



“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

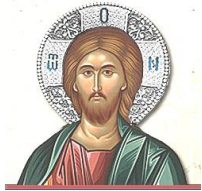
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



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July 18 – Uncovering of the relics of St. Sergius of Radonezh (1422)

Dear brothers and sisters in this month we celebrate two Great Feasts - In **July, the 7th - the Nativity John the Baptist**, and the **12th - the Day of Saints Peter and Paul**. And as we say while commemorating All the Saints, every epoch and every people should be partakers of the same Holy Spirit, thus following the example of the afore mentioned messengers of God. So that every people of the earth could observe this saving holiness not only somewhere in the history or a remote geography, but in the life of those from this certain time and nation, to follow them and to reach the Savior, Christ our True God.

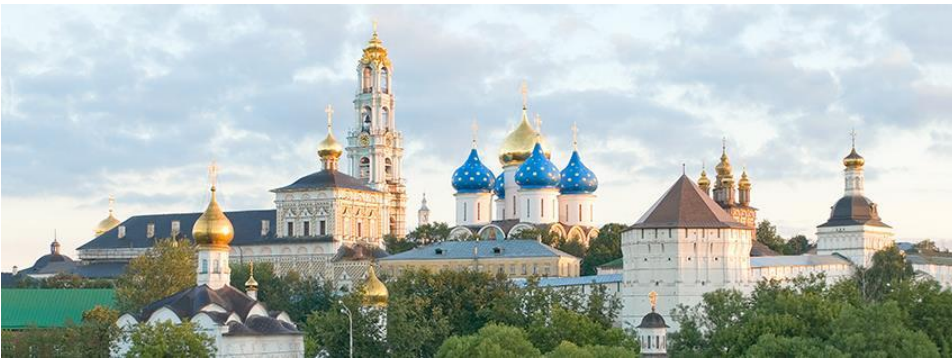
For a long time, since the 14th century, a lot of our ancestors new only one reverend as significant for our Holy History saint - Venerable Sergius the Wonderworker, Abbot of Radonezh.



Like many saints of the first ages of the Christian Church, having received a sign from above – when he, formerly least talented of his brothers, met a pious monk, and asked him with a great faith his prayers, and was given this gift of wisdom from above – Sergius, however, loved more the very Giver of that and every gift.

Even a child, he took strict rules of fasting and prayer on himself, and eventually, wisely preferred everything of this world to the service of the Lord. Thus, he went into the Russian wilderness (about 12 kilometers from Radonezh) to the pristine forest with wild animals and outlaws.

(to be continued on the next page)

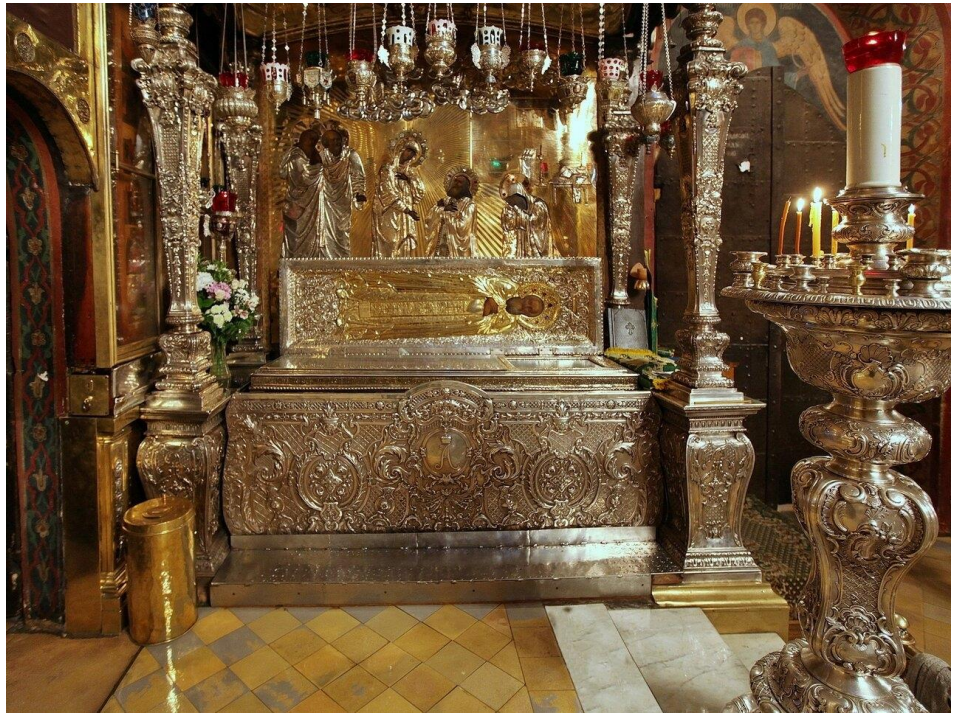


And there he granted his people the evidence of God's mighty and supernatural support to those who put their trust in Him alone.

Not only he left the wilderness but in 1337 he started to build there a new habitation to the glory of the Life-Creating Trinity.

Suffering temptations and demonic apparitions, Saint Sergius advanced from strength to strength. Gradually the glory of God that accompanied his faith in many signs and revelations (that we can get to know from the written account of his life) was known to other monks seeking his guidance. Saint Sergius accepted all with love, and soon a brotherhood of monks was gathered in what was first a the small monastery.

And the Lavra (a great monastery) thus became the magnet, the center and also the source of Christian life for several generations. Even when his disciples went to all the ends of Rus and multiplied his inheritance, and up to now, the monastery is the source of God's grace.



Before the construction of a new church in the name of the Life-Giving Trinity on the site of a wooden one, consecrated on September 25, 1412, Reverend Sergius appeared to a pious layman and ordered him to inform the abbot and the brethren: "Why do

you leave me so much time in the tomb, covered with earth, in the water that oppresses my body?" And during the construction of the cathedral, when they were digging ditches for the foundation, the incorruptible relics of the Monk were opened and carried away, and everyone saw that not only the body, but also the clothes on it were unharmed, although there was really water around the coffin.

With a large gathering of worshippers and clergy, in the presence of Dimitri Donskoy's son, Prince Yuri Dimitrievich of Zvenigorod (+1425), the holy relics were taken out of the ground and temporarily placed in the wooden Trinity Church (the Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit is now located on that place). When the stone Trinity Cathedral was consecrated in 1426, they were moved to it, where they remain to this day, granting peace from Above to all who touches it with reverence and the fear of God.

O Venerable father Sergius, pray God for us!

With the gratitude for mending the walls of St. Mary's Church

Last year we published some materials from the "Echoes of Faith" book, about the 55th anniversary of the new St Mary's church with photos of the southern part of the church. Remarkably, this year of 2021 we can report another positive input into the development of our holy temple.



This was supposed to be rather a costly project for our church, while, unfortunately, the parish is getting older and, although the family of David and Beverley Borys still does some of our traditional fundraising cooking and delivers it to the farmer's markets, we cannot make up for our Ladies' Aid, that, having done their final and substantial input – retired last year.

At the south side door of the church building, the earth has settled. And last year we had 25 inches of rain (while we usually have about twice less), and the water found its way through the foundation and into the basement of the church.

So, the measures to prevent it were planned and discussed during our Church Board meetings, not so numerous due Covid19 restrictions.

That is why we are very much grateful to, first of all, Darcy Doblanko, who took the initiative to still try to organize and do it by his own force and at his own costs. The following people

helped in this treating the gap in our holy church's walls: Tony Jacula, Darrell Lecapoy, Daniel Borys, Kevin Wasiluk. **Thank you so much and may God bless you and your families!**

The job has been almost done by now. In June the old concrete blocks were pulled away, the damaged area was jack-hammered, the foundation and the crack were sealed with a hydraulic concrete.

In addition to that the organic black soil that used to deteriorate the foundation, absorbing water through time, was removed, and a new substructure of clay and gravel was put in its place.



By now the base for pouring the concrete sidewalk, not only adjacent to the leakage site but all along the south wall of the temple, is ready, and is going to be poured very soon. So, if anyone would like to contribute, you are welcome and blessed!

Hoping and praying now that it would stand another hundred years! Amen.

Back to the in-church services, starting August 15!



Dear brothers and sisters, it is finally happening, as the prognosis for the 70 % of vaccination and the intention for all restrictions to be lifted, including ban on indoor social gatherings, seems to be coming true.

Thus, at the Church Board Meeting of St. Mary's Church of Nisku, we decided to conduct the first Liturgy Service in the church on the 15th of August, so that to have at least several services before the patronal feast in September.

So, God grants, we shall have this as our humble but grand and historic reopening – to be reunited with each other and the Lord through His Body and Blood – the Holy Communion – in our beautiful and spacious holy temple!

We hope every our parish (of those who had to switch to online) will join this joyous and long-awaited decision!

Fort Edmonton Park grand reopening on Canada Day!



For the first time in nearly three years, Fort Edmonton Park will open to more than construction crews.

The public will have an opportunity to see what came of a \$165-million renovation and expansion starting Canada Day, including new features like an Indigenous Peoples Experience exhibit, new expo attractions, and a new front entry plaza.

Fort Edmonton Park virtual grand opening took place on Monday with mayor Don Iveson, Treaty Six grand chief Vernon Watchmaker, Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras, MLA Searle Turton and MP Marc Miller.

New features include an expanded 1920s-style midway, a new front entry plaza and a 30,000 square-foot exhibit, called the Indigenous Peoples Experience, that offers a look into First Nations and Métis cultures and history in the Edmonton area. The exhibit is the first of its kind in Canada.

"We have waited a long time to see Edmontonians walk through the front gates so they can see what we've been building. This is an exciting time as summer hits and COVID restrictions begin to lift," Darren Dalgleish, president and CEO OF Fort Edmonton Management Company, said in a statement.

"We're so proud of the new Indigenous Peoples Experience and all the work we've done with First Nations and Métis communities in our city, and we can't wait to see kids' faces light up with all the fun on the Midway. It will really be a chance for families just to have some old-fashioned fun this summer!"

Added to the 1920s-inspired midway was a new Ferris wheel, outdoor maze and more games.

All three levels of government contributed money for the expansion: the federal government nearly \$48 million, the provincial government \$33.5 million, and the City of Edmonton \$72.6 million. The Fort Edmonton Foundation also raised \$10 million.

Let all that you do be done in love (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Add Colours To This Good Works Picture And Try To Do Likewise!



July 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<u>1</u> Canada Day 	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Patronal Feast – <u>Vegreville</u> (Blessing of water)
<u>4</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Patronal Feast – <u>Horen</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> 	<u>7</u> Nativity of St. John the Baptist	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy	<u>12</u>  St. Peter and Paul Day	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> Cosmas and Damian, martyrs, at Rome (284) 	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> St. Andrew (Rublev), iconographer (15) 
<u>18</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> Great-martyr Procopius 	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> Hieromartyr Hilarion, archbishop of Verey (1998) 
<u>25</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy	<u>26</u> Holy Archangel Gabriel 	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> Martyr Alevtina (Valentina) 	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>