



“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

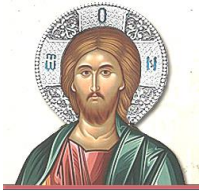
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



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December 2020

December 19th – St. Nicholas the archbishop of Myra in Lycia



December 19 we solemnly celebrate the commemoration day of one of the saints but whose celebration is in its solemnity resembles the Twelve Great Feasts – the day of St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker.

He is an archbishop of the 4th century of Myra, the province of Asia Minor.

Why is his memory so dear to the people of every epoch and all over the world? His life was a revelation of all that is truly Godly and Christian. Even before the priesthood he had been a model of faith the image of gentleness, a master of temperance, as the Troparion goes. Being not at all a poor person, he humbled himself and was doing mercy to the needy and perishing people. Like what he did for the young ladies, three daughters of one poor man, secretly giving them some gold to save them from both physical and spiritual poverty.

And the Lord, knowing his heart, blessed him to be an archbishop of the Church. And that church was experiencing the most efficient preaching – the preaching of love; with God giving to the one, who was faithful in little, now do a lot greater things, signs of His Kingdom. Now St Nicholas acted miraculously saving the sailors in stormy seas, freeing the captives unjustly imprisoned, even raising people from the dead, saving the whole region from famine.

And again, he did it all for the sake of Gospel, with a great self-denial and meekness, for the glory of God. So, he was given a special grace – to be this kind of light even after his physical death. Even his body, also miraculously saved from the invaders in the 11th century, is streaming Myrrh up to these days.

Hundreds of books can be compiled of the evidence of his graceful help to thousands of people of every following century up to nowadays. What he has obtained in human weakness, he was now abundantly giving to anyone who was/is in need, poor and rich, infants and elderly, Christians and muslims, and even atheists...

Today we are in the times of affliction, as so many people suffer and die from this new illness, with some human contradictions that worsen it more. So, let us ask our Heavenly intercessor and healer to remember us in his holy prayers, or rather in that Holy Realm where he is now, for the Lord to forgive us our trespasses and deliver us from this impending disaster. Amen

Recent Miracles of St Nicholas the Wonderworker

by Fr. Victor S. Potapov, *Rector*, Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Washington, D.C.

The myrrh-streaming icon visited the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in 1999 and again in April, 2000. The following experiences were shared with the congregation before the icon came the second time.

I would like to share three inspiring testimonies with those of you who will not be able to attend services in our Cathedral on April 7-9th [2000], which will be celebrated in the presence of the Holy Myrrh-Streaming Icon of St. Nicholas. Allow me to introduce you to three individuals dear to our hearts: Tatiana, Christina and Alexander and describe the great and wondrous mercy shown to them by the Lord through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. In June 1997 my parishioner Tatiana was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer—Non-Hodgkin's Mantle Cell Lymphoma and was given 18 months to live. **Tatiana** is in her 50's but looks much older than her age because of numerous chemotherapy treatments. Her weight reached a mere 82 lbs.



In February 1999, Fr. Elias Warnke came to Washington with the Holy Icon for a three-day visit. I wanted to take the Icon to Tanya's home and serve a moleben, but she categorically refused, insisting that she would come to church to pray in person. It was heart wrenching to observe her, literally a living skeleton, dragging herself to church and fervently praying before the wonder-working image of St. Nicholas. Two days later, Tatiana went to her physician's office for another session of chemotherapy. The doctor examined her and to his amazement discovered that the cancerous tumors in her lymph nodes were gone. He was completely at a loss for an answer but told Tanya that she should go home and rest for a month from further chemotherapy treatments. A month later Tatiana returned to her doctor. He ordered blood tests, a CAT scan and other tests. All of the results were negative. The doctor was perplexed, because what he encountered was medically impossible. He told Tanya that she was in total remission. That was a year ago. Since then the handmaid of God Tatiana is regaining her strength and looking forward to joining us for common prayers of thanksgiving for God's great mercy.

The next person I want you to meet is Christina, a non-Orthodox 30-year-old American of Dutch extraction. Christina was stricken with a rapidly spreading cancerous brain tumor, which grew to six centimeters. The size of the tumor made surgery impossible. In the Winter of 1999, shortly after Fr. Elias' visit to Washington, one of my parishioners gave a piece of myrrh-drenched cotton swabs to Benedicta a German-American acquaintance, who in turn gave the swab to Christina along with a medallion of St. Nicholas, blessed with the Holy Myrrh. Christina began anointing herself with the myrrh, which she kept next to her bed and put on the medallion. In December, Christina underwent another CAT scan, which showed that her tumor had shrunk by 30%. On April 4th of the this year, Benedicta, having learned that the Icon of St. Nicholas would once again be visiting our parish, called my matushka and joyfully reported to her that a recent MRI of Christina showed that all traces of cancer had disappeared. Christina and her friends plan to come to church this weekend and join us in expressing thanksgiving to God.

Finally, the case of Alexander, a 40-year old immigrant from the Ukraine. He and his family came to the United States in the 80's. In November of 1999 Alexander was diagnosed with advanced liver cancer. On December 10th, 1999 Fr. Elias was in Washington with the Icon of St. Nicholas. On Dec. 11th he allowed me to take the Holy Icon to sick parishioners, among whom was the gravely ill Alexander. A few days before he had 2/3 of his liver removed. Alexander lost a lot of weight and looked terrible. I put the icon on his bed and proceeded to serve a moleben,

during which he and his wife Olga prayed fervently. Following the prayer service I confessed Alexander and gave him Holy Communion.

A month ago Alexander attended services at our Cathedral. I could barely recognize him. He has regained 35 lbs. since December. He told us that all traces of cancer were gone. He has resumed his job. His physicians are at a loss to explain his cure. Alexander is presently writing a detailed testimony of his experience and plans to include in it details of how in 1990 his wife Olga was cured of late stage melanoma by the Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon of the Holy Theotokos. Alexander and Olga will also join us in church to give prayerful thanks.

On April 9th, following Sunday's Slavonic liturgy, we will serve a special moleben with special petitions on behalf of the servants of God Tatiana, Christina, Alexander and numerous others who have been blessed through the intercessions of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. The Holy Church of Christ has bestowed upon St. Nicholas the title "wonderworker" because his whole life was one continuous spiritual wonder. All of the miracles he has wrought are manifestations of great help for and defense of the defenseless. Wondrous was his ability to combine a principled stance in matters of Faith, a defense of Christ's Truth and a condescensive love for people, manifested in his continuous desire to help those in need. The heart of the believer is drawn to St. Nicholas' meekness and love for others. Already during his earthly life he was called "the father of orphans and comforter of sufferers."

Truly, glorious is God in His saints!

120th Anniversary of the first permanent priest assignment to Canada

Father Jacob Korchinsky was the first of many permanent priests in Canada. In 2020 we mark the 120 years anniversary of his assignment to serve in and around Edmonton. We continue publishing the outline of the life and the activity of father Jacob.

Return to Europe, 1902

On 1 January, 1902, Father Jacob Korchinsky requested that he be relieved of duties in Canada and the Aleutian Diocese because of his wife's illness, and that he be allowed to return to Russia. He was blessed to do this, and he was transferred to the [Kherson-Odessa Diocese](#), then in the southern Ukrainian part of the [Russian Empire](#). There, Father Jacob was appointed to be rector of the Holy Resurrection Church in Bereznegova on the [Black Sea](#) coast. It is now in the Nikolaev Diocese of the [Ukrainian Orthodox Church](#). He also resumed his teaching duties there for the next 5 years, and during this time he received many teaching and service awards.

In 1906, Father Jacob was appointed to be rector of the Protection Church in the Kherson prison.

After 2 years of serving in the prison church, Father Jacob reapplied to return to North America.

Return to North America, 1908

After 6 years of service in Russia, in 1908, Father Jacob, with the blessing of the Most Holy Synod, returned to North America and he served in the parish of [Saint Archangel Michael in Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania, USA](#).

In his report of 26 November, 1906 to the [Holy Synod](#), the then Archbishop Tikhon (Belavin) wrote about Father Korchinsky: *'He did much to convert the heathen to the Christian Faith and returned many Uniates to the Orthodox Church. He set the foundation for parish life in many places, built churches and assisted the unfortunate with his acquired medical knowledge'*.

Whilst he was in Pennsylvania, Father Jacob was awarded the [gold pectoral Cross](#) by an Imperial Decree.

During this period of time in the USA, in parallel with his priestly activity, Father Jacob received a medical education. He graduated from a medical institute. This was required by the conditions of his missionary service when he visited the poor remote settlements of American Indigenous peoples. Of course, even before that, he was providing assistance, but he then decided to acquire the professional knowledge of a physician.

On 25 March, 1911, the Korchinskys were relocated to [Newark, New Jersey](#), where Father Jacob was appointed to be the rector of the [Church of Saint Michael](#), and also the visiting priest to parishes in [Erie](#), and [Carnegie](#) in Pennsylvania, and [Youngstown](#) in [Ohio](#). He was the first resident priest of the [Church of Saints Peter and Paul](#) in [South River, New Jersey](#). During his years in this area, Father Jacob Korchinsky also served as the Dean of Pennsylvania.



The [Mitred Archpriest Michael Protopopov](#) is of the opinion that Father Jacob Korchinsky was *'one of the jewels of the Russian Mission in America, one of those super-priests who covered vast territories and founded numerous churches'*.

Father Jacob was not alone, as indicated by the use of the plural in this comment. There were other very hard-working missionaries besides him. They did what they did, and were enabled to do so, because of their personal love for Jesus Christ.

Father Jacob was a member of the trustee board and the first manager of the [Russian Émigré Society](#) in [New York City](#). He was a trustee of the Orthodox Orphanage of North America (at [Saint Tikhon's Monastery](#)). He also served as a member of the [Imperial Russian Palestine Society](#). At the suggestion of [Archbishop Platon \(Rozhdestvensky\)](#), he was elected to be vice-president and honorary member of the Russian Emigrant Society of North America.

Father Jacob also founded some Temples in the USA. Amongst them was the [Nativity of Christ Church](#) in [Youngstown, Ohio](#), in 1915.

Mexico, adoption

In the midst of all these activities, there was an undocumented period of time before 1915, during which Father Jacob travelled to [Mexico](#) and served in [Mexico City](#). During this period, it happened that as he was visiting and serving foster homes, he was given the infant girl Dominica (born 18 January, 1913), from a poor family of Spanish origin. He adopted the child, and she lived first with him, and then in his family. She, herself, later had children who lived in Odessa and in parts of what is now Russia. Father Jacob and Matushka Barbara's granddaughter wrote about her mother and her grandparents in a recent article in "Faith", a Russian religious periodical, dated May, 2006.

In 1915, the Priest Jacob Korchinsky was elevated to the dignity of [archpriest](#).

Mission in Hawaii, 1915

Then, also in 1915, the Russian Orthodox community in [Hawaii](#) (with the support of the [Episcopal Bishop Henry B Restarick](#)), sent an official request to the [Holy Governing Synod](#) in [Saint Petersburg](#) for a priest. At this time, Hawaii was a [Territory](#) of the USA (after having been annexed in 1898).

On 30 September, 1915, the Archpriest Jacob Korchinsky was dispatched (with the blessing of [Archbishop Evdokim](#)

(Meschersky) of the Aleutians) to shepherd the large population of Orthodox Russian faithful in Hawaii. Upon arrival there, he established permanent liturgical services in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Quickly, he developed a community of more than 250 people. Since there was no Orthodox Temple in Honolulu, Father Jacob accepted the offered help of the Episcopal Church, and their bishop provided him with a place in which he could hold services. In his report addressed to Archbishop Evdokim (Meschersky), he said :

'On 29 November (1915), in the Hawaiian Islands, I, unworthy, was able to serve the first Orthodox Divine Liturgy in the Episcopal Church, which belongs to the Cathedral of the Apostle Andrew the First-Called, kindly provided to the Orthodox for the services by the Most Reverend Bishop. In addition, the priest enlisted the support of influential non-Orthodox donors who were ready to contribute to the construction of an Orthodox church.'



On the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, 25 December/7 January, 1916, the Archpriest Jacob Korchinsky celebrated the Divine Liturgy at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Honolulu. Thus, Orthodoxy was re-established in Hawaii.

It would, however, fall to others to continue this pastoral work. The Orthodox Christian Faith had been present in the Hawaiian Islands from 1815, while there was a monarchical government that had friendly relations with the Russian Empire. However, when the Republic of Hawaii was

established in 1893, American Protestant missionaries were free to proselytise, and they were well-funded. The activities of Father Jacob had been preceded in 1910 with the establishment of a chapel which offered Reader's Services, and that had led to the 1915 invitation.

Whilst he was in Honolulu (wrote Father Michael Protopopov), Father Korchinsky happened to meet a group of Russian Latvians who were sailing from Australia to Egypt via Honolulu and the newly-opened Panama Canal. They told him that there were Russians in Australia. Not long afterwards, Father Korchinsky read in the "Messenger" (the official publication of the Russian Mission in America) in January, 1916 :

'In Australia, there live thousands of Russian people, who are spiritually ministered to by a Greek priest who visits once a year. His services are conducted unwillingly and without a sense of piety, even though he receives a large amount of money for his services. It has also been reported that a self-styled 'priest' has arrived in Australia from North America who has exploited the unsuspecting Russians with excessive fees for baptisms and weddings, so much so, that they complained to the police and the 'priest' was arrested.'

Father Korchinsky then wrote to the Russian Consul-General in Melbourne, who responded by asking him to come to Australia immediately.

With the blessing to do so, the Archpriest Jacob (Korchinsky) departed by ship in early February, 1915, for Australia.

Following the departure of Father Jacob Korchinsky to Australia in 1916, he was replaced by the Archpriest John Dorosh in that same year. Father Dorosh remained in Hawaii until his departure in the 1920s.

(About mission in Australia, return to Odessa, the arrest and the martyr's repose – read in the next bulletin issue)

Metropolitan Job (Tyvonyuk) has reposed in the Lord

On Tuesday, December 1st, Metropolitan Job (Tyvonyuk), former Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA & Canada from 1975-1976 reposed in the Lord after complications from the Coronavirus.

His Eminence was 82 years old.

Metropolitan Job was born on November 6, 1938 in Pochaev, Ukraine. On January 3, 1975, he was consecrated as Bishop of Zaraisk, Vicar of the Moscow Diocese.

His consecration was led by His Holiness Patriarch Pimen, Bishop Job was appointed Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada and temporarily in the USA.

On July 19, 1976, he was relieved as Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes and appointed Vice Chairman of the Department of External Church Relations.

By the decision of the Holy Synod of September 13-14, 1989, he was appointed Archbishop of Zhitomir and Ovruch being relieved as deputy chairman of the DECR.

On October 5, 1994, he was appointed Archbishop of Odintsovo, Vicar of the Moscow Diocese.

On December 27, 1996 – appointed head of the Diocese of Chelyabinsk.

On February 25, 2000, by decree of His Holiness Patriarch Alexey II, he was elevated to the rank of Metropolitan.

By the decision of the Holy Synod of March 22, 2011 (Journal No. 12), he was released from the administration of the Chelyabinsk and Zlatoust dioceses and retired for health reasons.



The parishioners of Orthodox IX extend our deepest condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of the servant of God Jean Harysh who, after having received the Holy Communion and the Holy Anointing, peacefully departed this life on November the 25th.

Jean was a very bright and kind person, always instilling joy in those who communicated with her.

Her talents she dedicated to serving God and people, having been a faithful servant of the Ladies Aid, participating in all the activities of our sisterhood: taking part in fundraisings, helping and catering, cooking for the children in St. Tikhon's summer camp, taking care of St Mary's Church.

May God comfort you and your family with His compassion, and may He settle Jean, where the light of His countenance shall visit.

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


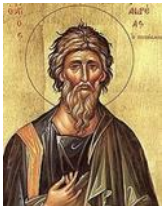


- *Mummy, why does Father Christmas have a beard? And why does he wear such funny clothes?*
- *Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, has a beard and wears such unusual clothes because he is the folklore version of an Orthodox Christian bishop - St Nicholas.*



*There are two days in a year to celebrate St Nicholas, in summer and in winter!
How would you colour it differently?*



December 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> The Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple 	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy Holy and All-Praised Apostle Andrew the First-Called 	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> <i>Great-martyr Barbara</i> 	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> St. Nicholas the archbishop of Myra in Lycia 
<u>20</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy at St. Barbara Cathedral	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, of Tremithus 	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>		