

St. Mary's Newsletter

St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish
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Divine Liturgies

Sundays: 8:30am English (spoken)

10:30am Ukrainian (sung)

Mon-Sat: 7:30am (Chapel)

Holy Days: 10:00am

Fr Joseph Pidskalny OSBM (Admin)

Kadylo in the Church

Incense is burned in an ornate golden censer (censer, thurible) that hangs at the end of three chains representing the Trinity. Two chains represent the human and Godly nature of the Son, one chain for the Father and one chain for the Holy Spirit. The lower cup represents the earth and the upper cup the heaven.

In the Greek, Slavic, and Syrian traditions there are 12 bells hung along these chains representing the 12 apostles. There are also 72 links representing 72 evangelists. The charcoal represents the sinners. Fire signifies the Holy Spirit and frankincense the good deeds. The incense also represents the grace of the Holy Trinity. The censer is used (swung back and forth) by the priest/deacon to venerate all four sides of the altar, the holy gifts, the clergy, the icons, the congregation, and the church structure. As we are being censured, we make the sign of the cross.

We smell the incense as an offering of our prayers rising to heaven, as we see ourselves enveloped in the clouds of incense, we recall that we are in God's presence. Incense is used to venerate, bless, and sanctify. Its smoke conveys a sense of mystery and awe. The visual imagery of the smoke and the smell reinforce the transcendence of the Divine Liturgy linking Heaven with Earth, allowing us to enter into the presence of God. Its use adds a feeling of solemnity to the Divine Liturgy. The smoke symbolizes the burning zeal of faith that should consume all Christians, while the fragrance symbolizes Christian virtue. We sense we are in the presence of God.



I have two sides



Hate has 4 letters, but
so, does **love**
Enemies has 7 letters but
so, does **Friends**
Lying has 5 letters, but
so, does **Truth**
Cry has 3 letters, but
so, does **Joy**

Life has two sides chose
the better side.

Life has two sides, and it is important to recognize the positive and negative aspects of every situation, experience, or entity. As Aesop said, "Every truth has two sides"

Mother's Day

Sunday May 11,



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ukrainian TV Network

Ukrainian Kontakt on OMNI TV:
SUN 7:00 AM (new) SUN 9:00 pm
TUE 9:00 am THUR 2:00 pm
KONTAKT NEXT GEN – youth show
SUN 6:30 pm (new)
WED 8:30 am, 2:00 pm, 3:30 pm

Mr Nobody against Putin (film)

Wednesday May 7 8pm

SFU - Doxa film series

Songs of Slow Burning Earth (film)

Sunday May 4 4pm

Pacific Cinematique -Doxa Film Series

Mother's Day

Sunday May 11,

Friday Night Supper

May 16 4-6:30pm

Ivan Franko Society Richmond

Odesa Week Ukrainian Party

Friday May 30 10pm

Bar None Nightclub Vancouver

Perogies for Peace

Friday May 31 4pm

Holy Eucharist Cathedral New West

Weaving a Wreath of Culture

Sunday June 4

Flea Market

Saturday June 7, 2025 10am-3pm

Ukrainian Catholic Centre

3150 Ash Street Vancouver BC

Check with the venue for details or updates

Feast of the Ascension Thursday May 29,2025



A bright cloud accompanies each Theophany or divine appearance. At the Ascension, Christ disappears in the cloud and the angels tell the apostles that He will return the same way for His Second Coming.

The cloud is a Mandorla. It consists of concentric circles that become darker and darker as they get closer to Christ. This shows the reality that the closer one gets to Mystery, the less one really understands.

From the cloud, Christ blesses the Apostles and Mary. Even though He is Ascending to heaven, His blessing remains with us forever. In His left hand, He holds a scroll which represents His teachings.

Mary is in the centre of the Apostles. Her hands are raised in prayer in the ancient form called 'orans'. This gesture indicates Mary's role as intercessor on our behalf before her Son. A straight line from the Ascended Christ to Mary can be drawn to connect heaven with earth.

The group of Apostles with Mary, the Mother of God, represents the Church. St. Paul appears with

the Apostles although he would not have been present. This shows that the Church of the future also participates in this event.

The hills in the background, the movement of the Angels, Mary's hands raised in prayer and the Apostles looking up give the icon the upward movement of the feast day.

Preparation for Pentecost

The period immediately following the Feast of the Ascension is intentionally liturgical in nature. This sacred interval is seen as one of preparation and anticipation—a bridge leading to Pentecost. The liturgical texts and prayers during this time emphasize that although Christ has ascended, His promise to send the Holy Spirit and remain with the Church endures. In celebrating the Ascension, the Ukrainian Catholic liturgy not only commemorates a historical event but also reaffirms the Church's ongoing mission and the ever-present hope in the transformative power of the Holy Spirit.

Together, these elements—the Divine Liturgy, unique chants and hymns, deeply symbolic iconography, and the mindful preparation for Pentecost—create a layered and dynamic celebration of the Ascension in Ukrainian Catholic communities. Every gesture, every note of the chant, and every venerated icon serves to link the congregation with the mystery of Christ's ascension and the promise of His eternal presence.