



“ORTHODOX 9” PARISHES BULLETIN

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN CANADA

Monthly Newsletter for the family of Orthodox Churches including:



St. Mary’s (the Nativity of the Holy Virgin) - NISKU

Sts. Peter & Paul - BONNYVILLE

St. John the Baptist - HOREN

Holy Ascension - CALMAR

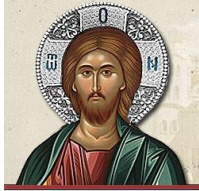
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



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August 28th – Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary



“She who is higher than the heavens and more glorious than the Cherubim,

she who is held in greater honor than all creation,

she who by reason of her surpassing purity

became the vessel of the everlasting Essence,

today commends her most pure soul into the hands of her Son.

With her all things are filled with joy, and she bestows great mercy on us.”

“Lord, what is man that You are mindful of him, - says the holy prophet David, - “and the son of man, that you visit him? You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.” (Ps.8).

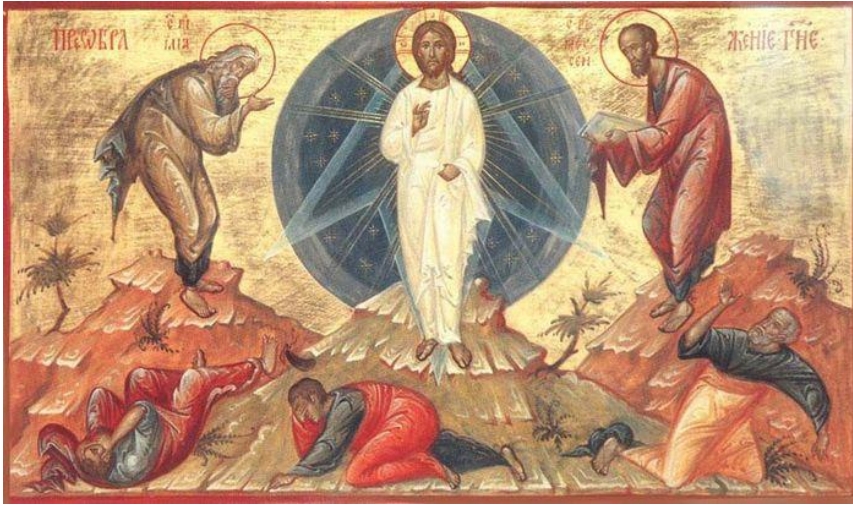
And this regards the temporary life, and in the future - still more glorious. Those who were faithful to God until death, in the future life, become higher than the angels. But no one has ever been and will be higher than the Mother of God in this as well as in the next life.

Who among the people was ever so close to God? Who else could contain the One, whom the whole world cannot contain? In a spiritual sense, She is higher and cleaner than the sky, and even more so all those who lived on earth. These Gospel words - blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it (Luke 11, 28), and whoever will do the will of God, is to Me, a brother and a sister, and a mother (Mk. 3, 35), first of all belong to the Mother of God.

Later ecclesiastical writers, based on the traditions that have come down to them, gave us some features of Her appearance. In all, Her grace permeated Her. She was very simple, without any pretense, even her clothes were simple, without any ornaments. She spent a lot of time in reading the Holy Scriptures and at the same time was tireless in her labour. The words, which did not bring grace, did not descend from the mouth, and all her words were filled with divine wisdom. She spoke to people, as it were, in the presence of God and with each person who came to Her, led a conversation that suited his needs and his inner state — not laughing, not condemning, not annoyed, never angry. Whatever She saw the unworthy in people, She always covered with Her own love.

The significance of the Lord's Transfiguration

FATHER SERAPHIM ROSE



Forty days before He was delivered to an ignominious death for our sins, our Lord revealed to three of His disciples the glory of His Divinity.

“And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart; and was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light” (Matt. 17:1-2). This was the event to which our Lord was referring when He said, “There be some standing here which shall not taste of death till they see

the Son of man coming in His Kingdom” (Matt. 16:28). By this means the faith of the disciples was strengthened and prepared for the trial of our Lord’s approaching passion and death; and they were able to see in it not mere human suffering, but the entirely voluntary passion of the Son of God.

The disciples saw also Moses and Elijah talking with our Lord, and thereby they understood that He was not Himself Elijah or another of the prophets, as some thought, but someone much greater: He Who could call upon the Law and the Prophets to be His witnesses, since He was the fulfillment of both.

The three parables of the feast concern the appearance of God to Moses and Elijah on Mount Sinai, and it is indeed appropriate that the greatest God-seers of the Old Testament should be present at the glorification of the Lord in His New Testament, seeing for the first time His humanity, even as the disciples were seeing for the first time His Divinity.

The Transfiguration, counted by the Church as one of the “Twelve Great Feasts,” had an important place in the Church calendar already in the fourth century, as the homilies and sermons of such great Fathers as Saint John Chrysostome, Saint Ephraim the Syrian, and Saint Cyril of Alexandria attest; its origins go back to the first Christian centuries. In the fourth century also, Saint Helena erected a church on Mount Tabor, the traditional site of the Transfiguration, dedicated to the Feast. Although the event celebrated in the Feast occurred in the month of February, forty days before the Crucifixion, the Feast was early transferred to August because its full glory and joy could not be fittingly celebrated amid the sorrow and repentance of Great Lent. The sixth day of August was chosen as being forty days before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14th, old style), when Christ’s Passion is again remembered.

Orthodox theology sees in the Transfiguration a prefigurement of our Lord’s Resurrection and His Second Coming, and more than this - since every event of the Church calendar has an application to the individual spiritual life - of the transformed state in which Christians shall appear at the end of the world, and in some measure even before then. In the foreshadowing of future glory which is celebrated in this Feast, the Holy Church comforts her children by showing them that after the temporary sorrows and deprivations with which this earthly life is filled, the glory of eternal blessedness will shine forth; and in it even the body of the righteous will participate.

It is a pious Orthodox custom to offer fruits to be blessed at this feast; and this offering of thanksgiving to God contains a spiritual sign, too. Just as fruits ripen and are transformed under the action of the summer sun, so is man called to a spiritual transfiguration through the light of God’s word by means of the Sacraments. Some saints, (for example - Saint Seraphim of Sarov), under the action of this life-giving grace, have shone bodily before men even in life with this same uncreated Light of God’s glory; and that is another sign to us of the heights to which we, as Christians, are called and the state that awaits us - to be transformed in the image of Him Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor.

On July 14th we had a very remarkable celebration – the 70 years of service of the St Mary's Ladies Aid – the Sisterhood of the parish.



During the Liturgy service we were reading a special prayer giving thanks to the Lord for the ladies “that have given their timely and precious aid for our small flock”, asking God to deliver them in return from all adversities, enlighten their minds, and grant them peace and good health; also asking the Lord to remember the departed ones in His kingdom.

“They have made up of yourself a bigger chalice to safely host all things sacred – this temple, this holy altar, and this chalice with the Holy Communion, we have just partaken” – said the father rector in his sermon.

After the liturgy we proclaimed “Many years! (Многая лета)” and “Rest eternal (Вичная память)” to the ladies and the President invited everyone, especially the celebrated ones to St Mary's Hall for the special Appreciation Dinner.

The President of the parish said a word of thanks, in which he mentioned that their service of many hardworking days began long before than many of the present there people came to the church, and it would have been impossible to have the Hall and even that lunch. On behalf of the community he proclaimed an immense gratitude to the ladies. He mentioned the last leader of the Aid Connie Wascieczko, to whom he couldn't thank enough for the last decade, and for filling the void when it was needed. **“We do need that again, so those of you who are able and willing – please carry on!”** – he concluded.



On behalf of the St Mary's Church the report of the appreciation – “St. Mary's Ladies Aid 70 Years of Service Celebration” – was prepared and presented by Anna Wasiluk:

“The sisterhood of St. Mary's Ladies Aid has played a very important roll in the life of St. Mary's Church.

In the early days, women of St. Mary's Ladies Aid prepared food in their own homes and brought it to their gatherings, they fundraised and supported their church. In 1930 a hall was built to allow a permanent location for these gatherings for this early sisterhood but it was in December 1954 that a new sisterhood formed to recruit

new, younger members complete with a constitution, monthly meetings, by laws, president, secretary treasurer, flowers, food and card committees and in 1955-2005 there were 57 members registered.



With an annual \$2 membership, a monthly .25 cent fee and the will to work hard in the name and LOVE of God for St. Mary's church, you were a member of the Ladies Aid

Through continued co-operative efforts of these members, much was accomplished, spiritually, morally and in monetary form.



In LOVE these Ladies catered: Orthodox day celebrations; funerals; weddings; anniversaries; over the years they catered out of this hall, in Devon, Calmar, Leduc, Thorsby, Ellerslie, and Edmonton. (they organized orthodox 9 in 1994 and jointly catered);

- the annual St. Mary's fall dinner and dance (pushenia) that later became a fellowship lunch and raffle with everyone waiting in anticipation for their ticket number to be called for a prize!;

- they were responsible for keeping the church clean with a monthly rotation for cleaning;

- when unable to cater they supplied perogies and cabbage rolls for sale to Ranchland in Thorsby for Orthodox 9;

- when this undertaking became too hard to keep up, as demand for these homemade items were very popular, they would just make for the needs of our church and parishioners and make as was required – usually in the spring and fall, (allowing people like (Anna)me to stock up for Easter and Christmas);



This fundraising allowed the sisterhood to make improvements over the years:

- to our church, - \$18,000 in 1965/66, which was huge in those days, constant donations toward updating over the years, when ever there was a need the ladies contributed;

- to our hall, new kitchen facilities, electricity, water, continued updating;

- paid the taxes and utilities on the hall;

- helping our new priests out with needs for their new home, car, birthday gifts;

- donating material and sewing new vestments, church coverings, altar boy vestments;

- making arrangements for a local school to make the pew cushions so we would all be comfortable;

- they have donated to many charitable organizations over the years, both religious and local;

- donated to other churches in the diocese;

- Leduc and Devon Palliative Health Care Facilities;

- donations to the translation into English of church books and different services so that the young people of St. Mary's would have a better understanding of these services.





At the Children's church camp – they were both cooking and planning in the camp kitchen and made monetary donations.

The Ladies Aid organized the Children's Christmas Concert for many years, suppling goodie bags for all the children, even after the "Young Mothers" took over the concert presentation, supplied these goodie bags.

The children and youth were important to the Ladies as they knew they were the future of St. Mary's!

The ladies would treat themselves with an end of year dinner (including spouses) to gather, reminisce and sing Christmas carols with Fr Igor and Matushka and no one had to cook or clean up {lately at Kosmos}; and also St. Mary's annual July Family BBQ.

It is so fitting that we use today, our annual "BBQ", thanks to

Kosmos for catering and giving our Ladies the tribute and day off they so deserve, to recognize these women.

It was pointed out to me, by Anita, that this all started many years ago in a time that these women were only identified as "Mrs." and their husband's name and identity but it was with great pride they kept their minutes and recorded such a humble start of \$34 dollars and .43 cents with \$29 in

expenses and ended by achieving such "independent, financial success" all in the name and Love of their church... St. Mary's.



In order to say thank you, with LOVE, for your hard work, dedication and love to St Mary's, there aren't enough words to express the gratitude for your dedication to the last official 8 Ladies Aid Members: **Connie Wascieczko, Doris Belozar, Doreen Belozar, Phyllis Borys, Jean Harysh, Sylvia Doblanko, Grace Zoltenko, Ellen Wasiluk**

We would also like to acknowledge the Ladies special helpers – our Holy Rollers:

Don Dublenko, Harry Nazarenko, Harold Doblanko, David Borys, Darcy Doblanko, Tanni Doblanko, Anita Borys, Marrienne Lecapoy, Claudia

Jensen, Pat Ursala, Chuck and Sonia Sidoruk, Larry & Anna Wonchuk , Bob and Lorraine Wasieczko, Shorty and Simon (from Horen)

Many others who occasionally helped – I am sure all of us in this room helped in one way or another."

Let us remember those ladies who have passed away since the last recognition of 2005

In Memoriam: Lavia Borys, Denny Borys, Steffie Doblanko, Vicki Doblanko, Celeste Fedor, Hope Fedor – newly departed, who was presented by her children at the lunch; Mary Nazarenko, Emilie Sidoruk

May God Grant you memory eternal!"



The warm discussion was accompanying the report with the precious memories of everyone present.

The ladies told us how they would travel from house to house without vehicles all night through, and the surprise of the policemen that met them; how they would have to bring water with them – no water, no electricity, no phones, no demand of receipts, no excuses; having a lot of children and chores of their own at the farms...

Memorial gifts – the mug with hearts, and some other – were given to everyone of the Ladies Aid and also to some of their helpers.

The word of congratulation of the Leduc Mayor and one of the devout helpers for the Ladies Aid – Tanny Doblanko – followed, that was also a quick but good insight into the development of our countryside.

The group photos were made and again “Many Years” and “Memory Eternal” were proclaimed.

We are very grateful to all who made effort to prepare the celebration, and for all your kind words and wishes!

In Memoriam

The parishioners of Orthodox 9 extend our deepest and sincere condolences to the relatives of the newly departed Evhane Wasiluk. May God comfort you with His compassion, and may God settle him, where the light of His countenance shall visit.

Memory Eternal! The mercy of God, the Kingdom of Heaven!

Evhane Wasiluk

June 28, 2019

It is with great sadness the family of Evhane Wasiluk announce his passing on June 28, 2019 at the age of 90 years old.

He was surrounded by his loving family and his memory will be cherished by his devoted and loving son Kevin, daughters-in-law Anna and Valerie. Dearly loved Gido to Lindsey, Danielle (Gary), Stephanie (Neil), Taylor, Tatianna and David.

Evhane is survived by sisters-in-law, Ellen and Grace, sister, Diane and numerous nieces and nephews.

Evhane was predeceased by his wife Wasylia, son Gregory and brother Sergius, sister-in-law Marie and her husband Ronnie, brother-in-law Wally and very recently brother-in-law Leonard.



“Vichnaya Pamyat”

“Memory Eternal”

P	E	R	T	E	T	E	P	I	N
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H	A	J	I	L	E	L	T	U	I
E	C	E	A	W	J	I	E	S	T
R	E	S	T	T	O	S	R	E	N
T	U	N	N	D	E	D	H	J	U
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P	O	O	O	S	U	M	T	H	M
J	L	M	M	O	E	M	O	S	S
C	A	S	E	S	S	E	O	M	E

JESUS
JOHN
SUN
TENTS

PETER
MOUNTAIN
MOSES
CLOUD

JAMES
FACE
ELIJAH
SHADOW



Dormition

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

word search

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

Angels August Fifteenth Soul Thomas
Apostles Christ Mary Theotokos Virgin

August 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Dormition Fast Begins	15	16	17
18 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy, St. Barbara Cathedral	19 Transfiguration 	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy, Nisku. (Please mind this change in the schedule – August 25 is the liturgy in Nisku instead of 18. Sorry for the inconvenience.)	26	27	28 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Patronal Feast – Mac Nutt – Dormition of the Mother of God. - (Blessing of water 	29	30	31

From the 21st to the 28th of July 2019 the St. Tikhon's Orthodox Bible children summer camp was organized by the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada and took place on the shores of Pigeon Lake in the Province of Alberta. The campers express their gratitude to the faithful of Orthodox 9 for their participation in the foundation of the children's camp, for caring for it, keeping the campers' appliances, craft, life jackets and other stuff at St. Mary's Hall, visiting and supporting! The information on the camp can be found on the website by the following link: www.orthodox-canada.com/the-annual-st-tikhon-s-orthodox-bible-summer-camp-for-children-of-the-patriarchal-parishes-took-place-in-bar-v-nok-pigeon-lake-ab-2/