



“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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December, the 17th – the commemoration of the holy great martyr Barbara



Our Orthodox Faith is full of examples of individuals endured many forms of torture because of their belief and witness, yet when they were faced with the enormous pressure to deny Christ, they stood firm and fearless even to death.

St. Barbara lived in the city of Heliopolis in Anatolia around 290 A.D. She was the daughter of Dioscorus, a fanatic and very well-known pagan of Nicomedia, and governor under the rule of Maximian. She was highly educated and of great beauty, that Dioscorus decided to hide from the eyes of strangers. Therefore, he built a tower for Barbara, where only her pagan teachers were allowed to see her.

From the tower there was a view of hills stretching into the distance. By day she was able to gaze upon the wooded hills, the swiftly flowing rivers, and the meadows covered with a mottled blanket of flowers; by night the harmonious and majestic vault of the heavens twinkled and provided a spectacle of inexpressible beauty. Soon the virgin began to ask herself questions about the

First Cause and Creator of so harmonious and splendid a world.

Gradually, she became convinced that the soulless idols could not have made the surrounding world. The desire to know the true God so consumed her.

Upon discovering of her faith in Christ, her father used all means of punishment to change her mind. And after much torture it was concluded that she would never forsake Christ for her own life, a public execution, following a series of tortures was staged. Enraged with her devotion to Christ, Dioscorus beheaded his daughter with his own.

In the sixth century the relics of the holy Great Martyr Barbara were transferred to Constantinople. Six hundred years later, they were transferred to Kiev (July 11) by Barbara, the daughter of the Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenos, who married the Russian prince Michael Izyaslavich.

In the 1950s, Archbishop Panteleimon brought a portion (a foot) of the Holy Martyr’s relics to the cathedral in Edmonton named after saint Barbara, where they are venerated and available every service, granting God’s grace to the people.

Pushenia 2018



On November, the 25th the Fall Social – Pushenia – was held after the liturgy at St. Mary's Russian Greek Orthodox Church in Nisku. It's an annual pre-lent event similar to the pre-Easter Maslenitsa; with a similar goal of having a good time in communicating, enjoying a good meal and winning awesome prizes at the very friendly lottery, and leave it all behind



(Ukr.- ot-pustiti) during the lent period for the sake of preparing for the greatest joy of coming into this world of the Savior – our Lord Jesus Christ, His Nativity.



The hostesses made a lot of delicious dishes, that people were sharing with each other: from traditional cabbage rolls and pirohis to Olivier salad, including home-made cheese cakes, a great variety of family specials – salads, meat dishes, cranberry sauce, even home-baked bread, and a small bit of red and white wine.

Many people prepared lots of different pleasant



prizes – a special thanks to you! – for the lottery held by the Women's Aid, with prizes having been nearly as many as the

tickets. A sheer joy was in the air when one by one happy winners turned to the audience with happy and smiling faces. Someone children seemed to be passed by the luck, but when finally they got their gifts – everyone was glad to share their feelings. Not a few came for the prizes several times!



It was also a good opportunity to raise some funds for the church to support its activities in services



and fellowship, and the premises maintenance. Thank you, everyone, for your generous donations!

We thank to the church Board, Women's Aid (Sisterhood) and all the people, from the church elders to the youngest ones, for making up this event and participating in it, and for the joy of it.

God bless you! Have a good Christmas lent!

Photos by Natalia Borys and Mykhail Protsenko

By fasting, we "shift our focus" from ourselves to others, spending less time worrying about what to eat, when to eat, how much to eat, and so on in order to use our time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. We learn through fasting that we can gain control over things which we sometimes allow to control us -- and for many people, food is a controlling factor. [We live in the only society in which an entire TV network is devoted to food!]

While fasting from food, however, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

Just as we would refrain from eating a lot before going to an expensive restaurant for dinner -- if we "ruin our appetite" we will

enjoy the restaurant less -- so too we fast before the Nativity in order to more fully feast and celebrate on the Nativity itself.

Why we fast before the Nativity

Nativity Fast is one of the aids to focus on the coming of the Savior by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

During the Nativity Fast, we are called upon to refrain from meat and dairy. At the same time, we are challenged, within this framework, to fast to the best of our ability, and to do so consistently.

If we must modify the extent to which we fast within this framework, it is of course possible, but in every instance our fasting should be consistent and regular, for Christ does not see fasting as

an option, but as a "must." In Matthew Christ says, "When you fast, do not be like the hypocrites," not "If you fast" or "If you choose to fast."

Finally, it seems quite odd that in our society -- a society in which people gladly and freely spend huge sums of money for diets, most of which recommend that one refrain from the same products -- fasting is not more widely embraced.

How odd that a diet guru or physician will tell us to refrain from eating meat or cheese or butter and we will gladly embrace -- and pay large sums of money for -- his or her advice, while when the Church offers the same advice [at "no cost"] we tend to balk, as if we were being asked to do the impossible.

Courtesy of www.oca.org

Events and Announcements

Archpastoral visit of His Grace Bishop Matthew to Canada



From December 14 to 17, 2018, His Grace Matthew, Bishop of Sourozh, the Temporary Administrator of the Patriarchal parishes in Canada and in the USA is coming to Edmonton, with his archpastoral visit.

During his stay in Edmonton, Vladyka Matthew will conduct the following services:

December 15, Saturday - 10:00 am. - Divine Liturgy - St. Mary's Church in Nisku.

December 15, Saturday - 6:00 p.m. - Vespers & Matins - St. Barbara's Cathedral.

December 16, Sunday -10:00 am. - Divine Liturgy- Patronal Feast- St. Barbara's Cathedral.

December 16, Sunday - 6:00 p.m. - Vespers & Matins - St. Barbara's Cathedral.

December 17, Monday -10:00 am. - Divine Liturgy - St. Barbara's Day- St. Barbara's Cathedral.



It is with the greatest pleasure that John and Jennifer Fedor announce the birth of their daughter Theodora Katherine Anna on October 19, 2018!

Proud grandparents Gregory and Lydia Fedor and Andrew and Barbara Chichak, and proud great-grandmother (pra-baba) Hope Fedor.

We extend our heartfelt wishes of peace from above and good health to matushka Faina Boldireff on her Birthday anniversary! May God grant you, your husband - deacon of St. Barbara Cathedral - father Andrew and all your loved ones His help, protection and bounties for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!



DECEMBER 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>2</u> Tone 2. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy, Nisku <i>St. Philaret, metropolitan of Moscow (1867).</i></p> 	<p><u>3</u></p>	<p><u>4</u> <i>The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.</i></p> 	<p><u>5</u></p>	<p><u>6</u></p>	<p><u>7</u> Great-martyr Catherine of Alexandria (305-313).</p> 	<p><u>8</u></p>
<p><u>9</u> Tone 3 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy, Calmar</p>	<p><u>10</u></p>	<p><u>11</u> 07:00 p.m. – St. Mary’s Church Board Meeting, Nisku Parish Hall</p>	<p><u>12</u></p>	<p><u>13</u> Holy and All-Praised Apostle Andrew the First-Called.</p> 	<p><u>14</u></p>	<p><u>15</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy, Nisku with His Grace Bishop Matthew</p>
<p><u>16</u> Tone 4 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy, St. Barbara’s Patronal Feast! The service is led by His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourozh</p>	<p><u>17</u> Great-martyr Barbara</p> 	<p><u>18</u></p>	<p><u>19</u> St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, archbishop of Myra in Lycia.</p> 	<p><u>20</u></p>	<p><u>21</u></p>	<p><u>22</u></p>
<p><u>23</u> Tone 5 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy, Nisku</p>	<p><u>24</u></p>	<p><u>25</u> St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, of Tremithus</p> 	<p><u>26</u></p>	<p><u>27</u></p>	<p><u>28</u> New Hieromartyr Hilarion (Troitsky)</p> 	<p><u>29</u></p>
<p><u>30</u> Tone 6 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy, Vegreville. Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths</p>						

If you want me to pray for your near and dear (also the departed this life), or for someone who is sick, or also greet you or your dear ones in Bulletin on some certain occasions, just give me a call or send me an e-mail or let me know. Father EVGENIY