



WESTERN EPARCHY NEWSLETTER

WESTERN EPARCHY
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF CANADA

Issue 19: Spring 2016

PASCHAL GREETING FROM HIS GRACE BISHOP ILARION



ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!

Всечесні отці, дорогі браття і сестри!

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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"...no longer
strangers..."

(Ephesians 2:19)

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

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada Youth Retreat

Banff Alberta
May 6th-8th, 2016

Bus Departs Vegreville at 3pm
Edmonton 2 4:30pm Friday, May 6 2014

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

For further information please contact
CONTACT FATHER TIMOTHY CHRAPKO
Ph: 403.700.9947 or fr.t.chrapko@gmail.com

To register please visit www.uoccyouth.com





ON FREQUENT COMMUNION

The Church calls us to Holy Communion frequently because the Holy Spirit has taught Her that “ Unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, you have no life in you.” (John 6:53.)

“ Look, I entreat you: a Royal Table is set before you, angels minister at that table, the King Himself is there, and yet, you take no account of it. Are your garments clean? Then fall down and partake! For everyone who does not partake of the mysteries is standing here in shameful falsity. When you behold the curtain drawn, then imagine the heavens are let down from above, and that the angels are descending! Why stay at liturgy and yet not partake of the table? I am unworthy, you say. Then you are also unworthy of that communion you also have in prayer. Come!”

...Holy Father John Chrysostom, +407 AD +

The Origin of the Ukrainian Pysanka By Joana Janis

In Ukraine, the pre-Christian beliefs were clouded with fear of evil spirits. They used a talisman, which is a religious power over evil, to dispel these spirits.

In the year 988 Ukraine accepted Christianity and their original talisman was useless. Hence, the Ukrainian talisman was replaced by “faith in a living God”. As taught to them by Jesus, the people began to believe that God loved and protected every person from evil.

The pysanka became a religious expression of their new belief in God and Jesus Christ. Jesus spoke of seeds, trees, love, fruits, wines and sheep in His parables. Hence, many of the symbols used in writing Easter eggs expressed the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Ukrainian people began to write pysanky with love in their hearts declaring their belief in the Christian faith. Writing Easter eggs became a time of peace, praise, meditation, prayers and thanksgiving to the living God the people believed in.

The pysanka also became a message bearer. Later new themes evolved such as the crucifixion, the burial and Resurrection of Jesus. The egg shell represents Christ's tomb; fish symbolize Christian faith; stars portray love that is the eye of God watching man living on the earth. “As stars in the sky light up the night – God is the light in every human's life.” Rakes represent harvest and harmony; movement of the waves and circles represent the perfection of God and His son, Jesus; and a ladder shows how man has the ability to rise above the problems of his life on earth.

There is also a pysanka which specifically express the meaning of Passion Week. Some eggs represent Christ's passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection. These eggs bear a special name:

Середа -(Wednesday) of Passion Week represents man's stages of his life... child, youth, adult, elder

П'ятниця - (Good Friday) shows the cross with the triangular arms in the center of the symbol, reflecting the burial shroud of Christ – Plashchanytsia. This symbol tells of the suffering and death of Christ

Воскесення - (Easter Sunday) speaks of the Resurrection of Christ with a richly ornamented cross which represents the joy of Christ's Resurrection and joy of man's salvation, which was accomplished through Jesus's Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Божа рука - (God's Hand) shows God's hand pointing at a sun symbol, telling us that God is the source of man's physical and spiritual life.

Паска - (Easter Bread) St. Andrew is the patron saint of Ukraine. He brought Christianity to the people. St. Andrew gave his life to show us what we should do to have eternal life. The Easter bread bears the St. Andrew's cross with fir tree branches, showing Christ's death with a promise of eternal life and forgiveness of sins.

Дерево - (Tree of Life) A broad-leaved tree was chosen to symbolize the tree of life, surrounded with insects, bees, birds or animals. It represents creation and paradise.





The Right Reverend Mitred Archpriest Slawomir LOMASZKIEWICZ



With the blessing of the Council of Bishops of the UOCC, His Grace Bishop Ilarion elevated The Very Rev. Archpriest Slawomir Lomaszkewicz to the rank of Mitred Archpriest during the Divine Liturgy at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Vladimir, Vegreville, AB on Sunday, November 22, 2015.

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!

The Right Reverend Mitred Archpriest Georg PODTEPA



With the blessing of the Council of Bishops of the UOCC, His Grace Bishop Ilarion elevated The Very Rev. Archpriest Georg Podtepa to the rank of Mitred Archpriest during the Divine Liturgy at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Elia, Edmonton, on Sunday, February 28, 2016.

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!

UPDATE: THE ORPHANAGE PROJECT IN UKRAINE



His Grace Bishop Ilarion visited the orphanages in Ukraine supported by the Western Eparchy this past winter, bringing gifts and supplies. The project to install a wood heating system is now complete, and His Grace Bishop Ilarion was presented with a certificate of completion and compliance to all safety codes and regulations.





(Continued from page 2)

How did the people put the designs on the eggs? It all started with a plain colored egg called a Krashanka in Lemkiv, Ukraine. Then dots were scratched or carved on the solid colored egg to make a Krapanka. Tear drop designs originated in the Trypillion region of Ukraine. Then designs, such as a cross, fish, sun, stars or animals were used to decorate the pysanka. Someone came up with the idea of using a kistka (stylus) made from wood and writing on a pysanka became easier.

Dyes, obtained from various plants and berries, were used to decorate the pysanky. Each of the colors used represent the beliefs of the people and have special meaning -

Purple – fasting, faith, truth, endurance, strength; **Yellow** – Christian recognition and reward

White– birth, truth, purity; **Orange** – fire, flames; **Red** – divine love, passion of Christ;

Blue – health; **Green** – hope; **Brown** – fruitfulness of the earth; **Black** – eternity

Symbols also have special meaning: Some common symbols include:



Sun – Holy Spirit, **Sieve** – separating good from evil, **Cone** – knowledge, **Oak leaves** – strength, human mortality, **Windmill** – power of Holy Spirit, **Poppies** - comfort, **Various Crosses** – the cross on which Jesus died for us; **Triangles** – 40 triangles on one egg represents the 40 days of Great Lent, 40 days Christ lived in the wilderness and the 40 days from Resurrection to Ascension Day.

Why was the egg used as a symbol to honor God for His gifts to man? People had a reason to do so. We must acknowledge that human beings, birds, animals, fish and insects are living things which begin life in the form of an egg. Our ancestors decided to pay honor to God for their lives since we are the only living things that have the ability to love, to think and to appreciate close contact with God himself.

Today we are living 1028 years later than those who used the pysanka as a means of expressing their love for God. Let us ask ourselves the question – “Do we love and appreciate God’s presence in our lives? Do we express our thanks to Him in a similar manner as did our ancestors? They struggled to express their gratitude to God and found a way to show their appreciation; they invented the stylus for writing the pysanka and used different vegetation to create dyes. We have it very easy – we have the means to create our pysanky using an electric stylus, bees wax and a vast variety of factory-made dyes. Do we show our appreciation to God by writing our own pysanky?

ORPHANAGE PROJECT IN UKRAINE

Many needed items were purchased in 2015. More assistance will be provided in 2016. The results of your generous donations may be seen on page 3 of this newsletter. Your contributions have produced valuable assistance to the children in the orphanages in Ukraine. Please continue to support the vulnerable children in Ukraine.

Tax Receipts for Revenue Canada will be issued.

THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT RECEIVED THROUGH YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS.

WESTERN EPARCHY LEVIES 2016

Levies for 2016 will remain at \$15.00 per member (based on membership as of December 31, 2015.)

Levies are payable now.

SECOND PLATE COLLECTION

THANK YOU to all Parishes and Districts who have already submitted their Christmas Second plate donations. Your generosity and cooperation is much appreciated. It is still not too late to make donations.

All parishes are reminded to hold a second plate collection during the Paschal Season for funds for the Western Eparchy.