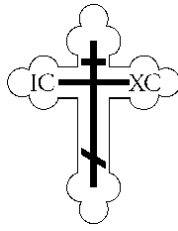


St. Andrew's Outreach Newsletter

APRIL 2009

VOLUME 8
ISSUE 4



ST. ANDREW'S
UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX
SOBOR PARISH



Websites:

*Ukrainian
Orthodox
Church of
Canada:*

www.uocc.ca

Western Eparchy

www.uocc.we.ca/

St. Andrew's Parish

www.uocc-standrew.ca/

(You can read our
monthly
"Outreach"
newsletter on the
Parish website)



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A time to feast, and a time to fast

'To everything there is a season' - a time to feast and a time to fast.

This is the cycle of the Church's life. This year, because **Great Lent** begins so early, we feel that cycle perhaps more intensely than at other times. Having just finished the great twin feasts of our Lord's **Nativity** and **Baptism** (*Christmas* and *Theophany*) we enter almost immediately it seems to the preparation for Great Lent. And so we swing from one of the greatest festal seasons of the year, directly into the greatest fasting season of the year. A time to feast, a time to fast.

Contemplating this cycle of life which we live in the Church, it is immediately apparent that there is a beneficial purpose for us in this. If we were to feast all the time, soon we would grow lazy and inattentive; we would begin to concentrate only on the pleasures of the world and to seek after these rather than after the Kingdom of God. However if we were fast

Christ Is Risen!

continually, then we would grow weak and weary. We would lose sight of the joy of the Kingdom of God and see only the drudgery and weariness of the world. We would lose heart and soon fall into despair. Thanks be to our wise and merciful God Who knows the innermost secrets of our souls better than we ourselves, for He has ordained for us and given to us a life which is neither one extreme nor the other, but rather a middle way, reaping the benefits of both and avoiding their pitfalls.

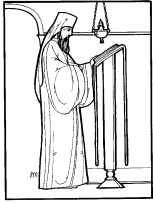
An ascetical preparation for Pascha

When a person trains for some athletic contest, there is a rhythm to the training. The body is worked to its limits and then allowed to rest and recover. Then again there is a period of intense work. This is similar to the regular routine of our Wednesday and Friday fasts. For a day we work the soul and body with fasting and increased ascetic labour, and then we allow it to rest and recover.

When our fasting seasons

come these are times when we increase the intensity and duration of our labour in preparation for the great event of the feast. In this we see how athletes, when the season of their sport approaches, will attend 'training camp' and will work out with increased intensity and duration. This is all to prepare for the season when they will compete in their games. If there were no games, however, only training camp and practices, then these athletes would soon lose interest in working so hard for no reason. In the Church we too have our 'games' that is the feasts. When these great feasts approach, we work hard to prepare ourselves – but without the feast, soon fasting would lose its purpose and appeal. Thus we see that the prolonged fasts are always paired with a some kind of feast and Great Lent, the strictest and most difficult of all the fasts, is paired with Pascha, the greatest and most joyful of all the feasts. The Queen of Feasts deserves, even demands, the most intense preparation of all. . . .

-Continued on p. 3



LITURGICAL SCRIPTURE READINGS

April 2008

Sunday, April 5th

5th Sunday of Great Fast

St. Mary of Egypt

Epistle: Heb. 9:11-14;

Gal. 3:23-29;

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45;

Luke 7:36-50.

Sunday, April 12th

Palm Sunday

The Entry of Our Lord

Into Jerusalem

Epistle: Phil. 4:4-9;

Gospel: John 12:1-18.

Sunday, April 19th

Pascha

The Resurrection of

Our Lord

& Saviour Jesus

Christ

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8;

Gospel: John 1:1-17.



Sunday, April 26th

"St. Thomas Sunday"

Antipascha

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20;

Gospel: John 20:19-31.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

AT ST. ANDREW'S

Sunday, April 5th

Bilingual

Sunday, April 12th

Bilingual

Sunday, April 19th

Bilingual

Sunday, April 26th

English

Confession @ 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy commences

@ 10 a.m.



WORSHIP SERVICES AT ST. ANDREW'S SELO

Holy Saturday, April 18th

Blessing of Easter Baskets
at 6:30 p.m.

Bright Monday, April 20th

Second Day of Easter

Easter Brunch

10 am - Divine Liturgy

Fellowship Coffee & Lunch
to follow every Divine Liturgy

Liturgical



SATURDAY OF THE DEAD

The Day before the Sunday of the Last Judgment marks a commemoration of all those who have departed this life and Gone to their rest. This is the first of four such **Saturdays 'of the dead'** that occur during the **annual Lenten discipline**, and its position directly before the commemoration of the Last Judgment reminds us that all humankind will be called to account on the day of great reckoning.

Great Lent Worship Services

Wed., Apr 1	"Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts"	9:30 a.m.
	"Great Canon of St. Andrew"	6:30 p.m.
Sat., Apr 4	Vespers & Confession (Church School Confession & Communion Weekend)	5:30 p.m.
Sun., Apr 5	5th Sunday of Great Lent Church School Confession/Communion Divine Liturgy (Followed by Parish Brunch)	10:00 am
	PASSIA @ St. Elais Church	6:00 pm
Tue., Apr 7	"Annunciation of the Ever-Virgin Mary" Confession Vespereal Liturgy	8:30 am 9:30 am
Sat., Apr 11	Lazarus Saturday—Confession Vespereal Liturgy	8:30 am 9:30 am
Sun., Apr 12	"Palm Sunday"—Confession Divine Liturgy (Blessing of Pussy Willows to follow)	8:30 am 10:00 am

Passion Week

Wed., Apr 15	Holy Unction Healing Service @ St. John's	6:30 pm
Thur., Apr 16	Great Thursday—Confession Vespereal Liturgy Matins / Passion Gospels	8:30 am 9:30 am 6:30 pm
Fri, Apr 17	Great Friday Vespers/Procession of Shroud ' <i>Plashchanytsia</i> '	6:30 pm
Sat., Apr 18	Blessing of Easter Baskets @ SELO Canon of Great Saturday & Blessing of Easter Baskets @ St. Andrew's	6:30 pm 7:30 pm
Sun., Apr 19	Holy Pascha Paschal Matins Paschal Divine Liturgy (Blessing of Easter Baskets to follow)	7:00 am 8:00 am
Mon., Apr 20	Bright Monday Divine Liturgy (@ SELO)	10:00 am
Tue., Apr 21	Bright Tuesday Divine Liturgy (Golden Age Club Easter Brunch)	9:00 am

In Memoriam!



[Should you have names of loved ones you would like included in this section, please contact the Church Office (780-469-1463)]

St. Andrew's Sobor Family extends their sincerest condolences to:

⇒ Sophie Rygus & Family on the repose of Sophie's aunt, Olga Pilipow (of Yorkton, SK).

ETERNAL BE THEIR MEMORY!

WE PRAY THAT THE LORD GOD WILL ESTABLISH THEIR SOUL WHERE THE RIGHTEOUS REPOSE

REMEMBERING THE LIVING & DEPARTED

During every liturgy the priest says prayers for the living and the departed. At the entrance to the church, please fill in special "Remembrance Cards" and submit them to the celebrant priest so that prayers may be offered.

Parish Bulletin Board

GREETERS' ROSTER

Listed below is a roster of those who have confirmed their participation as "Greeters/Hosts/Ushers" for this month:

April 5th -

Tom & Christine Haugen

April 12th - Palm Sunday

Michael & Olga Alexandruk

April 19th - PASCHA

George & June Gushaty

April 26th -

Garry & Nadine Brow

MORE GREETERS NEEDED

If you are interested in acting as a Greeter, please contact Pauline Lysak (434-4826).



DONATION ENVELOPES

Should you require more "Offering Envelopes" contact Gene Luchka (465-1736) or Mark Bartko (469-9921) or fill out the request form in the Church vestibule entrance area.

16TH ANNUAL KYIV KONNECTION BANQUET

at

St. John's Cultural
Center

Thursday, May 7th

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Ehor Gauk

Tickets: \$80/per person

For more information, call
Bill Dymianiw at 780-434-1219.



EASTER FLORAL DONATIONS

Donations for the Easter Floral Fund for the adornment of the our Church **will be collected on Sunday, April 12th (Palm Sunday)**. Special donation envelopes will be available in the Church vestibule area.

**ХРИСТОС
ВОСКРЕС!**

**ВОЇСТНУ
ВОСКРЕС!**

St. Andrew's Easter Tea & Bake Sale

Saturday, April 4th

St. Andrew's Cultural Center



1 - 3 p.m.

Sales will also take place at

Capilano Mall

Beginning at 9 a.m.



If you are wish to help at either of our sales venues, or the Tea, please phone Sandra (780-466-0810).



Christ Is Risen ...

Continued from p. 1

... The great joy and rejoicing of Pascha is made even greater when we have prepared for it.

The intrinsic merits of the Fast

Beyond simply the preparation for the feast of the Resurrection, Great Lent offers us many other benefits as well. Throughout the year, the focus of our lives tends to drift. While we are moved in our spiritual life by the love for God, there are many little variations that creep in and distract us, a little here and a little there, until the little variations finally add up to produce a drift from the true and central path to the Kingdom of God. When a spacecraft is sent towards a far off destination, even the smallest variation in its path can result in a huge error and missing the target by the end of the journey, unless that drift is corrected and the craft is brought back on course. This 'drift' in our spiritual life may seem small at the

life may seem small at the present, but over the whole course of life – and indeed the whole course of eternity - it may well lead us astray if it is not corrected.

Great Lent gives us the opportunity and tools to correct that 'drift' and set our soul again firmly in the centre of the path of salvation. All of the little passions for pleasure that have somehow found their ways into our lives are revealed by the discipline of Great Lent and their hold on us broken. Perhaps there is a new delicacy or food which we have learned to love or some new drink that we crave or a television program that we 'can't miss' or some other little distraction that pulls at our heart, tugging it away from its pure and true drive toward Christ. During Great Lent, when we set all these things aside, the inordinate hold that such things begin to develop on the soul is broken ...

-Continued on p. 4

What's Happening in Our Parish Archives

The Archives Committee of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor is in need of additional Archives Committee members.

The Archives Committee organizes material and records to preserve the past history of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor, for legal and historical purposes.

The volume of work is increasing with the submission of items, photos, artifacts and various collections of materials from individuals in the parish. The work is not onerous; in fact it is very interesting. At present we are near completion of organizing the original records of Annual and Monthly Board meetings the church for the past 50 years. To date this information was stored in boxes in closets at the church complex and in members' basements and garages. Fortunately we recovered most of the information that was available and that was needed.

We need assistance in photo copying the records so that we have working duplicates and so that we can preserve the originals, some of which are very fragile. Assistance is also required in organizing for storage the financial records, many special project files, photos, slides, CD's and DVD's. This only includes the records of the Church Board. The related Church organizations and Committees have not yet been included in the filing. CYMK, Choir, Church School, The Ladies Auxiliary, Men's Club and Metropolitan Ladies League have yet to start Archiving all their material.

With our 50th Anniversary celebrations in the planning stages the demand for Archival material regarding St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor is increasing. With only three committee members available for consultation, recovery of materials and processing of materials, we need more assistance.

The Archives Committee meets on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Volunteering for the committee could involve one afternoon a month or more if your time permits. Call George Tkachyk at 780-634-5803 for further information.

Christ Is Risen *Cont'd from p. 3*
... by our ascetic labour and they can be returned to a place in our lives that is balanced and proper. We are reoriented and recentered on the path of salvation.

Approaching union with God

In the cycle of feast and fast, we now find ourselves on the doorstep of preparation for Great Lent. This should not be a time of despair or a time when we focus only on the hardship, but rather, as the Apostle says, we should keep our eyes on the prize, on the goal of entering into the Kingdom of God. Great Lent is only part of our progress toward that goal. Great Lent affords us the opportunity to prepare for Pascha, the Queen of Feasts so that we might experience the joy of the Resurrection to the fullest. Great Lent also has its own intrinsic merit in that we now have the opportunity and the tools to see the course and direction of our spiritual life, and to break free of the pulls and pressures of this world that have found their way into our hearts. Great Lent gives us the chance to correct the 'drift' in our spiritual



NEXT PYROHY SUPPER!

Our next "Pyrohy
Supper"

will be held on

Friday,

on April 3rd

from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Bring Family &
Friends!



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIPS

The Sunday Fellowships are greatly appreciated by the worshipping congregation; therefore we would like to thank those who sponsored or provided these fellowships.

**A most heartfelt
thank you to:**

Parish Bulletin Board

... the months of **March**
sponsors:

One-Year Memorial for Kay Hohol sponsored by A.E. Hohol & Family (Mar. 15); 40-Day Memorial for Boris Strilchuk sponsored by the family (Mar. 29).

At the same time we **invite other parish members** to also sponsor an occasional Fellowship.

FOR SALE

If you are interested in purchasing any of the following please contact Gordon Haug (780-464-4777):

- 8 ft. rectangular banquet tables (\$30.00 each)
- 22 - 64 oz. insulated, beverage servers (\$20.00 each)

DVD SET AVAILABLE

A 3-disc copy of the *Hierarchical Divine Liturgy & Enthronement of His Grace Ilarion* as Bishop of Edmonton (from October 26th, 2008), as well as the banquet program, is available for purchase through the Church Office for a cost of \$30 for the 3-DVD set.

ARTOS

During Easter Week, a large round loaf of bread (*prosfora*), representing the *Bread of Eternal Life* and called "Artos", is placed under the Icon of Christ.

... life, centering us again on the path of salvation so that we will not miss our goal, but rather that we will safely reach our destination – the Kingdom of God - and there find the final culmination of all of our struggles, of all of our joys and of all our rejoicing in this life. This is but one small step towards our final union and communion with our God Whom we love and Who draws us to Himself.

Source: Fr. David Moser, www.monachos.net



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



Glory to Jesus Christ!

On March 29th Bishop Andriy from Saskatoon will be worshipping with us at St. Andrew's. This is not a Hierarchical Service. Eventhough it is the beginning of Spring Break, we are encouraging you to attend. The Altar Boys will be serving at the Altar and the myrrh-Bearers will assume their duties. There will be Church School Classes for the younger children if necessary.

Thank you students, parents and grandparents for your participation in the Paska and Pysanka Workshop. Everyone worked diligently at perfecting their pysanka and making a paska. Special thank you's are extended to Trish Bartko for her impressive display and teaching the students to write the pysanka; Pauline Lysak for making

the dough and teaching the students to make their paska; Stephanie McNee for helping and making supper; Gordon Ostapchuk and Michael Alexandruk for baking the paska; Sharyn Johnstone, Ollie Sluzar and Quinn for helping with the

baking and clean-up; and to Dobr. Marusia and all parents and students who helped. Your cooperation was greatly appreciated.



Upcoming services:

- Sat., April 4th** - Vespers & Confession (5:00pm)
 - Sun., April 5th** - Church School resumes. First Confession with Communion Brunch after Divine Liturgy, Godparents' Day (invite your Godparents to worship!)
 - Sat., April 11th** - Lazarus Saturday
 - Sun., April 12th** - Palm Sunday
 - Wed., April 15th** - Holy Unction @ St. John's, 6:30 pm
 - Fri., April 17th** - Great Friday—Altar Boys & Myrrh-Bearers will participate
 - Sun., April 19th** - Resurrection of Our Lord & Saviour (Altar Boys & Myrrh-Bearers to participate)
- We encourage you to attend and worship as you prepare yourselves for Pascha!

Christ Is Risen

Indeed He Is Risen

-Olga Alexandruk (780-998-2356)



Veerneest Dancers — Important Dates:

- Tuesday, April 7th:**
Make up classes (6:30 pm)
- Friday, April 10th:**
No Dancing
- Friday, April 17th:**
No Dancing
- Friday, April 24th**
Regular Classes (6:30 pm-)
- Sunday, April 26th:**
Pictures @ St. Andrew's Hall (2:30 - 4:30 pm)
Performance @ SELO (beginning at 5 pm)

- April 28th - 30th:**
Veeteretz Festival Competition, Dow Centennial Centre, Ft. Saskatchewan
- Friday, May 1:**
Last regular class day
- Friday, May 8th:**
Rehearsal @ Eastglen (6:30 pm -)
- Saturday, May 9th:**
Year End Concert @ Eastglen High School

(11430 - 68 St.) in the "Majestic Theatre" (6:30 pm)
Social to follow
Tickets: \$5.00
For more information call 780-456-4535 (Greg) or 780-479-5512 (Lori).

Friday, June 12th:
Open House & Costume Return



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

For those Parish Members who have not yet picked up their personal copy of the Pictorial Directory, please contact the Church Office as soon as possible with your intentions. Many thanks!



-Director of Distribution

CHURCH CLEANING

Each year prior to the paschal Church Services, the Church undergoes a cleaning. The Altar Guild and Palomar Committees organize and coordinate this clean-up. **We cannot do it without you!** We need extra help to clean the stained glass and clear windows, dusting,



cleaning of vestibule, pews, candle stands, votives, altar, tetrapod, etc. Please contact Vera Tkachyk at 780-634-5803 or Stephanie McNee at 780-469-1463 (Church Office) or 780-469-5293 (Res) — or leave a message — to confirm your attendance. The cleaning bee is scheduled for **Thursday, April 9th** beginning at 9:00 a.m.

"Provody" Sunday Graveside Services

- April 26th**
Edmonton Cemetery, 3 pm
- May 3rd**
Beechmount, Cemetery 2 pm
- May 10th**
St. Michael Cemetery, 2 pm
- May 17th**
Evergreen Cemetery, 2 pm
- May 24th**
St. Stephen Cemetery, 2 pm

If scheduled dates for **Graveside Services** are not convenient for you, private bookings could be arranged by contacting Fr. Victor @ 780-440-4822 (Office) or 780-438-1890 (Home). Private arrangements can also be made for visitations to other cemeteries other than those listed above.



April 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Church School Events/Confession & Communion Weekend: <u>Sat., April 4th</u> - Vespers & Confession (5 pm) <u>Sun., April 5th</u> - 1st Confession with Communion Brunch following the Divine Liturgy</p>			<p>1 9:30 am - <i>Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts</i> 6:30 pm - <i>Canon of St. Andrew of Crete</i></p>	2	<p>3 5 - 7:30 pm— Pyrohy Supper</p> <p>NO Ukr Dance Classes (Spring Break)</p>	<p>4 1 pm - Easter Tea & Bake Sale 5:00 pm - Vespers & Confession</p>
<p>5 <i>“St Mary of Egypt” Parish Brunch & 1 pm Meeting</i> 6 pm PASSIA @ St. Elais</p>	<p>6 7 pm - Parish Board Mtg</p>	<p>7 9 am - Golden Age Club Mtg 9:30 am Vesp Lit. <i>“Annunciation of Virgin Mary”</i> 7 pm - Readers’ Class</p>	8	9	<p>10 NO Ukr Dance Classes (Latin Good Friday)</p>	<p>11 Lazarus Saturday 8:30 am - Conf 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy</p>
<p>12 Palm Sunday <i>“Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem”</i> Blessing of Pussy Willows</p>	13	<p>14 9 am - Golden Age Club Mtg 7 pm - Readers’ Class</p>	<p>15 6:30 pm - <i>Holy Unction</i> Healing Service @ St. John’s Cathedral</p>	<p>16 Holy Thursday 8:30 am - Conf 9:30 am - Vespers Liturgy 6:30 pm - Matins / Passion Gospels</p>	<p>17 Holy Friday 6:30 pm -Vespers/ Procession of Shroud NO Ukr Dance Classes</p>	<p>18 Great Saturday Blessing of Easter Baskets: 6:30 pm - SELO 7:30 pm - St. Andrew’s Sobor</p>
<p>19 Holy Pascha 7 am - Matins 8 am - Paschal Divine Liturgy Blessing of Easter Baskets</p>	<p>20 Bright Monday 10 am - Divine Liturgy @ SELO</p>	<p>21 Bright Tuesday 9 am - Divine Liturgy Golden Age Club 7 pm - Ladies Aux & Men’s Mtgs</p>	22	23	<p>24 Ukr Dance Classes Resume</p>	25
<p>26 “St. Thomas Sunday” 3 pm - Graveside Services @ Ed-monton Cemetery</p>	27	<p>28 9 am - Golden Age Club Mtg</p>	29	30		

Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, “Fellowship Coffee & Lunch” is served!
 We welcome you and yours!

Special Parish Meeting on Sunday, April 5th
 following the Divine Liturgy

Parish President's Report

Slava Isusu Khrystu! Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I am pleased to report on the following activities of the Board from their **meeting of March 9, 2009**.

1. St. Andrew's Board is still searching for a member to act as our computer system administrator to help us manage our new computer system. Please help us and volunteer for this position. This position may be filled by an adult, university student, or a senior high school student with an aptitude for computers. All interested persons are to call me at 780.469.1729.

2. The parish is proceeding with the purchase of phase II of the computer system upgrade. Equipment included is the server, desktop computer, software, licenses, and training.

3. The Board received information from the Pochaiv Safe House group in Ukraine advising of the renovation progress.

4. Repairs to the cultural building HVAC are ongoing.

5. Our solicitor responded to our enquiry regarding privacy issues. We are providing the letter to the advisory committee for their follow-up.

6. Contact with Committee chairs is ongoing confirming membership updates.

7. The available church bells in the Peace River area are actually locomotive bells. Since it is no different from the bell we have now, it will no longer

be pursued.

8. An emergency protocol will be set up for the parish.

9. St. Andrew's Board President will be contacting other Edmonton parish presidents to set up a meeting to discuss common interests and concerns. This is a continuation from the 2007 practice.

10. St. Michael's Parish invited our parish members to attend a seminar entitled "Love, Love, Love" presented by Fr. Peter Haugen on March 27 and 28, 2009. The invitation was posted.

11. The Christmas card postmarked December 30, 2008 from Toronto's St. Demetrius Church was just received.

12. The February newsletter from the Glenwood Memorial Gardens was received.

13. The Spring 2009 newsletter from The Mustard Seed and a donation request were received. This request was passed to the Ladies' Auxiliary and the Men's Club for consideration.

14. A letter of donation request was received from The William Kinasevich Fund (Canada). This request was passed to the Ladies' Auxiliary and the Men's Club for consideration.

15. BIPHICTb dance group provided a copy of their February parents' meeting minutes and the February newsletter.

16. A copy of the City of Edmonton realty assess-

ment for the parish owned house was received.

17. A letter of thanks was received from the Western Eparchy in regard to our forwarding the donations received from contributors toward the special Christmas collection.

18. A letter from the Dni-pro-Selo Housing Society was received advising that their attempt to prioritize applicants of Ukrainian decent was not acceptable because the facilities are provincially owned.

19. An email request from St. Michael's Parish Board President was received requesting us to share our non-member fee table. It will be provided.

20. The Treasurer's report was heard and accepted. Accepted that the bills payable be paid.

21. A report was heard from the Hospodar outlining recent repairs required to our facility.

22. A verbal report was heard from the Ladies' Auxiliary and Men's Club.

23. The Pochaiv Safe House Edmonton Group was granted permission to use the parish facility for an upcoming event on October 18, 2009.

24. Fr. Victor provided a pastoral report. The parish is purchasing a Visky paschal greeting.

25. The Men's Club is purchasing new rectangular tables that are lighter and easier to handle. The old rectangular tables will be sold. The round tables will remain in service.

26. The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2009.

Since my last report, one member provided me with some thoughts on our Parish revitalization. Thank-you! Are there any others?

Members are reminded of the special general meeting on April 5, 2009 commencing shortly after the Divine Liturgy is complete.

Slava Naviky! Glory Be Forever!

Michael Zukivsky
Parish President

POCHAIV/KLYNOVI LYST SAFE HOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

The showings of the film "Lilya 4 Ever" at Metro Cinema February 27th & 28th were a success in gaining support, awareness and some additional monies towards the project.

Renovations continue to be underway on the Safe House building in Stoyaniv.

The Committee is excited to announce that **Victor Malarek**, CTV Journalist and author, will be visiting St. Andrew's Parish on Sunday, October 18th as a guest speaker. It will be in conjunction with the launch of his second book, "The Johns" and his continued crusade against the plight of human trafficking and exploitation. Please mark this important fundraising date on your calendar!

9831 -75 St

Edmonton, Alberta T6A 2Y8

Phone: 780 - 440-4822 or 469-1463

Fax: 780 - 469-5256

Email: st.andrews_uocc@telusplanet.net

PASTOR:

Right Rev. Fr. Victor Lakusta

Phone: 780 - 438-1890

Email: flakusta@telusplanet.net

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Thursday: Pastoral Visitation Day

Friday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*"St. Andrew's Outreach" is published monthly to encourage
Christian growth, to share our faith in
Our Lord God, Jesus Christ, to keep you informed of our
parish events and activities, and to invite you to
worship with us.*

Next "Outreach" Issue - April 26th

*Disclaimer: We do not claim that all the information published in
this newsletter is accurate. All submissions are the responsibilities of
their contributors.*



St. Andrew's Men's Club Website
www.uocc-standrew.ca/mensclub/



Pastoral Reflections



PALM SUNDAY

On this day the Maker of the Universe enters Jerusalem. He is seated not on a white stallion with a 100,000 strong army to escort Him like the King of Babylon. He is seated on a young donkey, the lowest of creatures, and escorted by street children like the King of Jerusalem. For He is not the King of Babylon, the King of War and Power and Pride and Riches, He is the King of Jerusalem, the King of Peace and Humility. And this is only right, for the name 'Jerusalem' means 'the City of Peace'; Christ alone, the King of Peace, is therefore its rightful King.

Children greet Him with palms, the symbols of victory, and they cry 'Hosanna', meaning 'Save, we pray'. Their cry and their deed are greater than they know, for in their innocence they speak and do truth, for Christ alone saves us, if we pray to Him; and the palm branches are indeed tokens of victory, for Victory comes through the Tree of the Cross.

This is not just an historic event, but an event that can

be repeated at every communion. For whenever we seek peace and humility as if seated on a donkey, as innocent as children crying 'Save, we pray', then Christ enters our souls and makes them into Jerusalems within us.

However, we know that in Jerusalem there were not only children, 'babes and sucklings', who greeted Him, there were also others, Scribes and Pharisees who, as the Gospels say, 'were displeased'. They are those who wanted a worldly leader, a man of violence, a rival to the Romans, and they will lead Christ to Golgotha, preferring an unrepentant thief to the Son of God. Within a few days our Lord will suffer, because He is innocent and all the innocent suffering of the world, of which we have seen so much in our own days, is taken up in Him.

The division between, on the one hand, babes and sucklings and, on the other hand, the worldly Scribes and Pharisees is a division which is repeated through

time and space, and all of us have at some time or another been on both sides. For whenever we sin we are on the side of the Scribes and Pharisees, and whenever we are innocent, we are on the side of the babes and sucklings. But whose side are we on today and whose side will we be on in the coming weeks?

For in the coming Great and Holy Week, Passion Week, the Church calls us to follow Christ. On **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday**, we begin to relive the dramatic events in Jerusalem of this Week. On **Thursday** morning we come to the celebration of the Last Supper, which was and is the First Liturgy. On Thursday evening we have the beautiful Service of the Twelve Gospels when the Church tell us all the details of Christ's betrayal, of Judas, of Christ's trial, of Pilate, of Christ's scourging and Crucifixion. On **Friday afternoon** Christ is taken down from the Cross and on **Friday evening** He is buried and we shall sing together the Lamentations around His

Tomb. On **Saturday morning**, we shall witness the first Resurrection Liturgy with the changing of vestments from violet into white and then on **Saturday at midnight** Christ will make clear His Resurrection. This by tradition is the moment when Christ returns to earth and we feel His presence amongst us most clearly.

How can we not come to these services and yet still call ourselves Orthodox? How can we not follow Christ through all the events of this Great Week which changed the history of the whole world? Let us be as babes and sucklings, let us put away our worldly calculations and free ourselves from our laziness, let us be with the family of God, with the Mother of God and St John, and follow Christ to the Cross, so that then we can follow Him to His Resurrection, to Victory and Triumph, and so be resurrected in spirit together with Him.

Amen.

Source:
www.orthodoxengland.com