



# WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

THE WESTERN EPARCHY  
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
OF CANADA

Issue 15: Spring 2015

## PASCHAL 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.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1.- Paschal Greetings from His Grace Bishop Ilarion
- Youth Retreat
2. Faith - " Memorial Saturdays"
3. Fr. Jaroslaw Puk of blessed memory
- Visit to Constantinople, Kyiv, Orphanages in Ukraine
4. Western Eparchy information

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With the Blessing of His Grace Bishop Ilarion of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy Chaplain of Youth, All Youth 10 years and older of the Western Eparchy are invited to attend

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada  
**Be the Bee**  
Retreat

Banff Alberta  
May 1 - 3,  
2015

Be the Bee is a weekly YouTube series exploring how we can focus on what is good and beautiful in our everyday lives.  
Visit:  
[youtube.com/user/y2am](http://youtube.com/user/y2am) to learn more!

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## MEMORIAL SATURDAYS

( from **TOOLS FOR THEOSIS, Becoming God - like in Christ**,  
by Anthony M. Coniaris, Light and Life Publishing, Minneapolis, MN, 2014)

Our Orthodox Christian faith takes death frankly and openly. Our Church calendar provides many occasions when we are asked to face up to the fact of death. Easter is one such occasion. Saturday is another. Every Sunday is a " little Easter " on our Church calendar celebrating Christ's victory over death. On our Church calendar every year there are Memorial Saturdays or " Saturdays of the Souls" which provide another opportunity for us to face up to death. On these Saturdays the Divine Liturgy is celebrated and special prayers are offered for our deceased loved ones. We pray for the dead especially on Saturdays since it was on the Sabbath day that Christ lay dead in the tomb, "resting from all His works" and " trampling down death by death." Thus, in the New Testament, Saturday becomes the proper day for remembering the dead and offering prayers for them.

### Why Do We Pray for the Dead?

Christianity is a religion of love. Praying for the dead is an expression of love. We ask God to remember our departed loved ones because we love them. Love relationships survive death and even transcend it. There is an inner need for a relationship with a loved one to continue and to be expressed even after a loved one has died. Often even more so after a loved one has died since physical communication is no longer possible. The Church encourages us to express our love for our departed brethren through memorial services and prayers.

The anniversary of the death of a loved one is very painful. The Church helps us cope with this pain by encouraging us to have memorial prayers offered in church for our departed loved ones on the anniversaries of their deaths, (ie. 40 days after the death, six months, a year, etc.) This gives us the opportunity to do something for our loved one. It helps express and resolve our grief.

Death may take loved ones out of sight but it certainly does not take them out of mind, or out of heart. We continue to love them and think of them as we believe they continue to love and think of us. How can a mother forget a child who has passed over to the life beyond? The same Christian love which led her to pray for that child while he lived will lead her to pray for him now. For in Christ, all are living.

### What Can We Expect of Our Prayers for the Dead?

Since a person's eternal destiny is determined immediately after death, ( though one must wait for the General Judgment to receive the full measure of one's reward), we must not expect our prayers to snatch an unbeliever from Hades to Paradise. It is our present life that determines our eternal destiny. Now is the time to repent and accept God's grace. Death puts an end to repentance and commits each person to his/her special judgment. That is why the Lord said that work must be done " while it is day" because " the night cometh when no man can work." "Day" means the present life, " when it is still possible to believe" writes St. John Chrysostom, while " night" is the condition of death. What happens beyond the grave belongs entirely to God. The faithful have committed themselves to God for the duration of their earthly lives. Now, it is well and good for them to commit their departed loved ones to the mercy of God through prayer, for they have assurance that God in the riches of His mercy has ways to help them beyond our knowing. Some Church Fathers state that our departed loved ones experience a kind of spiritual relief as a result of the prayers of their loved ones on earth.

### Helps Us Prepare for Death

Such prayers for the dead benefit also those who pray for the departed. They remind us that we too are going to die; they strengthen faith in the life beyond; they nourish reverence toward those who have died; they help build hope in divine mercy; and develop brotherly love among those who survived. They make us more cautious and diligent in getting ready for that ultimate journey which will unite us with our departed loved ones and usher us into the presence of God. They remind us that now is the time to strive for the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award those" who have fought the good fight, finished the course, and kept the faith."



## ON THE FALLING ASLEEP IN THE LORD

**Rt. Rev. Protopresbyter Jaroslaw Puk  
of Blessed Memory  
1923-2014**

Fr. Jaroslaw was born on May 22, 1923 in the village of Holovno in the Volyn region of Western Ukraine. In 1950 he married his partner in life and pastoral work, Anna Kluka. Together with their young family, they moved to Canada in 1961. Fr. Jaroslaw completed his pastoral education in post WWII Europe and was ordained into the deaconate and priesthood in 1956 in Germany. Serving in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada since 1961, Fr. Jaroslaw was parish priest at many parishes in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, including in the Winnipeg, Manitoba Rural District, Theodore, in Hyas and Kamsack in Saskatchewan, and in Vegreville and Willingdon in Alberta. Most recently, Fr. Jaroslaw has been attached to St. Vladimir Cathedral in Vegreville, Alberta.

**Вічна йому пам'ять! Memory Eternal!**

**May he rest among the saints**

## Trip to Constantinople and Kyiv – February 10 - 21



His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, His Grace Bishop Ilarion and His Grace Bishop Andriy visited His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew in Constantinople during the week of February 10-15.



His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, His Grace Bishop Ilarion, and His Grace Bishop Andriy, along with the Hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, celebrated a Panakhyda at the Maidan in Kyiv, Ukraine on February 20.



## Visit to Orphanage in Ukraine December 2014



The Western Eparchy UOCC supports two orphanages in the L'viv Region of Ukraine - the Kornylovychi and Bukovo Orphanages. We have purchased a wood heater, several furnaces, several hot water heaters, washers and dryers, microwave ovens, kitchen supplies, energy efficient lamps and lighting, kitchen appliances and supplies, bed linens, garbage containers, school supplies, foot ware and warm jackets for children, personal care items, medicine, pampers, treats for children. We also are providing medical assistance ( facial reconstructive surgery and needed medical support) for children who are being treated at the University of L'viv Hospital. The assistance is ongoing and items are purchased as needed on a regular basis.

**MUCH MORE ASSISTANCE WILL PROVIDED DUE TO THE CRITICAL SITUATION IN UKRAINE**

**Tax Receipts for Revenue Canada will be issued.  
THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT RECEIVED THROUGH YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS.**

## UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

The concert was held at the Cathedral of St. John The Baptist on Sunday, January 25 and featured many choirs of the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta including the children of the Cathedral of St. John, under the capable direction of Iryna Krysnytska. Donations for the Orphanage Project in Ukraine were made by generous people at the concert. Sincere gratitude and much appreciation to all.



**FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT 2015**  
The Edmonton Ukrainian Orthodox Deanery celebrated the First Week of Great Lent at all five Edmonton Ukrainian Orthodox churches.



**HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS - February 27**

Celebrated by His Grace Bishop Ilarion and clergy of the Edmonton Ukrainian Orthodox Deanery at the Cathedral of St. John The Baptist, Edmonton.

## SECOND PLATE COLLECTION

**All parishes are reminded to hold a second plate collection during the Paschal Season for funds for the Western Eparchy. We thank the parishes and districts that made donations for the Christmas appeal.**

## WESTERN EPARCHY LEVIES 2015

**Levies for 2015 will remain at \$15.00 per member (based on membership as of December 31, 2014.)  
LEVIES ARE PAYABLE NOW**

