



# “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**

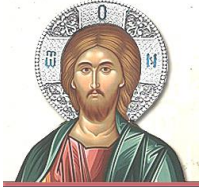
**St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)**

**Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY**

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

**St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE**

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



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## February, the 12<sup>th</sup> – the commemoration of the Three Holy Hierarchs



Their names are well-known to all the Christians - St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom. The Church calls them “equal in number to the Holy Trinity”, which is not at all excessive, if we know what their input to the Gospel preaching in its purity and integrity was.

They sprung on the Church field at about the same time and the same epoch – the 4<sup>th</sup> century, which was the time of new and extremely pestilent temptation for the Church. After the centuries of physical persecution, when most of the great martyrs showed up, when the holy emperor Konstantin put an end to it, there appeared, with a special violence, ‘inward’ mental persecutions in the form of the false wisdom – heresies.

And there appeared a vital need in those who could obtain from God “the Spirit without limit” (John, 3, 34) from the real self-denying monastic life, and put this divine knowledge into a form of the healthy and helpful food for the minds of the little ones, for them not to stumble over the worldly logics.

St. Basil the Great (330-379), the compiler of the Divine Liturgy that bears his name, was also a man of charity and compassion. Known as a protector of the weak and defender of the poor; he built hospitals, organized charities, cared for orphans and widows and emphasized acts of mercy on the part of all Christians.

Gregory the Theologian respected everything which demonstrates the power of human reason, be it humanitarian and natural sciences, rhetoric, literature, poetry, music or other arts; but if the fruits of all these are offered to the divine Spirit. His small church of Anastasia (Resurrection) was at time the only and suffering persecutions stronghold of the Orthodoxy in Constantinople.

St. John Chrysostom (345-407) was perhaps the greatest preacher the Church has ever produced, who in his sermons emphasized Christian morality and how we should conduct ourselves as Christians in the world. For St. John, our Christian faith encompasses every aspect of our lives and is to be manifested in every “word, deed, and thought.” Condescending to our infirmities he shortened the Liturgy, that we serve most often nowadays.

**The Saint Three Hierarchs, pray God for us!**

## February, the 15<sup>th</sup> - THE MEETING (PRESENTATION) OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE



According to the Law of Moses, all Hebrew parents must bring their first-born son on the fortieth day after birth to the Temple to be consecrated to God. It was the custom to bring a sacrifice in thanksgiving to God. The law was established in remembrance of the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt — freedom from slavery — when the first-born Hebrews were spared from death.

In fulfilment of this law, the Mother of God with Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem and brought for the sacrifice two fledgling doves.

At this time in Jerusalem, there lived an old man by the name of Simeon. He was a

righteous, pious man, and he awaited the coming of the Messiah. It was foretold to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not have died before he had seen Christ the Lord. Simeon waited for the fulfilment of the promise of God for a long time. According to tradition, he lived about 300 years. Then, one day, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he went to the Temple. When Mary with Joseph brought the infant Jesus, Simeon met the Child, took Him in his arms, and glorifying God said, "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples, a light of revelation for the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel."

Simeon called the newborn Lord as "a light to enlighten the Gentiles" (that is, all the tribes and nations) and "the glory of Thy people," — that is, "Israel." There are two Israels: in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. In the Old Testament, it was the chosen Hebrew people or Israelites, and in the New Testament — the whole Orthodox Christian world.

Joseph and the Mother of God marvelled at the words of Simeon. Simeon blessed them; and turning to the Mother of God, he prophesied to Her about the Child: "Behold, this Child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; yea, a sword shall pass through Thy own soul, also." The meaning is that She Herself would endure profound grief over Her Son when He would suffer.

There was, in the Temple, the pious widow Anna, a prophetess, an eighty-four-year-old widow, who served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She recognized the Saviour and, coming in that instant, glorified the Lord and spoke of Him to all of those in Jerusalem who awaited the coming to earth of Christ the Saviour.

When they had performed all things according to the Law of the Lord, the Mother of God with the Child and Joseph returned home.

This event, in which Saints Simeon and Anna met in the Temple the infant Christ presented by the Mother of God and Joseph and glorified Him, is called the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord and is celebrated in the Holy Orthodox Church as one of the great feast days on the 2nd of February (February 15th NS).

The righteous Simeon is called the God-receiver, that is, he who received in his hands God the Saviour.

*Note: The description of the events, see in the Gospel of Luke, 2:22-39.*

## Troparion of the Feast

*Rejoice, Thou Who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from Thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.*

Orthodox Photos

**About OrthodoxPhotos.com Web Photo Gallery -- <http://www.orthodoxphotos.com/>**

*This photo gallery brings you no less than 1757 pictures of different Orthodox Christian sights. They are meant to bring the Holy Orthodox Faith closer to the souls of the people. The Orthodox Church is the initial form of Christianity, long before Catholicism and Protestantism. It is the initial Christian Church, the Undivided Church, the Early Church that was formed 2000 years ago by our Lord Jesus Christ when after His Ascension, He sent down upon His Apostles the Holy Spirit to help them start building the Church - presently known as Eastern Orthodox Church.*

## Special Thank you from the priest and his family

During the Christmas and Baptismal (Theophany) season you shared with us your festive joy, that was a real inspiration for us, and an inward and firm proof of the things godly and invisible! We would like to reflect prayerfully all you kind wishes that you told us and sent us in the form of the greeting cards, and expressed at the festive tables: may the good Lord bless you with His peace and love; may this holy season hold many joys, and this new year bring you many blessings!

Thank you again for the gifts and sweets, and for the hospitality during the baptismal home blessings! May God keep you safe and give you purification and health of body and grant all your petitions for your salvation!

Remember also, O Lord, those who live far away, in the remote towns of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and those, and who missed the service for good cause of serving to the neighbour! God grants, we will sprinkle your dwellings with the holy water, which you can apply for the sanctification of your homes, as well, according to the Church prayers!



## Upcoming Events and Meetings in February-March

**February, the 15<sup>th</sup> – Feast of the Meeting of the Lord (we will bless the candles with special prayers)**

**February, the 29<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy at 10.00 am; 11.30 – The Annual Diocese Meeting at St. Barbara' Cathedral**

**March, the 2<sup>nd</sup> – Great Lent begins**

**March, the 7<sup>th</sup> – 1.00 pm – The Annual St. Mary's Parish meeting will be held at the Parish Hall, Nisku**

**March, the 14<sup>th</sup> – 10.00 am – 'Orthodox 9' Annual Meeting, held at St. Mary's Church Parish Hall, Nisku**

**The Sundays of March, the 15<sup>th</sup>, the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> – Liturgy with Confession will be in Nisku, Calmar and Vegreville accordingly.**



In a blessed falling asleep, grant,  
O Lord, your Heavenly Kingdom!



Elizabeth Trofimuk

June 17, 1925 – January 2, 2020

On January 2, 2020, Elizabeth Trofimuk (nee Borys) passed away peacefully at the age of 94 years surrounded by her loved ones, after having received the Holy Communion and their prayers.

The parishioners of Orthodox 9 extend our heartfelt condolences to Elizabeth's sons Tim (Evelyn), David (Linda) and James (Bernadine); her grandchildren, Nicholas, Danelle, Brynn, Austin, Eamonn, Colin and Niall; and her niece, Sylvia Borys who was like a daughter to her. Expressing a prayer of Sincere Sympathy and Faith that God's Love Will Comfort You in Your Sorrow.

Elisabeth was also loved and will be warmly remembered by a large extended family she gathered with her love.

Due to her personal sacrifices for the sake of all people around her, her faith, compassion, kindness, friendliness, great sense of humour -- Elisabeth was and remain forever a special lady in the lives of many, and will be deeply missed. Not only all the earthly cares and inspiration she gave to her children, but Elsie found the strength and time to share with them the invaluable Christian Orthodox Traditions.

She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph T. Trofimuk Q.C.; and siblings, John, Sophie, Anne, Lawrence, Stephanie, Val, Martha and Terry.

Elisabeth was born June 17, 1925 at Glidehurst, Alberta and grew up on the homestead west of Devon. At the age of 19 she graduated from Normal School and taught at school for 14 years. She was happily married to Joe for 53 years, loved travelling, chocolate, and spending time with her family and friends.

We believe, that it is not by chance, that we served the burial service on the third day of the Glorious Nativity of our Lord, and right after the Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos and the first Christian martyr Steven, whose grace she obviously followed during the earthly life. It is a special blessing and sign from above for the servant of God Elisabeth and for us all, to follow her path.

May Her Memory Be Eternal with the Lord and His people!

**Some interesting info from the WEB:** <http://cemetery.canadagenweb.org/>

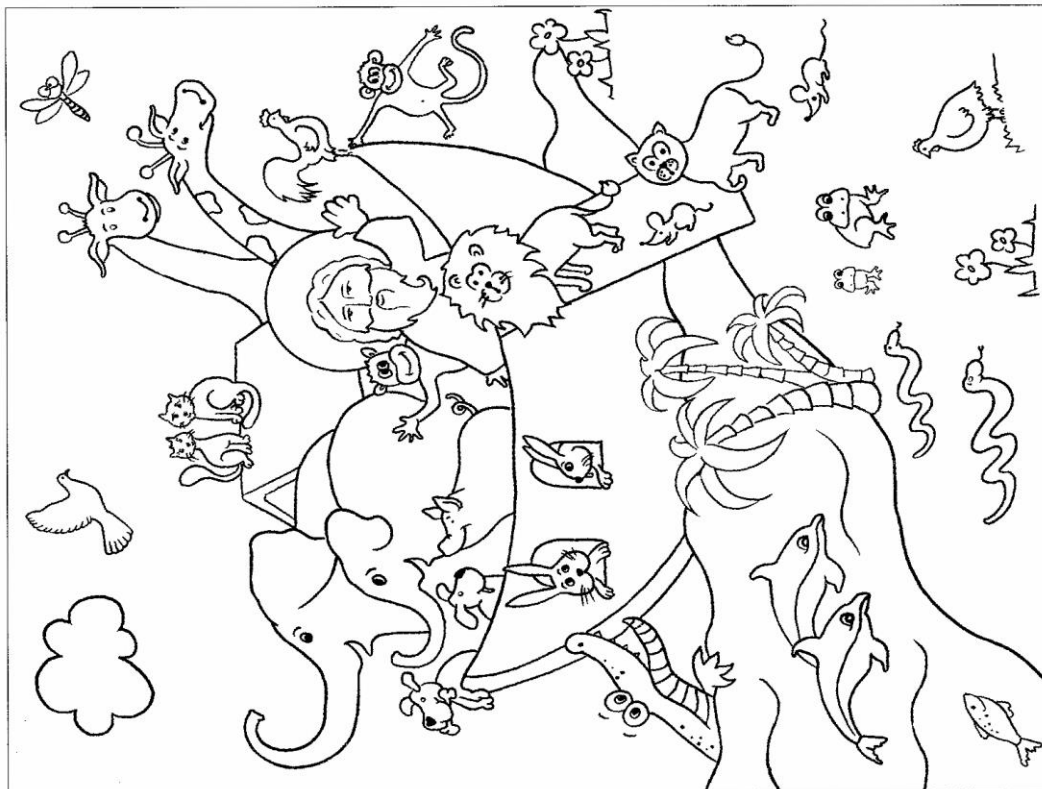
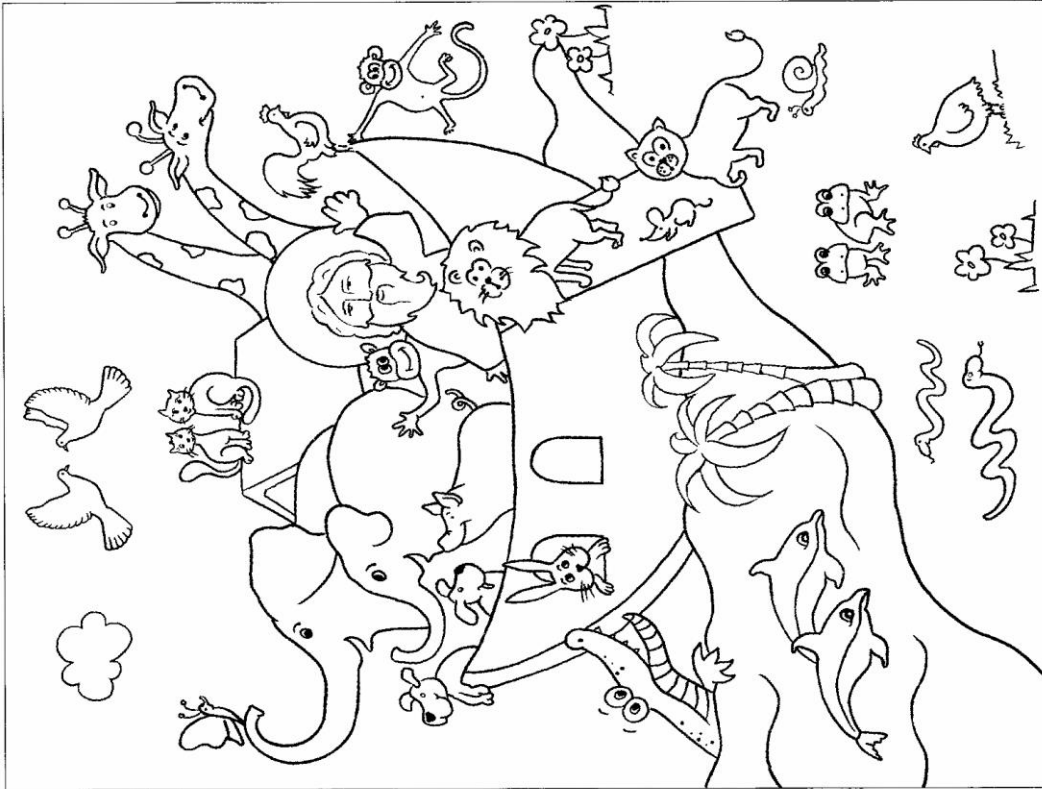
**CanadaGenWeb's Cemetery Project**

**CanadaGenWeb's Cemetery Project** currently offers a free and searchable listing of over 18,000 known Canadian cemeteries. The information is added by volunteers. The website provides: names, locations & histories of cemeteries; links to repositories & genealogy organizations that offer further information and/or assistance; lookup offers, transcripts, indexes and photos contributed by volunteers.

The project is classified as "in progress" -- they do not yet have information on every cemetery in Canada, but with the help of the volunteers, this can be accomplished.

There was one man that loved God and was righteous. His name was Noah. God told Noah to start building an ark, which is another name for a big boat. This ark was so big that there was room for at least two of every kind of animals in the whole world, to be saved during the great flood of water. Today, our ark is our church.

Find 10 differences in these pictures!



# February 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>2</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – <b>Nisku</b>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> New Hieromartyr Vladimir, metropolitan of Kiev 	<u>8</u>
<u>9</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy at St. Barbara Cathedral	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer 	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> The Meeting of the Lord 
<u>16</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – <b>Nisku</b> (Blessing of candles)	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> Prophet Zachariah 	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy at St. Barbara Cathedral	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> Appearance of the Iveron Icon 	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy at St. Barbara Cathedral; 11:30 a.m. – Annual Diocese meeting.