with the Great Blessing of Water followed by a beautiful traditional supper and program. Special thanks to our ladies for all their efforts in preparing a wonderful meal for our many guests to enjoy that evening!
- ❖ Sunday, January 26 – served a special Moleben for the return of peace to Ukraine. This was a well-attended service.
- ❖ Sunday, February 23 – served another special Moleben for the return of peace to Ukraine.
- ❖ Sunday, March 9 – Annual Taras Shevchenko Concert and Program
- ❖ Friday and Saturday, March 14 and 15 – Membership Development Committee Great Lenten Seminar with Fr. Theodore Paraskevopoulos of Winnipeg being the main facilitator.
- ❖ Sunday, March 9 – Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers – St. Demitrious Greek Orthodox Church
- ❖ Sunday Evenings of the Holy Great Fast – Lenten Vesper Services were served on a rotational basis at various Orthodox parishes in the city of Calgary with the participation of all the Orthodox community.
- ❖ Sunday, March 16 – Lenten Vesper Service and Fellowship Meal hosted by St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation with the delicious potluck meal being under the coordination of the local UWAC branch.
- ❖ Monday, March 31 to Wednesday, April 2 – Western Eparchy Clergy Great Lenten Retreat – St. Albert and Edmonton, Alberta.
- ❖ Friday, April 4 to Sunday, April 6 – Orthodox Men's Retreat – Caroline, Alberta. A number of our congregation members were involved with the organization of this retreat or participated in it.
- ❖ Saturday, April 12 – Lazarus Saturday - Youth & Family Confession and Pancake Breakfast prepared and sponsored by our local TYC branch.
- ❖ Sunday, April 13 – Willow Sunday. A special thank you is expressed to the volunteers who gathered willow branches for blessing on this day. Without your efforts we would not have been able to have our annual willow blessing and willows to take to our homes on this day!
- ❖ Sunday, April 20 – Holy Pascha – as usual we had a great many people attend and participate in our Paschal Divine Services. Thank you to all who helped in any way to make these services flow with ease and in an orderly manner.
- ❖ Saturday, April 26 – I attended Vespers at the new Serbian Orthodox Church which was served by three Bishops, including our Bishop Ilarion on the occasion of the Consecration of their newly built church.
- ❖ Sunday, April 27 – Communal Paschal Breakfast – with the meal being provided by the local UWAC Branch. Thank you to them for providing the participants with a wonderful meal.
- ❖ Wednesday, April 30 – I attended a Western Eparchy Executive Meeting – Edmonton
- ❖ Friday, May 9 to Sunday, May 11 – Youth Retreat organized by Fr. Timothy on behalf of the Western Eparchy – Banff, Alberta.
- ❖ Sunday, May 11 – our local TYC branch provided our congregation mothers with a delicious Mother's Day Brunch following Divine Liturgy. A special thank you goes out to our TYC branch for providing this special meal and recognition of our mothers annually.

- ❖ Saturday and Sunday, May 24 and 25 – Fr. Timothy and I represented our congregation at His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy's 25th Jubilee Celebration in Winnipeg, marking his 25th anniversary of Episcopal service to the Church.
- ❖ I was invited to and attended a special program at St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic Church. The guest speaker at this special program was their bishop, Bishop David from Edmonton. He spoke on how it is important that their congregations must strive to be welcoming to non-members and guests. We have much to learn from such an approach.
- ❖ Sunday, June 8 – Membership/Grad/Acolyte Recognition – thank you to all the volunteers who helped in any way with this annual event!
- ❖ Saturday, June 14 – I attended and chaired a meeting of the full Western Eparchy Council in Edmonton.
- ❖ Sunday, July 27 – Our congregation celebrated its Temple Patron Feast Day – a delicious, as always, Potluck Dinner was coordinated by our local UWAC branch.
- ❖ Monday to Friday, July 28 to August 1 – Fr. Timothy spent a week at our Ukrainian Orthodox Children's Camp Barvinok providing religious instruction to the camp participants.
- ❖ Friday, August 22 – I prepared and concelebrated a Memorial Litia together with Fr. Mykhaylo Bohun at the Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church. This Memorial Service marked the 100th anniversary of Canada's Internment Operations during WWI in which people living in Canada from the Austro-Hungarian Empire were often classified as "Enemy Aliens". These "Enemy Aliens", which included many people who had emigrated from Ukraine, were interned at numerous internment camps throughout Canada.
- ❖ Sunday, August 24 – with the blessings of His Grace, Bishop Ilarion, our congregation hosted a special program put on by the Luminous Voices Professional Choir of Calgary featuring the sacred works of Artem Videl', renowned Ukrainian Composer. Proceeds from this went to the Western Eparchy's Orphanage Project supporting orphans in Ukraine.
- ❖ Monday, September 8 – I attended and served at the funeral of the Rt. Rev. Fr. George Turzansky in Edmonton, former Pastor of this congregation.
- ❖ Saturday, September 13 – SAMP Golf Tournament Fundraiser – thank you to all who help in organizing this event as well as all those who participated in it!
- ❖ Sunday, September 14 – Pancake Breakfast – Beginning of the New Church Year – Breakfast prepared and sponsored by our local TYC branch. Thank you to TYC for all they do within our congregation!
- ❖ Wednesday, September 17 – I represented our congregation at the Consecration of St. Mina's Coptic Orthodox Church near Balzac. The Liturgy on that day was celebrated by His Holiness Pope Tawadros II of Egypt. Over 800 people were in attendance with extremely tight security, including body searches before entering the church yard.
- ❖ Friday, September 19 – Sunday, September 21 – the Annual Orthodox Women's Retreat took place at the Entheos Retreat Centre near Bragg Creek. Once again our members were involved in both the organization of this retreat as well as being participants of it.
- ❖ Saturday, September 30 – I participated in a meeting of the Western Eparchy Executive Council in Edmonton.
- ❖ Sunday, September 21 – Church School classes began for the 2014/2015 Church Year.

- ❖ Sunday, October 19 – we commemorated all of the reposed benefactors of our congregation through prayer during a special Memorial Litia served in their honour and memory.
- ❖ Thursday, October 23 – Sunday, October 26 – Western Eparchy Assembly – Edmonton
- ❖ Friday, October 24 – Saturday, October 25 – Western Eparchy Youth Summit – organized by Fr. Timothy on behalf of the Western Eparchy – Edmonton
- ❖ Saturday, October 25 – Recognition Banquet for all youth of the Western Eparchy who assist during Divine Services, parish functions, etc. Special icons acquired by Bishop Ilarion were presented by His Grace to every young person in attendance. Acolytes also were presented with years of service pins by the Edmonton Order of St. Andrew Chapter. It was wonderful to see the many youth from throughout Alberta being honoured in such a way at this special event!
- ❖ Tuesday, November 11 – our congregation participated in our Annual Remembrance Day Memorial Litia & Program coordinated by the local chapter of the Order of St. Andrew with lunch sponsored by the local TYC branch. Thank you to both of these groups for taking on this special service to our community!
- ❖ Saturday, November 22 – many members of our congregation participated in the annual Famine/Genocide Memorial Service & Program which was once again held at our Cultural Centre.
- ❖ Saturday, December 6 – I travelled to Edmonton and participated in the Western Eparchy Full Council Meeting.
- ❖ Sunday, December 14 – the annual Ukrainian Carol Festival will be sponsored by our Church Choir and will be held at our Cultural Centre beginning at 7:00 pm.
- ❖ Besides the regularly scheduled Divine Liturgies and Vespers Services in Calgary, the following additional services were served in our congregation in 2014 with comparative 2013 numbers in brackets: 7 Marriages (9); 10 Funerals (10); 35 Baptisms (36); 28 Memorial Litia (21); 42 other Divine Services [Molebens, Full Home Blessings, Holy Unction, etc.] (23). In 2014 we also served 26 Divine Liturgies (26) and 17 Vesper Services (17) in Lethbridge; and 25 Divine Liturgies (24) and 14 Vesper Services (16) in Red Deer.

In closing, I wish to once again express my sincere appreciation to Fr. Timothy Chrapko for his continued assistance in providing spiritual service and Pastoral support to our congregation as well as to the Southern Alberta Mission Project (SAMP). I also wish to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to Don Popowich for his many hours of hard, dedicated and time-consuming work in fulfilling his duties as Parish Council President over this past year. I wish to thank Michele Faryna for her many hours of committed service to our congregation through her position of Cultural Centre Administrator. Thanks to all members of the Parish Council for their dedication, hard work and co-operation throughout this year. A sincere thank you is also extended to all the various committee members, volunteers, lay organizations of our congregation, our Church Choir, our Elder Sisters and Brothers and every committed individual congregation member for all their work carried out for the good of our community and unto the Glory of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ! May He bless each and every one of you for your service to Him and *"to the least of these My brethren"* (Mt. 25:45)!



## **Church School Report to the Annual General Meeting, December 2014**

CIXI

As many of you know, this year we made a big change with regard to church school and the time that it takes place. Our church school is now being held for about one hour after the end of the church service, during the coffee fellowship. This allows the children the opportunity to participate in the entire Divine Liturgy service. As well, the parents are able to fully participate in the coffee fellowship.

We are pleased to report that, as a result of the change, our church school family has increased in size when compared with last year's participants. We currently have ten families registered in church school totaling twenty-one children. Of these twenty-one children, sixteen have been regularly attending the church school classes. Of the sixteen children regularly attending, six are new to our church school.

We offer three age categories to our church school students. The youngest group is aged four and five and have seven children registered. This class is currently being primarily taught by Joanna Calkins with the assistance of Larissa Syrnick and Alia Silvernagle. Joanna has taught church school for a number of years when she was a member of St. Vladimir's church in Vegreville. Larissa and Alia are new to teaching church school but both have excellent skills and rapport with the children. As of December 7<sup>th</sup>, Yarena Melnychuk will be the primary teacher for this group.

The middle group is six to eight years old and has eight children registered. It is being taught by Anton Tati-Sona with the assistance of Lorne Calkins. Anton was born and raised in Kiev, Ukraine and is currently working on a Master's degree at the University of Calgary. He is quite happy to be working with the children, attends church regularly and is a pious and humble man.

The oldest group of children is aged nine and older and has six children registered. It is being instructed by Iaroslav Pankovskyi. Iaroslav was born and raised in Zaporosia, Ukraine. He holds a Doctorate in Linguistics. He is very excited to be working with the children of our parish and is a very pious man who serves with the altar boys every Sunday.

We would like to close by thanking St Vladimir's church board for your approval and support in making the time change to church school. Thank you to UWAC as well for all your support including financial. And finally, thank you to Father Taras Krochak and Father Timothy Chrapko for your assistance, input, support and blessings.

Respectfully submitted by Joanna Calkins, Church School Director

## **Consistory Report to St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation AGM**

The elected Consistory Board is in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of a 5 year term and will be replaced by an election at Sobor 2015. The Sobor is scheduled from July 14-19, 2015 at the Fort Gary Hotel in Winnipeg, MB. Meetings will be scheduled by Consistory Board members Stephania Luciuk and Ihor Triska in conjunction with the parish council of St. Vladimir's Congregation to approve any proposed bylaw amendments, and any resolutions from the congregation and to support a national initiative in delivering these 2 important Sobor inputs. Please support these meetings scheduled early in 2015 leading into Sobor 2015.

The UOCC continues to be asset rich, but cash poor and has managed affairs under conditions of shrinking budgets coinciding with shrinking membership totals. Priority calls have been required to continue operations of the church while faced with reduced funds.

### **Statistics**

Membership continues to reduce in the UOCC with projected membership expected to be at 7600 members for the 2015 year.

### **Congregations Closures**

32 congregations are in the process of closing. In the SAMP, the Oyen closure is now being progressed by having a trustee assigned. (Ihor Triska)

### **New Westminster**

A highlight of the last year was the UOCC settling its legal dispute with the Plaintiff Group involved with the Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in New Westminster, BC. Please refer to [uocc.ca](http://uocc.ca) for the official release of details of this settlement.

### **Website**

The Consistory Board has approved development of an updated website using Orthodox Web Solutions as a provider. This is the same provider used by St. Vladimir's Congregation.

### **Vira - Faith Prayer Book**

The Vira - Faith Prayer Book is nearing readiness for printing pending final edits and approval of Metropolitan Yuriy.

### **TYC Symposium**

The TYC Symposium was another highlight of this year with Theologians representing various segments of Orthodox churches in Ukraine and throughout the Diaspora assembling in Toronto for this symposium. A follow on symposium is expected in 2015 to likely be hosted in Kyiv.

### **Office of Missions and Education**

The Consistory Board has approved a one year pilot project implementing a plan developed by Fr. Timothy Chrapko to support OME objectives across Canada fitting within the means of current UOCC budgets. This project will roll out in the next 2 months and should have some progress to report prior to Sobor 2015.

Submitted by Sdn. Ihor Triska

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cultural Centre  
AGM Report for 2014

For the year ending October 31, 2014 the Cultural Centre was and continues to be a very busy and active facility; it is utilized and rented by various groups and organizations as well as individuals wishing to host a special event. The Cultural Centre was rented for numerous events and activities throughout the year. The Cultural Centre is home to a number of weekly tenants and was occupied by one or more of these tenants seven days a week. On week-ends there were groups coming and going for the majority of the day and then the Grand Hall was rented for the evening. There were very few empty nights.

We have seen an increase in the rental of the Lower and Upper Halls. The Lower Hall continues to be rented seven days a week and the Upper Hall is rented an average of 6 out of 7 days. The wall to wall – floor to ceiling mirrors has been and continues to be a great feature and has proven to be a good investment. It has become a facility in high demand.

The St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cultural Centre is home to Sadochok which started operating 5 days per week in September of 2012. Other groups of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church hold their monthly meetings at the Cultural Centre. The Golden Agers of St. Vladimir's meet on Tuesdays and Orthodoxy 101 is held on Thursday evenings. Many days the wonderful women of UWAC were busy in the kitchen making cabbage rolls, borscht and perogies as well as cooking in preparation of our feast day dinners.

Our Cultural Centre also is used after every Divine Liturgy and many other Religious Services for fellowship and is also used to host funeral and baptismal luncheons.

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cultural Centre hosts the Holodomor Commemoration service and program every year in November.

We did have an increase in revenue from 2013 and I feel quite confident that 2014/2015 will also show an increase in revenue. Bookings for 2015 are starting and are filling up fast.

Our rental facilities along with our wonderful Orthodox Resource Centre, Ukrainian Library, Ukrainian Museum and Gift Shop continue to be one of Calgary's precious gems.

Thank you for your encouragement, support and direction,

Michele Faryna

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Cultural Centre Administrator

## **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Membership Development Committee held several events this past year, we started with our Nativity season Свѣта Вечеря/ Holy Supper, where we asked people to bring one traditional Christmas dish for a potluck supper. This event has grown each year and has become very enjoyable for all who attend.

Prior to the Paschal season, we held our Family Spring Puschenia, where family's and members of the congregation attended. At a small cost we provided a light supper, along with various activities and games for the children and adults.

During the Paschal season we also hosted a Lenten Seminar, where we had a guest speaker; Fr. Theodore Paraskevopoulos talk about the Orthodox Faith in Fantasy. Many who attended found it to be a very eye opening experience.

In September, for the beginning of the new Church year, we held our annual membership appreciation breakfast, inviting all to enjoy a pancake breakfast.

We made a donation to the Mustard Seed Mission to sponsor two suppers, for the hungry people of Calgary.

We have also donated to His Grace Bishop Ilarion's Orphanage Mission Project to the Ukraine.

We are hoping to continue in 2015 with many of these fun and spiritually rewarding activities and look forward to the Congregation of St. Vladimir's and their family and friends joining us.

Yours in Christ,

Greg Faryna

***Order of St. Andrew***  
*Calgary Chapter*  
404 Meredith Rd. N.E., Calgary, AB. T2E 5A6

Report to the St. Vladimir Congregation Annual General Meeting, December 7, 2014

Slava Isusu Khrystu!

I am pleased to report on our 2014 activities, another year of accomplishment.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> we recognized fourteen Acolytes as part of the Parish Grad Recognition ceremony and gave each a movie pass for 2. In that same month, on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we served pie and ice cream at coffee hour. We placed Christmas and Easter greetings in *The Herald*, and in November participated in Calgary's Holodomor commemoration ceremony by laying a wreath and forming an honour guard at the Memorial Litia. We formed an honour guard in church on our Patron Saint name's day last December and on the occasion of our Bishop's parish visitation on November 9<sup>th</sup>. We supervised Easter baskets in the Cultural Centre during the Paschal service. On Friday October 3<sup>rd</sup> we held our annual fundraising dinner in support of the Macenko Chair of Ukrainian Church Music at St. Andrew's College. Fifty-five supporters attended the buffet dinner in our Cultural Centre catered by the Italian Club. A number of door prizes were drawn and we held a successful silent auction. In total, donations of over \$3,900 were forwarded to the College. As has been the tradition for several years, our chapter organized the observance of Remembrance Day. We donated \$1,000 to St. Andrew's College specifically for the purchase and installation of an LED projector for use by the professors and students.

I am pleased to inform that there are 5 full time and 7 part time students at St. Andrew's College. Two others have completed their studies and are completing their Clinical Pastoral Education practicum. The College remains a beacon to Orthodox students on campus at the University of Manitoba.

Our Calgary Chapter has twenty-five members. This year we welcomed Pobratym Walter Semkuley as a new member. It is the responsibility of each Order member to support the significant role St. Andrew's College plays in our Church and in our community. Our finances remain good, and we appreciate the backing of our members and the parish community.

Finally, on behalf of our Chapter, I thank the parish Executive and members of the congregation for their support. I am confident we will continue to work together for the betterment of St. Andrew's College, our parish, and our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.

With Christian Greetings,

Paul Amiot  
President

# UKRAINIAN SELF RELIANCE ASSOCIATION CALGARY BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

The Calgary branch of TYC currently has 27 members, who meet on the third Monday of the month. Our meetings are dinner meetings, where one of our members prepares the meal, while other members help the cook and assist in cleaning up. Our annual general meeting is held in January of each year. We have currently reduced our meetings from monthly to five or six per year, due to an aging membership, low attendance, and a lack of new members.

Our main events that we have supported over this past year were, a pancake breakfast on Lazarus Saturday. Mother's Day brunch after church and in November for the Order of St. Andrew, Calgary Chapter, we provided a lunch for the Remembrance Day Commemoration. Also in November we took part in the Holodomor Commemoration Services by laying a wreath in remembrance of this tragedy.

Our main source of fund raising comes from our participation in the Alberta Gaming Casino program, in which we are scheduled for every 18 to 24 months. From these proceeds we support the following:

St. Vladimir's Cultural Centre \$40,000.00

St. Vladimir's Library and Archives

St. Vladimir's Museum

St. Vladimir's Sadochok program

Camp Bar-V-Nok

Along with many other requests that come to us over the year, we also provide a summer bursary fund, to members of the parish, whose children attend various Ukrainian or Orthodox summer programs.

Yours in Christ  
Greg Faryna  
President  
Calgary, Branch

## **The Mystery of Holy Repentance and the Ascetic and Hesychastic life as the Components of Repentance in Orthodox Christianity (Part I)**

**By Fr. Timothy Chrapko**

*‘Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.’ (Matt 3:2) With these words uttered by John the Baptist, Jesus Christ began His own mission. From the very beginning, Christianity was a call to repentance, to conversion, to metanoia, which in Greek means a change of mind. Radical transformation of one’s way of life and thought, renovation of the mind and senses, rejection of sinful deeds and thoughts, and transfiguration of the person: these are the main elements of Christ’s message (Alfeyev 144).*

It is clear that the notion of repentance and the conversion of one’s entire life to Christ is at the very heart of what the Orthodox Church teaches. “The fathers of the Church recognize two kinds of repentance, however. They are Repentance as a mystery, that is, as a sacrament, and repentance as a permanent action in the soul. But the power of the latter comes from the former” (Staniloae *Orthodox Spirituality* 135-136). The power of the Mystery of Repentance comes from its transformative and synergic nature. It bestows grace on all who seek the forgiveness of God through it. This grace we receive during this Mystery has the power to transform our entire lives if we abide in and cooperate with it by living lives of constant repentance. This statement allows us to see the centrality of the mystical or sacramental form of repentance in the overall spiritual life of Orthodox Christians. This type of turning back toward God from sin is made possible for us through the mystical (sacramental) life of the Church; the pinnacle of both the personal and private practice of repentance is found in and through the Mystery of Holy Repentance. At the very heart of Orthodox Christian Spirituality are found the spiritual pillars of Asceticism (or spiritual struggle) and Hesychasm (a prayerful way of life drawing the participant inward). It is through Asceticism that the Orthodox Christian seeks to rigorously train themselves for a spiritual life. Hesychasm allows the individual to strive towards having a personal experience of God, to know God through His Divine Energies. It must be stated that the underlying reason for striving to know God through His energies is not simply to have a knowledge of God, but rather to know God in order to unite with Him (i.e. *theosis*). These two practices (Asceticism and Hesychasm) help the Orthodox Christian grow deeper in their faith, and lead them on a spiritual path towards Repentance. By better understanding these two practices it is possible to understand the Orthodox views on Repentance itself, and how through individually striving in our faith we are united to the Church as a whole. For, as Staniloae discusses above, the meaning that these two practices hold is rooted in the power of the Mystery of Repentance, that being Confession. This action is culminated in the partaking of the Eucharist, for: “The Eucharist is the final mystery, and it is not possible to add anything to, or go beyond it” (Cabasilas 113). Without the Mysteries of Confession and Communion, Asceticism and Hesychasm would be empty exercises of personal discipline. In light of these Mysteries, they are powerful ways to deepen an individual’s spiritual connection to God and the Church as a whole.

## **Asceticism**

The Orthodox Christian, in the most basic sense, engages in the Ascetic life through the practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. The very practical cornerstone of the Ascetic life is perhaps found in the teaching of St. Basil the Great as he says: "...simplify your life, so you have something to share with others" (St. Basil the Great 13). This statement encapsulates the way in which the Orthodox seek to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is clear that a fundamental component of Asceticism is the striving towards humility. It is this humility that ultimately draws us to the Mystery of Holy Repentance. For: "If we too, humble our hearts and confess sincerely, we cannot but feel the wondrous results of repentance, the most tangible of which is the sweet peace of the conscience and the deep, renewed love for God which makes the heart shine with happiness" (Alesksiev 64). The spiritual importance of the Ascetic life is that through Asceticism we engage in the training of our souls for spiritual growth, and through gaining control of that which we can see (i.e. the physical), we are able to achieve more control over the spiritual components of our lives. "The Holy Fathers teach us that it is very hard for a man to see his sins. They explain this with the blindness caused by the devil" (Alesksiev 31). Asceticism is a constant struggle against what the Fathers of the Church call "The Passions." It is this constant struggling with the "passions" that is the aim of both the Ascetic life as well as the Mystery of Holy Repentance. In the Ascetic life there is a desire to withdraw from the world in order that one may also withdraw from the passions. This is a necessary step to take in the practice of asceticism, for in the words of St. Isaac of Nineveh: "This virtue: emptying one's mind of the world. As long as the senses are occupied with things, the heart cannot stop imagining them. Passions do not cease nor evil thoughts come to an end without the desert and solitude" (St. Isaac of Nineveh 26). For, as stated by Alesksiev, "...a man cannot see his sins until he separates himself from them through a separation filled with labor and distress. Those who have reached this condition have found tears and prayers..." (Alesksiev 32). This "labour" that was just spoken of, is Asceticism, it is that spiritual struggle. It is through Asceticism that one may achieve separation from the Passions. Thus this process becomes a necessary step on the road toward Repentance.

## **Asceticism in Liturgical Texts**

This notion of separation from the passions (and all evil for that matter) is something that is present in many patristic and other liturgical texts. For example in the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, at the prayer of inclination, we read:

Master, Lord, Father of compassions, and God of every consolation: Bless, sanctify, guard, fortify, and preserve those who have bowed their heads to You. Withdraw them from every evil deed, join them to every good work, and deem them worthy without condemnation to partake of these, Your Most-pure and Life-Creating Mysteries, for the forgiveness of sins and for the communion of the Holy Spirit (The Good Shepherd 325).



The emphasis on the need to “withdraw...from every evil deed” in order to be joined “to every good work” is a clear reference to the Ascetic practice. Furthermore, in the Mystery of Repentance, we also encounter this same understanding of separation from sin, for one of the prayers of the Mystery of Repentance says “I do not desire the death of a sinner, but rather that he should repent and live” (*Sacraments and Services* 79). It must be firmly stated that this turning away and removal from sin is ultimately living the true repentant life. Further to this point of a repentant life, St. Mark the Monk states:

Repentance, I think, is not limited to certain occasions or acts, but rather is practiced by keeping Christ’s commandments proportionately to their nature. Certain commandments are comprehensive, incorporating within themselves numerous individual commandments and circumscribing numerous evils in one stroke (St. Mark the Monk 141).

The liturgical life of the Church extends beyond the fixed and set services of the Typikon to the prescribed personal prayers of the faithful. It is here that we see the prayers used in preparation for the Mysteries of Holy Repentance and for the Eucharist as forces drawing the participant closer to the mystery of Repentance itself. In the Canon of Repentance (which is said by the Orthodox Faithful as the prepare for both the Mystery of Holy Repentance as well as to partake of the Eucharist) we are able to read, “Now I, a burdened sinner, have approached Thee, my Lord and God, but I dare not raise my eyes to heaven. I only pray saying: Give me O Lord understanding that I may weep bitterly over my deeds” (Jordanville 316); “... pull me out of this vileness, and give me the heart to do thy commandments” (Jordanville 323). This notion of sorrow for one’s own sins is also present in the prayers of preparation before Communion. In the Canon of Preparation for Holy Communion, the Troparion of Cantic 3 says, “Teardrops grant me, O Christ, to cleanse my defiled heart, that, purified and with a good conscience, I may come with faith and fear, O Master, to the communion of Your divine Gifts” (*The Good Shepherd* 219). This point is also made clear in one such prayer written by St. Symeon the New Theologian: “More than the harlot have I sinned, who, when she learned where You resided she brought myrrh, boldly came there and anointed Your feet, O my Christ, my God and Master” (*Good Shepherd* 239). Through these statements of true sorrow for our own sins, we are brought to the realization, if we have not already come to it on our own, that we are in need of God’s mercy and above all, the forgiveness of God for our sins. This is how we are drawn into the Mystery of Holy Repentance through the prayer life established in the Ascetic practice of Orthodox Christianity.

*This article will continue in the following additions of the Beacon with an examination of Hesychasm, Prayer, and the Mystery of Holy Repentance. If you wish to have a full copy of the article emailed to you prior to this date, please contact Fr. Timothy at [fr.t.chrapko@gmail.com](mailto:fr.t.chrapko@gmail.com).*

# Kids Corner

## The Little Entrance

During the first part of the Divine Liturgy, the priest brings the Gospel Book from the Altar and holds it up high for everyone to see. Altar boys hold lighted candles. This is called the Little Entrance.

The Little Entrance reminds us that Jesus is with us in the Divine Liturgy. We can't see Jesus, but we know he is with us. The Little Entrance reminds us that Jesus came into the world to save us. Inside the Gospel book that the priest holds up high are all of Jesus' teachings.

When the priest comes from the Altar with the Gospel, we should stand straight and tall. When the priest raises the Gospel up high, we should bow down to show our love for Jesus and for the teachings He gave to us in the Gospel.

We are glad the priest lifts the Gospel up high for us to see. Long ago, Christians had to worship in secret. The Gospel had to be hidden. Many people did not like Christians. They thought Christians did not believe in the right thing. They tried to harm Christians. Today, we can go to Church and worship without being afraid.

*Text from A Way of Life: Introducing Your Child to the Orthodox Faith  
by Ann Marie Gidus-Mecera*

Please color me!



Image from *Text from A Way of Life: Introducing Your Child to the Orthodox Faith* by Ann Marie Gidus-Mecera

# The Great Entrance

We bring gifts to God every Sunday. These gifts are bread and wine. A member of the Church or the priest bakes this special bread. The bread and wine are brought to Church. The bread and wine will be changed into the Holy Communion by the Holy Spirit. The gifts are placed on a side table in the Altar.

The second part of the Liturgy begins when the priest moves these gifts from the side table to the Holy Altar. This is an important part of the Divine Liturgy. First, the Altar boys come out from the Altar. They carry lighted candles. Then the priest takes the gifts from the side table. He carries them out of the Altar for all of us to see. He prays for many things. Then he places the gifts on the Holy Altar.

The Great Entrance reminds us of Jesus carrying his cross to the place He was crucified. This reminds us of Jesus' great love for us.

During the Great Entrance, we should stand quietly. We should bow our heads as the priests prays. We are thankful to God for sending His Son to save us from our sins.

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