

St. Mary's Newsletter

St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish
550 West 14th Ave Vancouver BC V5Z 1P6
www.stmarysbc.com 604-879-5830



December 23, 2023 Vol 8

Newsletter email: orestbohdan@outlook.com

editor: Orest Kernycky

Divine Liturgies

Sundays: 8:30am English
10:30am Ukrainian
Weekdays: 7:00am (Chapel)
Holy Days: 10:00am

Father Joseph Pidskalny OSBM (Admin)
Father Josafat Oliinyk OSBM



Byzantine Catholic Churches

- The Byzantine Catholic Churches, also known as the Greek Catholic Churches, are the largest and perhaps the best-known group of Eastern Catholic Churches. The Ukrainian Catholic Church is part of this group.
- These Churches profess the same Creed (beliefs) and have the same “Holy Mysteries” or “Sacraments” as any other Catholic Church.
- They are unique in the sense that they follow the spiritual patrimony, liturgical customs, and theological language, and nuances particular of the Christian East. Eastern Christianity is heavily influenced by the Patristic writings of the Greek Fathers.
- Byzantine Churches have their own hierarchies and liturgies, as well as their own distinct apostolic lineages. They may look and act like Eastern Orthodox churches, but they recognize the pope of Rome as the head of the visible Church on earth and have suffered for the cause of that unity. **From www.sspp.ca**

Unnoticed in Our Daily Routines

Quite a few years ago on a chilly January morning at a Washington DC metro station, a man stood playing the violin. Over the next 45 minutes, crowds of people passed by.

Only a handful paused to listen. but most hurried past, in their daily routines.

The violinist was Joshua Bell—a virtuoso playing on his \$3.5 million violin. Just days earlier, he had sold out a Boston theater. Yet there, in an ordinary setting, his brilliance went unnoticed.

This poses a question: in our daily routines, do we recognize beauty? Can we appreciate talent when it appears unexpectedly? Perhaps, if we open our senses, we’ll discover more hidden wonders—moments of greatness camouflaged by familiarity.

What else might we miss because we fail to acknowledge the extraordinary in the ordinary?

See it, hear it, watch it, feel it here:

https://youtu.be/hnOPu0_YWhw?si=NiG6FIUt54a4zrUX

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ukrainian Vertep
Dec 24 1pm Holy Trinity Orthodox
Dec 26 3pm Vancouver Art Gallery

Malanka
Saturday Jan 13,2024 6pm
Ivan Franko Community Centre

Malanka
Saturday January 13, 2024
Ukrainian Cultural Centre Surrey

St Mary's Parish Dinner
Jan 14 pre-sales only
St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish

Malanka
Saturday Jan 20,2024 5:45 pm
Ukrainian Cultural Centre -AUUC

Old New Year Ukrainian Party
Friday Jan 12, 2024 10 pm
Bar None Nightclub

BC Ukrainian Cultural Festival
Saturday May 11,2024 9am – 6:30 pm Mission BC <http://bcucf.ca> info/tickets

National Ballet of Ukraine
February 5 & 7, 2024
Centre for Performing Art Vancouver

Max Barskih – Ukrainian Performer
Wednesday February 14,2024 8pm
Vogue Theatre

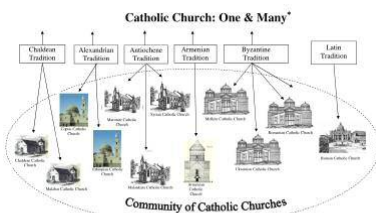
Dakhabrakha -Tour for Ukraine
Friday March 29,2024 8pm
Massey Theatre New West

All events subject to change. Check with the venue for details or updates

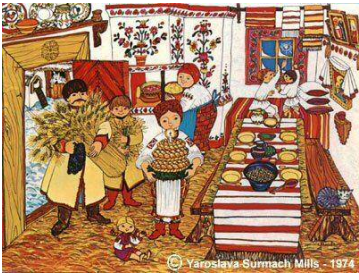
You can see more at stmarysbc.com/events

Submit your event to

orestbohdan@outlook.com



© 2013 St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish. All rights reserved. This newsletter is published by St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish. It is not affiliated with any other organization. The views expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Parish. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 550 West 14th Ave, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1P6. Phone: 604-879-5830. Website: www.stmarysbc.com



Christmas Eve (Sviat Vechir)

In the Ukrainian tradition, the highlight of the Christmas celebration is a 12-dish meal on Christmas Eve in honor of the 12 apostles. This meal is steeped in tradition and

symbolism. On top of an embroidered tablecloth is a kolach, a round or elongated braided bread representing eternal life, with a candle that is left burning all night. Hay is put under the table as a reminder of the humble place of Christ's birth. A lighted candle is also placed in the window, to welcome anyone who may not have a home or supper waiting for them. An extra place setting is set to represent deceased members of the family.

The food for this holy supper is prepared with no meat or dairy products. The first dish of the 12 is always kutia – a dish made from cooked wheat and sweetened with honey, poppy seeds, and perhaps dried fruits and nuts. In past times, the eldest of the family might throw a spoonful of the kutia to the ceiling; the more kernels that stick, the greater the good fortune for the upcoming year. The wheat is reminiscent of the bread served by Jesus at the Last Supper.

While exact dishes may vary somewhat depending on region, they all have a specific meaning that relate to the Nativity. Key dishes at every table include both baked and pickled fish dishes, varenyky (perogies), holubsti (cabbage rolls), and borschch (beet soup).



Saint Nicholas (Sviatj Mykolai)

In Canada was traditionally celebrated on December 19th; this year with the changes to the church calendar, many have changed their celebration date

to December 6th. St. Nicholas is revered as a miracle worker and as the patron saint of children, known for his generosity and giving to those in need. St. Nicholas' Day is the traditional day of gift-giving in Ukraine, although in Canada today it is now common for St. Nicholas to bring gifts to children on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day instead. Many Ukrainian communities in Canada - especially through their local churches or Ukrainian schools - will have a St. Nicholas celebration at some time in December



Didukh

A Didukh is a traditional Ukrainian Christmas decoration made from wheat stalks. It literally means "grandfather spirit" and symbolizes the link between generations. It represents the souls of those who have passed away and brings them back to join the feast. It is placed in the icon corner of the house during the holidays to bring a festive mood,

peace, and joy to all. It is a beautiful and meaningful custom. The youngest child of the family is given the task of looking for the first star. The appearance of the first star in the night sky is the sign to begin Christmas Eve celebrations



Christmas Carols

After the meal, people love to sing carols or 'Koliadky'. They can be sung around the table or go from door to door to neighbors as a

Vertep. With joyful voices and festive tunes, carolers spread the Christmas spirit to their neighbors who reward them with candies and coins. They carry a bright star as they sing, a symbol of hope and fortune. The more stars that shine on a house, the more blessings it will receive in the coming year. The Ukrainian carol 'Shchedryk' is where the popular 'Carol of the Bells' came from.



Divine Liturgy At midnight, (St Mary's makes it a bit earlier) members of the family attend Divine Liturgy, a church celebration of the birth of Christ. Churchgoers greet each other with "Khrystos Razdayestsia" (Christ is Born), to which one replies, "Slavite Yojo" (Let us glorify him). Families often visit each other afterward, to sing Christmas hymns and eat the delicious pastries that have been prepared before retiring to bed.



Malanka Ukrainian folk holiday celebrated on 31 December, which is [New Year's Eve](#) in accordance with the [Revised Julian calendar](#). The festivities were historically centered around house-to-house visiting by groups of

young men, costumed as characters from a folk tale of pre-Christian origin, as well as special food and drink. The context of the rituals has changed, but some elements continue to the present. Ukrainian New Year's Eve, known as Malanka, is celebrated in Ukrainian communities across Canada approximately 2-3 weeks after December 31st. Youth groups, churches, and community organizations may host a dance, dinner, or other festive event open to all.

З РІЗДВОМ ХРИСТОВИМ (z rizdvom khristovym) Merry Christmas!

З НОВИМ РОКОМ! [z novym rokom] – Happy New Year!