



“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

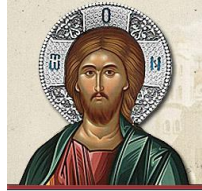
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



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Volume 19, Issue 6

June 2019

The Ascension of the Lord and the Descent of the Holy Spirit



In June we continue to celebrate the glorious events that God created for us and for our salvation.

Following and fulfilling the Feast of the Feasts (The Holy Pascha) are the mysteries of the **Holy Ascension** of the Lord and The Holy Pentecost – Holy Trinity Sunday – the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Disciples.

At the last meeting with the disciples, He led them out of the city and, raising his hands, blessed them. And while He was blessing them, He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God (Luke 24: 50-53).

They rejoiced that salvation had been completed, and that now they were in peace with God. The door to the kingdom of heaven that was closed until God became a man and suffered for us, now is open to all believers. Jesus is risen and ascended into His Father to lead all, who don't lose the hope and faith in Him, through this mysterious door.

However, it is impossible even to approach this door if God does not help us, it is impossible to serve Him without this help, and wisdom, and strength, and consolation... All of this and much more did we receive with the holy apostles at the day of the first Christian **Pentecost**, that we celebrate as the Holy Trinity Day, during the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Disciples! Since then God's grace is with everyone who takes some effort to *obtain* it – “in all devotion and with a pure heart” (1 Timothy 2,2).

Holy Spirit descended onto the Apostles in the Upper Room nearly 2,000 years ago and everything has become understandable for them, as, having been sanctified, they became a part of the new-born Church. And we are a part of the same Church of God and the partakers of the same God's grace. Let us clear our minds and hearts to receive this gift and live in the grace of God, remembering the words of the Lord about overcoming the most tough challenges of the world: “*With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible*” (Math. 19, 26).

Fr. Yevgeniy Protsenko

Why Am I a Practicing Orthodox Christian?

Source: *Praying in the Rain*. Archpriest Michael Gillis



Why do I do it? Why am I a practicing Orthodox Christian. It's not because it's the true faith, the oldest form of Christianity, faithful to the teaching and worship of the ancient Church. It is these things, but that's not why I'm a practicing Orthodox Christian. It's possible to be convinced of the verity of Orthodox Christianity and still not want to be Orthodox. An acquaintance of mine is also convinced that Orthodox Christianity is the true faith, that it's authentic ancient Christianity. However, he does not want to become an Orthodox Christian.

My acquaintance doesn't want to become an Orthodox Christian because, as he put it, Orthodox Christianity is like Shakespeare in the original, while he compared the version of Christianity to which he belongs to Shakespeare simplified for eighth-graders (which seems to me to be a big insult to English speaking thirteen-year olds everywhere). I don't think the comparison of Orthodox Christianity to Shakespeare is as helpful as he does, but that was the image my acquaintance used.

For him, the church, what he calls the church, needs to be accessible, relevant, easily relatable. That's why my acquaintance stays in his heterodox Christian world even though he is convinced that Orthodox Christianity is the original, the true Church.

So, if I'm not an Orthodox Christian because it is the true, historic Christian Church, why am I an Orthodox Christian, particularly a practicing Orthodox Christian?

I am an Orthodox Christian because in the Orthodox Church I have found a way to be a Christian that actually changes me, that actually helps me to know and worship God, know and discipline (as in disciple) myself, and helps me to know and love my neighbour. But the secret is, you have to practice it. There is no magic in the holy chrism or the water of baptism. There is only an invitation, an open door, the beginning of a way.

It's not an easy way. It's Shakespeare in the original. It takes more effort than a graded reader. It takes some study, involves some frustration, and includes a lot of wondering about what it all means. It has to be practiced. The stomach has to growl during lent. The legs have to be tired. Your schedule has to be adjusted. You have to weep.

But the beauty is worth it. The terrible revelations of my own wickedness are worth it. The growing knowledge of my own soul, the insight into our common human weakness creating a deep pity (a species of love, Shakespeare tells us) for my neighbour, and the ongoing exercise of spiritual disciplines helping me increasingly to see my passions while they are yet thoughts and before they overwhelm me, all of these are worth it.

That's why I'm a practicing Orthodox Christian.

About the author: *Fr. Michael Gillis serves as the parish priest of Holy Nativity Orthodox Church in Langley, British Columbia, Canada. He is also host of the Praying in the Rain podcast on Ancient Faith Radio.*

The Archpastoral Visit of His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourozh to western Canada, May 2019

The Liturgy in St Peter and St Paul Church in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada



On May 18, 2019, Day of memory of the Holy Martyr Irina, His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourozh, temporary Administrator of Patriarchal parishes in the USA and Canada, celebrated Divine Liturgy in St Peter and St Paul Church in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

His Grace was assisted by Archpriest Evgeny Protsenko, Rector of the church, archpriest Radovan Maric (Serbian Orthodox Church, Parish of St. Paraskeva, Saskatoon), Priest Andrei Meyer, Rector of the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God church in Saskatoon (ROCOR), and Deacon Andrei Boldyrev.

At the end of the service, in consideration of hard work to the glory of the Church of Christ, His Grace bestowed Patriarchal awards, – medal “In Memory of the 100th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Patriarchate in the Russian Orthodox Church”, – to Fr. Evgeny Protsenko, Deacon Andrei Boldyrev, Audrey Sheppard, President of the Church of the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God in the town of Mucnut, Douglas Bonar, President of the Church of the Venerable Onuphrius the Great near the settlement of Lake Leigh, and addressed the audience with words of spiritual edification.



In turn, the Rector, the serving clergy and parishioners of the church have warmly congratulated Bishop Matthew with his birthday, which Vladyka was celebrating that day, and thanked him for his visit and for the opportunity to share the joy of communication with their Bishop.

The Liturgy at St. Barbara's Cathedral in Edmonton, Canada



On May 19, 2019, on the 4th Sunday after Easter, of the Paralyzed Man, memorial day of the righteous Job the Long-suffering, temporary Administrator of the Patriarchal parishes in the USA and Canada, His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourzh celebrated Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral of the Great Martyr Barbara in Edmonton, Alberta region, Canada.

The day before, on arrival at Edmonton International Airport, the Right Reverend Archpastor was met by Archpriest Igor Kisil, Dean of the Patriarchal parishes in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and Roman Lopushinsky, Churchwarden of the Cathedral.

During the Divine Liturgy, the Right Reverend Bishop was assisted by Archpriest Igor Kisil, Dean of the Patriarchal Parishes in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Rector of the Cathedral of the Great Martyr Barbara in the city of Edmonton, Archpriest Evgeny Protsenko, Rector of the churches of the "Orthodox IX" parish district, Deacon Andrei Boldyrev, Deacon John Griegaitis, Deacon Stefan Nagy.

After the Divine Liturgy, Archpriest Igor Kisil, Rector of the Cathedral, addressed bishop Matthew with a welcoming speech.

Vladyka Matthew thanked Father Igor for the warm words, congratulated the clergy and parishioners with the feast day and addressed all those present with words of edification.



In consideration of the hard work for the glory of the Church of Christ, His Grace bestowed Patriarchal awards, Medals "In Memory of the 100th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Patriarchate in the Russian Orthodox Church", to the clergy and laity. Deacon Andrei Boldyrev, on occasion of his 70th birthday, was honored by the Patriarchal diploma.

At the end of the service, Vladyka held meetings with clergy and parishioners from various parishes and discussed current church affairs.

The Liturgy in the church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker in the Kalyna-Country Eco-Cultural Reserve, Alberta, Canada



On May 20, 2019, on Monday, the 4th Week after Easter, Bishop Matthew of Sourozh, temporary Administrator of patriarchal parishes in the USA and Canada, celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, located on the territory of the eco-cultural reserve Kalyna-Country, Alberta province, Canada.



The Right Reverend Vladyka was assisted by Archpriest Igor Kisil, Dean of the Patriarchal parishes in the provinces of



Alberta and Saskatchewan, Rector of the Cathedral of the Great Martyr Varvara in the city of Edmonton, Archpriest Evgeny Protsenko, Rector of the churches of the parish district "Orthodox IX", Priest Alexy Surayev, Rector of the churches of the parish district "Orthodox V", Deacon Andrei Boldyrev and Deacon John Grigaitis.

After the release prayer of the Divine Liturgy, the Right Reverend Archpastor addressed the people gathered in the church with words of preaching and spiritual edification.

In consideration of the hard work for the glory of the Church of Christ, His Grace bestowed Patriarchal awards, Medal "In Memory of the 100th

Anniversary of the Restoration of the Patriarchate in the Russian Orthodox Church", to the clergy and lay people.

After the service, Vladyka Matthew met with parishioners from various parishes of Alberta.

www.sourozh.org

The Schedule of graveyard services/ other services and events – June 2019

- 2. Sunday - 10:00 am - Liturgy - *Grave Yard Service* - NISKU
- 2:00 pm - *Grave Yard Service* - Old Cemetery - NISKU
- 4:00 pm - *Grave Yard Service* - THORSBY
- 6. Thursday - *Holy Ascension Day*
- 9. Sunday - 10:00 am – Liturgy - *Patronal Feast* - CALMAR
(*Blessing of water*)
- 11. Tuesday – 19.00 pm – St. Mary’s Board Meeting
- 16. Sunday - 10:00 am - Liturgy - *Patronal Feast* - THORSBY
(*Holy Trinity Day. Blessing of water*)
- 23. Sunday - 9:00 am – Liturgy - *Patronal Feast* - FOAM LAKE
(*Blessing of water*)
- 24. Monday - APOSTLES FAST BEGINS
- 30. Sunday - 10:00 am - Liturgy – NISKU



Congratulation to the members of "Orthodox 9" parishes - Church Boards, Choirs and the Ladies Aids, Who in recognition of the diligent work for the glory of the Holy Church were awarded by His Grace Bishop Matthew with the jubilee medals - "In memory of the 100th anniversary of the restoration of the Patriarchate in the Russian Orthodox Church"!

St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow, the first after the centuries of non-patriarchal period of the Church history, is also considered to be one of the saints of the North America, who consecrated churches in Canada, including the old churches of "Orthodox 9", ordained clergy and supported Christian communities. The spirit of the future glorious witness of the Lord was formed during his archpastoral labour in our country. May his prayers in God's grace that was gained by saint Tikhon in this land be always on all the people that have been laboured on one of its spiritual islands - "Orthodox 9" parishes.

We also congratulate the clergy of the Patriarchal Parishes of Russian Orthodox Church in Canada and the faithful of St. Barbara Cathedral and "Orthodox 5" on occasion of the jubilee medal reward.

Congratulations to all of you on your awards! That is a wonderful recognition of some very long term, dedicated, and thus deserving members!

And as His Grace stated during his sermons, through you, it is the recognition for all the hard-working people, who give life to the most significant part of our fathers' and mothers' heritage - the Holy Churches! Axios! Axios! Axios!



Announcements

Children Bible Camp

The camp will be conducted from July 21st to July 27th, 2019. Spiritual, sport and art will be again the core activities for the retreat. The organizers ask the families to take active part in volunteering during the camp.

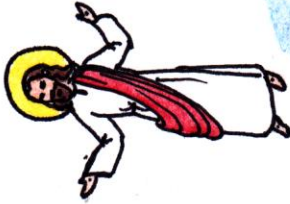
Please, see on the official website of the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada - <http://www.orthodox-canada.com/bible-camp/>

The date of the Organizational Meeting will be announced on the website.

In 2019 the Holy Trinity church (Whitsuntide) at THORSBY is marking the Century Anniversary.

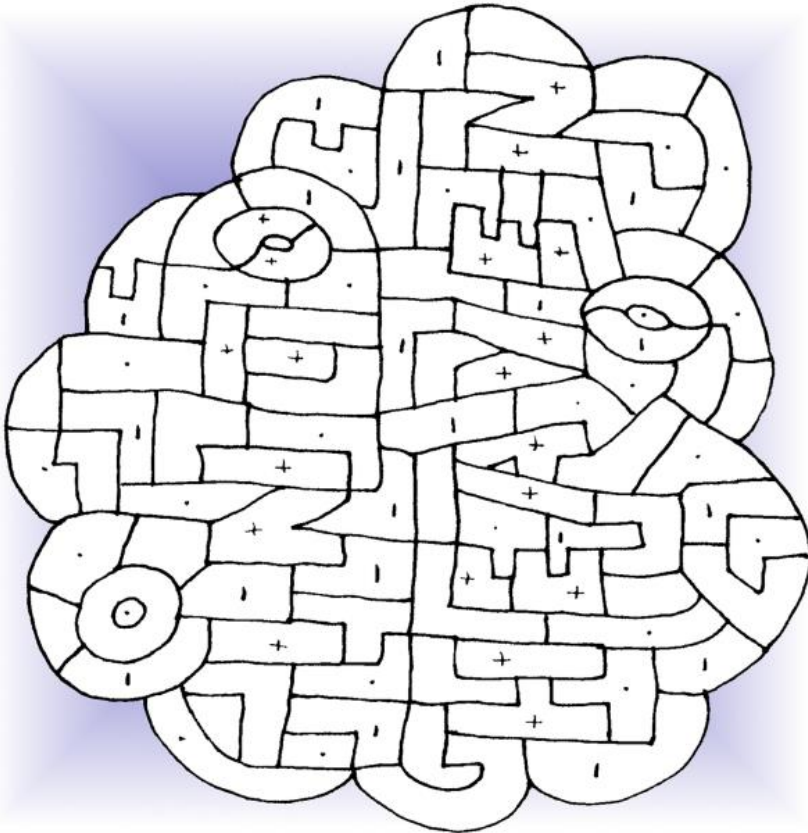
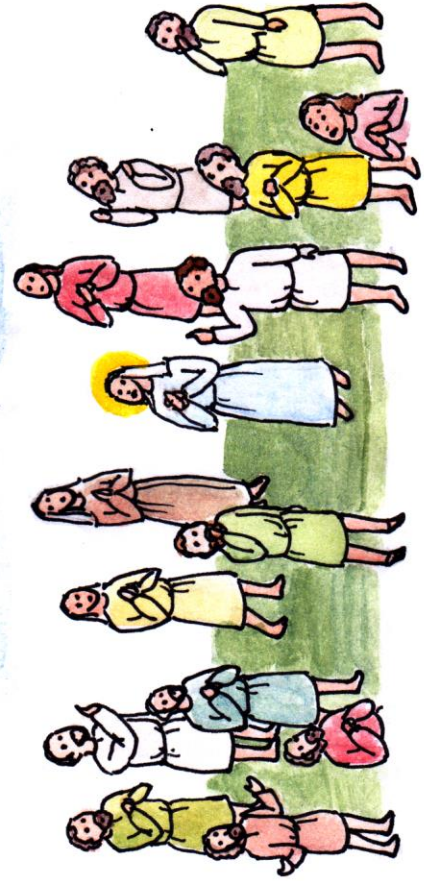
The celebration will take place on September, the 22nd, with a festive meal for about 50-60 people, for which the donations are welcomed by the Parish Council. The tickets will be available in the first part of August.

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead he went up a hill with His followers and disappeared through the clouds and went up into Heaven.



Jesus had promised to send a Comforter to them after He left them.






Can you find your way through the cloud maze?



Jesus disappeared into a cloud forty days after He rose from the dead. Where did He go?

Colour in the spaces with crosses (+) to find out!

June 2019

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|--|-----------|--|---|---|
| <p><u>2</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy, Nisku.</p> <p>Grave Yard Services: 12.00 – Nisku; 2.00 pm – Nisku, Old Cemetery; 4.00 pm – Thorsby.</p> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | <p><u>6</u> Holy Ascension</p>  | <u>7</u> | |
| <p><u>9</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Patronal Feast – <u>Calmar</u> (Blessing of water)</p> | <u>10</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>13</u> | <u>14</u> | <u>15</u> |
| <p><u>16</u> Holy Trinity Day 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Patronal Feast – <u>Thorsby</u> (Blessing of water)</p>  | <u>17</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>19</u> | <u>20</u> | <p><u>21</u> Great Martyr Theodore the Commander</p>  | <u>22</u> |
| <p><u>23</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Patronal Feast – <u>Foam Lake, SK</u> (Blessing of water)</p> | <p><u>24</u> Apostles Fast Begins (till July 12)</p> | <p><u>25</u> St. Onuphrius</p>  | <u>26</u> | <u>27</u> | <u>28</u> | <p><u>29</u> St. Theophan the Recluse</p>  |
| <p><u>30</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy, Nisku.</p> | | | | | | |