



“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

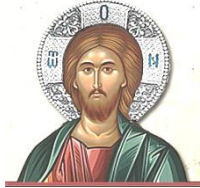
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



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June 2021

Pentecost Day – June the 20th – Holy Trinity Sunday



The feast of Pentecost is one of the most ancient of religious festivals which is still observed by man today. Thousands of years ago, in early Jewish times, this day, called "Feast of Weeks" was dedicated to giving gratitude to God for the gift of the seedtime and harvest cycle of life. Later, Pentecost became even more important in the Old Testament as it became associated with the giving of the Ten Commandments by God to man on Mount Sinai. This aspect of the feast is still observed by the Jewish of the world.

The Christian Pentecost has a new dimension, a new meaning. It marks the day when the Holy Spirit, promised by Christ to His followers, descended upon the Christian community and transformed it, giving it power, strength, unity, mission, "To go and teach all nations." This feastday has come to be called the "birthday" of the Orthodox Catholic Church.

Fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ, the small group of disciples gathered together in their upper room. Christ told them to remain in Jerusalem until they would receive "power" and the Holy Spirit would come upon them. At nine o'clock in the morning a sound like a great wind coming from heaven filled the room. At the same time, cloven tongues of fire appeared and settled upon each of the disciples and on Virgin Mary. Then, as promised by the Angels at Christ's Ascension they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other tongues.

Transformed by the descent of the Holy Spirit upon them, the disciples remembered all of the teachings of the Master during His days on the earth.

To those who gathered to see what happened they were all amazed saying to one and another. "Behold, are not these who speak Galileans? How, then do we hear every man in our own tongue?"

Some of the onlookers scoffed saying that the disciples got drunk on too much "new wine". But Peter, standing up with the other eleven disciples and said, "Men of Judea and all of you that dwell in Jerusalem, know that these men are not drunk but in them the words of the prophet of Joel are fulfilled." *(to be continued on the next page)*

After the Apostle's sermon the crowd was touched with remorse for wrong doing and asked, "Men and brethren what shall we do?" Peter said: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

About 3000 persons believed and were baptized and became part of Christian community. The Acts [of the Apostles] say that this group "continued in the apostles teaching and in the breaking of bread (Eucharist) and in prayers."

The feast day of Pentecost, observed by Eastern Orthodox Christians is one of the twelve most important Holy Days of the Orthodox Church year and is commemorated fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ from the dead – Easter – and ten days after the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

From "Echoes of Faith. Our Faith". Submitted by Andrew Belozer (†2020)

Getting back to normal *Church Life (At Last!)*



Albertans have been working hard to stop the spike over the last few weeks. Active cases are going down and vaccination rates are going up.

Albertans have an incentive to continue following public health measures and get vaccinated as soon as possible. [Alberta's Open for Summer Plan](#) safely eases restrictions in 3 stages as vaccination targets are reached and hospitalizations decline. If Albertans continue doing their part, all restrictions could be lifted by late June or early July.

Alberta will enter Stage 1 on June 1. Until then, all current provincewide [restrictions remain in place](#), with additional restrictions in high case regions.

Alberta's Open for Summer Plan

This **3-stage roadmap** outlines how restrictions will ease while protecting the health-care system and increasing [vaccination rates in the province](#).

COVID-19 transmission will continue to be monitored. If required, a stage may be paused to respond to trends at regional or provincial levels. Sustained reopening will require Albertans to get fully vaccinated with 2 doses during the summer to prevent future spread.

These restriction changes apply provincewide. Additional details will be released before each stage.

• Stage 1 reopening starts June 1

Stage 1: Two weeks after 50% of Albertans 12+ (born in 2009 or earlier) have received at least one dose, and hospitalizations are below 800 and declining. Effective June 1 unless stated otherwise.

- Places of worship – 15% of fire code occupancy (effective May 28)
- Outdoor social gatherings – up to 10 people (indoor social gatherings still not permitted)
- Outdoor physical, performance and recreation activities – up to 10 distanced people, all ages
- Personal and wellness services – re-open, by appointment only
- Funeral services – up to 20 people, not including facility staff, funeral clergy or organizers not considered guests (receptions remain prohibited)
- Wedding ceremonies – up to 10 people, including officiant, bride/groom, witnesses (receptions remain prohibited)
- Restaurants – 4 people per table max, outdoors, households only or 2 close contact for those living alone
- Retail - 15% of fire code occupancy (must maintain ability to distance)
- Distancing and masking requirements remain in effect

• Stage 2 reopening

Stage 2: Two weeks after 60% of Albertans 12+ (born in 2009 or earlier) have received at least one dose, and hospitalizations are below 500 and declining. Expected to be in effect mid-June.

- Outdoor social gatherings – up to 20 people with distancing (indoor social gatherings still not permitted)
- Indoor recreation, entertainment and other settings (rec centres, arenas, casinos, cinemas, theatres, museums, galleries, libraries, etc.) – open at 1/3 of fire code occupancy
- Gyms and fitness studios – open for solo and drop-in activities and indoor fitness classes with 3 metre distancing

- Funeral services – up to 20 people, indoors and outdoors (receptions permitted outdoors only)
- Wedding ceremonies – up to 20 people, indoors and outdoors (receptions permitted outdoors only)
- **Places of worship – 1/3 of fire code occupancy**
- Personal and wellness services – resume walk-in service
- Post-secondary – resume in-person learning
- Restaurants – 6 people per table max, indoors or outdoors
- Retail – 1/3 of fire code occupancy (must maintain ability to distance)
- Youth activities (day camps, overnight camps, play centres) – resume with restrictions
- Youth and adult sports – resume with no restrictions, indoors and outdoors
- Outdoor public gatherings (concerts/festivals) – up to 150 people
- Outdoor fixed seating facilities (grandstands) – 1/3 seated capacity
- Work from home order is lifted but still recommended
- Distancing and masking requirements remain in effect

• Stage 3 reopening

Stage 3: Two weeks after 70% of Albertans 12+ (born in 2009 or earlier) have received at least one dose. Expected to be effective in late June or early July.

- **All restrictions lifted, including ban on indoor social gatherings**
- Isolation requirements for confirmed cases of COVID-19 and some protective measures in continuing care settings remain

<https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>

Message of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church to the episcopate, clergy, monastics and laity *on the invasion of a harmful infection*



Praising Merciful God *Who causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous* (Mt. 5:45), the Church is ardently praying for the final deliverance of people from the harmful infection that has invaded us this year. The Holy Synod has called upon the bishops, priests, monastics and lay people not to weaken in this prayer and asked the Almighty God to grant His help to all those who are working to overcome the misfortune that has befallen the world. The sacred duty of Orthodox Christians is also to pray for the repose of those who died from the coronavirus infection

and its consequences. It is with special grateful love that we will remember those clergy and laity, especially medical doctors, who, in fulfilling their duty to the end, according to the Gospel, *laid down their life for their friends* (cf. Jn. 15:13).

Reflecting on the causes of the disaster that has visited us, we should preserve Christian sanity, discretion and good sense. True, sorrows that often visit individuals and whole nations sometimes may be a result of human communities' rejection of God's protection. According to St. Paul, the first cause of every disaster that befalls the creation is the Fall as a result of which "the whole creation has been groaning right up to the present time" (Rom. 8:22). However, it is wrong to believe that human suffering is definitely linked with individual sin. "Those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?—these are the words with which the Saviour responded to the news about a disaster that befell the Holy City (Lk. 13:4), reminding them that God-given destinies are often concealed from us until the right time. The apostle warns us against rash and immature judgements, which almost always lead to some people's haughty accusation of others and calls Christians to await humbly the full revelation of God-given destinies on the day of the Second Coming of Christ: "Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God" (1 Cor. 4:5).

Nevertheless, every crisis arising in human history makes it possible for us to evaluate anew our customary way of life and to re-think the motivation of our actions. Let everyone who bears the name of Christ harken to the words of St. Ignatius the God-Bearer: "We ought to bear all things for the sake of God that He also may bear with us. Be ever becoming more zealous than what you are. Weigh carefully the times. Look for Him who is above all time, eternal and invisible, yet who became visible for our sakes; impalpable and impassible, yet who became passible on our account; and who in every kind of way suffered for our sakes" (Epistle to Polycarp, Ch. 3).

We can see how fragile and unreliable is comfort cherished by the modern civilization. Enjoying the gifts of God's mercy and prosperity sent down by the Creator, regrettably we are inclined to carelessness. To a great extent, the events of this year are evidence to this carelessness. How untenable human conceit tends to be!

It is gratifying to see that in the situation of an epidemic most faithful of our Church have proved to be worthy of being called disciples of the Lord Jesus by preserving with big-hearted patience their commitment to the Gospel's truth, taking care of those who are near and those who are far, just as it befits

those who fulfil the law of Christ to carry each other's burdens (Gal. 6:2). **The pastors and faithful of our Church understood: one's careless attitude to one's health, which may seem to be a private affair of every person, in these days can turn out to be other people's suffering and death.** Many Orthodox Christians have preferred responsibility for the life and health of their neighbors to imprudence and self-assurance. They have fearlessly fulfilled their duty ignoring their own wishes and habitual way of life and realizing that the precautions they take in no way belittle our faith in the effectiveness of Divine Providence and sacredness of the Church's sacraments, the most important of them being the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ.

A special test for Orthodox Christians was the limited access of lay people to participation in public worship and even the impossibility for them to come to church. This circumstance compels us to think again over the importance that church worship and common prayer of the disciples of Christ have in our life. We should cherish this gift of the Lord and value each possibility to come under the sacred protection of the house of God. True, the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in churches did not stop even in the absence of most of the flock. True, the broadcast of the worship services in the internet or on television and publication of the liturgical orders could relieve to an extent the burdens of the permanent stay of Orthodox Christians in their homes and became for them a consolation. However, according to many, the feat of a lone prayer at home proved to be not an easy action. Evidently, broadcasting in no way can replace the personal participation in a worship service, to say nothing of the fact that technical means do not provide an opportunity for the participation of a Christian in most of the sacraments of the Church, especially in the Divine Eucharist as the most important of them. The personal presence of the apostles in the upper room of the Last Supper is the irrevocable gospel's norm of remembrance about the life-giving death of Christ and the confession of His Resurrection in the sacrament of His Body and Blood. We can never and in no way forget this norm.

The considerably limited participation of people in worship service was unprecedented for our episcopate, clergy and laity in their personal experience. Realizing that the new threat facing humanity could involve grave consequences that hardly could have been fully predicted and aware of her responsibility for the life and health of innumerable people, the Church shared people's burdens generated by the spread of the harmful infection and called upon her faithful to refrain for a while from their habitual way of participating in the liturgical life. However, this decision adopted as it was in an extraordinary historical situation, cannot become a new norm. The freedom of conscience and freedom of faith, including the right of believers to participate in worship services even in exceptional situations should remain unshakable.

The concern of many Christians as well as people of various other beliefs for a possibility of further application of the methods used during the epidemic to ensure the necessary decrease in the intensity of personal contacts between people seems to be justified to a considerable extent. The use of digital identifiers, the automated decision-making that can involve the deprivation of individuals and whole communities of their rights, the broad collection of personal data including information about health and the processing of this data – all this demands control on the part of society, including the Church as a public institution. The Bishops' Councils of our Church, in particular the 2013 Bishops' Council, have repeatedly pointed to possible dangers involved in the development of technologies for recording and processing personal data.

Looking back at the past months, we underscore that no polyphony of opinions, news and rumours and differences of opinions inevitable in the modern world should tear apart Christ's robe – His Church. Reflections on the causes of particular events in the world, joyful or sorrowful, and discussions between Christians presuppose not an exchange of claims, not setting off some against others, the less so the sowing of enmity and schism but rather mutual assistance, joint search for the way of action for the Church and

her faithful in a given situation, readiness to hear and understand each other and especially to hear the conciliar voice of the Church.

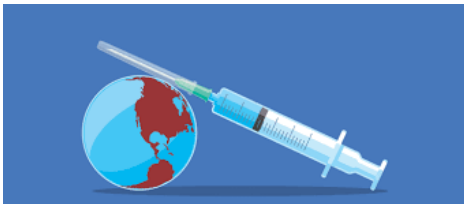
The anti-epidemic measures defined by the Holy Synod should be observed further as well with reference to local situations. Attention should also be given to the resumption of studies in church educational institutions and Sunday schools while the beginning of the academic year can be put off in particular cases subject to ruling bishops' decision depending on the epidemic situation and with due consideration for the decisions of state authorities with regard to the beginning of the academic year in secular educational institutions.

We pray for the repose of the souls of all those who did not survive the disease and its consequences. We thank the most reverend archpastors, the clergy and laity who in these not easy days have not abandoned their work for the glory of the Triune God. May the Lord reward all of you for your zealous work to glorify His Holy Name, for your love for His Church, for your divine worship, for your effective help to your neighbours? We send special words of gratitude to medical and social workers, staff members of law-enforcement bodies, municipal civil servants, utility workers, volunteers and our many other brothers and sisters who worked to relieve the suffering of the ill and took care of those who could not take care of themselves.

May God's blessing be with all of us!

For your consideration, here is what was found in one of the Orthodox Churches in Canada, that I would like to share and to hear what you think of that:

A Note Concerning Vaccination and Worship



“Please note that, though there is no intention either to mandate or track vaccination in our mission community, it should be abundantly obvious that our Christian commitment to love and care for others will lead all those who are able to receive a vaccine to do so before gathering together again in person. God forbid that any of us should ever become a channel by which harm comes to another, including the immunocompromised or otherwise vulnerable in our midst who will be trusting us all to do whatever is necessary to keep them safe. If you have any concerns, please speak to the priest.

(That said, if your concern amounts to pleading, as one person put it this week, “Don't close the doors of the church to those who choose not to be vaccinated,” the answer will simply be that the doors of the church are closed to no one, but those with weaker immune systems — owing to chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, HIV, and cancer, or autoimmune diseases, such as lupus, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis, or medications or treatments, such as radiation therapy — have by no means chosen their condition, whereas those who avoid vaccination and thereby carry an ongoing threat to others do so by their own choice. We love all, but prioritise our care for the weak over the reckless and foolhardy.)”

A tip that could be vital – for the vaccination

Dear brothers and sisters, while following the videos of one prominent British physician, I heard from him, that some complications after the vaccination jab might be related to the vaccine substance going intravenous instead of intramuscular, that, however, is extremely rare case (could be once in a nurse's working practice). But the precaution is amazingly simple – just ask the nurse to do injection aspiration while administering the vaccine to you. And may God help us!

In Memoriam

Christ is Risen! Chrystos Voskres!

The parishioners of Orthodox IX 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 lternal!



God saw you getting tired,
so he put his arms around you
and he whispered "Come with me".
With tearful eyes, we watched you slip away
and we couldn't make you stay.
Your Golden Heart stop beating,
your tired hands put to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.



WASIECZKO, Bobby Jimmy

January 29, 1948 - April 23, 2021



It is with great sadness that the family announces the sudden passing of Bobby, a beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Bobby will be lovingly remembered by his wife Lorraine of 48 years, children Steven, Nadine (Craig), John (Bobbi-Lynn) and Natasha (Chad), grandchildren Dean, Tyler, Tayler, Thomas, Jimmy and Karla, as well as numerous family and friends. Bobby was predeceased by daughter Helen, parents Stephan and Elsie, sisters Violet and Shelley, brothers Bob and Allan.

They say that you need two wings to be a Christian: this is your faith, and your hard labor, your spiritual and physical action in this world.

As being a faithful servant and having once taken a burden of Christ – to be a vice-president (in 1999) of Orthodox IX, and at the same time – maintaining one of the best farming households, he obtained them both.

May God bless, by prayers of all the saints, whose icons were cherished by the family, to be lifted up by those to His Heavenly Kingdom for his humble servant Bobby James!

(continued on the next page)

Catherine "Trudy" Pitz-Funk

November 16, 1965 - April 27, 2021 (age 55)



It is with great sorrow and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Catherine "Trudy" Rose Pitz-Funk. Trudy passed away peacefully at the Brandon Regional Health Centre, Brandon Manitoba, on Tuesday, April 27th, 2021, at the age of 55.

Trudy was born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan on November 16th, 1965.

She attended Goose Lake High School. Following her education, she moved to Winnipeg to find employment and later she went to Moosejaw, where she became a talented hairdresser. She took her talents to Calgary and Vancouver and eventually moved back home to Roblin and opened Vibes Hair in 2000. Trudy married Rodney Funk in 2004. She had a zest for life and enjoyed time with her family.

A service was held on Monday, May 3, 2021 at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in MacNutt, Saskatchewan, with Father Andrew Piasta officiating. Crossbearer and Banner Bearers were Barry, Christian and Easton Pitz. Pallbearers were Kelly Keast, Glen Puritch, Debbie Pryslak, Tammy Leflar, Perry Toderian and Steven Pitz.

Trudy is survived by her husband, Rodney; her mother, Anne – **to Whom we express our special sympathies – May God give you His consolation to save your mother's heart**; her three siblings, Randy (Shannon), Joanne (Kelly) and Barry (Tara), as well as many nieces and nephews.

Steve Winnichuk

September 6, 1937 - May 6, 2021



His loving wife Sylvia and all of his family wish to announce the passing of Steve Winnichuk of Spruce Grove, formerly of Highvale, Alberta. Steve can now be reunited with his parents, siblings and numerous friends who he has missed dearly. We were fortunate to have Steve with us for 83 years, and yet it still did not feel like long enough.

Steve was born in Tomahawk, Alberta and spent nearly all of his life on the Highvale family farm. While he was employed at various jobs throughout his life off of the farm, his heart, soul and mind were always on the family farm until the end. His love for the farm, for being outside and for nature always shined through. His connection with animals was always present whether it was with farm animals, special pets or various wild creatures.

Spouse: Sylvia, children: Theresa (Peter) and Stephen (Karen), grandsons: Andrew and Adam, extended family and friends are left to remember Steve as a wonderful, caring and hard-working person. Inside all of us who knew him he leaves behind just a portion of his vast work ethic, which is more than enough to serve us all well. Steve's ability to fix and to make all sorts of things helped his family to no end. His sense of humour will be missed by all and his love for, dedication to, and playfulness with, his family will be irreplaceable.

All of us want to say thank you for being fortunate enough to have time with him, and now it is time for him to rest. Rest well Steve. (Of course, we are sure he is saying there is always work to be done on whatever farm he is on now, and he is loving it!)

Children's Corner: Drop in with your children and great & grand children!

Read the following story from the Holy Scripture and find the hidden words on the next page!

The Ascension of the Lord

from "Law of God" by Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy (written for children in 1957 in America)

On the fortieth day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the disciples of Christ were all together in one house. Jesus Christ appeared to them and spoke with them saying, "Thus it is written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations beginning from **Jerusalem**. You are witnesses of these things. Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. He, who believes and is baptized, will be saved, but he, who does not believe, will be condemned. And these signs accompanies those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Then, the Saviour said to the disciples that soon the Holy **Spirit** would come upon them, and until that **time** He charged them not to depart from **Jerusalem**. He said, "I send the promise of My **Father** upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high; for John baptized with water; but before many days, you shall be baptized with the Holy **Spirit**."

Conversing with the disciples, the Saviour led them out of the city as far as Bethany to the Mount of Olives, [where He] lifted up His hands and blessed His disciples. While He blessed them, He parted from them, and He was lifted up to **Heaven**; and soon, a **cloud** took Him out of their sight.

Thus our **Lord** and Saviour Jesus Christ ascended in His physical body to **Heaven** and sat down at the right Hand of God the **Father**. His human soul and body took on the indivisible glory with His divinity. In His divinity, He always is and will be in **Heaven** and everywhere.

The disciples worshipped the ascended **Lord** and for a long **time** continued to stand and gaze into **Heaven** after Him. Then, two angels in white robes appeared before them and said, "**Men** of **Galilee**, why do you stand looking into **Heaven**? This Jesus, Who was taken up from you into **Heaven**, will come to earth in the same way (that is, in the flesh) as you saw Him go into **heaven**."

After this the disciples of Jesus Christ returned to **Jerusalem** with great joy and stayed there together awaiting the descent of the Holy **Spirit**.

Notes: See the Gospels of Mark 16:15-19 and Luke 24:46-53; Acts of the Apostles 1, 2:4-26.

The Ascension of our **Lord** Jesus Christ is celebrated by the Holy Orthodox Church as one of the Great Feasts on the fortieth day after Pascha.

The Ascension of Jesus

Acts 1:6-11

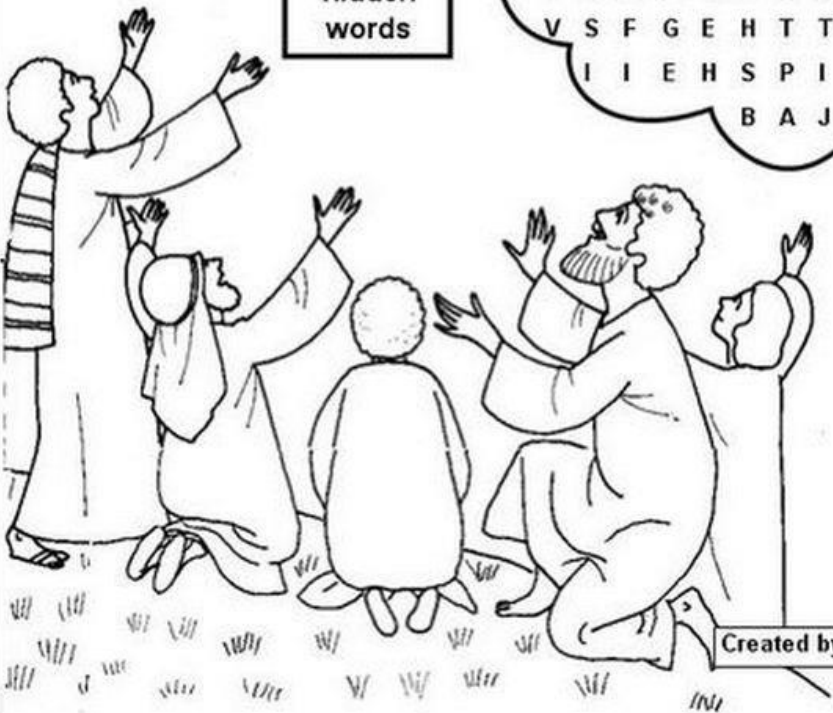
When he had said this,
as they were looking
on, he was lifted up,
and a cloud took
him from their sight.



Lord
Time
Israel
Father
Spirit
Jerusalem
Galilee
Men
Heaven
Cloud



Find the
hidden
words



Created by Nunzio Rubino 20-05-2014

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June 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>6</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy 12:00 Grave Yard Service – VEGREVILLE 3:30 pm - Grave Yard Service - WARWICK	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> Holy Ascension of the Lord Jesus 	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> The Kiev- Bratsk Icon 	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy Holy Trinity Day 	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas (1st c.) 	<u>25</u> St. Onuphrius the Great (4th c.) 	<u>26</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy - Grave Yard Service - MACNUTT 5:00 pm - Grave Yard Service - INSINGER
<u>27</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy- Patronal Feast (Blessing of water) and Grave Yard Service - FOAM LAKE	<u>28</u> Apostle fast begins	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>			