

St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Dioceses of Canada

The "Priest's Page"

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Sunday, February 16, 2020

34th Sunday following Pentecost

The Gospel According to St. Luke 15, 11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father....."

In this Gospel the two sons represent two human attitudes we have towards God. One is faithfulness or obedience to God and the other estrangement from God. The two sons can represent two categories of people, that is to have the freedom to be in communion with God or to remove oneself from God. The Lord respects our freedom to follow the road of life we choose. When the younger son's desire for freedom becomes destructive and irrational and loses /all his inheritance the Holy Wisdom of God calls him to repentance. When we realize we have done wrong and we sincerely turn back to repentance, this is the time that God comes to meet us and receives us once again. For God is joyful for the repentance of each one of us. May this Gospel teach us the power of sincere repentance and the strength of God's Mercy in His forgiveness of us.

Schedule of Services

Divine Liturgy is generally officiated on the first and third Sunday of the month beginning at 10:00 a.m. Fellowship follows every service unless indicated otherwise.

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| February 16 | Divine Liturgy (34th Sunday following Pentecost) "The Return of the Prodigal Son") Gospel Luke 15, 11-32. |
| March. 1 | Divine Liturgy |
| March 15 | Divine Liturgy followed by the Annual General Meeting. The call for the AGM will be sent out to all members in good standing by separate cover. |
| April 19 | Resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Orthodox Easter) - No fellowship. |
| May 17 | Feast Day Service for Sts. Constantine and Elena Romanian Orthodox Church, Edmonton. |
| May 24 | Prohod (Blessing of the Graves) at Boian. |

March 15 - Annual General Meeting

Membership at Boian Church

St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday March 15, 2020 following Divine Liturgy. The official announcement will be mailed to each member in good standing.

Have you paid your \$75 per person or \$150 per family membership for the year 2019?

If you have not, consider becoming a member and continue the tradition set down by the early pioneers who came from Boian, Bucovina at the turn of the 1900's.

The number of people living close to the "Hill" has decreased dramatically over time.

The Church needs your help, not only through your membership but also through your attendance from time to time and your contributions. Boian, Alberta has become an "icon" not only across Canada but also outside of its borders and we are called in helping to keep the "church on the hill" opened and viable.

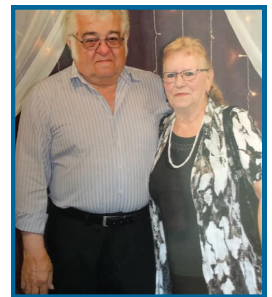
Those who are attending regularly and are standing for office at election time are doing a valiant effort at cleaning, keeping up of the grounds, maintaining the building and cemetery and all the many other tasks needed for the upkeep of the church property, but their ranks are getting fewer and fewer.

For all of the above reasons and more, consider to become, if you have not been and if you are or have been, continue to be a benefactor of St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church, Boian.

51st Wedding Anniversary

On January 10th 1969 saw Lillian Hutzkal being married to Eugene Toma. Now on January 10, 2020 we would like to congratulate Lil and Eugene their 51st Wedding Anniversary.

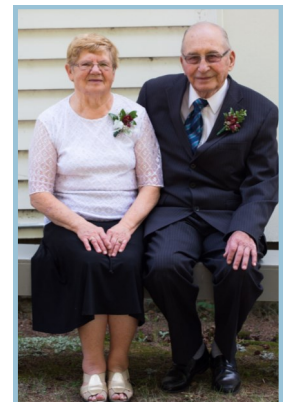
Congratulations and may God grant you many more years. La multi ani!



Baptism

On Sunday February 2, 2020, following the Divine Liturgy, Filip, son of Sergiu and Ana and brother of Vladimir and Ilie Reznec was baptized. Godparents to Filip are Ludmila and Vladislav Matei and Aurel and Andriana Protic.

We wish newly baptized Filip, along with his godparents, parents and family, God's blessings for a healthy, fruitful and long life.



90th Birthday

Willis Soprovich, long time President, and it seems even a longer member of the Boian Church, celebrated his 90th birthday on Friday, February 7, 2020.

May God grant you, Willis, many more years. La multi ani!

Some links that might interest you:

The Romanian Orthodox Metropolis of the Americas www.mitropolia.us

The Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada www.episcopia.ca

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada www.uocc.ca

The Canadian Romanian Society of Alberta. www.canadianromaniansocietyofalberta