

March 2013: The Liturgical Services Calendar - Grande Prairie Pastoral District - www.GPDormition.com

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| I greet you with the joy of the Risen Christ! May Our Lord bless you and your families as we celebrate His glorious Resurrection from the dead. May this new life and hope fill us with peace and enable us to joyfully proclaim the Good News to all those we encounter: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! Христос воскрес! Воистину воскрес! Khristós Anésti! |   |   |  |  | 1 - <b>7:00 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts & Sorokousty (Prayer for the Dead)   | 2 - <i>All Souls Saturday</i><br><b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> GREAT VESPERS and Confessions   |
| 3 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast: Veneration of the Holy Cross; The Holy Martyrs Eutropius and His Companions Cleonicus and Basiliscus (286-305); Piame venerable woman (327); Alexandra virgin and recluse (376)<br><b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b><br><b>4 PM MANNING</b>  | 4   | 5   | 6  | 7  | 8<br><b>7:00 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts & Sorokousty (Prayer for the Dead)  | 9 - <i>All Souls Saturday - Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste</i><br><b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> GREAT VESPERS and Confessions  |
| 10 - 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast: St. John Climacus; The Holy Martyr Codratus and Those with Him (249-51)<br><b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b><br><b>3:00 PM HINES CREEK</b>   | 11  | 12  | 13 - <b>7:30 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> MATINS<br><b>7:00 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> Canon of St. Andrew   | 14   | 15<br><b>7:00 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts  | 16 - <i>Akathist Saturday</i><br><b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> Akathist to the Mother of God<br><b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> GREAT VESPERS and Confession  |
| 17 - 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast: Our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt; Our Venerable Father Alexius Man of God; Macarius Abbot of Kaliazin (1483)<br><b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b>  | 18  | 19 - <b>7PM - Hines Creek: Lenten Service and Confessions</b> | 20 - <b>7:30 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> MATINS<br><b>7:00 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> VESPERS   | 21   | 22<br><b>7:00 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts  | 23 - <i>Lazarus Saturday</i><br><b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> Divine Liturgy<br><b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> GREAT VESPERS and Confession  |
| 24<br>Palm Sunday: The Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem<br><b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b> Agape Meal (Lenten) and Children's Catechism after Divine Liturgy.   | 25 - <b>Great and Holy Monday</b><br>Annunciation Vespers<br>Divine Liturgy: <b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b>                     | 26<br><b>Great and Holy Tuesday</b>                           | 27 - <b>Great and Holy Wednesday</b><br>Healing Service of Holy Anointing "Soborovannya" & Confessions:<br><b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b>  | 28 - <b>Great and Holy Thursday</b><br>Matins: Passion Gospels<br><b>7 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b> | 29 - <b>Great and Holy Friday (Strict Fast Day)</b><br>Great Vespers with the veneration of the Shroud & Confessions:<br><b>2 PM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b><br><b>7 PM HINES CREEK</b> | 30 - <b>Great and Holy Saturday</b><br>Jerusalem Matins; Confessions to Follow:<br><b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b><br><br>Removal of Shroud, Paschal Procession, Matins-Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Baskets:<br><b>5 PM HINES CREEK</b> |
| 31 - <b>PASCHA (EASTER)</b><br><i>Removal of Shroud, Paschal Procession, Matins-Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Baskets:</i><br><b>7 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE</b><br><b>3 PM HIGH PRAIRIE</b>   | <i>April 1<sup>st</sup> - Bright Monday:</i><br><b>NO FASTING WHOLE WEEK</b><br><b>10 AM GRANDE PRAIRIE:</b> Divine Liturgy |   | al-Masīḥ qām! ܡܫܝܚܐ ܩܝܡܐ! (Arabic); - Si Cristo ay nabuhay! Siya nga ay nabuhay! (Filipino (Tagalog); Harisutosu fukkatsu! Jitsu ni fukkatsu! (Japanese); Kristo Amefufukka! Kweli Amefufukka! (Swahili); Christos harjav i merelotz! Orhniale harutjun Christosi! (Armenian); Christus is opgestaan! Hij is waarlijk opgestaan! (Dutch); Le Christ est ressuscité! Vraiment Il est ressuscité! (French); Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat! (Romanian)<br><b>Fr. Roman:</b> (780) 513-1175 ( <i>Home</i> ) or (780) 933-4468 ( <i>Cell</i> ) <b>Please Note:</b> Confession is scheduled after all vesper |  |  |  |

**Across the world this March 31st, in countless churches and in many languages, Eastern Christians will proclaim the Paschal greeting and its confident response, "Indeed He is Risen!" This day also marks the beginning of the period during which we will sing joyous words to the Mother of God: " The Angel cried out to the One full of Grace: O chaste Virgin, rejoice! And again I say, Rejoice! Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day, and raised the dead. Let all people rejoice! ' "**

These words of the hymn establish the communion between Christ, His mother the Theotokos, and us His people. They remind us that Mary rejoices in a special way—as a loving mother. After the anguish of seeing her Son suffer and die, He has risen in triumph over death. We, His people, rejoice because as He rose He raised us all from the final power of death. Of course, Mary too is one of "the people" because like the rest of us she stands in need of salvation. But she is also the one and only Birthgiver of God.

In the centuries following the Resurrection, the Eastern Church would acknowledge this communion between Christ, His mother, and us in many ways. One example comes on Friday of this Bright Week, when we will commemorate the Icon of the Life-Giving Spring.

In a grove of cypress trees near Constantinople was a garden dedicated to the Mother of God. The garden contained a miracle-working spring. As years went by, the area became overgrown and the spring water got muddy. One day, in the fifth century, a soldier named Leo came upon an exhausted blind man who had lost his way. Wanting to help, Leo looked around for water but could find none. He heard a voice directing him to the nearby spring, and telling him not only to give the man water but to apply some of the spring's mud to the man's eyes. Leo did so, and the man regained his sight.

When Leo later became Emperor, he remembered the loving voice of the Theotokos and the miracle of healing. He had the spring and its surroundings cleaned, and built a chapel there. Over the following centuries, the chapel would be destroyed more than once (its bricks one time being used to build a mosque), and the spring would be filled in with earth. But each time, local Christians repaired the site, and continued to draw water.

The icon shows the Mother of God standing with her Son in a large chalice, from whose sides healing water pours. She is with her beloved Son, now risen, once again, and that is why we sing to her, "Rejoice, O Pure Virgin." The Son and the Mother of God together bless us with healing and grace. And that is why we sing to each other and to the whole world, "Rejoice, all ye people."

