



“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

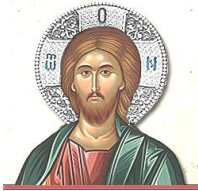
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



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September the 21st – The Nativity of the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary



Today the gateway of the barren woman is opened, and the divine Virgin portal comes forth! Today grace begins to bear fruit, revealing to the world the Mother of God, through whom those on earth are united to those in heaven, for the salvation of our souls.

With the Patronal feast, dear brothers and sisters, the parishioners and friends of St. Mary’s Church in Nisku!

The One who is going to bear New Life for all the people is being born today – the new Mother of all the living!

In thy womb the Fire made His abode: the Word from the Holy Spirit; and He became visible in thee in human form, - we proclaim today to the Holy Theotokos.

We commemorate Her godly and righteous parent – Joakim and Anna – their patience and humility, and faith based on those virtues, and the joy that they were vouchsafed from God, that has become the joy of the whole universe – the Hope of the hopeless – as they wanted to dedicate their Child to God, but they dedicated through Her - all of us to Him!

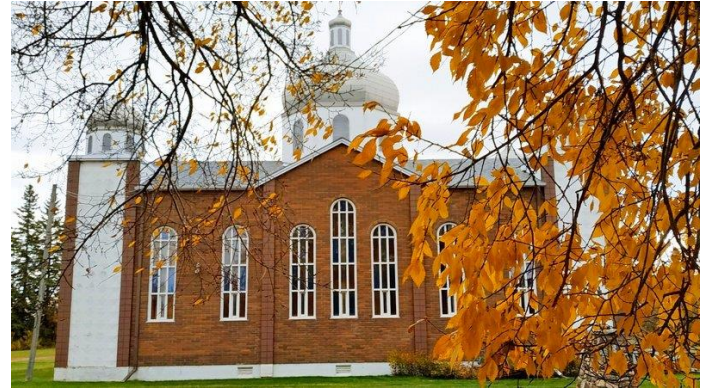
Today we call Mary “the Gate facing East”, which is the referral to the ancient prophecy of Ezekiel’s about the Temple’s closed eastern gate - the prophecy of the virgin birth of Christ: only the Messiah could enter through this eastern gate of the Temple. She is the gate that joined the Heaven and the earth!

Belonging to the temple consecrated in honour of this Holy Event, let us gather in it and give thanks to the Lord for such a great gift of His, for the opportunity to renew our church services during such a great feast, for the parents the Most Holy Virgin and, especially, for their Most Holy Daughter; so that through Her intercession we might be partakers of this joy, and be spiritually invited to the greatest Birthday we celebrate today. Amen!

BACK TO CHURCH

August the 15th we were blessed to have the first Divine Liturgy in the church – at St. Mary’s Church at Nisku.

We hope we have prevented at least some of the sad consequences of this virus, although, at the same time we realize the great condescension to our infirmities of our Lord, and hope that He has received all our humble (online) services.



That was also a special period when we could reach those who live far away from us and usually have services very rarely, or even those who cannot visit church due to their infirmities. For that reason, we might have online services from time to time in the future.

But we also should attend to the providential meaning of the Gospel reading of August the 15th, when we were reading the Gospel of Feeding of the 5,000 people with only five loaves and two fish. As one of the preachers said, not only people wanted to be with the Lord, but He also did want to stay with them.

When He healed their sick, but people had to leave him and go to the nearest village to get some food, He invited them to stay, by this miraculous action of his mercy, which was one of the prototypes of the Holy Communion, thus highlighting the importance to be with Him even at times of temptations, that is – to partake His Body and Blood – the Mystery of Salvation. This Gospel might be appealing to us to go back to the salvific grace of the Holy Confession and Communion!

Quite a lot of people joined the service that day with many partakers, grownups, children and elders. With the youngest being about 6 years old and the oldest – 96 years.





And the voices of the deacon John Grigaitis and the children at the church choir balcony made our service really beautiful and unforgettable.

We congratulate Harry Nazarenko with his 96 blessed birthday, wishing him good strength from above to add many more years!

And we are grateful to the family of Fedya Holden, and his parents and children for the wonderful singing!

And may God grant all who dared to come and constitute the service, as well as those who prepared this feast, and to all our friends and guests – good health for many years!

At the end of the liturgy, we commemorated all our parishioners who passed away from this life to the life of the future age during the year of 2021 - Peter, Helen, Andrew, Elizabeth, Sylvia, Vera, Nick, Bobby James, Catherine, Steve, Alexandra and Anna.

After the service we went to the cemetery to pray for and to commemorate one of the pioneers of Orthodoxy for Rabbit Hill area – Feodor Fuhr and his family for the 125th Anniversary of his arrival to Canada.

While reading the historic records of St. Mary's church we can find the mentioning of the flu epidemic that happened about 100 years ago, and even see that some parishioners were taken from us by that virus. But life went on and people had a long period of peace and healthful seasons. So, God grants, will be with us, the current generation, as we go back to the ordinary life with our ever-extraordinary Divine Services in His Holy Temples.



f. Yevheniy Protsenko



Thanksgiving. Love. Wisdom

The fall time is a traditional time of thanksgiving. Especially it is popular and kept by the farmers and their descendant. During this period even the most remote and small in number parishes claim this service to be administered and people are often multiple in the churches. And the service (moleben) of Thanksgiving is an indispensable part of every service book.

All the saints of the past, while contemplating over the Gospel of Thanksgiving – the healing of ten lepers – often reiterated that thanksgiving is one of the commandments.

This idea is realized in this parable, and it is reinforced by the apostles in their epistles.

Why does the Lord want us to be thankful? Why is that so vital for us?

We can put it like this: *If only one of those [ten] who were healed came to thank God and the Lord indicates that it was his faith that saved him, it means that the others, although they had faith, it did not save them. Because the main thing is love for God, and faith is only a necessary means for this.*

And this is all true! But like the crops that you bring every year to the churches is various, so is the wisdom that we can gather from the same well of the Wisdom that is from above.

So, does He want us, having received some good and pleasant, not just to walk away with this, as even good things decay in our current order of things, and thus it is not wise to bind ourselves to them?

Should we not better each time go back to the merciful **giver of all good**, the **source of all good**? This is what God might want us to do by means of every thanksgiving. This is why the Epistle that we read at the thanksgiving moleben says:

¹⁷Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another in the fear of ^ΩGod. (Ephesians, 5: 17-21)

In Memoriam

The parishioners of Orthodox IX extend our deepest condolences to the relatives of the newly departed.

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



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



Anna Pawlick passed away peacefully on August 1, 2021, at the age of 94. Anna is survived by daughter Stephe (Chester) Drewniak, their son Carnel and his son Kodi, their son Bradley (Monique) and son Darren (Connie) and their sons Clinton and Clayton; daughter Joan Przytula and her daughter Laurel (Colin) Tilleman and their children Greysen and Emersen, daughter Jaime (Ron) Souvie and their children Avery and Tyson; daughter Erin (Shayne) Brewster and their children Kehven, Rhyenn and Brady; daughter Arlene (Terry) Senft; son Laurence (Karen) Pawlick and his children Jordan and Keily (Kevin) Yang and her daughter Everly. Anna is predeceased by her husband John Pawlick in 1994, grandson Tyler Pawlick in 2013, son-in-law Edmund Przytula in 2017, brother Walter Kremko in 2013, her mother Kataryna Kremko in 1993 and her father Andrew Kremko in 1981.

Anna was one of our faithful parishioners, who was eager to receive Holy Communion and Confession at Plains View Manor even when she was not able to visit the church. Her smile and friendly attitude will be always remembered by the priests!

A Funeral Service for Anna was held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Calmar Legion Hall with Father Evgeniy Protsenko and Very Reverend Igor Kisil officiating followed by a luncheon at the Legion. Anna was then interred at the Holy Ascension Russo-Greek Orthodox Church.

Donations in memory of Anna Pawlick may be made to the Holy Ascension Russo-Greek Orthodox Church or to Extencicare Leduc.

Dear little brothers and sisters, let us remember the birth (the nativity) of the Most Holy Birthgiver of God Mary and find some key words from this story in the word search below!

Mary was born in the city of Nazareth. Her parents were Joachim, a descendent of King David, and Anna, a descendent of the Old Testament Priest Aaron. The couple were sad because they had no children and they had become old. Their neighbors were unkind to them because they thought that the reason, they had no children was that God was punishing them for some sin. But they had faith that with God everything is possible. So, they prayed for a child and made a promise to dedicate the child to the service of God in the Temple.



On a feast day at the Temple, Joachim brought an offering, but the High Priest would not accept it, because he thought him to be unworthy since he had no children. So, Joachim went into the wilderness and prayed with tears to God for a child. Anna wept when she learned what had happened at the Temple, and she prayed also.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the message that their prayers would be fulfilled and that they would have a daughter, Mary, through whom would come the Salvation of the world.

Because the Virgin Mary was pure and virtuous, she was chosen to be the Mother of our God, Jesus Christ. The Orthodox Church teaches that the Nativity, that means "birth", of the Theotokos marks the change in history when the promises of God for the salvation of the human race are about to be fulfilled.

The Theotokos has been revealed to us as an Intercessor. An "Intercessor" is a saint who prays to God for us. By becoming the Mother of God, Mary became our greatest Intercessor, our heavenly Mother. When we are troubled or sick or worried, we can ask her: **"O Holy Theotokos, pray unto God for us."** We celebrate the Nativity of the Mother of God on September the 21st (September, the 8th according to the old calendar).

Nativity of the Theotokos

Y V G P O Y V R B Q M G M H J D E P S Y L J I N M G M H Y Q O B J H O
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 P R E E R U L V N O T N E H T R I B Q M G M H Y Q O B J H O
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 U F O M Q X Q E O E C O T N E H T R I B Q M G M H Y Q O B J H O
 H J T E G A N X Q E O E C O T N E H T R I B Q M G M H Y Q O B J H O
 Z E P R Y Q Q L E D O B W X O K A S D O X A T D Q J M H Y Q O B J H O
 S S E P R Y Q Q L E D O B W X O K A S D O X A T D Q J M H Y Q O B J H O
 T S E P R Y Q Q L E D O B W X O K A S D O X A T D Q J M H Y Q O B J H O
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 C I H I P Y T F R J T O Z I D G T O G J V S F P W H
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 I C X U T F R J T O Z I D G T O G J V S F P W H
 O A I O C I C Z A E T O G J V S F P W H
 W O D C I C Z A E T O G J V S F P W H
 Q J Y H B P O K Y L J V S F P W H

Birth
 Nativity
 Theotokos
 Anna
 Mother of Jesus
 September
 Angel
 Mary
 Prayer
 Promise
 Joachim
 Old

September 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Prophet Samuel (11th c. b.c.) 	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>5</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy at St. Mary’s Church, Nisku	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> Martyrs Adrian and Natalia(311) 	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> Beheading of John the Baptist 
<u>12</u> 10:00 am – Liturgy – THORSBY Thanksgiving Service	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> Holy Prophet Moses 	<u>18</u> 6:00 p.m. Vespers & Matins
<u>19</u> 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water Patronal Feast	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> The Nativity of the Mother of God 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy 	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Mac Nutt – Thanksgiving Service
<u>26</u> 9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Foam Lake – Thanksgiving Service	<u>27</u> Elevation of the Holy Cross 	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> Martyrs Sophia, and Faith, Hope, and Love 		