

St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Newsletter



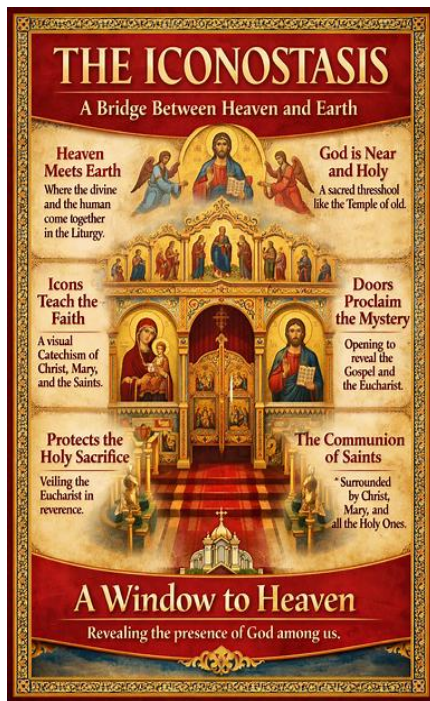
St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish
550 West 14th Ave Vancouver BC V5Z 1P6
www.stmarysbc.com 604-879-5830
Newsletter email: orestbohdan@outlook.com

June 2026

Issue 42

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 (Assistant)



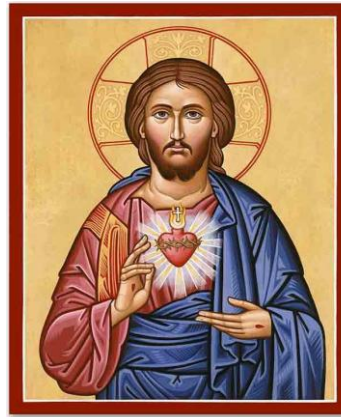
The iconostasis is not a wall but a window to heaven — where earth meets the divine.

Its icons proclaim the faith in beauty, teaching what words cannot express.

Through its doors and images, the mystery of God's presence is revealed, not hidden.

Standing before the iconostasis, we stand among the saints, surrounded by heaven's glory.

It reminds us that worship is sacred encounter - not performance, but communion.



The Heart That Never Sleeps

In a quiet village chapel, long before dawn, a single lamp flickered before the icon of the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**. The church was empty, yet the Heart seemed awake, alive, watching over the world with a love that never slept.

Maria, who rose early to bake bread for her neighbours, would often slip inside before beginning her day. She carried many worries—her children far away, her aching hands, the heaviness of the world. But each morning, as she knelt before the glowing **Heart**, something in her softened.

She would whisper, "Lord, take what I cannot carry," and it always felt as though the Heart leaned toward her, gathering every sorrow into its burning mercy.

One morning, a storm raged outside, shaking the chapel doors. Maria hesitated, afraid to enter. But when she pushed the door open, she saw the lamp still burning, steady and calm. The **Heart** shone brighter than the storm.

In that moment she understood: the **Sacred Heart** is not a symbol of suffering alone, but a promise—that **no darkness is stronger than His love, and no storm can extinguish the flame He keeps burning for every soul.**

And Maria left the chapel strengthened, carrying peace into the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Odesa Week in Vancouver
May 31-June 7
Various locations around Vancouver
Odesaweek.ca

Ukrainian Folk Dance Workshop
Friday June 5 8pm
Collingwood Neighbourhood House

Хрещатик 48/2 Khreshchatyk 48/2
Sunday June 7 4:30 pm
Alliance Francaise Vancouver

Фільм «Кіллхаус» | Film "Killhouse"
Sunday June 7 7pm
Alliance Francaise Vancouver

Байдак Василь, Ukrainian comic
Tuesday June 9 7-9pm
Ivan Franko Society Richmond

Nanaimo UkrFest 2026
Sunday June 14 1pm
Nanaimo BC

Big Ukrainian Nostalgia Party
Saturday June 27 10pm
Bimini Vancouver

Westcoast Ukie Fest
Monday June 29 7-9 pm
Michael J Fox Theatre Burnaby

Traditional Ukrainian Wedding
Saturday July 4 5pm
Chief Sepass Theatre Langly

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

Ukrainian New West Fest
Saturday Sept 19 12 pm
New West Ukrainian Cathedral

Ukrainian Christmas Fair
Saturday November 28 11am- 4pm
Ukrainian Catholic Centre Vancouver

Check with the venue for details or updates

Ukrainian Catholic Iconostasis Symbolism

1. The Iconostasis Shows the Meeting of Heaven and Earth – In the Byzantine tradition, the church building is understood as a **microcosm of the universe**. It does **not** hide the mysteries — it **reveals** them through icons. Icons are “windows,” not barriers.

- The **nave** represents the world of the faithful.
- The **sanctuary** represents heaven.
- The **iconostasis** stands at the threshold where these two realities meet.

2. It Continues the Biblical Pattern of the Temple - The iconostasis is the Christian fulfillment of the **Temple veil** in Jerusalem. The iconostasis expresses this paradox: **God is near, yet holy. Accessible, yet awe-inspiring.**

- In the Old Covenant, the veil separated the Holy of Holies.
- In the New Covenant, Christ opens access to God — but the mystery remains sacred.

3. It Teaches the Faith Visually - Together they form a **visual catechism** the entire story of salvation in one sacred composition. For many parishioners (especially seniors), this is the most accessible theology they encounter. Every icon on the iconostasis is placed intentionally:

- **Christ the Teacher** (right of the Royal Doors)
- **The Theotokos** (left of the Royal Doors)
- **Patronal icon** of the parish
- **Feast icons**
- **Apostles and prophets** in upper tiers

4. It Marks Liturgical Moments - The opening and closing of the **Royal Doors** and **Deacon's Doors** are not practical motions — they are **liturgical proclamations**. The iconostasis choreographs the Liturgy. They signal:

- Christ's coming
- The proclamation of the Gospel
- The descent of the Holy Spirit
- The offering of the Eucharist

5. It Protects the Mystery of the Eucharist - The Divine Liturgy is not a performance. The iconostasis ensures that the Eucharistic mystery is **reverent, not theatrical**. This is especially important in the Ukrainian Catholic tradition, where the Liturgy is mystical, contemplative, and symbol-rich. It preserves the sense of:

- sacred space
- holy silence
- divine encounter

6. It Shows the Communion of Saints - The iconostasis is a **family portrait of heaven**. It visually proclaims: **We never worship alone**. When the priest stands before it, he stands surrounded by:

- Christ
- The Mother of God
- Angels
- Apostles, Prophets, and the saints

7. It Shapes the Spiritual Imagination - For Ukrainian Catholics, the iconostasis is part of our spiritual DNA. It is not optional architecture — it is **identity**. It forms how we:

- understand holiness and perceive the Liturgy
- imagine heaven and pray with our eyes as well as our hearts.

