

# St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Dioceses of Canada

## The "Priest's Page"

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### Second Sunday of Lent Epistle and Gospel Readings

Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews. Hebrews 1, 10-14; 2, 1-3.

Gospel: According to Mark 2, 1-12. (Healing of the Paralytic of Capernaum)

In this day's Gospel, a young, paralyzed man is brought to Jesus by four friends to hear His word. Jesus blesses him and forgives his sins then tells him to take up his bed and walk. The Grace of forgiving heals the soul of sin and prepares for the healing of the body. In this Gospel, Jesus shows us the connection between sin and sickness.

The four friends who brought the paralyzed man, show us the power of our prayers and our good deeds towards others as an integral part of our Christian lives.

By Jesus' example, this Gospel encourages us to do good deeds to others along with our sincere prayers and repentance during this season leading up to Easter.

### Date of Orthodox Feasts Days

I have been asked a number of times, *Why does the date of Easter always change?*

There are two kinds of feast dates in the Orthodox Church, one Fixed Date and the other Moveable Date.

The fixed date feasts are *The Birth of Christ*, always on December 25th or *The Birth of the Virgin Mary* on September 8th, *Sts. Peter and Paul*, or other Saint's Feast Day. These are always celebrated on a specific calendar date.

Other Feasts Day are generally calculated on the spring equinox and the phase of the moon at the time of the event. *The Resurrection of Christ* took place on the first day of the week (Sunday), after the first full moon following the spring equinox. Therefore, the date of Easter may vary from March 19th and April 25th because of the variance of the date of the spring equinox. *The Resurrection of Christ* is celebrated on Sunday April 19th, this year.

*The Ascension of Christ* and *Pentecost* are always 40 days and 50 days after Easter and they always falls on a Thursday and Sunday, respectively.

It has been the tradition at Boian to have *The Blessing of the Graves (Prohod)* on the Sunday preceding Ascension Day May 28th, therefore the blessing will take place on May 24th, 2020.

### 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.

March 15 Divine Liturgy followed by The Annual General Meeting of the Church.

**There will be fellowship before the AGM.**

April 5 Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship.

April 19 Resurrection Service (Orthodox Easter) - **No fellowship.**

May 17 Feast Day Service for Sts. Constantine and Elena Church, Edmonton.

**Note: This is the 3rd Sunday of May but there will be no service at Boian.**

May 24 Prohod (Blessing of the Graves) at Boian.

**Note: This is the 4th Sunday of May - Communal potluck lunch will be held after Prohod.**



**We are accepting donations for the Paschal Candle to be lit on Resurrection Sunday.**





### Memorial Cross

At long last, for those who have donated towards the Memorial Cross, good news. It has arrived! Thanks to “Boian Logistics” and the crew of David Hauca, Daryl Toma and David Bezovie, the cross was received from customs at Edmonton International Airport and brought to Boian on Wednesday February 12, 2020. It will be erected at a suitable time in the spring. The cross is over 3 meters tall, 1.6 meters wide and weighs over 500 kgs! Donors are reminded to send me the names of those deceased who they wish remembered at the time of the cross blessing. Those who wish to donate to the church towards the cross may do so by contacting Father Mircea.

*The Memorial Cross before it was crated and sent from Romania.*

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### March 2 - Beginning of Easter Lent

The season of Easter Lent (Great Lent) is upon us.

- It is the time of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ.
- It is the living symbol of man's entire life which is to be fulfilled in his own resurrection from the dead with Christ.
- It is a time of renewed devotion: of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (good works).
- It is a time of repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts and deeds in conformity with Christ and his teachings.
- It is the time, most of all, of our return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbours.
- Lent is an opportunity for self-examination, improving the standards of faith and morals in our Christian life and in order to refresh our understanding of our faith.
- Lent is not for the sake of Lent itself, as fasting is not for the sake of fasting.
- These are means by which we prepare ourselves to reach for, accept and attain the calling of Jesus Christ.

**Let us try to make these forty days as spiritually meaningful, deep and rich, as possible.**

### Birthday

On February 15th and 19th, an uncle and his niece enjoyed important celebrations. Daryl Toma (15th) and Jackie Toma (19th) each celebrated birthdays. We wish Daryl and Jackie many happy returns of the day, health and many years. *God Bless you Jackie and Daryl and La multi ani!*

### Funerals

On February 8, 2020, Kenneth Mortensen, husband of Adele, granddaughter of Peter and Anna Esak, fell asleep in the Lord. A Prayer Service was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 and the Funeral was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2020.

Kim Shank, brother of Debbie Bezovie (David) fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, February 19, 2020. The Funeral was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

Lyle Houston, father of Sharon Bezovie (Ross) fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, February 24, 2020. The Funeral was held on Saturday, February 29, 2020.

Petrica Balan, of Valleyview, Alberta, fell asleep in the Lord on March 3, 2020. The Funeral was held on Friday, March 6, 2020.

*May the Lord rest their Souls and may He grant their families strength and peace during their time of sorrow.*



Here are some **Orthodox Links** which might be of interest to you;

The Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas [www.metropolia.us](http://www.metropolia.us)

The Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada [www.episcopia.ca](http://www.episcopia.ca)

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada [www.uocc.ca](http://www.uocc.ca)