



Sunday, March 27, 2022

**ST. ATHANASIUS UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH
55 MCMURCHY AVENUE
REGINA SK. S4R 3G3**

Parish Priest: Fr. Vasyl Tymishak
Cell Phone: 306-519-9030

E-mail: vasyltymishak@gmail.com

Parish Office: 306-543-8008

E-mail: stathanasius@sasktel.net

Website: www.st-athanasius.ca

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reginaukrainiancatholicnorth/live>

Parish Council President – Kevin Korchinski

Cell phone (call or text) @ 306-539-3935

UCWLC President - Josie Vantour

UCBC President - Mark Woitas

Knights of Columbus – James Empey, Grand Knight

Parish Coordinator of Care (PCC) - Mary Lou Senko @ 306-525-6437

E-mail: kevin@osac.ca

Seniors' Club President – Angie Lawryk

Ultimate A&B Youth - Lesia Lazurko

ROSARY: Sunday – 9:10 a.m. (livestreaming)

DIVINE LITURGY: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. for the faithful. (livestreaming)

Weekday Liturgies – as scheduled

Confessions before every Divine Liturgy & Week Day Liturgies – As per the schedule

MEMBERSHIP AT ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH is recognized by participating in the Sunday Divine Liturgy and by fulfilling your baptismal responsibility in contributing to our Church Community activities by using your time, talents and treasures. Regular financial donations by use of Sunday envelopes is necessary for our parish to grow and prosper.

Please contact Fr. Vasyl if you know of any parishioner who is sick and wants to be visited.

St. John Paul II Syro-Malabar Parish – Fr. Daris Cherian

Phone: 1-416-262-9670

Parish Council Trustee – Arun Abraham Phone: (1-306-891-4302)

E-mail: daris.cherian@gmail.com

E-mail: abru.arun@gmail.com

MASK FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

Please respect each other's choice whether or not they wear a mask.
Thank you for your consideration.



UPDATE ON PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS FOR SASKATCHEWAN

Effective February 28, 2022

>> All COVID-19 public health orders have now ended for everyone in Saskatchewan.

- Masking is no longer mandatory in all indoor public spaces including schools, establishments, businesses and event venues.
- Rapid test kits will continue to be available at over 600 locations across the province.

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19 #COVID19SK

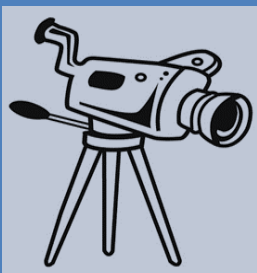


Saskatchewan

Although masks are not mandatory in our parish, we strongly encourage you to continuing wearing a mask!

***СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ! СЛАВА НАВІКИ!
GLORY BE TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY BE FOREVER!***

Please join us for coffee and sweets after Divine Liturgy service and for the AGM meeting. **Please note the AGM will not be livestreamed.**



TO ALL PARISHIONERS: During our Livestream and Videotaping, the video may capture the likeness of those parishioners sitting in the pews during our services. This video will be kept for a maximum of 45 days. Other than those who choose to view the livestream as it happens, the video will not be released to third parties. As our video will stream on Facebook, we will comply with that website's regulations. If you are uncomfortable being on video, please advise the Greeters when you enter the church and they will place you in a pew where you will not be captured.

Please join our services by visiting our website and clicking on the Livestream icon: <https://st-athanasius.ca/> or on Facebook:

<https://facebook.com/reginaukrainiancatholicnorth/live>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

DURING LENT...

First Antiphon: p, 21 "Bless the Lord..." (First Psalm of Typica)

Third Antiphon: p, 27 "Remember us..." (The Beatitudes)

TROPAR (Tone 3): Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice, for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm. He trampled death by death; He became the first born of the dead; He saved us from the abyss of Hades and granted great mercy to the world.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen!

KONDAK OF FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Tone 4): Our Father, teacher John, the Lord has placed you and your faithfulness at the summit of the ascetic life like an unerring star illuminating the very limits of the world.

PROKIMEN (Tone 3): Sing to our God, sing; sing to our King, sing.

VERSE: Clap your hands, all you nations; shout unto God with the voice of joy.

EPISTLE: A reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews (6:13-20)

Brothers and Sisters! When God made his promise to Abraham, he swore by himself, having no one greater to swear by, and said, "I will indeed bless you, and multiply you." And so, after patient waiting, Abraham obtained what God had promised. Men swear by someone greater than themselves; an oath gives firmness to a promise and puts an end to all argument. God, wishing to give the heirs of his promise even clearer evidence that his purpose would not change, guaranteed it by oath, so that, by two things that are unchangeable, in which he could not lie, we who have taken refuge in him might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope which is placed before us. Like a sure and firm anchor, that hope extends beyond the veil through which Jesus, our forerunner, has entered on our behalf, being made high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

ALLELUIA VERSES: In You, O Lord, have I hoped that I may not be put to shame for ever. Be a protector unto me, O God, and a house of refuge to save me.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:17-31

At that time a man came up to Jesus and said: "Teacher, I have brought my son to you because he is possessed by a mute spirit. Whenever it seizes him it throws him down; he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. Just now I asked your disciples to expel him, but they were unable to do so." He replied by saying to the crowd, "What an unbelieving lot you are! How long must I remain with you? How long can I endure you? Bring him to me." When they did so the spirit caught sight of Jesus and immediately threw the boy into convulsions. As he fell to the ground he began to roll around and foam at the mouth. Then Jesus questioned the father: "How long has this been happening to him?" "From childhood," the father replied. "Often it throws him into fire and into water. You would think it would kill him. If out of the kindness of your heart you can do anything to help us, please do!" Jesus said: "If you can? Everything is possible to a man who trusts." The boy's father immediately exclaimed, "I do believe! Help my lack of trust!" Jesus, on seeing a crowd rapidly gathering, reprimanded the unclean spirit by saying to him, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you: Get out of him and never

enter him again!” Shouting and throwing the boy into convulsions, it came out of him; the boy became like a corpse, which caused many to say, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet. When Jesus arrived at the house his disciples began to ask him privately, “Why is it that we could not expel it?” He told them, “this kind you can drive out only by prayer. They left that district and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not want anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples in this vein: “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men who will put him to death; three days after his death he will rise.”


INSTEAD OF ‘It is truly right’: In you, Lady full of grace, all creation rejoices, the world of angels and the human race. Sanctified temple, spiritual paradise, boast of virgins, God took flesh from you and became a child; He was God before the ages. He made your womb a throne and made it more encompassing than the heavens. In you, Lady full of grace, all creation rejoices, glory be to you.

COMMUNION HYMN: Communion: Praise the Lord from the heavens, Praise Him in the highest. The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance; of evil hearsay he shall have no fear. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



COFFEE SCHEDULE: Coffee and socializing after Sunday Divine Liturgy has resumed. Please, if you can sign up for a Sunday to serve coffee, juice and cookies this would be very much appreciated. Coffee schedule sign up sheets are located in the front foyer desk and on the kitchen table. If no

one signs up for serving this would be an indicator no one is interested in having coffee after Sunday Divine Liturgy and will be discontinued. Also, the parish is looking for someone to be in charge of purchasing supplies for this weekly event. If you have questions, Carl and Linda Korchinski would be able to answer them. Please, help out when you can.

 MARCH/APRIL GREETERS	
March 27	Kevin Korchinski & Len Markewich
April 3	Maggie Stephen & Bernice Bzdell
April 10 (Palm Sunday)	Carl & Linda Korchynski
April 15 (Good Friday)	Rosanne Miller
April 17 TBD	
April 24	Carl & Linda Korchynski

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE March 28 – April 3, 2022

Monday, March 28 - Our Venerable Father Hilarion the New; the Holy Stephen the Wonderworker (464)

6:30pm - Children's service and Catechism

Tuesday, March 29 - Our Venerable Father Mark, Cyril and Others
No service scheduled - Lenten Confessions at St. Augustin School

Wednesday, March 30 - Our Venerable Father John Climacus
5:15 p.m. - Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts (intention for +Jayne Paluck, requested by Peter & Marion Federko) - *livestreaming*

Thursday, March 31 - Our Venerable Father Hypatius, Bishop of Gangra (312-37)
10:00 a.m. - Liturgical Service
6:30 p.m. - PCM

Friday, April 1 - Our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt (527-65)
7:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross in MOOSE JAW led by Youth

Saturday, April 2 - Fifth Saturday of the Great Fast: Akathist Saturday.
10:00 a.m. - Akathist – livestreaming

Sunday, April 3 - Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast: [Hebrews 9:11-14](#); [Mark 10:32-45](#);
9:10 a.m. - Rosary livestreaming
9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for faithful livestreaming
11:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy in Ukrainian for peace in Ukraine livestreaming



DONATIONS for Easter flowers to decorate our church for Easter are now being accepted. Please use either the specifically marked envelopes provided at the back of the church, e-transfers, or include with your regular donations and indicate "Easter flower donation". Thank you.



ENVELOPES for donations towards the expense of the **Lenten Mission** are also available at the back of the church.

POPE's PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH: For a Christian response to bioethical challenges – We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

MARCH FOOD BANK ITEM – JUICE

ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held today, immediately following Divine Liturgy in the parish auditorium. Coffee, muffins and cheese will be provided. AGM reports will be available prior to the meeting. **Please note the AGM will not be livestreamed.**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR COPY OF THE AGM BOOKLET WITH YOU IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

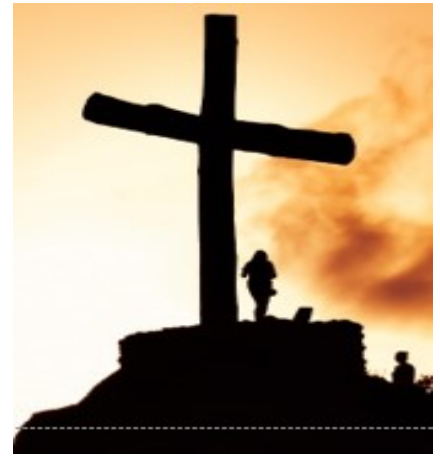
Led by the Youth and Young Adults

Calling all youth and young adults! We are looking for those available to lead the Stations of the Cross for our last time this Lenten Season on:

Friday, April 1st – Time: 7pm in Moose Jaw

If you are available to lead, please send Lesia an email to ultimateaandb@hotmail.com by the Thursday, March 31.

There is the option to carpool for those interested in coming to Moose Jaw. Please let Lesia know if you would be interested in carpooling.



ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, YORKTON: My name is Rose Maleschuk and I am the Stewardship Coordinator for St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

As you may have heard, the Redemptorist Fathers have decided to demolish the rectory that has been part of our church for many years. Our parish will now be faced with the cost of having to rebuild the wall for the church which will also come with upgrades. We are hoping and praying that the people in our community and surrounding areas will help us raise the funds needed for this rebuilding project.

We realize that money is needed everywhere, especially in the Ukraine right now. This is why we are reaching out to all of the neighbouring parishes for their help.

I have attached a poster which is on the bulletin board in the auditorium.

If you do have any questions regarding this fundraiser please feel free to call me at 621-4987 or email me at rose.maleschuk@cttcs.ca.

SOROKOUSTY SERVICES – ALL SOULS SATURDAYS

Sorokousty Services (All Souls Saturdays) will be celebrated this year on June 4th.

The word "Sorokousty" literally means "forty mouths" (*sorok* = *forty*; *ust* = *mouth*). Originally, this was a prayer service offered by forty mouths or by forty priests especially in Lenten time.

Sorokousty or All Souls Saturdays services have been celebrated for the deceased by holding Liturgies, panakydas or parastas for them in five Saturdays (*This year only four Saturdays are scheduled because The Feast of The Archangel Gabriel replaces the fourth All Souls Saturday, but for pastoral reason a Panakhyda may be sung on that day*).

Each family in our parish has a book or a list where the names of deceased family members are written. Father reads out every book or list during each Sorokousty.

If you would like to have the names of your deceased relatives mentioned during the Sorokousty services this year, or if you wish to renew or add to last year's list, please call Maggie @ 306-543-8008, or see her in the parish office Tuesday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00p.m. The recommended schedule of offerings for Sorokousty is \$10.00.



St. A's UCBC is once again holding their Easter Sausage Fundraiser.

We have two types to choose from. One choice is the ham sausage, the other choice is the garlic sausage. We are selling each for \$7.00 a link. (which is approx. 1 lb. - which is 2 sticks). Please contact Basil Kuzyk at 306-570-6618 or basilkuzyk@gmail.com to place your order by April 4th. Sausage pickup will be on Saturday April 9th between 10:00am to 2:00pm at the west entrance to the hall.

Ukrainian National Federation Hall
Easter Food Sale

Available for purchase and pick-up Saturday, April 9th, 2022
between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

**** as quantities last ****

Potato & Cheese Perogies: 10 doz \$55.00

Cabbage rolls : (1 kilogram) with meat: \$16.00, (1 kilogram) without meat: \$14.00

Pelmeni: 1.0 kilogram : \$18.00

Borsch: 28 oz : \$10.00

Paska: Easter bread \$6.00

Location: UNF Hall, 1737 St. John Street, Regina
(upon entering, take the stairs down on your left)

You may pre-order your food order by replying to this email
address: kmazur@sasktel.net

****Please provide your full name and phone number on all pre-orders**

****All Pre-Orders must be picked up at the UNF Hall Saturday April 9th between 10 a.m. and noon**

****Cash or cheques only. Cheques can be made out to Ukrainian National Federation**



**ST. A'S
APPEAL FOR
AID TO
UKRAINE:**
As we witness
the horrors

Let us pray for peace and
the lives of our brothers
and sisters in Ukraine.



occurring throughout Ukraine many are asking, how they can help.

St. Athanasius has created the Aid for Ukraine Appeal that will run throughout March. Anyone who wishes to donate can do so in person, using the Aid for Ukraine envelopes available at the church, or online using "Aid for Ukraine Appeal" and your envelope number in the message box. All donations will be included on your 2022 Income Tax receipt. Also, you may e-transfer, to stathandeposit@sasktel.net. Please note you are non-parishioner making a donation, please to **complete the message field** stating donation to Aid to Ukraine, your complete name and address so we can mail a receipt to

you at the end of the year.

In the first two weeks of the campaign, your generous donations allowed us to send \$5005.00 to CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association), which with their matching campaign resulted in over \$10,000 being forwarded to help the people of Ukraine.

As the needs of millions of refugees continues to evolve, Father Vasyl has asked that we adapt our donations to help those refugees arriving in Regina or forwarded for those in need in Ukraine and we will be working with local and provincial organizations to have those valuable dollars have the maximum impact.

Thank You and God Bless,
St. Athanasius Parish Council

Prayer in War: Fr. Vasyl Tymishak of St. Athanasius Ukrainian Catholic Church

By Dan Sherven

In January 2014, Pope Francis released two doves from the Pontifical Apartment in St. Peter's Square as a symbolic gesture for peace in Ukraine, following the Russian takeover of Crimea. The two doves were attacked after taking flight, by a crow and a seagull.

Donbass is a region in southeastern Ukraine, which was controlled by the separatist Donetsk People's Republic, and Luhansk People's Republic. It has been a contested region for years.

Father Vasyl Tymishak, of St. Athanasius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Regina, shares how his Church is responding to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"Since 2014, Ukraine has been fighting for Donbass and in the beginning of this year we understood the threat Ukraine faced with more than 100,000 Russian troops amassed on its eastern border, which ended with the full invasion." Tymishak says.

Tymishak has many ties to Ukraine. “I was born and raised in Ukraine and I moved to Canada in 2017. Obviously, I am very concerned for the safety of my family in western Ukraine. Now there is no safe place in Ukraine, every area is in danger.”

“All the time I am in contact with my family and friends who live in Ukraine, assuring them with our prayers, solidarity, and showing them our support. People from Ukraine are grateful for all forms of support: spiritual, moral, and financial.”

The Ukrainian Catholic Church is in full communion with the Catholic Church. However, instead of being part of an Archdiocese, the Ukrainian Catholic Church is overseen by a similar hierarchy called an Eparchy.

“[The Ukrainians] are in danger, but they are strong as they live on their land and believe in the values of liberty, freedom, dignity, and justice.” Tymishak says. “We are united in prayer with *our* Ukraine and with people of all faiths. People from Ukraine say they feel the support of the prayers.”

The situation Ukraine finds itself in reminds Fr. Tymishak of a New Testament passage: “It reminds me of the Gospel of John. Jesus, at the most dramatic moment of his life, when he is about to be captured, humiliated, tortured, and killed, says to his followers: ‘Have courage: I have won the world.’ (John 16:33).

“Jesus’ promise is not a future promise. It does not assure ‘I will win’, but affirms that He has already won. Why? For Jesus and those who, like Him, are always placing themselves at the side of Life, Light, and Truth — they will always be victorious over the lie, darkness, and every form of death.”

Fr. Tymishak prays for Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. “I pray that God helps him make wise decisions during this difficult time for Ukraine and its people.”

Tymishak says support for the president is strong. “He has shown he is with his people. Zelenskyy is unanimously supported by Ukraine and the world. He has been greeted by the British Parliament’s applause, the U.N., and his images are placed on the covers of the most famous newspapers.”

St. Athanasius, where Fr. Tymishak is a priest, is one of two Ukrainian Catholic Churches in Regina. The other is St. Basil’s.

“Here in Regina we are close with our parishioners who have family in Ukraine.” Tymishak says. “First of all, with our spiritual support and moral support in various forms of prayer — together with Ukrainian Orthodox Churches — [our parishioners] know their native country is a strong friend of Canada’s and [our parishioners] are grateful for all the support. Both the support for them and for the Ukrainian people.”

Most people in Saskatchewan’s Ukrainian Catholic Church have Ukrainian roots, Tymishak says.

“The news of this absurd war, the harrowing images of destruction, pain, and death as Russia invaded Ukraine by air, sea, and land on February 24th — my parishioners are particularly troubled by the risks our family members face in Ukraine. The parishioners are worried about the safety of their loved ones in the conflict zones.”

The Ukrainian Catholic Church is actively praying for those in Ukraine, and for Canadians with family in Ukraine, Tymishak says. The Ukrainian Catholic Church is also raising donations to [support humanitarian aid in Ukraine](#).

“We continue to pray for peace.” Tymishak says. “However at this point, it has become clear that the aggressor is not interested in respectful, neighbourly relations. So we pray that Ukrainians can defend themselves and survive on their land. We pray for Ukrainians who are weak and powerless to take refuge in safe countries, to survive in bomb shelters and basements.

“We pray that Ukrainians in the midst of thunder and fire may maintain hope for life, truth, and victory. We pray that humanity can help Ukrainians, and that they don’t seek solace in hatred, but seek comfort in God. We pray the Russian aggressors recognize and cease the evil they are committing, and malice be replaced with a spirit of wisdom, understanding, and justice.”

Tymishak is grateful for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, who condemned the Russian invasion. He wants to encourage “the faithful, and all people of good will, to pray for the restoration of peace, dialogue, and human fraternity. We are also grateful for prayers and support by Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in Saskatchewan, and other Christian Churches as well as leaders of other religions.”

Tymishak says the Ukrainian Eparchial Bishops in Canada have also condemned the eight year conflict in Ukraine, beginning with the Russian occupation of Crimea. (The Ukrainian Catholic Church, in Ukraine itself, also condemned the conflict.)

“People from all over the world are praying for Ukraine in this moment.” Tymishak says. “They realize the war in Ukraine is not just a war against Ukraine, but that very dramatic scenarios could play out for the whole European continent, because in recent decades Europe has been facing a security crisis.”

Prayer has been one of the central ways Tymishak is responding to the war.

“In union with millions of Christians around the world, we pray for peace — responding to the call of the Holy Father with our faith that ‘prayer is stronger than any weapon’. Tymishak says. “Whatever the end of this war will be, Ukraine has already won because it lives by values that cannot be killed by any weapon. Ukrainians are not only winners, they are more than winners.”

NOTICE: Although though there are no restrictions on numbers who can attend church services, some people are not comfortable in group settings, therefore we continue our livestreaming of services. Our parish expenses continue and it would be very much appreciated if you could continue to support the parish. There are a few options available to you: drop off your envelope at 54 McMurchy Avenue, mail in your cheque to 55 McMurchy Avenue, Regina, S4R 3G3, or you can also do an e-transfer to stathandeposit@sasktel.net. **PLEASE COMPLETE THE MESSAGE FIELD and DO NOT USE ALIAS NAMES WHEN SENDING AN E-TRANSFER DONATION.**

March 20 Donations: 26 Sunday donation envelopes - \$1,290; 1 Building Fund envelope - \$20; 1 Easter Flowers envelope - \$50; 1 Lenten Mission envelope - \$20; 2 St. A's Appeal for Ukraine Envelopes - \$1,100; UCWLC Pins - \$399.85; Aid to Ukraine Decals - \$155; Loose Change - \$40.

E-Transfers – 5 Regular donations - \$135; 1 St. A's Appeal for Ukraine - \$40; 1 Easter Flowers - \$20; 1 Mission donation - \$10.



**START AND END YOUR DAY
DURING LENT**

WITH THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHEM

*O Lord and Master of my life, Keep from me the
spirit of indifference and discouragement, Lust of
power and idle chatter.
(Prostration)*

*Instead, grant to me Your servant, the spirit of
wholeness of being, humble-mindedness,
patience and love.
(Prostration)*

*O Lord and King, Grant me the grace to be aware
of my sins, and not
to judge my neighbour, For You are blessed, now
and forever and ever.
(Prostration)*

Слава Ісусу Христу! Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Dear Reverend Fathers, Sisters, Parish Council Presidents, brothers and sisters in Christ:

On behalf of Bishop Bryan Bayda, C.Ss.R., I would like to announce the formation of a new working-group in the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon dedicated to addressing ways to assist with the current humanitarian crisis occurring in Ukraine: RESCU (Response by Eparchy of Saskatoon to Crisis in Ukraine). RESCU will continue to convene to organize and action various responses that the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon will undertake to assist Ukrainians effected and displaced by the war including through spiritual, financial, and educational means. After receiving many calls to our parishes and Chancery Office, we want to reiterate that the best help that the faithful of the Eparchy can give is through financial support to humanitarian aide organizations, of which we highly promote

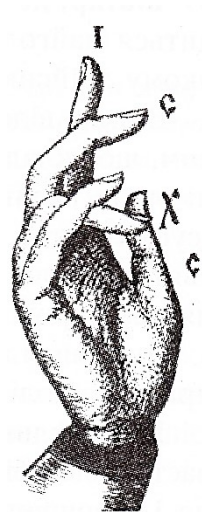
the Catholic Near-East Welfare Association of Canada (CNEWA). You can send donations directly to CNEWA through the following ways: Visit: cnewa.org/ca/campaigns/Ukraine Call: 1-866-322-4441 Send a cheque to: CNEWA Canada, 223 Main Street, Box 80, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 1C4 Current information from the Government of Saskatchewan in support of displaced Ukrainians arriving in our province can be found here:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/saskatchewan-supports-ukraine/resources-for-displaced-Ukrainians> Let us continue to pray earnestly for an end to the war and for peace in Ukraine.

In Christ,
Very Rev. Janko Kolosnjaji, Chair of RESCU

DID YOU KNOW?

Many times, during our liturgical services we hear in the church the words of blessing by priest: *“Peace be with you all”* and others, in reply to them we receive the blessing with reverence and make the sign of the Cross. Bishops and priests sign us with the sign of the Cross. This is called a blessing. This means that through the priest our Lord Jesus Christ Himself blesses us.



The priest's (or bishop's) fingers spell out the first and last letters of the name “Jesus Christ” (Ι̅C̅YC̅) (Χ̅ΡΙ̅C̅Τ̅Ο̅C̅).

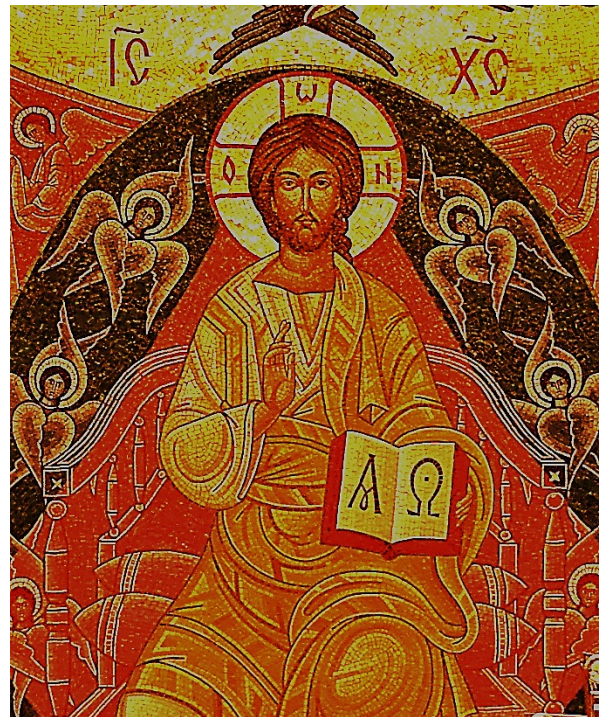
We read the abbreviation starting from the index finger. It is easiest to envision the letters if we are looking at the back of the hand and reading left to right.

The index finger looks like (I). The ring finger is bent to look like “C”. The thumb and 4th finger form an “X”. The little finger is also bent to look like a “C”

It is by the name of Jesus that we are saved and receive blessings: *“And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord*

Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Col 3:17).

The sign is most frequently seen in iconographic images of Christ, which appeared in our churches in the form of mosaics, stained glass windows, relief sculptures, and paintings. One of the most common of such images is the Christ Pantocrator from Greek - Christ Almighty (see a large mosaic icon behind the altar in our church), which depicts Christ, with his left arm hugging the gospels to his chest and his right hand raised in the sign of blessing. It is important to note that this gesture is always made with the right hand, as this is the hand with which one blesses, according to Christian doctrine.



Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Basilica of Saint Peter 25 March 2022

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.
Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.