



ST. MARY'S UCWLC FUNDRAISER

STEAK NIGHT

Saturday, April 14th

5:00 - 7:00 pm at Tapps Brewing Company Ltd.

Tickets: \$25.00 (age restricted)

For tickets contact: Doreen Rathgeber 306-782-1527
Verlee Zulyniak 306-783-6781
Elizabeth Zahayko 306-783-6232 or 306-783-4594



ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Церква Матері Божої Неустанної Помочі

Our Mother of Perpetual Help

155 Catherine Street, Yorkton, SK S3N 0B9

Vol. 55, No. 13

PARISH BULLETIN

APRIL 1, 2018

Christ is Risen! Христос Воскрес!



DATE	TIME	EPISTLE	CANTOR	USHERS	ORGANIST
SAT MAR 31	8:00 pm English	Doug Falconer	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Tony Mazur Bill Prybylski Neil Prybylski	Iris Skehar
SUN APRIL 1 <i>Resurrection Easter Sunday</i>	7:00 am Ukrainian	Mykhaylo Zotov	Colette Karapita	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
	10:00 am English	Toni Gromnisky	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Jerry Gromnisky Mike Smud	Iris Skehar
SAT APRIL 7	5:00 pm English	Sr. Suzanne Kokuruds	Saturday Evening Group	Paul Shewchuk Gerry Smysnuik	
SUN APRIL 8 <i>St. Thomas Sunday</i>	9:00 am Ukrainian	Ed Pindus	Lorne Stechyshyn	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood	
	11:00 am English	Gloria Rhinas	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Ed Lischynski Bill Krywulak	Iris Skehar

SUNDAY COLLECTION MARCH 25, 2018	Received in 209 Regular Envelopes	\$ 4,254.00
	Loose Collection	\$ 217.00
	Received in 29 Other Envelopes	\$ 980.00

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE: st.mary.yorkton@sasktel.net

PASTOR: blukie@gmail.com

WEB: www.saintmarysyorkton.com

EPARCHY OF SASKATOON: www.skeparchy.org

EPARCHIAL PASTORAL COUNCIL - Pat Thompson 306-782-9425 Geraldine Koban 306-782-0270

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Gwen Bilyk 306-782-4093

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - Dave Spelay 306-782-5320 UCWLC - Elsie Stechyshyn 306-783-4862

UCBC - Larry German 306-782-2461 CULTURAL CENTRE - Russ Thompson 306-782-9425

GOLDEN AGERS - Verna Moroz 306-783-6293 CULTURAL CENTRE MANAGER - Stan Shymanski 306-782-1010

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY OFFICE - Phone: 1-204-799-1060 EMAIL: rymcssr@gmail.com

The parish community of St. Mary's extends a warm
Welcome - Вітаємо
to everyone who is with us today, especially all visitors.
We are pleased that you have come to pray with us this Sunday. May the Lord bless You.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!
Dear Beloved Parishioners (and guests!)

We greet you on this Easter Day with **Christ is Risen!** **Христос Воскрес!** - the words the Apostles used to greet one another! May the celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection fill you and your family with much Joy and Hope and Love!

Again, we offer our greetings to all parishioners on this joyous feast day, to those who are always here and to those who come less often. It truly would be wonderful to pray with you regularly in church, so please do consider this. In fact, if we all take our faith in Jesus to heart, then we need to come together often to celebrate His great love and all-forgiving compassion for us, to praise Him and to give heartfelt thanks to God for our many blessings!

A sincere **thank you** is extended to all those who so generously have helped make these last few days more prayerful and meaningful: to our liturgical animators and cantors, to our choir directors and all those who prayerfully sang the various beautiful traditional services so precious to our faith; to those who lovingly prepared the grave of Christ and decorated our holy sanctuary, to those who served and took part in the processions and religious services, etc. **Diakyu, diakyu and thank you ever so much!**

Easter in Ukrainian is called "**Velykden**" - the **Great Day**. Because Easter is the most important liturgical day for the whole year - the whole meaning of our personal lives depends on this celebration - Holy Mother Church extends this day into 8 days - thus, a GREAT DAY! Every day of the BRIGHT WEEK the Church services, except for the Scripture readings, are exactly the same to emphasize over and over again its great importance.

Did you know? If someone dies during this Holy Week (**like my tato-father in 1966**), the glorious Easter Matins is celebrated rather than the traditional funeral Parastas. Also the **royal doors** of the Iconostas are kept open as a visible sign of God's Holy presence - the gates of the Kingdom are open for all! Bells are happily rung whenever we sing out the joyful Good News that Jesus is risen - **Христос Воскрес!**

Another truly symbolic Byzantine custom in our Ukrainian Church during the **Paschal season**, i.e., **from Easter to Pentecost**, is to remain **standing upright** during all our liturgical services. We **do not kneel!** This would be sign of penance and repentance, and not be a witness of **Christ's glorious Resurrection!** The priest proclaims: "**Let us stand with dignity!**"

May the Resurrection Lord bless each and all of us on this wonderful day of salvation - the day of promise that we, who believe in the Risen Jesus and live and love as He did, will also resurrect unto life-everlasting!

Христос Воскрес! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!



**FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK**

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 9	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:00 pm
April 9	UCWLC Meeting	7:00 pm
April 9	Cultural Centre Board Meeting	7:30 pm
April 13	Holy Rosary Hour	2:00 Noon
April 15	First Solemn Holy Communion Class (<i>Review & Practice</i>)	9:45 am
April 16	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Meeting	7:00 pm
April 17	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo	7:00 pm
April 20-22	Knights of Columbus State Convention (<i>Hosted by Yorkton</i>)	
April 21	Knights of Columbus Bingo	7:00 pm
April 21	First Reconciliation & Rehearsal	10:00 am
April 22	First Solemn Holy Communion	11:00 am
April 26	Golden Agers Birthdays & Anniversaries	1:00 pm
May 10	<i>Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord</i>	



A Chance to Warm Hearts...

Pope Francis said, "**For Jesus, what matters above all is reaching out, healing wounds, and restoring people to the family of God.**" What matters above all for you? Are you looking for an opportunity to sync your values and interests with those of Jesus?

The Welcome Home - A mission of St. Alphonsus, is a Redemptorist inner city ministry in Winnipeg, MB that reaches out to those on the periphery of our church and society. This ministry has been working for 25 years to build a community that embraces the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those in need, "warming hearts and healing wounds."

Are you searching for a place to belong and serve, where you can listen and take the time to befriend Canada's most abandoned? **We are now accepting applicants, ages 20 and up, for a 10 month live-in community, commencing September 1, 2018.** Explore the possibilities of giving your time and talent and receive a life changing experience in return!



Please visit thewelcomehome.ca or contact Delores Courchene for additional information: whome01@mymts.net or (204) 946-5352



COVENANT OF CARE ABUSE AND MISCONDUCT PROTOCOL

The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon Covenant of Care Abuse and Misconduct Protocol is designed to ensure that all allegations of physical and sexual abuse and other misconduct are handled responsibly, transparently and with all due care and attention. To speak to someone about a concern please contact your Pastor, Parish Coordinator of Care (PCC) **Geraldine Koban** at 306-782-0270 or **Deb Larmour**, Eparchial Coordinator of Care at (306)653-0138 ext. 228 or email: covenantofcare@skeparchy.org

More information is available on the Eparchial Website, www.skeparchy.org



CHRIST THE TEACHER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EVENTS

EASTER BREAK - NO SCHOOL

YOUTH SURVEY

Make your voices heard



Log into: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NNDBRYR>

This survey is our sincere attempt to listen to your voice in the light of Pope Francis' request:

"We must find new ways to meet the youth's expressed needs, providing resources which help them respond to the challenges of our secular culture, so that they may grow in faith and holiness".

Therefore, we are inviting You, our Friend, our Neighbour, to share your opinions and to actively participate in this survey.

Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSSR
Bishop of the Eparchy of Saskatoon for Ukrainian Catholics,
Delegate of the UGCC to the October 2018 Papal Synod
"Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment"

ST. MARY'S OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee wishes to thank you for your continuous support. We'd greatly appreciate food items donations for St. Mary's School lunch program and for those in need in our community. Please see the list below:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>granola/snack bars</i> | <i>canned soup</i> | <i>spaghetti sauce</i> | <i>pork & beans</i> |
| <i>dill pickles</i> | <i>jam</i> | <i>pancake syrup</i> | <i>kidney beans</i> |
| <i>ketchup</i> | <i>Cheese Whiz</i> | <i>mustard</i> | <i>cookies</i> |
| <i>jello cups</i> | <i>pudding cups</i> | <i>cereal</i> | <i>juice boxes</i> |

Non-perishable food items only, please. Bins are located at each entrance. If you wish to give a monetary donation, please find the envelopes at the entrances.

YORKTON DISTRICT PARISHES

Schedule of Services in the Yorkton Pastoral District

****Please note: this schedule is subject to change, please check regularly****

CALDER	Sunday, April 1	9:00 am	Easter Divine Liturgy & Food Blessing
	Sunday, April 29	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
INSINGER (St. Nicholas)	Saturday, April 7	6:00 pm	Easter Divine Liturgy (Julian Calendar)
MELVILLE	Sunday, April 1	8:00 am	Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy
	Sunday, April 15	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

APRIL 1, 2018

Христос Воскрес !
Воістину Воскрес !



Christ is Risen !
Indeed He is Risen !

*The theme of Sunday is always Resurrection.
We invite you to refrain from kneeling during the Divine Liturgy.*

*Today's special liturgical parts & readings are found in the Tropars, Kondaks, Epistle & Gospel Readings booklets that are found at the entrances of the church.
Next Week's Readings: Epistle - Acts 5:12-20 Gospel - John 20:19-31*

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

SUN	7:00 am.....	Resurrection Matins & Easter Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)
	Blessing of Easter Foods
MON	10:00 am.....	Easter Divine Liturgy (English)
	9:00 pm.....	Divine Liturgy (<i>Bright Week</i>)
TUES	9:00 pm.....	Divine Liturgy (<i>Bright Week</i>)
WED	9:00 pm.....	Divine Liturgy (<i>Bright Week</i>)
	11:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy at Yorkton Crossing
THU	9:00 pm.....	Divine Liturgy (<i>Bright Week</i>)
	10:30 am.....	Divine Liturgy at Yorkton & District Nursing Home
FRI	9:00 pm.....	Divine Liturgy (<i>Bright Week</i>)
	1:30 pm.....	Divine Liturgy at Queen Elizabeth Court
SAT	9:00 pm.....	Divine Liturgy
	5:00 pm.....	Divine Liturgy
	7:00 pm.....	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo

OFFICE HOURS - The Parish Office will be closed on Bright Monday (April 2nd).

WEDDING PLANS ??- If you are planning to be married at St. Mary's or any of the Yorkton District parishes, **please contact Fr. Bohdan (306-783-4594) at least six months before the wedding date.**

DEADLINE for submissions to the bulletin is Tuesdays at 4:30 pm.



EMAIL BULLETIN - If you would like to have the Bulletin emailed to you please send your request to: cssrmonastery@sasktel.net

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT -There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on: Tuesday, March 27th and Tuesday, April 3rd.

Thank you...

We wish to thank the **Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood** for providing the Pussy Willows for Willow / Palm Sunday.



DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

<i>Resurrection - Easter Sunday</i>		<i>Acts 1:1-8 ~ John 20:19-31</i>
MON Apr 2	Bright Monday	Acts 1:18-28 ~ John 1:18-28
9:00 am	Members & Families.....	UCWLC
9:00 am	Health & God's Blessings for the Balaniuk Family.....	Family
TUES Apr 3	Bright Tuesday	Acts 2:14-21 ~ Luke 24:12-35
9:00 am	Health & Birthday Blessings for Sylvia Krywulak.....	Family
9:00 am	Members & Families.....	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood
WED Apr 4	Venerable Joseph	Acts 2:22-36 ~ John 1:35-51
9:00 am	Members & Families.....	Knights of Columbus
9:00 am	Health & God's Blessings for Lilly Ahrens.....	Aunt Lena
THU Apr 5	Martyrs Theodulus, Agathopodes & companions	Acts 2:38-43 ~ John 3:1-15
9:00 am	Health for Elsie Steffenson.....	N.N.
9:00 am	Health & God's Blessings for the Rudnitski Family.....	Family
FRI Apr 6	Methodius, Apostle to the Slavs	Acts 3:1-8 ~ John 2:12-22
9:00 am	Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.....	Blue Army
9:00 am	Health & Salvation for Brothers, Sisters & families.....	Family
SAT Apr 7	Venerable George	Acts 3:11-16 ~ John 3:22-33
9:00 am	+Bernie Fedorowich (10 years), +Betty & +Metro Drushka.....	Jan & family
5:00 pm	Health & God's Blessings for Henry & Mary Malin.....	Peter & Anna Gulka

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS - If you are making an offering for this service by cheque, please make your cheque payable to: Ukrainian Catholic Mission

In accordance with the New **Eparchial Stipend Schedule (effective November 1, 2017), the suggested **stipend (offering)** for a Divine Liturgy Intention is now **\$20.00**.



ST. MICHAEL'S SUMMER CAMPS 2018 AT MADGE LAKE:

Even though there is so much snow outside, St. Michael's Camp is still thinking about summer. Our Summer Camp registration has begun!! Find a friend and pick a week to come to Camp. Hurry as there are limited spots available.

TEEN CAMP (AGE 13-16) July 1-6 (co-ed)

YOUTH CAMP (AGE 8-13) July 8-14 (co-ed) July 15-21 (co-ed)

DAY CAMP (9:00 AM - 12:30 PM) July 23-26 (co-ed)

LITTLE MIKE'S FAMILY CAMP (7 & under accommodate with family) July 26-29 (co-ed)

If you are interested, please go to our website at www.stmichaelscamp.com to complete the registration form <http://www.stmichaelscamp.com/camps/register> and send it to register@stmichaelscamp.com.

Saint Mary's Building Fund Donations



Balance of the Fund to date: \$ 326,644.91 Thank you very much

Donations may be given anytime.
All funds collected will be used for the future renovations of our church.
Building Fund Envelopes are available at the entrances of the Church

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DONATIONS

<i>In Memory of Joseph "Joe" Wolos</i>	<i>In Memory of Pauline Dennis</i>	
Sylvia Wolos	Rosann Siedler	\$ 50.00
\$ 100.00	Eugene & Iris Siedler	\$ 25.00

Thank you very much

CHURCH DONATIONS

To ensure that your donation is properly recorded and acknowledged, please mark your envelope and the memo line on your cheque **"In memory of..."** or **"On the occasion of..."**

A Traditional Ukrainian Easter Divine Liturgy

will be broadcasted on GX94 Radio

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1ST 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

The program will consist of Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy & Easter hymns.



Sixth in the Podcast Series on Discovering the Unity of Life and Love :

This Sunday's segment of the Document will directly address the issue of how we are created as men and women to be gift to one another and the things that can get in the way of that mutual gift. On the Further Reflection we have a fresh look at the controversial Church teaching on natural family planning and how it is one of the Catholic Church's best kept secrets for blessing and protecting this gift of married love. Though this short video may not answer all your questions as to why you may not have heard this before with the fresh look at sexuality taken by Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body, and Pope Francis's promotion the now 60 year old Document Humanae Vitae in his recent Apostolic Exhortation, Amoris Laetitia, now is a great time to revisit the prophetic truths found in this teaching and it's implications for us as we approach marriage and family life in all its' beautiful and life-giving dimensions. Much more needs to be addressed on this topic to truly understand this much maligned teaching but hopefully we can open the doors to this conversation given it's profound implications as we come to a fuller understanding of the Unity of Life and Love.



Find the podcast and web links by going to the Eparchy of Saskatoon Family and Life Office website www.skeparchy.org/flo . Or go to www.skeparchy.org and click on the Family and Life Office icon. It is never too late to join us.... So take some time to go deeper in your faith...its just a few clicks away.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

As our St. Mary's Cultural Centre continues to thrive, we have a growing need for *new and more volunteers*.

These volunteer opportunities are perfect for retirees, new parishioners who want to meet new people, both in the church and the community, students who require volunteer hours or organizations that are looking for fundraising opportunities.

If you are available to work for any of the dates listed below, please contact Stan Shymanski 306-782-1010

Saturday, April 14 – Outdoor Show

Saturday, April 21 – K of C Convention

Friday, May 4 – Boy Scouts Banquet

Saturday, May 12 – Football Night

Saturday, May 26 – Sacred Heart Grad

Saturday, June 9 – Wedding

Thursday, June 21 – Sask Polytechnic

Friday, April 20 – K of C Convention

Saturday, April 28 – St. Michael's Camp

Wednesday, May 9 – Chamber of Commerce

Tuesday, May 22 – Good Spirit Inservice

Saturday, June 2 – Wedding

Wednesday, June 13 – YTC



ST. MICHAEL'S CAMP FUNDRAISING EVENT FAMILY EVENING OUT FAMILY FEUD – GAME SHOW

8 Teams will compete for \$250 Prize - Call for Information

Date: Saturday, April 28th

Time: Cocktails 5:30 pm

Supper 6:30 pm

Program to Follow

Location: St. Mary's Cultural Centre, Yorkton

Tickets: \$45 each or Buy a Table of 8 for \$320

Youth (ages 4-10) \$22 Under 4 - Free

For more information contact Terry Ruf 306-621-3154

For tickets contact Barb MacKesey 306-620-8038



IT'S THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP BRYAN BAYDA, CSSR



Celebration will take place
on Saturday, June 23rd

at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of St. George
210 Avenue M South Saskatoon

Episcopal Divine Liturgy at 5:00 pm

~ **Cocktails** at 6:30 pm ~ **Banquet** at 7:00 pm ~

St. George's Cathedral church auditorium

Tickets will be available in early April:

Adults: \$35 ~ Youth (9-21): \$25 ~ Children (under 8): \$10



*Clergy, religious and laity from throughout the
Eparchy are invited to come and celebrate with us!*

Mark the date on your calendar . . . watch the bulletin for ticket purchase details
coming out soon!

Sponsored by the Eparchial Pastoral Council and AGEMI

For more information contact:

Geraldine Koban at 306-782-0270 – email gmkoban@gmail.com

CANA CONTINUES!

FAMILY RETREAT VACATION AUGUST 13-18, 2018



A unique getaway for parents and their children. Held at St. Michael's Camp at Madge Lake. Let go of distractions. Come play, pray & adventure in God's great outdoors!

Registrations now open

- contact Deb Larmour at the Family & Life Office 306-653-0138 Ext 228; Cell – 306-717-2756
or email – ucfamilylifeoffice@sasktel.net.

Details at <http://skeparchy.org/flo/ministries/our-cana-camp/>

Together, we encounter Christ over and over through sharing stories, play, tears, dishes, campfires and nature.

The Eparchy of Saskatoon welcomes all young Catholic families to Cana!

EASTER PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

Most Reverend Archbishops and Bishops, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers,
Venerable Brothers and Sisters in Monastic and Religious Life,
Dearly Beloved Laity in Christ of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church

Christ is Risen!

*David, ancestor of the Lord, danced and made music before the Ark, which was only a symbol.
As God's holy people let us witness the symbol fulfilled,
And rejoice in spirit, for Christ, being almighty, is risen.
From Ode 4, Paschal Canon*

Beloved in Christ!

Today in all of Ukraine and in our settlements abroad Christians are filled with an inexpressible joy. From the moment we first hear our traditional Easter greeting "Christ is risen!" in each one of us, from the youngest to the oldest, our soul undergoes a profound change. We feel how all life's problems and challenges disappear, how all cares and sorrows are washed away "as wax melts before the fire." This joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and a true sign, that the risen Lord is present in our hearts.

David, ancestor of the Lord, danced and made music before the Ark, which was only a symbol.

In the sixth chapter of the second book of Samuel, we read how King David at the beginning of his reign arranged for the transfer of the Ark of the Covenant to his capital, Jerusalem. In this relic were contained the tablets of Divine Law, received by Moses: they were the most precious possession of Israel. The Ark was a guaranty of invincibility for the people of the Old Testament, of strength for the king. For this reason, David greets it with great joy, with dance. This presence of God in the midst of His people and their sense of duty to live according to the Lord's commandments will later allow the Psalmist to say: "Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!" (Ps. 97:11-12).

Our Paschal Matins see in the behavior of the king an image of our paschal joy today. And while the Ark-symbol was lost in the time of the Babylonian onslaught in the VI century B.C., the risen Lord is eternally present in our midst: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). This is no symbol or prediction of some unsure or unreachable future. Christ Himself, who rose from the dead, comes to us, His disciples, as a source of our strength and victory over evil. In the Resurrection, in the news of His victory over death is found the summit of our joy and the fulfillment of all prophecies and human aspirations.

To rejoice in God is to allow the victory of the risen Lord to penetrate my heart, to be fulfilled in my personal life. This is not merely some temporary feeling, but real participation and communion in Christ's Resurrection. Saint Paul wrote: "For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Rom 6:5). To celebrate Pascha is to rise together with Christ, to triumph in Him and with Him. Thus, our joy in Him and with Him is no passing emotion, but the permanent state of one who lives in the faith of the risen Lord.

As God's holy people let us witness the symbol fulfilled...

In today's world people do not know how to rejoice—they find happiness in possessions, but largely cry over that which they would like to have but do not possess. Today there in an entire amusement industry that "sells joy," suggests that you "buy happiness" in the form of empty and short-term distractions, compulsions, or narcotics, promises quick satisfaction without responsibility, seeks to entice through an escape into virtual realities or the acquisition of temporal riches.

A person seeks happiness but cannot find it in those things. For joy is not possible without God. Happiness without God is an illusion which quickly dissipates. It is a dependency that simultaneously enslaves and saps one of strength.

How often in today's society we find irresponsible politicians, newfound messiahs, in the role of "purveyors of joy." With empty slogans they appeal to the lowest of human desires. At the price of the blood and tears of innocent victims, or even entire nations, they promise happiness "for the chosen" who belong to their "world" which they artificially designed, and count on the fact that in the face of their lawlessness, "in all tongues"—here we paraphrase our great Kobzar- Shevchenko, all will be silent. But such joy is built on the sand of idols, falsehood, and violence, and thus, sooner or later, it will collapse under its own weight.

We, on the other hand, are called to build our happiness and our joy as a community of children of God. It isn't easy to live in the joy of the Lord, especially in today's circumstances. We often ask ourselves: How can we rejoice today? Why are we suffering? Why is this happening to us? Is there any sense to our struggles, the blood and suffering, the deaths and devastation? Without the mystery of Christ's Pascha, these questions remain unanswered. For the risen Christ Himself opens up for us the meaning of human suffering—transforming it in our paschal journey into joy in the Lord. St. Maximus the Confessor wrote: "If God suffers in the flesh when He is made man, should we not rejoice when we suffer, for we have God to share our sufferings? This shared suffering confers the kingdom on us. For he spoke truly who said, 'If we suffer with Him, then we shall also be glorified with Him' (Rom. 8:17)." The suffering and risen Lord is present in each person who undergoes suffering till the end of the world—in each human hurt, in each spilt tear and drop of blood—and He draws us into His Resurrection, grant us joy therein. The one who suffers in the name of love of God and neighbor, that person knows how to be glad in God, how to rejoice with the authentic and eternal joy of the Risen One.

And rejoice in spirit, for Christ, being almighty, is risen.

Therefore, let us view our personal, family, community, and national sufferings in light of our paschal journey led by the risen Christ, in light of our transformation into joy, our movement towards hope on this lightsome day, made by the Almighty. The Lord's Pascha opens up for our people the truth that through our struggle we enter into His joy. Our love for the Fatherland, which calls us to self-sacrifice in the name of its freedom and independence is, indeed, a path to Resurrection. Our invincible spirit bears witness before the world that one need not be fearful before deadly falsehood and violence, for "Christ is risen, being almighty!"

Today the Lord Himself gladdens us, changing our sorrow into joy, as it was for the myrrh-bearing women. They went to the Lord's tomb crying and returned filled with authentic joy in God. They went in the darkness of hopelessness and received the light of the Risen One and proclaimed to the Apostles and the entire world that Christ was truly risen. May we be transformed by this "miracle above all miracles," and through us—our society and land, wherever we may live.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ! May the victory of Jesus Christ over death and evil dispel our doubts and renew hope and joy in our hearts. To all of you, in Ukraine and throughout the world, I send you my heartfelt greeting together with sincere prayers. To all the soldiers and their families, to all refugees, all who lament on the occupied territories and in the Crimea, all captives and prisoners for the sake of their conscience and love for Ukraine, to all the sick and suffering, to those who labor abroad, I wish all of you divine joy above all! I send you my sincere wishes for a blessed Easter feast, a tasty sharing of our traditional blessed egg, and a Paschal joy that is full of light.

The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Christ is risen! – Truly, He is risen!

+ SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ,
on the Fifth Sunday of Lent March 25, 2018 A.D.

