



WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

THE WESTERN EPARCHY
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF
CANADA

WESTERN EPARCHY

Spring, 2012

GREETINGS from HIS GRACE, BISHOP ILARION

Христос Воскрес!

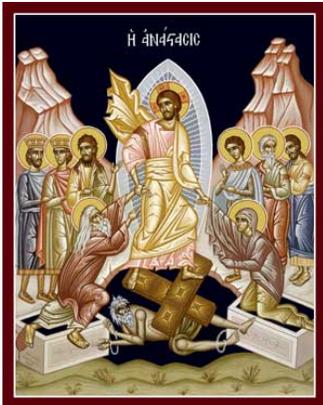
Всечесні отці, дорогі браття і сестри,

В ці дні світлого Христового Воскресіння молитовно бажаю, щоб Воскреслий Господь дарував всім вам духовну радість і спокій, здоров'я тілесне і допомогу Божу в усіх добрих справах на мноїї літа.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Dear Fathers, Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

In these joyful and glorious days of the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, I prayerfully greet you with the hope that His Resurrection gives us all spiritual joy and peace, strong physical health, and abundant strength from the Lord, in all our good deeds for His Glory for many years.



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A
Sacrifice
of
Praise



With the Blessing of His Grace Bishop Ilarion of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy, Chaplain of all Youth and CYMK. All Ukrainian Orthodox Youth are invited to the UOCC Youth Retreat

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada Youth Retreat

Banff, Alberta
May 25-27, 2012

Bus Departs Vegreville at 3pm,
Edmonton at 4:30 Friday
May 25, 2012.

All Ukrainian Orthodox Youth,
10 and up are welcome to register.

CONTACT FATHER TIMOTHY CHRAPKO

403.700.9947 or
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for more information or to register

Or look for
"A Sacrifice of Praise"
Event on Facebook





The Pysanka: A Way to Prepare for and to Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ

By Yvonne Panchuk

According to various traditions taken from the hagiography of Mary Magdalene, after Christ's ascension, she traveled to Rome, where she presented the Emperor with an egg and proclaimed "Christ is Risen!" For this reason her icons often show her holding a red egg, and from this the tradition of using red eggs at Pascha is said to have arisen. When her tears dropped on the egg in Caesar's presence, the egg turned red. The Mary Magdalene tradition links the pagan origins of decorated eggs with the Christian practice of colouring and decorating eggs in the krashanka or pysanka style for the celebration of Pascha, the Resurrection of our Lord and God Jesus Christ.

Today pysanky are decorated according to Ukrainian custom during Great Lent for Pascha. The pysanka, 'the written-upon egg' is named from the Ukrainian word 'pysaty'..to write. The adaptation of pagan symbols to the Christian message was easy since Christ's teachings were full of imagery taken from agricultural life or fishing. Instead of being a pagan talisman for good luck and protection from evil spirits, the pysanka became a message bearer of the good news of Pascha written with ancient lines and colours.

Krashanky are simply hard boiled eggs dyed in one colour to be eaten after the blessing of food. A red krashanka with the words 'Christ is risen' or 'Христос Воскрес' scratched or written in wax onto the surface is placed in the basket of food for blessing. This is the first food eaten to break the fast. It represents the tomb of Christ. When it is opened with the greeting "Christ is Risen," it represents the Resurrection of Christ and is shared with all at the table.

The pysanka can be an object of cultural pride in the skill of the writer of the pysanka. However, there is more benefit to the writer, at any skill level, to do the writing as a Lenten meditation. Raw white eggs washed in vinegar, jars of dye, spoons, a drying rack, the fragrance of hot bee's wax surround the writer. "O Lord, bless" is a simple prayer said at the beginning of the writing of a pysanka. Then the writer keeps in mind the meaning of the symbols and the great gift given to us by Jesus Christ through His death and Resurrection as he or she writes the lines forming patterns. This can become a quiet time of joyful gratitude and repentant preparation for Pascha.

Lines are drawn and areas are covered with melted bee's wax with today's modern styli to retain colours from modern or traditional dyes. The lines and bands encircling the egg tell of the eternity of God. Where lines form crosses at the intersections it reminds us of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Triangles written into bands or in the triangular quadrants of the egg tell of the Holy Trinity. Patterned dots, stars and spiral lines speak of God's love. Little curls in a v- shape are called ram's horns, telling of the kingship of Christ. Triangles that are filled with criss-cross lines are called nets or sieves, showing the need to separate good from evil, that falling into God's net helps separate us from what is evil. Every symbol written into a pattern gives some message about Christ's victory over sin, evil and death through Resurrection and what it means to the faithful. These symbols, creatively arranged and repeated in a pattern, become a visually pleasing message of joy, hope, and love for Christ God and the salvation He offers to us. The wax is wiped off after heating with a candle or oven, and the egg rubbed to a waxy patina or varnished.

The products of such work and writing are then ready for decorating the basket of food on the morning of Pascha. Many pysanky are gifted away to friends and neighbours after the blessing of the baskets with the joyful greeting —



Christ is Risen!
Христос Воскрес!





ORPHANAGE PROJECT IN UKRAINE



His Grace BISHOP ILARION visits an orphanage in Sambir, Ukraine on Friday, February 10, 2012 bringing gifts for the children and spending time with them.



We read in Matthew 25: 35-36: " for I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you took Me in. I was naked and you clothed Me. I was sick and you visited Me..."

In February, His Grace Bishop Ilarion acted on the words expressed by our Lord. He visited the orphanage in Sambir, Ukraine. He made contact and developed ties with the community, the staff, and most importantly, the children. This orphanage is home to 50 children, ages 2 to 18 who are cared for by a few staff members. The young children receive basic care and their basic needs are generally met. But they do without. They do without many things that our children here in Canada take for granted. They do without extras; they do without much attention from adults; they do without having their emotional needs met. Who do they turn to when they are scared? when they are sick? when they are hurt? They do without: kind loving words, warm hugs, bright smiles, thoughtful support. It is not that the staff is indifferent to their needs; it is just impossible for so few people to shelter and protect these innocent children from the hurts, the fears, the worries of the world because there is just not enough of them to go around to all the children, who need these emotional supplements (vitamins) to their daily needs 24/7.

This summer, His Grace Bishop Ilarion and Fr. Cornell Zubritsky will take a group of young adults to Sambir, Ukraine to provide some basic needs that money can buy, but more importantly, to provide those supplements that money cannot buy: the attention, the care, the security and the feeling that these children matter and that someone will play with them, hug them, and spend time with them. They will fulfill the words found in Matthew 25: 40: " Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

So far, the Western Eparchy has made an appeal to donations for the Orphanage Project with great success. Thank you to all the donors: whether individuals or parishes. Please continue to send your donations as this project is important on many levels, but mostly, it is important because some children in Ukraine will benefit immensely from our efforts. Someone in faraway Canada thinks of them and helps them.

The trip to Ukraine will occur on
July 30- August 10, 2012.

For additional information, please contact the Western Eparchy office @ 780 - 455 - 1938
or Email: admin@uocc-we.ca

THANK YOU

TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE DONATIONS TO THE ORPHANAGE PROJECT IN UKRAINE—Your support is much appreciated and valued.

THANK YOU to the

UKRAINIAN MUSIC SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
for allowing Donations at the **Christmas Carol Concert**
to be directed to the Orphanage Project in Ukraine.



CLERGY AWARD

According to the blessing of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, His Grace BISHOP ILARION bestowed the Clergy Award of the wearing of two jewelled crosses upon

The Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest
Fr. Nicholas Orest Rauliuk

during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated at the U. O. C. of St Michael in Edmonton on January 22, 2012.



Clergy Retreat 2012



His Grace Bishop Ilarion and the clergy of the Western Eparchy gathered for a Retreat at St. John's Institute on March 12-14, 2012.

Forgiveness Vespers



His Grace Bishop Ilarion and clergy celebrated Forgiveness Vespers at the Cathedral of St. John, Edmonton on Sunday, **February 26, 2012.**



Liturgy of Pre Sanctified Gifts— March 14, 2012



His Grace Bishop Ilarion and clergy celebrated the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts as part of the Clergy Retreat in the chapel at St. John's Institute, Edmonton.

PASSIA SERVICE - The U. O. C. of the Holy Trinity, Boyle, AB, March 25, 2012



His Grace BISHOP ILARION and clergy from the Vegreville Deanery celebrated the Passia Service on Sunday, March 25, 2012 at the U. O. C. of the Holy Trinity, Boyle AB.



LEVIES FOR 2012

The Western Eparchy Sobor voted to maintain the fee of \$15.00 per member for the 2012 year. Levies are payable now, based on membership as of December 31, 2011.

PASCHA SECOND PLATE DONATIONS

Once again, we are appealing to our members to donate to the Pascha Plate Funding request. The Funds are collected in your parish for mission work in the Western Eparchy. If individuals so wish, they may also send their donations directly to the Western Eparchy Office.