

St. Mary's Newsletter

St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish
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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

Holy Icons

In the realm of Ukrainian Catholicism, holy icons occupy a place of profound reverence. These sacred images, steeped in history and symbolism, serve as tangible representations of the divine. They offer a way for believers to visually connect with God and other holy figures, fostering a deeper understanding of their faith. The Ukrainian Catholic tradition reveres holy icons as visual representations of faith and spiritual contemplation. This veneration of holy icons is deeply rooted in the belief that with the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, God became accessible to human sight, hearing, and touch. The "Veneration of Holy Icons" refers to the practice of showing deep respect and honor towards sacred images in Ukrainian Catholicism. These icons, often depicting Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, saints, and angels, are not worshipped but revered as visual aids for worship and prayer. The veneration can involve actions such as kissing the icon, bowing before it, lighting candles around it, or using incense. It's seen as a way to pay homage to what the icon represents, rather than the material image itself. This practice helps believers to focus their prayers and feel a deeper spiritual connection with the divine.

From: www.sspp.ca



Building Fences with my father

Once upon a time a long time ago my father decided it was time to build a new fence (to keep me out of the neighbor's yard). My father spent the early part of the morning untying knots from the string he needed, to measure the fence line.

Being too young to understand the secrets of untying knots, I learned by watching and listening...not only did I learn the secrets I also increased my Ukrainian vocabulary. I repeated those words loudly but a stern look from my father indicated that these secret words were not to be said out loud to anyone.

After the string was untied and strung along the ground. We needed some nails.

Being from the "old country" my father hoarded nails. He never threw them out. Big ones, rusty ones, bent ones twisted ones, he had nails to build a fence to the moon and back.

My father brought out the old cans and jars of bent and twisted nails and gave me the honour of straightening them out ...

"Here this is how to do it" he said. He picked up a bent nail put it on the ground holding one end of the nail with his finger and thumb, with the other he banged down with the hammer and ... I learned a new word....

From Orest Kernycky "My Father and I..."

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Malanka
Saturday January 13, 2024
Ukrainian Cultural Centre Surrey

St Mary's Parish Dinner
Sunday 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

Marina Krut -1st Canadian Tour
Saturday January 20, 2024 6pm
Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church

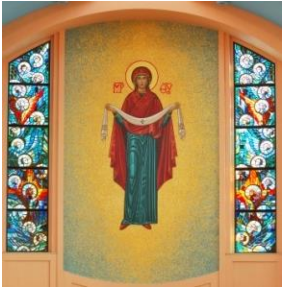
Dakhabrakha -Tour for Ukraine
Friday March 29, 2024 8pm
Massey Theatre New West

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



Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God

When Constantinople was attacked in 903 A.D. by followers of Islam, the terror-stricken people gathered inside the church to pray for the intercession of the Mother of God, while the Christian army fought outside. During the praying of Vespers, the Mother of God, surrounded by angels, prophets and apostles, appeared before the faithful. She spread an omophor. Or veil. Over them as a sign of their protection as she implored God's Mercy upon them. Miraculously, a storm destroyed many of the invaders. This icon tells us we are not alone, but live in the presence of the Mother of God. Our never-failing Protectress and ever-present advocate before God



Annunciation of the Most Holy Mother of God

Archangel Gabriel announces the will of the Father. Mary accepts His will, the Holy Spirit accomplishes the Divine Incarnation and Jesus is conceived in Mary's womb. The semicircle at the top symbolizes God the Father and the emanating rays represent the Holy Spirit descending on the Mother of God. Gabriel's majestic attire and his

appearing to be in motion indicates he was sent by God the Father and acts on His authority. Mary, seated on a throne, bows her head and holds her right hand in a gesture of humble surrender to the will of God. She also holds a weaver's spindle attached to a red ball of yarn on the floor to show she worked as a weaver while living in the Temple. Gabriel's lily symbolizes Mary's lasting purity.

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 borsch (beet soup).



Descent of the Holy Spirit

The Dove as Holy Spirit, descends from the Father, symbolized by the top circle, on to the Mother of God and 12 Apostles in the form of tongues of fire (Act.2:3) St. Peter, with a white beard, is at the bottom right. Opposite on the bottom left is St. Paul, with a bald head. St John, the one without a beard, is second from the top on the right. St

Matthew is on the left side, second from the top. St. James is third from the bottom, left side. All are holding a gospel book or epistle scroll. The Mother of God, with hands lifted up is praying for the church.



Crucifixion of Our Holy Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Below Jesus on the cross is a skull in a black cave, which represents Adam and all humanity in darkness, unable to access paradise because of sin. The blood of Christ flows over the skull and cave. Washing away the sins of all mankind. The Mother of God, clothed in a royal colour is gesturing toward the sacrifice of her Son. And praying for us. Jesus establishes His

mother to become the mother of the "most beloved apostle," St. John, who now as her son took her into his home (John 19:26-27) St John represents all of us, who are called to accept Mary as our mother, take her into our homes and become her spiritual sons and daughters.



Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ

Jesus takes St. Peter (in blue and yellow), and two brothers, the sons of Zebedee, St. John, (without a beard), and St. James to Mt. Tabor. Jesus becomes transfigured (Matthew 17:2) and is shown here in bright white robes. The apostles fall on their faces in awe. On Jesus's right side is the Old

Testament Prophet Elijah, who represents the prophets who foretold the Messiah. At Christ's left is Moses, holding the Torah, the Law of the Old Testament, which Christ came to complete. Elijah (on a cloud) was taken up in a fiery chariot, and Moses (in a tomb) died normally. They represented the living and the dead who awaited salvation from Christ.



Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God

The Mother of God is lying on her deathbed. Christ, wearing gold garments and surrounded by angels in Heaven receives her soul in His arms at the time of her death. According to ancient non-scriptura tradition, the early Church fathers, the faithful and the apostles (except for St. Thomas) were at her funeral. One of the apostles is incensing her body during the funeral service. Two bishops are

holding the Sacred Scriptures. Three days after her burial. St. Thomas arrived and rolled away the stone from her tomb, finding only an empty cave, supporting the dogmatic teaching she is in Heaven with both her body and soul.

The Power of Icons Through *the icon, God communicates with us, reveals our calling, and invites us to live with Him. Seeing God lovingly gaze at us from an icon is a manifestation of "heaven on earth". Once we have seen God in an icon, we become capable of seeing Him in other people. Thus, icons serve as a profound means of connecting with the divine, enhancing our spiritual contemplation, and deepening our faith. Eparchy of Edmonton*