

St. Mary's Newsletter

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



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Newsletter email: orestbohdan@outlook.com

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)
Fr. Dionysiy Zavedyuk, OSBM – (Assist)

Easter

Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem; on this Sunday the priest blesses and distributes pussy willows to the faithful.

The week before Easter is called Holy Week or Passion Week which commemorates the last events in the life of Jesus. His sufferings, death and burial. Passion week are days of preparation for Christ's passion. Passion Thursday is remembrance of the last supper. Good Friday reminds us of the death of Jesus Christ when the Paschanycia or Winding Sheet is laid out. Holy Saturday is reserved to the memory of Jesus laid away in his Tomb.

Easter day is a day of unlimited joy and at Easter, we greet each other with Christos Voskress (Christ has Risen) and respond with Voistynu Voskress (Indeed He has Risen).

Easter is the time for the blessing of Pascha (Easter Bread, which is blessed in memory of the sacrifices of the Old Testament brought before God.



There were 200 people attending a seminar on mental and physical health.

The speaker told the group they were going to do an activity. He gave each attendee one balloon and told them to write their name on it. Then, the balloons were collected and moved into a very small room.

The participants were then asked to go into the other room and were given 2 minutes to find their balloon. It was chaos...

People were searching frantically for their balloon, pushing each other and running into one another while they grabbed a balloon, looked at it, and inevitably tossed it to the side.

At the end of 2 minutes, no one had found the balloon that had their name on it.

Then, the speaker asked the participants to go back in the room and pick up one balloon at random, look at the name, and return it to its owner. Within minutes, everyone had been reunited with their original balloon.

The speaker then told the group, "This is what it's like when people are frantically searching for their own happiness in life.

People push others aside to get the things that they want that they believe will bring them happiness. However, our happiness actually lies in helping other people and working together as a community."

The Moral: You will get your happiness if you help other people find theirs. The Dalai Lama says, "If you want to be happy, practice compassion."

Helping others makes us happy because it gives us a sense of purpose.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Light in Winter - Zeellia
Saturday April 11, 8pm
Cityview Church -Vancouver

Фільм "На Драйві" Film "On The Drive"
Saturday April 11, 7pm
Alliance Francaise Vancouver

Friday Night Ukrainian Supper
Fridays April 17, May 15 4-6:30pm
Ivan Franko Society Richmond

Ukrainian Pysanka Festival
Sunday April 19, 2-5pm
Ivan Franco Society Richmond BC

Big Ukrainian Party
Saturday April 25 9pm
Bimini's Vancouver

Zhenya Halych – Stand up Musician
Sunday April 26 7pm
China Cloud Studios Vancouver

Kola
Thursday April 30 8pm
Vancouver

Василь Байдак -comedy
Tuesday June 9 7-9pm
Ivan Franko Society Richmond

Camp St. Volodymyr-(ages 7-15)
August 2026 pre register at:
[St. Volodymyr 2026 – Interest Form](#)

Bucha is a Ukraine-made thriller about the first phase of Russia's 2022 invasion, (Streaming Now)

Check with the venue for details or updates

Life That Conquers Death: Easter Traditions of Ukraine Based on reflections by Sr. Theodosia Mostepaniuk, OSBM

“Christ is risen from the dead! By death He trampled death, and to those in the tombs He granted life!” —*Troparion of Pascha*

A Tradition Rooted in Resurrection -When Ukrainians celebrate Pascha, one theme shines through every hymn, symbol, and custom: **life that conquers death**. This truth is woven deeply into the liturgical journey of Holy Week—Passion Matins on Holy Thursday, the solemn Vespers and Shroud on Holy Friday, and the moving Jerusalem Matins on Holy Saturday. All of it rises into the radiant joy of **Paschal Matins**, where the Church sings of light, victory, reconciliation, and the breaking of Hades’ chains.

Pysanky: Icons of Hope and Continuity -Among Ukraine’s most cherished Paschal traditions is the art of **pysanky**—eggs decorated with intricate wax-resist designs. More than beautiful objects, pysanky are symbols of **life, hope, and blessing**.

Their colours and patterns carry meaning:

- **Crosses, stars, flowers, leaves, geometric motifs**—varying by region
- **Bezkonechnyk**, the endless wave pattern, symbolizing **immortality and the unbroken bond between generations**

For centuries, Ukrainians have passed this art from one generation to the next, preserving it even far from their homeland. In recent years, pysanky have also become gifts of encouragement for soldiers on the front lines—small signs of unity and festive hope carried into places overshadowed by danger.

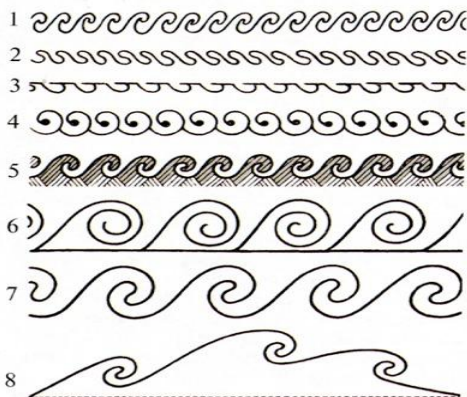
Hope in a Time of Upheaval -Today’s world is marked by uncertainty. Structures shift, values erode, and even Christian language is sometimes misused. In such a climate, can we still speak of hope? As people of the Resurrection, we answer confidently: **Yes**.

Christ continues to give life—quietly, persistently, even in difficult circumstances. Our calling is to cooperate with that life:

- to be **bearers of life, not death,**
- **witnesses of hope, not despair,**
- **defenders of truth, not falsehood.**

This is both our mission and our responsibility.

A Paschal Reminder -As we celebrate Pascha, may the Ukrainian **bezkonechnyk** remind us of the eternal mystery we proclaim: **New life has conquered death—and continues to conquer it in every heart open to the Risen Christ.**



Elements of the Ukrainian bezkonechnyk on pysanky

- 1, 2, 3, 4: Hutsul regions of Ukraine
- 5: Northern Bukovyna
- 6: Transcarpathia/Zakarpattia
- 7: Volyn’
- 8: Kherson region (near the Black Sea)

