

Saint Mary the Protectress Newsletter

May 2026 Volume 17 Issue 5

Find us on Facebook at:

“St. Mary’s the Protectress of Parksville Ukrainian Orthodox Church”

594 Karl’s Way, Parksville, BC. V9P 1Y8

Visiting Priest: Fr. Roman Tsaplan - 1-778-239-6252

Parish President: Fred MacDonald – 250-716-0589

Newsletter Contact: Deborah Provencher: deb_pro@telus.net

From the Pastor:

**Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!
Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!**

Mother’s Day

On this special day, we thank God for the gift of motherhood — for those through whom we received life, love, and our first steps in faith.

A mother is the first Gospel a child reads. Even before learning to speak, a child already feels her care, warmth, and selfless love. In this love, we see a reflection of God’s love — quiet, patient, and unconditional.

Holy Scripture gives us the highest example — the Blessed Virgin Mary. She did not speak many words, but her heart was completely open to God: *“Let it be to me according to Your word.”* She walked the path of joy and suffering, from Bethlehem to Calvary, remaining faithful to the end. In this way, she shows that true maternal love is not only joy, but also great sacrifice.

Today we also remember all mothers: those who are with us, and those who have already passed into eternity. We give thanks for their prayers, for sleepless nights, for patience, and for the warmth they give every day.

And may every mother remember: her work is holy. Even in exhaustion and daily struggles, God sees her heart. For a mother’s love is a small miracle that changes the world.

So let us pray today:
that the Lord bless all mothers,
give them strength, health, and joy,
and fill their hearts with peace and hope.

And let us not forget to say simple but important words:
“Thank you, Mom. I love you.”

With Fatherly Love in Christ our Lord,
Fr. Roman

Inside This Issue

From the Pastor	p. 1
President’s Message	p. 2
Liturgical Readings	p. 2
Need a New Roof	p. 2
Children’s Corner	p. 3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	p. 3
Feast of the Ascension	p. 4
Explaining the Icon	p. 5
Congratulations Rachel	p. 5
Notices	p. 6
Prayers	p. 6
Why God Made Moms	p. 7
Easter Celebration Photos	p. 8

**Each line above is a hyperlink.
Click on it to go to the story.**

President's message

We have had the gift of another joyous Easter celebration at our church. I would like to thank everyone who worked to make this celebration of Christ's resurrection a success. Father Roman made the journey from Vancouver to serve liturgy for us during the busiest week in the church calendar and Michael Sokyrka lead the voices of the whole congregation in songs of praise. Father blessed the baskets of food that we all feasted on Sunday morning.

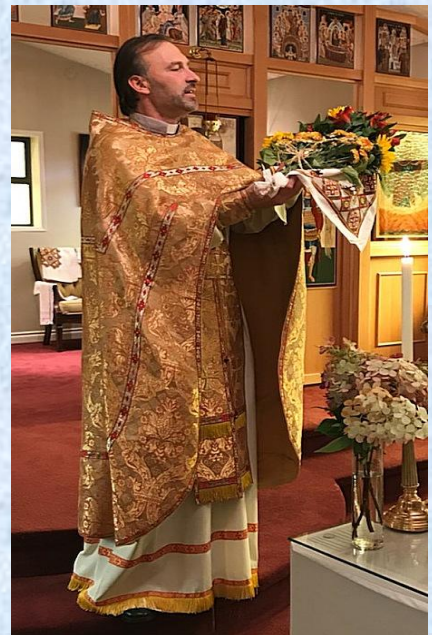
How blessed we are to be able to worship joyfully and welcome spring on our beautiful Island.

Contrast this with the situation in Ukraine. A promised Easter "ceasefire" gave Putin 32 hours to reload and continue firing on the civilian population. The death and destruction continues unabated with

false promises that the violence will end. As we celebrate our good fortune, let us continue to pray for a meaningful ceasefire and a just peace for the nation of Ukraine.

Slava Ukraini!

Fred MacDonald,
Council President



Scripture Readings

Saturday, May 9th

[Acts 12:1-11](#)

[John 8:31-42](#)

Saturday, May 23rd

[Acts 20:7-12](#)

[John 14:10-21](#)

We Need a New Roof

Donations are needed for our new roof. In case you haven't noticed our shingles have been crying for attention. Our Council is in the process of getting quotes and shingles will be arriving soon. Therefore, please contribute a little more this month to help with the project.

Council Members

Children's Corner

Mother's Day

E Y Y X E F S I X S U C S E A
 T T V O V G L A Q M N M R V C
 A W Z F O O L O I Y W X Y I K
 R Z T Q L E M E W W D E P T N
 E I Q Z R A S O Y E Y I R I O
 P X L M B I U C J L R H E S W
 O A P P R E C I A T E S S N L
 O T E P K T Q U S L P K E E E
 C S R F K O G D P X Y K N S D
 F U H J F H O T S E R T T N G
 S C I X K R H C F V N W V A E
 H O L P E F R C F N A T T R O
 D H E X Q M O B T K W L R P K
 Q P C E L E B R A T E M M H M
 B N L Q Z R K G C N V K L A W

Puzzle

Find and circle the words below in the puzzle on the left.

Love`	Sensitive
Surprise	Relax
Appreciate	Celebrate
Flowers	Acknowledge
Present	Laugh
Help	Rest
Walk	Cooperate
Cook	



Leona	May 1st	Sophia B	May 16th
Sasha	May 2nd	Maryna	May 17th
Andreii D	May 2nd	Stephan	May 21st
Megan	May 5th	Colleen	May 22nd
Orest	May 6th	Eva G	May 22nd
Katya	May 6th	Ihor	May 31st
Rachael	May 12th		

May Anniversaries

Moe and Kathy	May 3rd
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Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

On the fortieth day after His Resurrection from the dead, Christ made His last appearance on earth. This final appearance was made before all of His disciples as they were gathered in Jerusalem with the Virgin Mary. At this last appearance, Christ commanded His disciples to remain in Jerusalem for ten days until the Holy Spirit should descend upon them. He then led the disciples to the Mount of Olives where He said to them, "**All power is given Me in heaven and on earth. Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And, behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.**"



Having given this mission to the disciples, Jesus lifted up His hands and blessed the group. Then, rising slowly from the earth, He ascended into heaven to take His place through all time at the right hand of God, the Father. In great wonderment these faithful followers continued to watch Jesus as He ascended until a cloud finally hid Him from view. As the disciples watched, still gazing heavenward, two angels dressed in white robes appeared to them and said, "**Yemen of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.**"

Thus, as recorded in the first chapter of the book of Acts, the world was given the promise of Christ's second coming to earth. Hearing this message from the angels, the disciples fell upon the ground and worshiped God. Obedient to the command of the Master, the Apostles remained in Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit. They spent their time in an upper room in prayer and holy meditation. The Virgin Mary and many other followers of Christ met with them and the assembled group numbered about a hundred and twenty.

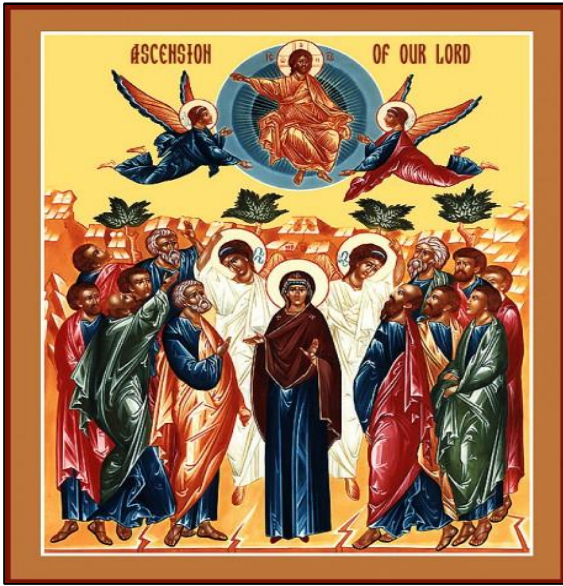
It was during this ten-day period of waiting that Peter suggested the selection of a new twelfth disciple to replace Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Christ and who committed suicide by hanging himself after his treachery. Two followers were put forward as candidates, Joseph and Matthias, and after prayer, Matthias was chosen. The feast day of the Ascension of Christ into heaven is observed forty days after Easter and always falls on a Thursday

Troparion: Thou has ascended in glory, O Christ our God, having made joyful Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit, which was announced unto them in the blessing; for Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world

Kondakion: When Thou hadst accomplished Thy dispensation concerning us, and united those on the earth with the heavenly, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, yet in nowise separating Thyself from us, but abiding ever present and crying out unto those that love Thee: "**I am with you, and none shall prevail against you**"

From the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Holy Trinity
Парафіяльний Місячний Бюлетень - Parish Bulletin

Explaining the Icon of the Ascension



A bright cloud accompanies each Theophany or divine appearance. At the Ascension, Christ disappears in the cloud and the angels tell the Apostles that He will return the same way for His Second Coming.

The cloud is a Mandorla. It consists of concentric circles that become darker and darker as they get closer to Christ. This shows the reality that the closer one gets to Mystery, the less one really understands.

From the cloud, Christ blesses the Apostles and Mary. Even though He is Ascending to heaven, His blessing remains with us forever. In His left hand, He holds a scroll which represents His teachings.

Mary is in the centre of the Apostles. Her hands are raised in prayer in the ancient form called 'orans'. This gesture indicates Mary's role as intercessor on our behalf before her Son. A straight line from the Ascended

Christ to Mary can be drawn to connect heaven with earth.

The group of Apostles with Mary, the Mother of God, represents the Church. St. Paul appears with the Apostles although he would not have been present. This shows that the Church of the future also participates in this event.

The hills in the background, the movement of the Angels, Mary's hands raised in prayer and the Apostles looking up give the icon the upward movement of the feast day.

by Joy Lockhart

CONGRATULATIONS *Rachel Sokyrka*

Rachel is the recipient of the **Wilfred Yaphe Award for the 2025-2026** academic year. This award was established in memory of Dr. Wilfred Yaphe and is presented annually to M.Sc and Ph.D students in the department of Microbiology and Immunology who have achieved the highest review in the Graduate Student Seminar Series. Congratulations to you from all of us, this is a great achievement.



NOTICES

May Services

At 10:00 am with Fr Roman

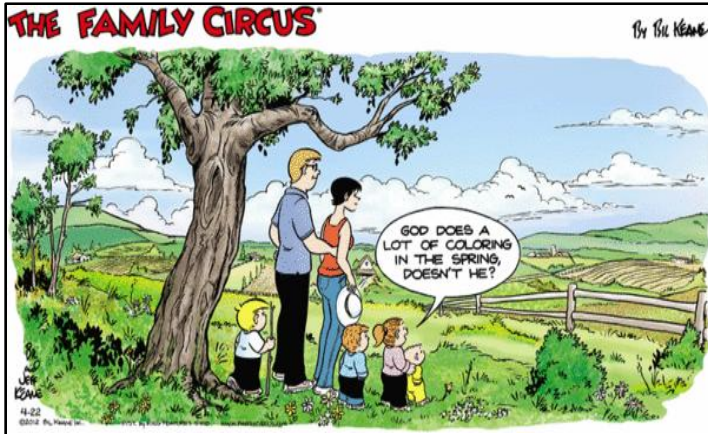
- Saturday May 9th
- Saturday, May 23rd
- Potluck lunch to follow

Find us on FACEBOOK

We have a Facebook page for St. Mary's. Please follow and like our page. New information is posted on that site as well as notices of online sessions, educational information and even humor!



Go to St. Mary the Protectress Parkville.



Allergy Alert

St Mary's church has a number of parishioners with peanut or nut allergies. For some of these people, their allergic reaction to peanuts and nuts is produced by the mere smell and/or peanut/nut residue on the table, doorknob or water taps by people who have eaten food with nuts and/or peanuts. An allergic reaction for a person with anaphylaxis can be life threatening and in many cases the reaction is very swift in onset. Our church community needs to ensure the safety of all parishioners and provide the people with this severe allergy a safe environment.



Thank you to everyone who worked very hard to get all of the property and Church ready for Easter. Working together is always easier and better than working alone.

Prayers for Those in our Community

Dobr Katherine
Colleen
Uli
Marika
David
Sonia



Michael
Michelle
Elaine H
Vic & Iris
Mel & Maryanne

WHY GOD MADE MOMS

Answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's mom like me.

What kind of a little girl was your mom?

1. My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mom eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that mom didn't have her thinking cap on.



Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.
2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

What's the difference between moms and dads?

1. Moms work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.
2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Moms are who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friends?
4. Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your mom perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it not me.
- 3 I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.

Easter Celebration Photos

