



Catechist Connection

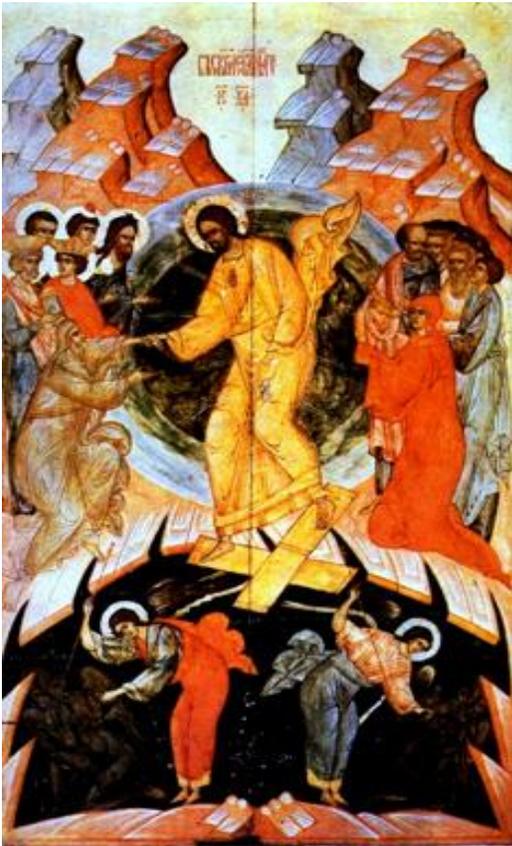
Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Catechists!

Here we are just over the mid-point of the Great Fast. Hope your Spiritual Journey during the Great Fast so far has been amazing.

We still have a few books you may be interested in for Holy Week and the Great and Holy Days before Pascha. One is called: **Meditations for Holy Week: Dying and Rising With Christ**, by Vassilios Papavassiliou. This book has reflections for each day of Holy Week referring to the Services of the Day and the theme of the Day. For example, increasing you talent, Joseph of Arimethea, The Humble King.

A second book that might be nice when you are at vigil before the shroud or in quiet during the days before Pascha is: **God Speaks from the Cross** by Anthony Coniaris. This book has meditations on the last seven words spoken from the Cross. It is a very powerful book, very reflective and interactive. If you are interested in either of these books, please email us at: rel.ed@sasktel.net and we will get them out to you as soon as possible.



This month we're focusing on the **Descent into Hades** icon. (This is a non-copyrighted icon.)

In this particular icon, Christ is the central figure. He is descending into Hades. There, He destroys death and the gates of Hades. He stands on the gates of Hades - He has trampled death. We sing this joyfully on the morning of the Great and Holy Pasch and we sing it for 40 days.

Christ is pulling up from the grave Adam and Eve. He is pulling them by their wrists. (In this particular icon Jesus is only pulling up Adam, but in other icons He is shown pulling up both Adam and Eve.) He raises them from the dead. Redemption goes back even to the beginning.

The two people wearing crowns are David and Solomon, the great Kings and descendents of Christ in humanity. John the Baptist is present as the forerunner and Baptizer. On the right, we have the apostles

who are alive. This shows that Christ is redeeming the past, the present and the

future. We could place ourselves in this icon as Christ is breaking down the gates of Hades and setting the captives free.

Our Office wishes you a great and holy period of preparation for Great and Holy Week and the celebration of the Great and Holy Pasch.

News:

- ❖ The first Catechist Workshop was held in Regina on March 15th and was very successful. Thank you to St. Athanasius Parish for hosting us and to everyone who attended and participated.
- ❖ **Saskatoon Catechist Workshop** is scheduled for Saturday May 24th. It will be held at Bishop Filevich School. Time is to be determined. Watch bulletins and this publication for further information.
- ❖ Are you looking for a DVD or book for yourself? email rel.ed@sasktel.net and we'll provide you with resources.

Blessings,
Sr. Bonnie