



# “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**

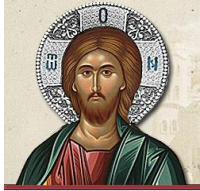
**St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)**

**Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY**

**Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)**

**St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE**

**Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)**



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## John the Baptist and the Apostles Peter and Paul



In July, the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate two Great Feasts – the Nativity of the great John the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of our Lord, and the Day of Saints Peter and Paul – with four of our Parishes having their patronal feasts!

What unites those blessed workers of God is foretold by the Prophets; “the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the ways of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God” (Isaiah), “...an Angel sent by the Lord to prepare the way before Him” (Malachi). This is told of John the Baptist. “Their sound has gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world” (David). This is proclaimed by the Church in honour of the Apostles.

Thus, the three of them were and are preparing the hearts and minds of the people to accept the Lord and to keep the Lord burning brightly in their/our hearts -- to be reunited with Him and to be saved in Him.

They did it with their words: “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:2-3); “...any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. (Luke 3:7-9) (St John the Baptist). “Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.” (St. Apostle Peter). “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (St. Apostle Paul).

They did it with their lives: St John was in the wilderness since his childhood, Apostle Peter left his family and all that he possessed, as well as Apostle Paul, who also left his high position among the people. In the end, they all gave their lives for the Gospel and for our unity with God.

“Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.” – we, who celebrate their memory in their holy temples are hearing them saying to us today.

**Fr. Yevgeniy Protsenko**

# Why is the Least in the Kingdom Greater than John the Baptist?

ST. LUKE (VOYNO-YASENETSKY) OF SIMFEROPOL



Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself attested to the Prophet's words before the multitudes when John the Forerunner, then already in prison, sent two of his disciples to ask Him: Art Thou He that should come, or do we look for another? (Matthew 11:3).

**Addressing the multitudes, the Lord said:** But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send My messenger [angel] before Thy face, which shall prepare the way before Thee. Verily I say unto you, **Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he** (Matthew 11:9-11).

It is with great confusion that we pause before these last words of the Savior. How are we to understand that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John the Forerunner, the greatest of all those born of women?

These words cannot be understood by human reason; only other words of the Lord Jesus, spoken in entirely different circumstances, can explain these words that cause us confusion: that the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than the glorious Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

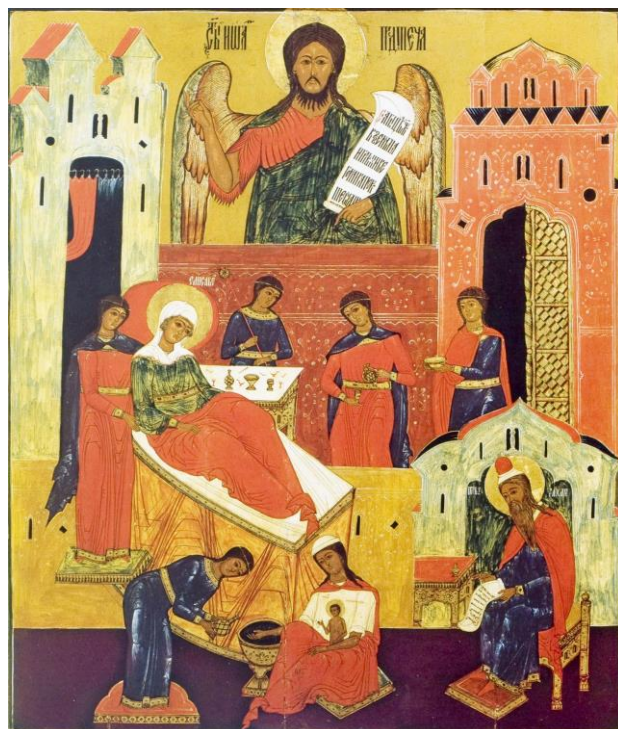
Let us recall the account, in chapter 20 of Luke's Gospel, of how the Lord Jesus Christ was tempted by the Sadducees, Jewish sectarians who rejected belief in the resurrection of the dead.

The Sadducees told Him of a barren woman who had had seven brothers as husbands, following the Mosaic Law requiring one to take the wife of one's brother if he dies childless, in order to raise up his seed. There were seven such brothers, all of whom died childless. The Sadducees were hoping to trap the Lord Jesus Christ by this question: Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife. And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection (Luke 20:33-36).

Let us also recall other extraordinary words of the Lord Jesus Christ, recorded by John the Theologian in the fifth chapter of his Gospel: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life (5:24).

In these extraordinary words of the Lord Jesus, as well as in His response to the Sadducees cited above, the great mystery of the afterlife of the righteous who have been found worthy of attaining the Heavenly Kingdom is revealed to us. They are no longer subject to the temptations of the flesh. They are children of God; they are equal to the Angels; and they are already living in eternal life and cannot die. Such, too, is the very least of them.

But can we say all of this about John the Lord's Forerunner? No, we cannot. He was less than the immortal children of God, for not only could he die, but he even bowed his holy head under the executioner's sword.



The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

He was not born bodiless, but bore human flesh with all its weaknesses and temptations.

He did not appear to the world as did the Archangel Gabriel or the Angels who appeared to the Myrrh-Bearing Women at the grave of the Risen Savior of the world.

If the Prophets and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself called him His Angel, this should be understood in the sense that he bore the spirit, purity, and perfection of the angels in a human body.

For his indescribable ascetic struggles in the desert; for the boundless depths of his prayer and fasting; for the great labor of preaching with which he prepared the way of the Lord; for the Baptism of the Son of God in the Jordan; for his martyric death – for all this, of course, the great Forerunner is now the first in the Kingdom of God after the Most-Holy Theotokos. But so long as he lived in the body, the least in the Heavenly Kingdom was greater than he.

To Him be glory unto the ages of ages! Amen.

## Congratulations to Job, Archbishop Shumsky, Vicar of the Ternopil Diocese!



**We join the "Axios!" choir of a multitude voices all over the world in greeting Vladika Iov, the former Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada with an Archbishop rank!** He was given such an honorary title during the name's day service of the outstanding Ukrainian Most Blessed Metropolitan Onuphrios on June 25, 2019.

The appreciation of the many years of faithful service and the God's consolation in view of the recent events - this was a sheer joy for everyone who knows Vladika. We wish Archbishop Iov many and many blessed years in service for the Holy Christ's Church whenever God grants Him to apply his diligence! The faithful of Canada will always be glad to meet and to pray with Vladika!

## First organizational meeting for 2019 Children Bible Camp

On June the 10th the organizational meeting for 2019 (July 21 – July 27) Children's annual Bible Camp took place at St Barbara cathedral, Edmonton. The meeting was headed by the dean and the rector of St Barbara cathedral and the director of the camp archpriest Igor Kisil.

The main theme for the 2019 camp was proposed by father Igor to be Twelve Great Orthodox Feasts

A lot of aspects of the camp organization and maintenance were discussed: topics for the lectures (Twelve Feasts), and singing lessons and blessings services for the great feasts; Supplies, facilities (premises conditions); Issues solutions, safety issues (mosquitoes, wasps, etc.), medicine; Lake conditions, appliances; Morning exercises and meetings; Attendance, duties, activities, crafts and games for kids, expectations about the age and corresponding activities; Meal schedule, counselors' activities; Fees and finances; Shirts T with logos;



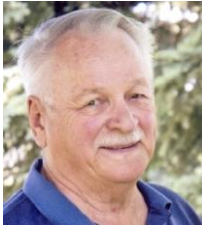
The date of the next meeting and the meetings for the counselors will be announced on the website, and the participants will be also informed by phone or mail. **For the info about the camp – see <http://www.orthodox-canada.com/bible-camp/>**

## *In Memoriam*

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

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

### **ZOLTENKO, Leonard Allen**



It is with great sadness that the family of Leonard Allen Zoltenko announces his passing on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 after a short battle with cancer. Len will be greatly missed by his wife of 57 years, Grace Zoltenko (Borys), daughter Charlene, daughter Gail (John), son Jamie (Karen) and his cherished granddaughters, Grace and Reese. Leonard is also survived by his sister Dorothy Hawrysh, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents William and Nettie. Len was born in Winnipeg, MB. He moved to Alberta in 1958 where he met his wife Grace. They married in 1962. The Service will be held on, July 1, 2019, 10:00 a.m. St. Mary's Russian Greek Orthodox Church, 25436 Hwy 19, Leduc County (Hwy 19 between Nisku and Devon). In lieu of flowers donations can be made to either the Stollery Children's Hospital or the Alberta Cancer Foundation.

### **FEDOR, Hope (Nadia) (nee Lopushinsky)**

It is with hope and joy in our Risen Lord and Saviour that the family of Hope (Nadia) Fedor, announces her repose on Thursday, June 27, 2019. She was 89 years old. Hope is sadly missed and lovingly remembered by her three children: Dennis (Mary-Jane), Gregory (Lydia) and Cynthia; seven grandchildren: Larissa (Jonathan) Fedor-Turchenek, John (Jennifer) Fedor, Brittany Fedor, Christopher Fedor, Andrei Fedor, Evan Sande, and Nathaniel Sande; two great-grandchildren: Krista Turchenek and Theodora Fedor.



Hope was predeceased by her loving husband of 34 years, Peter; parents, Walter and Bessie Lopushinsky; and sister, Ella Wynnychuk. She is survived by her sister, Ellen Wasiluk. A Panikhida (Orthodox Prayer Service) will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Church, 25437 Hwy 19, Leduc County, Alberta where a Funeral Service will be held the next day, Wednesday, July 3, 2019 commencing at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at St. Mary's Church Cemetery. If friends so desire, memorial donations may be made to St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Church, Nisku or the charity of your choice.



We also express our sincere condolences and sympathy to Bishop Iov, the former long-standing Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada for his recent incalculable loss of beloved father, the **Mitred Archpriest Feodor Smakouz**. Father Feodor has served for 60 years as a priest with an unseizing God given energy, being the confessor of the Pochaiv Monastery and one of the elders of Holy Lavra.

Kingdom of Heaven to the newly departed Archpriest Feodor! May the Lord give him rest in a place in His heavenly mansions, where there's no sickness, sorrow and sighing, the life everlasting, and grant him memory eternal!

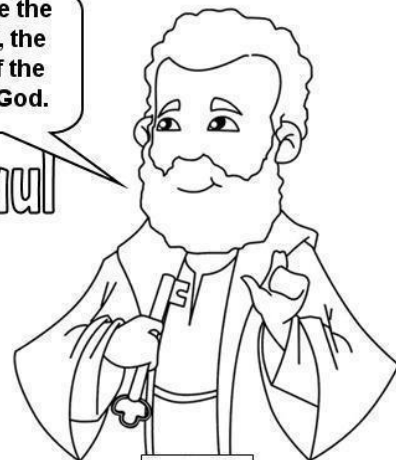
Add colours to the Lord's Baptism picture!  
Who's baptising in the water? Who is being baptised in the Jordan?



I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

### Saints Peter And Paul




Find the hidden words

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

- Apostles
- Sword
- Travels
- God
- Saul
- Keys
- Faith
- Jesus
- Gospel
- Damascus
- Fisherman
- Church
- Letters
- Feast
- Rock
- Simon
- Martyrs
- Rome

# July 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – <b>Patronal Feast</b> – <u>Vegreville</u> (Blessing of water)
<u>7</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – <b>Patronal Feast</b> – <u>Horen</u> (Blessing of water) 	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> <i>St. Peter and Paul</i> <i>Feast Day</i> 	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy, Nisku. <b>After Service – Family Brunch – Celebration of Canada Day - Ladies Aid appreciation dinner</b>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> <u>St. Sergius of Radonezh</u> 	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy, Nisku. <b>Children Bible Camp starts</b> (from 21 <sup>st</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> )	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> <u>Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel</u> 	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy, St. Barbara Cathedral	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>			

*In honour of St Mary's Ladies Aid who have given seventy years of sisterhood for the sake of the betterment of St Mary's Church, leading various activities, such as pirohies and cabbage rolls; holding the Parish's Fall Social and cooking special dishes etc., – St Mary's Parish is holding an appreciation dinner at St Mary's Hall. The dinner will be prepared at and by Kosmos Restaurant and will take place after the Church Service on **July, the 14th**. We will also be happy to present to our ladies some souvenirs and to say a mutual prayer for them. This festive meal is planned for about 50-60 people of our parish, so, please call David Borys – 780-718-9509 or MaryAnne – 780-991-1225, if you are planning to attend so that we order enough meals.*