



# “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**

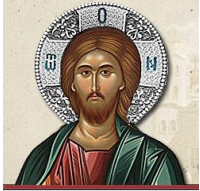
**St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)**

**Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY**

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

**St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE**

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



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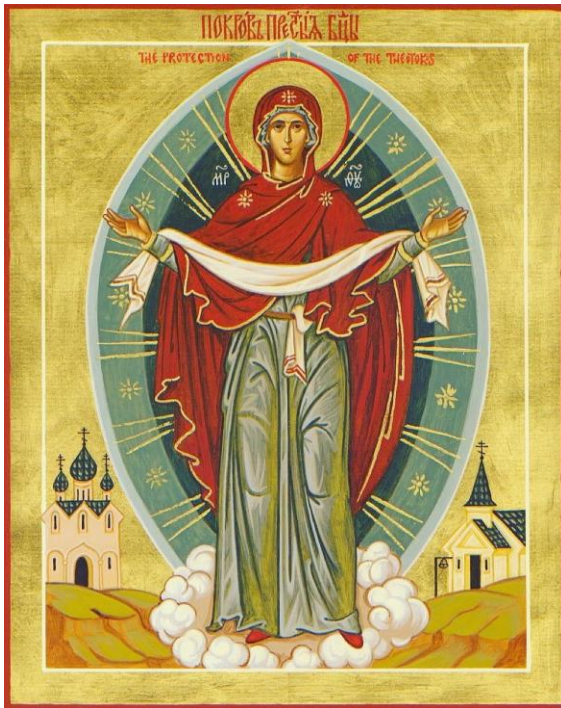
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## The 14<sup>th</sup> of October – the feast of St. Mary’s Protecting Veil



This feast was established by the Russian Orthodox Church in the 10th century in memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God in the Blachernae Church of Constantinople, where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

In the 9<sup>th</sup> century during the all-night vigil, at four in the morning, among the worshipers in the church there were the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew, and his disciple Epiphanius. Raising his eyes to heaven, St. Andrew suddenly saw the Blessed Virgin, marching through the air surrounded by a host of angels and saints. Having knelt, the Mother of God prayed for a long time, and after completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because an attack of a large pagan fleet from Rus under the leadership of Askold and Dir. The

feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople, sometime in the years of 864-867. Ironically, this Feast is considered important only by the Slavic Churches.

There’s a custom to read a special long prayer consisting of multiple kontakia and troparia, which is called Akathist, the word meaning ‘praying standing’. One of the verses of the Akathist of the Protecting Veil says: “but by Your sovereign protecting veil we are saved for repentance”, which perfectly renders the main idea of the Mother of God’s intercession.

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, asking Her to remember us in Her prayers, that we do not perish by the increase of our sins, and in sins. “Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you!” Amen.



# Two prominent feasts of Orthodox 9 Parishes

## St Mary's Patronal Feast 2019



On September 21 St. Mary's church in Nisku celebrated its patronal feast that was highlighted this year with an archpastoral (pontifical) service of two bishops - Bishop Matthew of Sourozh, the temporary Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA and Canada, and Archbishop Irenaeus of Ottawa and Canada (OCA).

They were assisted by Archpriest Igor Kisil, Dean

of the Patriarchal Parishes in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the dean of Orthodox 9 parishes archpriest Evgeniy Protsenko, deacon Andrei Boldireff and deacon John Grigaitis.



The altar helpers from St. Barbara cathedral Alexander, Nikita, Alexander (Kisil) and Luke came to give aid for the prominent service.

The church choir was augmented by the choir director of St Herman's (OCA) cathedral, a child and a friend of St. Mary's – Gregory Fedor, as well as Fedya Holden's family and the choir director from St. Barbara's Cathedral Alexander Holden and his family, and many people who helped them, either from the Orthodox 9 Parishes, St. Barbara Cathedral and other churches.

At the church hall His Grace bishop Matthew was met and greeted by the Parish President

David Borys and the rector of the church archpriest Evgeniy Protsenko, who welcomed him to the holy temple and asked to serve and lead the Divine Liturgy.

A lot of children were partaking the Holy Christ Mysteries as well as singing in the church choir that day.





Upon the final prayer of the Liturgy, Vladika Matthew addressed the community with sermon on the Greatest Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God, which is, as he mentioned, the first greatest feast after the new year according to the church calendar, thus it gives a consolation and hope in the One Born from the righteous Joachim and Anna for the whole year ahead of us, despite of every difficulty we might encounter.

Bishop Matthew expressed his gratitude to all people gathered for the sake of the Mother of God's Nativity especially the parishioners of that holy temple – for keeping and caring for this great inheritance of theirs.



Then the Archpastors exchanged welcoming words and in gratitude for the joint service on the feast day Vladika Matthew presented the distinguished guest with a memorable gift.



The Parish President addressed the Bishop and the congregation, thanking the bishop, the clergy and the people for the service and prayers, and mentioning the historic importance of the service, as almost 25 years passed since the parish hosted two archpastors, and never it occurred on the day of the patronal feast before.

The dean of the parish greeted the bishop and thanked them for a long journey, the words of edification, and efforts they have made to highlight and thus give a proper tribute to the holies event of Nativity of the Holy Theotokos.

After the Liturgy, Vladika Matthew served a panikhida for the late Archbishop Panteleimon of Edmonton and Canada (+1968), the first ROC hierarch in Canada, as well as for the clergy and laity whose graves are in the parish church cemetery.

The parishioners of St. Mary's church invited everyone to the festive meal to St. Mary's hall.

## The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holy Trinity Church near Thorsby

**On September 22, 2019, His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourozh, temporary Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA and Canada, headed the Divine Liturgy and took part in festive events on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Holy Trinity Church (Whitsuntide) near Thorsby, Alberta, Canada.**

His Right Reverend Vladika was assisted by Archpriest Evgeny Protsenko, Rector of the "Orthodox 9" parishes and deacon Andrei Boldireff.

At the entrance to the church, Vladika was greeted by the president of the parish community, Philip Pawlik.







The church brought together many parishioners, guests and friends of the parish, the descendants of the organizers and benefactors of the church.

Liturgical chants were sung by the joint choir of parishioners of the district churches under the direction of Alena Frankish.

At the small entrance, the Right Reverend Vladyka honored the right to wear the orarion to the church altarnik Kirill Frankish, as a recognition of his hard work to the benefits of the church.

At the end of the service, glorification was sung to the Most Holy Mother of God, to Her Nativity and to her Holy Parents.

In his sermon, Bishop Matthew congratulated the parishioners of the jubilant church with the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother of God and compared the organizers of the church with her holy parents, who, through their patience and dedication, secured a wonderful gift for their descendants - the Holy Temple.

Vladyka thanked everyone who supports the church and



cares for the services in it, and presented a carved wooden decorated cross to the parish in memory of his service on the centennial day. He has also awarded the parish council with the Patriarchal Letter of Distinction.

In his welcome reply, the Rector of the church, Archpriest Evgeni Protsenko, on behalf of the parishioners and guests of the church, thanked Vladyka for the words of edification and spiritual comfort, as well as "for his long journey to fortify the grace and solemnity of the parish anniversary."

At the end of the service, a commemorative photo was taken on the church ambon and on the steps of the entrance to the



church, after which the parish council invited all those present to a festive meal in the city of Thorsby.

During the meal, the president of the parish community, Phillip Pawlik, made a report on the history of the church and of the community, completing his report with his personal memories, including a photo presentation showing church services and events over the past fifty years.

Then the floor was given to the Most Reverend Vladyka, to the clergy and the presidents of the parish council.

Vladyka Matthew warmly thanked the organizers of the festivities for their reverent attitude to their church history, for prayers and kind words, refreshments, and called the blessings of the Lord upon all those present.

The Rector of the church emphasized the importance of the church in the region, which, for six generations of parishioners during the past 100 years, has become a true home, school and common refectory, a place of spiritual birth and formation for many people.



Archpriest Igor Kisil, Dean of the Patriarchal Parishes in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Rector of St. Barbara Cathedral in Edmonton, former Rector of the now jubilant Holy Trinity Church, warmly remembered all the names of the parishioners who worked in the church and those who now rest at this holy place's cemetery.

Deacon Andrei Boldireff urged those present not to leave their main heritage and to find spiritual comfort in the services in their own church.

Presidents of the Orthodox 9 parish district and of the Cathedral of the Holy Great Martyr Barbara donated memorial plaques with information about the celebration to the community of the Holy Trinity Church and warmly greeted the audience.

After the thanksgiving prayer, His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourozh continued talks and discussions with parishioners and guests.

**Photo: Nickolai Trubnikov, Natasha Borys**

### *In Memoriam*

***The parishioners of Orthodox 9 and the St. Mary's church Ladies Aid extend our deepest and sincere condolences to the relatives and friends of the newly departed servant of God Doreen Belozor. Our thoughts and prayers are with you! May your Mother's and Grand-Mother's memory be eternal!***

September the 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Doreen Loretta Belozor (knee Arp) passed away at the age of 79 years.

Doreen will be lovingly remembered by son Douglas, daughter Sharon (Gab) Rahmoun, son Robert (Marianne), son Larry (Lisa), 9 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, as well as numerous relatives and friends.

Doreen was predeceased by parents Walter and Betty Arp, sister Gwen, son Melvin Belozor, daughter Diane Belozor, husband Walter Belozor.



***We believe Doreen is received into the God's Ladies Aid, the one that is being catered by the Lord Himself: «Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.» (the Gospel).***

***All those whose love turned to tears these days we wish Christ's comforting grace. May your prayers for you mom and granny give you peace!***

***The mercy of God and the Kingdom of heaven to the newly departed this life, the servant of God Doreen; peace and good health – to you all!***

**The 40 days memorial service – the Liturgy and Panikhida – will take place on October the 19<sup>th</sup> (Saturday), at St. Mary's church in Nisku at 10 am.**





### **The Story of The Protecting Veil of the Mother of God for children**

A thousand years ago in Constantinople, in the house of the nobleman Feognost, a new slave appeared, a Slavic boy. Soon he became not a slave but was named son. At baptism, they called him Andrew.

Years passed, the boy grew up clever, learned to read and write and became a palace scribe (writer). But one morning, Andrei was seen in the courtyard in torn clothes: the young man laughed, tearing the rest of the dress on himself. He seemed to have lost his mind and nothing helped to return him to his good mind.

The sad Feognost had to let him go, and the young man went to wander around the city of Constantinople. He lived as a beggar. But at night, he prayed on the porch of the Blachernae Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary for all who did bad to him last day.

People saw a madman in front of them, but he was not ill. Christ Himself, who appeared to Andrew in a vision, sent him to live as if he is fool. And so he lived in Constantinople for many years, in appearance like the insane, in fact - being a living reproach to unmerciful people, to their hardened hearts.

Once, in a particularly cold winter, persecuted by everyone, unable to warm up, the holy fool Andrei froze in the snow, but did not die, but was given a short wonderful visit by the Angel of God. Blessed Andrew was taken to heaven, where he saw many great saints and angels, and the Lord Himself. He did not meet only the Mother of God. St. Andrew was

explained that the Mother of God went down into the world: to help people, to comfort and save them.

Then the holy fool was returned to Constantinople. And soon he saw the Virgin not in paradise, but on earth. It was like that.

There was a war. Enemies wanted to destroy Constantinople and kill everyone. They were already at the city walls. Day and night priests served in the churches of Constantinople, praying to the Lord for the salvation of the city and people.

One of those days, when the temple was full of people, the holy fool Andrei and his friend Epiphanius stood among them. Suddenly, St. Andrew, looking up to heaven, saw the Most Holy Lady walking through the air. She shined by heavenly light and was surrounded by angels and saints. She was standing on her knees and prayed for Christians for a long time. Then She removed the cover from Her head and hold it over the people praying in the temple, protecting them from visible and invisible enemies. And this cover in the hands of the Lady shone "brighter than the rays of the sun." Saint Andrew asked his friend Epiphanius: "Do you see brother, Queen and Lady, praying for the whole world?" Epiphanius answered: "I see, Holy Father, and I am surprised very much."

The Blessed Virgin Mary asked the Lord Jesus Christ to help all those people. This event was called the Day of the Protection of the Holy Virgin, and it is celebrated from that day on.



*Look at this picture and give color to the picture above, to help Andrew and the people of Constantinople to see Beautiful Mother of God!*



# October 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>6</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – <b>Horen</b> – <b>Thanksgiving Service</b>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow 	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – <b>Thorsby</b> – <b>Thanksgiving Service</b>	<u>14</u> <b>Protecting Veil of            the Mother of God</b> 	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – <b>Nisku</b> – <b>Thanksgiving Service</b>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> Venerable Ambrose of Optina 	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – <b>Vegreville</b> – <b>Thanksgiving Service</b>	<u>28</u> <b>The Bread            Guarding Icon of            The Mother of God</b> 	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>		