

St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Dioceses of Canada

The "Priest's Page"

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Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday)

John 1: 1-17

**Hristos A Înviat !
Christ Is Risen !**

**Adevărat A Înviat !
Indeed He Is Risen !**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20), shows us that not only Christ is risen but the whole of mankind also will rise. In the Orthodox Church, strong faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ also means strong faith in the resurrection of all people. It is for this reason we read these words in the Creed, "I expect the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come". On Resurrection morning the exclamation "Christ Is Risen" is spoken not inside the Church but outside of the church for all the believers and nonbelievers alike. The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the first offering of the resurrection of all who are His.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| May 2 | Our Lord's Glorious Resurrection. |
| May 3 | Our Lord's Glorious Resurrection. |
| May 4 | The Resurrection of Our Lord is celebrated for three days. |
| May 21 | Saints Constantine and Elena. Feast day of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Edmonton. |
| May 30 | Blessing of the Graves at Malin Church cemetery. |
| June 5 (Saturday) | Blessing at Hairy Hill Church cemetery. |
| June 6 | Blessing at Boian Church cemetery. |



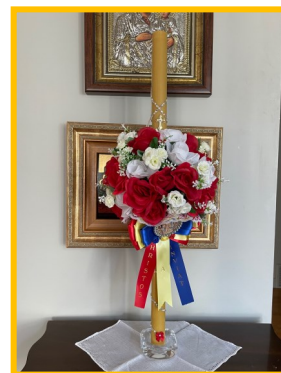
Please Note: The Blessing at all three churches will begin at **11:00 a.m.** outside at the cemetery. Masks and Social distancing will be strictly monitored. There will be no community table for the meal following the blessing. All food should be consumed away from the cemetery or at home. **Those who have loved ones buried in one of the Edmonton Cemeteries and wish the graves sites blessed are requested to contact Fr. Mircea to arrange an appointment. It is appropriate that the blessing be done before Ascension Day (Ispas), which falls on June 10th this year.**

Schedule of Services

May 2 Resurrection Canon. (N.B. Service will be celebrated outside.)

Easter Service will begin at **10:00 am** with the receipt of the **Light** and the procession around the church followed by the rest of the Canon (Easter Matins). We will be strictly following provincial protocols for church gatherings. Masks, social distancing, and sanitizing will be strictly monitored.

Following the Service, Easter Baskets will be blessed outside on the south side of the church. We ask that you gather together, masked and in family groups keeping two metres from the next family group. There is plenty of space to spread out the circle of those gathered. Those who wish to make a donation towards this year's Easter Candle please see the Candle Attendant or Father Mircea.



May 16 Prayer Service in time of Pandemic.

A Prayer in time of the Pandemic



Lord our God, You who are rich in mercy, and with careful wisdom direct our lives, listen to our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, bring an end to this new infectious disease, this new epidemic, just as you averted the punishment of your people in the time of David the King. You who are the Doctor of our souls and bodies, grant restored health to those who have been seized by this illness, raising them from their bed of suffering, so that they might glorify You, Merciful Savior, and to those who are healthy keep them from every sickness. By your grace, Lord, bless, strengthen, and preserve, all those who out of love and sacrifice care for the sick, either in their homes or in the hospitals. Remove all sickness and suffering from your people, and teach us to value life and health as gifts from You. Give us Your peace, O God, and fill our hearts with unflinching faith in Your protection, hope in Your help, and love for You and our neighbour. For Yours it is to have mercy on us and save us, O our God, and to You we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen

Birthday & Anniversary Greetings

We extend best wishes to all parishioners celebrating a birthday or anniversary during the month of May. Congratulations to Lil Toma (April 3) and Elaine Turner (April 6) , Christie Kelba Wade (April 21), Jocelyn Bezovie (May 14), Pearl Demchuk (May 15), Georgina Porozni (May 19) and Janet & Jordan Bezovie (May 26).

Membership (Stewardship) at Boian Church

These are still difficult times for everyone, in many areas. One area is financial. This is gentle reminder that the 2021 Membership to the Church is now due. The membership dues have not changed for a number of years; they are still \$75 per person and \$150 per family. Donations are very important to the church. There are still many expenses and some funds have been coming but more are needed. If you are able, please continue sending your contributions and membership. What ever you can afford is welcomed. We thank those who continue to support St. Mary's. You may send your membership or donation cheque to:



St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church, Boian, P.O. Box 14, Willingdon, Alberta T0B 4R0

Boian Church Website

Check out Boian Church website. From your browser, insert boianchurch.ca to reach it. Suggestions for the site are welcome and should be directed to Peggy Soprovich at soprovich@digitalweb.net.