

seals of the tomb nor the military guard could restrain Christ in His glorified body, so no aggressor and occupier will be able to defeat our wounded Ukraine. We will defeat the enemy, rebuild our destroyed cities, towns, and villages, heal our wounds by the power and action of the Holy Spirit – because Christ is risen!

The light of Christ's Resurrection transforms our sadness and our tears into the joy of Pascha, as it was for the sorrowful myrrh-bearing women at the empty tomb of the Saviour. And today we see that what seems impossible and hopeless from a human point of view emerges victorious to the glory of the One who, having opened the doors of paradise, gives us eternal life.

If Christ on the cross, in the midst of incredible suffering, was able to raise His eyes to the Father with a hope that dispels despair, then let us have the courage today to speak to the resurrected Saviour together with the Psalmist: "For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.... Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he (the Lord) has done it" (Ps 22, 24, 30–31).

Let us remember that our victory depends not only on our military ability to resist the Russian troops, but also on our ability on the spiritual front to open ourselves to the power of the Resurrection and become an instrument of healing and peace in the Lord's hands:

Peace is brought by Christ Himself,
Peace proclaimed to us from heaven,
Let God's peace be shared among us,
Let God's grace be given glory,
Divine miracle of miracles:
Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen!

(see: Ukrainian Easter Hymn, *Khrystos Voskres! Radist z neba.*)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ! I greet you on the feast of Christ's victory over every evil and over death itself. Let our confidence in victory be a healing balm for all our wounds, spiritual and physical. In the joy of the Resurrection of our Lord, I greet all our defenders-heroes who are on the front lines today or who have been wounded. Open your heart to Christ, who sees your sacrifice and your pain, and makes them His own.

I embrace the families of our soldiers, especially of prisoners of war and those missing in action. I pray that your relatives will be found and will return home as soon as possible. Be joined with them through prayer because the Lord is always close to them.

I unite myself spiritually to those who are in the occupied territories and do not have an opportunity to go to their Church today but are waiting for liberation and pray for Ukraine's victory. In the hope of the resurrection and with tears in my eyes, I embrace those who mourn their dead, both soldier-heroes and peaceful civilians who became victims of the criminal actions of the occupier. I greet our refugees and displaced persons who foster the hope of returning home after victory and rebuilding their native city or village.

With gratitude I greet our volunteers, our military and medical chaplains, each in their own place working to bring our common victory closer; those who labour to support a neighbour in need, both in Ukraine and abroad. You are awesome and we are proud of you! I embrace all Ukrainians – children, adults and the elderly, men and women. In sharing the Easter basket, may you experience profound joy, God's mercy and blessings. I embrace with a fatherly love all the clergy, religious, and faithful in Ukraine and throughout the world, and sincerely wish you all a blessed Easter feast, a tasty sharing of our traditional blessed egg, and a Paschal joy that is full of light.

The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!



Given in Kyiv

at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ,
on the Day of the Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Papas
March 29 (16), 2023 A.D.

HAVE A BLESSED EASTER
from Edmonton Catholic Schools

REJOICE!
“ I AM THE
RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.
Those who believe in me, even though they die,
WILL LIVE,
and everyone who lives and believes in me
WILL NEVER DIE.”
~ John 11:25-26

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Sunday, April 17, 2022

Pascha: The Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord God and Saviour, Jesus Christ
All changeable parts are in your books and on the screen.

Parish & Eparchial News

- **Please pray for** several of our parishioners and family members including (but not limited to) Lilliana, Pauline, Stanley, Fr. Terry, Anne, Brody, Rosann, Jennie, Mickey, Kristopher, Greg, Ross, Ron, Jean, Verna, Miranda, Sarah, Ann & Louis.
- **Happy birthday** to **Theo N, Catherine B, Stella B, Jordan S, Don K, and Lillian G** who celebrate(s) his/her/their birthday(s) this week. May God grant you many happy years. Mnohaya Lita.
- **Miss the Eparchial Lenten Collection?** It's never too late to do good. You can still donate towards food hampers for people in Ukraine. See the Eparchial Website at eeparchy.com for more details.
- **Sign up for the Bishop's Mailing List!** Stay up to date with everything happening around the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Alberta with Bishop David's monthly email newsletter by signing up for free on the eparchial website at www.eeparchy.com/mail/
- Sign up for our weekly bulletin email list too!
- Support our UCWLC as they buy **Flowers for Easter** and other Church Feasts. You can put your donation in a special envelope marked "For Flowers" and throw it with your Sunday Donation in the collection basket. This gift towards flowers is still tax receipt-able.
- From Deacon Cyril and the Family Life team: On behalf of Bishop David, I'm reaching out to invite all pastors and parishes to apply for the 2023 **Youth Evangelization Fund**. This program is now in it's ninth year, with the goal of investing \$100,000 in youth and young family initiatives each year over a ten-year period. Please don't miss this opportunity! To quote Bishop David, "We invite our parishes to be creative, and courageous, in coming up with initiatives that will help our youth and young families in their faith journey. Together we can make a difference in the faith of our youth and young families."
- From Fr. Bo: If you have ideas on how we can use the above **"Youth Evangelization Fund"** please speak with a member of Parish Council.
- **Special Thanks** to the Hunt Family for getting us pussy willows to bless. God bless you.
- **Camp Oselia Children's Camp** will take place from July 2-7 and July 9-14 for children 7-14 years old. This year's theme is "Kingdom Quest: The Seven Holy Mysteries." Each week is filled with Eastern Catholic catechesis and a variety of camp activities (swimming, archery, sports, canoeing, campfires, arts-and-crafts, etc.). Programming (including catechesis) will be offered in both English and Ukrainian. Campers may attend one or both weeks. See our promotional video at <https://youtu.be/CbjYmch8NnY>. To register, visit [https://](https://camposelia.eeparchy.com/) or call 780-242-5496.
- **Camp Oselia is looking for adult staff (paid) and volunteers:** including clergy, catechists (both Ukrainian and English speaking), program facilitators (arts-and-crafts, sports, etc.), cook(s), kitchen volunteers, nurse(s), life-guard(s), night watch, etc. COME BE PART OF THE FUN! Please contact Deacon Cyril if you can help: deacon.kennedy@eeparchy.com
- Bishop David has asked Fr. Bo to be the retreat master for the upcoming **Annual Clergy Retreat** that will be taking place from June 5-9. All the clergy will be writing an icon of the Theotokos. Say a prayer (or a few) for me as I prepare for this endeavour.
- **World Youth Day at Home** will take place from June 30 - July 2 at Camp Oselia (Friday evening - Sunday lunch). World Youth Day at Home is a weekend for youth aged 16-35 with prayer, meals, guest speakers, group discussions, social time, and a concluding Divine Liturgy with Bishop David. Come experience your faith, take this opportunity to learn more about the Church and to talk to people about their unique experience, struggles and hopes. It's also a great opportunity to make new friendships and rekindle old ones. All are welcome, with a special invite to Ukrainian Newcomers. If you would like to come please fill out the form at: <https://eeparchy.com/2023/01/10/why-join-world-youth-day/>
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **April 16:** Easter Breakfast after Liturgy
 - April 21: Camper's Connect
 - **April 23:** Budget and Bylaw Approval Meeting after Liturgy
 - **April 26:** PPC Meeting
 - **June 2 & 3:** Perogy Making Bee
 - **June 10:** Perogy Supper