



# “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**

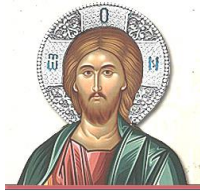
**St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)**

**Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY**

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

**St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE**

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



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## August 7 – the Dormition of the Righteous Anna, Mother of the Most Blessed Birth-Giver of God

**It is meet for the venerators of the Nativity of the Mother of God to commemorate another crucial day in the life of Her mother - the dormition – the falling asleep – of the righteous Anna.**

Saint Anna was the daughter of Matthan the priest, who was of the tribe of Levi. St Anna's family came from Bethlehem. St Anna lived with her husband Joachim at Nazareth in Galilee. They were childless into their old age and all their life they grieved over this. They had to endure derision and scorn, since at that time childlessness was considered a disgrace. They never grumbled, but fervently prayed to God, humbly trusting in Him. Once, during a great feast, the gifts which Joachim took to Jerusalem as an offering to God were not accepted by the priest,

who considered that a childless man was not worthy to offer sacrifice to God.

This pained the old man very much, and he, regarding himself the most sinful of people, decided not to return home, but to settle in solitude in a desolate place. When St Anna learned what humiliation her husband had endured, she sorrowfully entreated God with prayer and fasting to grant her a child. In his desolate solitude the righteous Joachim also asked God for this. The prayer of the saintly couple was heard. An angel told them that a daughter would be born to them,

Who would be blessed above all other women. He also told them that She would remain a virgin, would be dedicated to the Lord and live in the Temple, and would give birth to the Savior. Obeying the instructions of the heavenly messenger, Sts Joachim and Anna met at the Golden Gate in Jerusalem. Then, as God promised, a daughter was born to them, and they named her Mary.

According to tradition, Anna, the ancestor of God, lived for sixty-nine years, and her spouse Joachim, for eighty; according to one account, Saint Joachim died two years before Saint Anna. The Theotokos had been orphaned of both her parents already when she was eleven years of age, when she was living in the Temple (see Sept. 8 and Nov. 21). Saint Anna is invoked for conceiving children, and for help in difficult childbirth, but today we ask her for protection and salvation of the people in Ukraine! *Oh, Righteous Mother of the Blessed Mary, pray God for your suffering people!*

# The Bonnyville St Peter and Paul Church is back to life!



One of our Orthodox IX parishes - a small church that is situated between 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Streets in Bonnyville is celebrating its 70th birthday, and just recently it has been given a new life by its devout parishioners.

The St. Peter and Paul Church of Bonnyville is the oldest church in the town. So, let us begin our story from the historical insight, that you, our godly reader, may skip and go right to the account of the latest – 2018-2022 renovation.

## Prehistory. The first service

In 1939 a group of immigrants from the village of Zagorowo in the Cholsk district of the USSR [or, probably, Poland, Cholm region] arrived in Canada and settled on farms in the Bonnyville district, 170 miles north – east of Edmonton. The leader of this group was Yakim Luciuk and his wife Palagia. Others in this group were the families of Michael Koziol, Samuel Nichyporuk, Luka Woloshuk and Michael Babkiewich. Very soon the organization of a church parish was discussed. Reverend Wasil Woytowich of Frenchier, Alberta, was invited to conduct a religious service. He served an Easter Liturgy at the home of Michael Koziol where he blessed their Easter Paska. It was a very memorable and joyous occasion, and the people, who attended, resolved to build a church. The initial group was now joined by the Yewchuk brothers — Andrew, Sava and Roman — and the family of Peter Solowaniuk.

## Founding the parish; establishing the Temple, 1942

A parish was formed for the purpose of building a church. A small frame building was purchased for \$40.00, and set down on a foundation on the farm of Michael Babkiewich who donated a half – acre of land for the church which was ten miles north of Bonnyville. The first church committee was elected at a meeting held in 1942. Andrew Yewchuk was elected chairman (starosta), Michael Babkiewich as treasurer, and Samuel Nichyporuk as secretary. Michael Koziol was elected to be the builder of the church and the rest of the members volunteered their labour for the project. The church was dedicated to honour the Apostles Saints Peter and Paul.

## Moving the Temple, 1952

In 1952 the members decided to move the church from the farm location to the town of Bonnyville. Sava and Roman Yewchuk, and Vladimir Zuk were elected to a committee to locate the new site. They located the land between 51 and 52 Streets which is the location of the church today. The church was moved to the present site in 1952 and it was consecrated by Very Rev. John Kowalchuk with the approval and blessing of Bishop Theophil. The parish was joined by new members: John Zuk, who was a cantor, Vladimir Zuk, Anna Pelepchuk, Sam Krawiec, Stephen Krawiec and John Shewchuk.

## Establishing the cemetery, 1953

In 1953, a meeting of the parishioners was held, in which it was decided to buy land for a cemetery. A committee of Philip Kushnir, Vladimir Zuk and Yakim Krawiec negotiated the purchase of one acre of land from the United Church congregation in Bonnyville. It became called the "Greek Russo Orthodox Cemetery of Bonnyville'.

## The domes for the temple, 1954

In 1954, a committee of parishioners headed by Philip Kushnir and Vladimir Zuk built the Altar (sanctuary) as an addition to the Temple. The cupola [the domes] on the Temple was built in 1959.

## New Church Board Members, 1967-1972

Andrew Yewchuk served as chairman of the parish from 1954 to 1964. The annual meeting of 1964 elected John Solowaniuk as chairman, John Himich as treasurer, and Luka Woloschuk as secretary. In 1967, the parish suffered a great loss in the death of John Zuk who had served the parish faithfully as their cantor. In 1971, John Demediuk was elected to serve as chairman. Michael Koziol was elected treasurer in 1972.

## Renovations of the 80<sup>th</sup>

In 1974, major renovations were made to the Temple. The roof was newly shingled and the floor was covered with carpeting. The iconostas was renovated with 6 new icons painted by the Archpriest John Borcha. John Demediuk and Nikolai Kolody gave considerable help in the renovation work.

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## The Renovation of 2018-2022

### Before the renovation



Since then, the congregation was declining over the years, with services at the church growing fewer and far between...

At one time, the church for the Easter was full of people, but nowadays, most of them that belonged to the church have passed away, with many young people tempted to go after the temporary hopes of this world. Then COVID-19 struck, depriving the parish of the last services, their spiritual and organizational potentials...

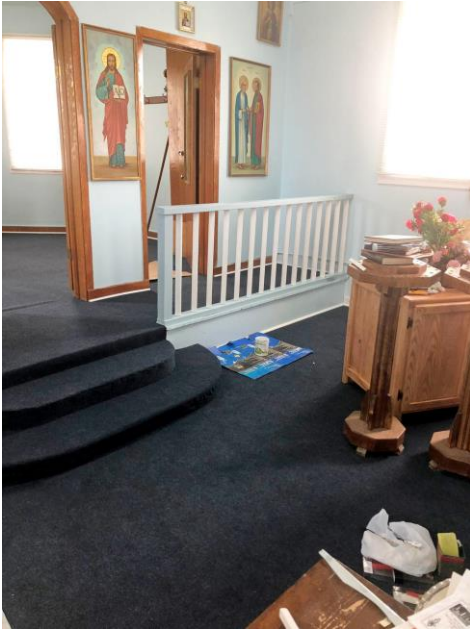
There were some people and families that supported the church life, caring about the services and the priest: Krawiec, Zuk, Koziol, Shapka and some other, but the problems with the church building were accumulating over the years and years...

The parish needed much more than they had, to make the renovation possible. The problems were everywhere – inside and outside, in the altar, and in the church, and in the vestibule, and on the porch, on the roof, and the floor, and under the floor... Including the holy things in the church, and the tables – the Holy Table too – and the stands, and the pews, and the icons, and the doors.

The church was leaking, and the wood of the windows was deteriorating.

The church fell into disrepair, and the people of the church were desperate. So, that Stefania Zuk even recalls how she was recommended simply burning the church down...

## The Great Renovation



Walter Zuk, Stefania's husband was always for the church, and she would never stand the sight of his and all her in-laws, and all her children and grandchildren, and a lot of departed parishioners' holy inheritance to be on fire and then burned to ashes. So, Mrs. Zuk turned to the Rector (of that time) of Orthodox IX Parishes father Igor for an advice and consolation.

And when father Igor became a rector of St. Barbara's Cathedral, he approached the brotherhood at St. Barbara's cathedral, known as the Orthodox Fellowship Club of Edmonton, to help the Bonnyville church financially, and the decision was made to give 3000 dollars to the community.

That was a great encouragement, and the project for the renovation seemed more feasible since then, and Mrs. Stefania Zuk undertook the organization (and realization) of it.

Most of the effort was made by two families, with one – giving generously a lot of funds – the Koziol family; and the other – the Zuk extended family – on the one hand, handling the donations very sparingly, and, on the other, putting in a lot of labour and talents into it – for free, for God's sake (though they also had to spend their money to support the progress).

The late Fred Koziol's family made a substantial donation. His sisters Neda (Nadya) and Violet who live in Edmonton, and Neda's nephews and nieces – generously donated more than 4000 dollars. Besides, Neda would pay for the church windows.



A lot of local people, seeing the effort of their neighbours and friends, also took active part in the renovation.

So, they had nearly enough at least to paint the church, but first they had to put a new roof and new windows. And the workers came and made an estimation, and asked for 35000... and that was only for windows... and that was too much.

At that moment of confusion, one friend and a relative of Stefania's – Susan Kardash (who was making flooring in the hall), a local person, gave her a number to call – of a different group of specialists (some Mennonite Christian people). Stefania's daughter Paulette called them; they came and looked at the church and proposed to do the windows for 17000. And not only the windows, but also put metal roofing! Stefania and her children preferred this kind of roof (tin roof) – to last and protect the church for much longer.

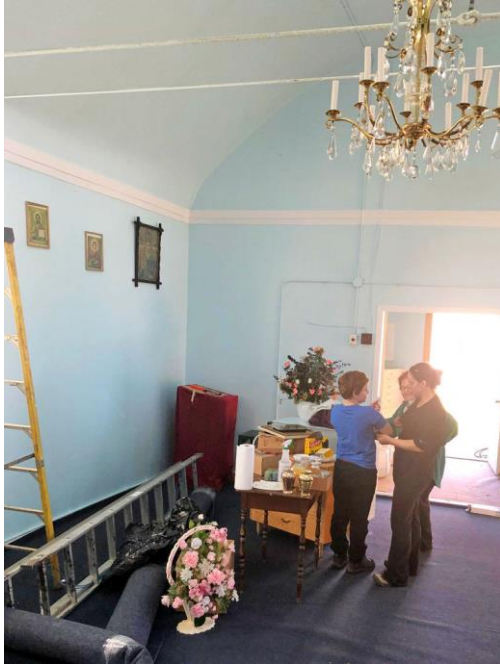
A lady from the local community donated fine panelling.



The lift machine (with a basket) was also given by a local benefactor – Pevach Construction – twice, as it was not easy to mend the leaking roof.

Local people graciously donated generators equipment for heating and drying during painting. May God remember them all!

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Then they had to take the old paint off, and in the springtime of 2021 Stefania's son Nester went and pressure-washed the walls. He took the icons down from the walls to wash them and to put them back later.

The whole church was repainted, inside and outside. Nestor, and his sister Paulette (Levasseur), and her husband Louis Levasseur, and Paulette's son-in-law and daughter in law - Eric and Nichol, and Stefania's grandson Jonathan, use to come and paint on the hottest three days in summer and gave three coats of paint. They did it for free and even had to spend some of their money. It was so hot that Stefania's son-in-law had to get up at 5 in the morning. They gave three coats outside (with special, winter paint, blue and white) and two coats inside.

Nichol (she had studied iconography in Ukraine) with her mentor f. Vladimir painted the icon of Peter and Paul – the patronal Saints of the church, and donated it to decorate the walls of the temple.



Nester and his daughter Brenda, and her daughter and the daughter's husband – Nicole and Eric, all were carefully painting the floor of the church.

They had to replace the floor of the porch, as it was rotten. Nester and his wife Linda put the plywood, the rug (navy color), and everything inside. To recolor the benches in the church, he first had to sand all of them.

Jonathan, Nester's son, made wooden (beautiful and artful) Holy Table, and three icon stands and a Gospel stand, and church choir stands. It also took a lot of effort for Nester, Jonathan, and their families to dismantle the old ones.

The rug (new carpet) was put by Dennis Ouellette, Stephania's great niece Gail's husband.

"It was a family thing that did it!" – says Stefania, who also had to buy a new cupboard for the altar.

The heating also costed them a certain sum of money, that they chose to donate too.

By doing this all by themselves and thanks to the donations, people made, they also avoided selling one of the two parking lots that they have at the church building.

“The church, what it was, what it’s now – it’s a lot, a lot of difference!” – says Stefania.

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And people saw this with their own eyes when on June the 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 the church was reopened for the Divine Liturgy, for the first time during the last 3 years.

Everything was neat and clean, and looked brand-new. Even the little church on the Holy Table was preserved and renovated.

The church was again full of people, young and old; and the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ was read, and the sermon was heard by the people, who were praying again with one

heart for themselves and one another; and then all the names of the departed parishioners were read in church, as well as later – at the graveyard.

The rector of Orthodox IX churches f. Yevheniy Protsenko expressed his profound delight and gratitude to Stefania, and all her children and grand-children, in-laws and friends, and the local benefactors and supporters.

Even people who are far away from the Church got interested in what was done (made photos, wrote articles...), thus, they were drawn to the church, touched the holy...



Traditionally, Stefania and her family were giving a nice festive dinner at their house, at which they told the whole story of the last great church renovation, which we have tried to depict here, and apologize, if missed anything or anyone.

May God bless all of them, and all the people, all the four generations, who took part in this God-pleasing and soul-saving labour!

Compiled by f. Yevheniy Protsenko



# St. Mary's Church Summer Picnic 2022

On July 17th, the 5th Sunday after Pentecost we had Liturgy at St. Mary's Church at Nisku, with a lot of people present including guests from the other parishes, with the partakers of the Holy Mysteries of Christ.

Our church choir under the leadership of Cathy Krawchuk was reinforced by Denis Fedor. People were praying and listened to the sermon of the Sunday, and, according to our tradition, we also were singing "Many Years" to those who were born in July.



At the same time Darcy and Tanny Doblanko, Natasha Borys and some other people were preparing the grounds and cooking treats at the Church Hall

After the service on behalf of the Parish Council, its President David Borys greeted all the people present, made several announcements, and invited everyone to St. Mary's Hall to the picnic.

The day was warm and sunny, so we put some tables in the open and under the sun, and some – in the shadow of aspen and poplar trees that grow at the Hall.

The choice of picnic dishes was quite rich: several kinds of hotdogs and hamburgers, fresh and warm, with a lot of treats and dished brought by the

people to share with everyone: a variety of salads, pastries, and coke and soda cold drinks.

Children got their own additional sweets. The field games were organized for them, with all necessary items. So, they got enough of fun and summer sun.

We had a very good time communicating informally and discussing both vital and important, and funny things.



Cynthia Fedor informed us about the activities of Ukrainian Congress about giving aide to the temporary residents (actually, refugees) from Ukraine, and how people kindly offer their help in work placement and accommodation for them.

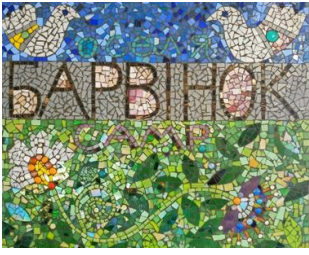
A warm and kind family reunion it was with people sharing how they have been for the long time of the isolation period, and what kind of plans they have for the summer.

A heartfelt gratitude and many years to everyone who laboured for the event!

**Thank you for your this and all the hard work and care for the God's inheritance!**

**May God keep our parishioner and guests!**

# Organizational meetings for 2022 Children Bible Camp



On July 14 and July 22 two organizational meetings for 2022 (August 14 – August 21) Children’s annual St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Summer Bible Camp took place at St. Barbara cathedral in Edmonton.

The meetings were headed by the director of many years of the camp, the dean and the rector of St. Barbara cathedral archpriest Igor Kisil.

There also took part in the meeting archpriest Yevheniy Protsenko, rector of Orthodox IX parishes, and the servants of God Alexandra Dirda, Olena Kushnir, including the representatives of the young generation Alexandr Kaliberov and Lisa Shapoval.

The main theme for the 2022 camp was dedicated to 125 Anniversary of the first liturgy on Canadian soil, that we celebrate this year in July, and according to the proposition of father Igor, it is “The History of the Patriarchal Parishes”, with rectors giving to the children during the lecture hours the accounts of the historical development of the main three group of parishes, and the other lecturers – on the general and broader historical topics related to it.



As usually we took into account all the aspects of the camp life. A lot of consideration was given to the safety of children, personal hygiene, fire safety, and the other.

We are going to have the Greatest Feast of Transfiguration – August the 19<sup>th</sup> – during the camp, so we shall serve Divine Liturgy on this day at the beautiful little St. Michael’s church at the campground. There we are going to read the morning and evening prayers every day, and also serve another Liturgy on Sunday, August the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The main cook of the camp Alexandra Dirda made a detailed report on the food supplies and the menu for the camp, with the discussion to follow.

Also, the questions of morning exercises and meetings, duties, activities, crafts and games for kids and the supplies for them, expectations about the age and corresponding activities, the participation and activities of the counselors, fees and finances, t-shirts and badges for children and the staff, accommodation and duties, participation of the parents and volunteers, and many other questions.

This year our camp will host free of charge 8 children of the Ukrainian refugees, with some benefactors of the camp already undertaken some practical steps to fully support some of them.

We might be able to keep up with one of our good and very much loved by children tradition, that is a boat trip; and, weather permits, we’ll be swimming in the beautiful Pigeon Lake and sit every evening at the campfire with marshmallow, baked potatoes, and songs.

For that, and for the whole organization of the camp we are very much grateful to the clergy and the participating people!

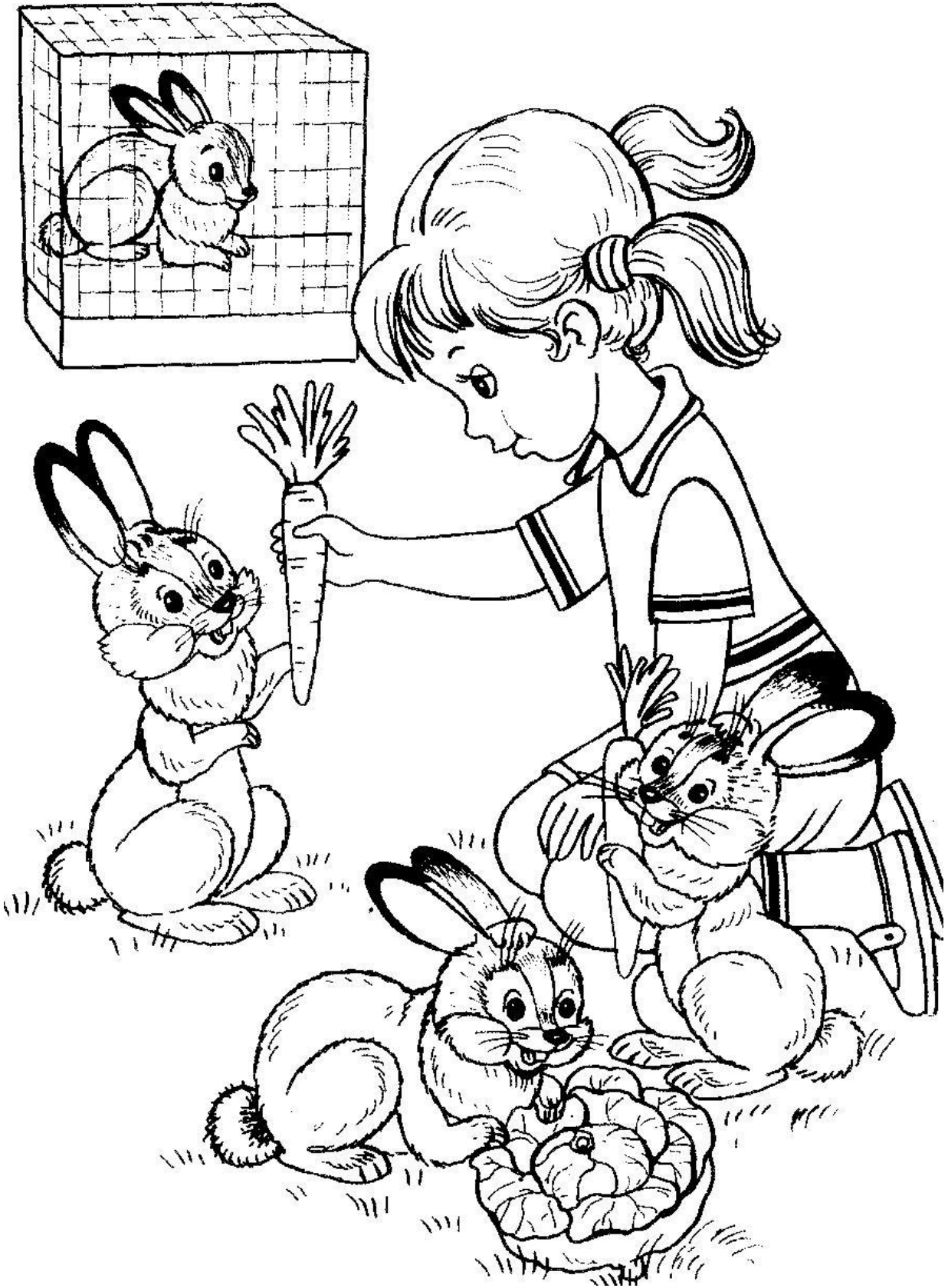
May God give us good and clement weather and safe and joyous days!

*For the information about 2022 Summer Camp: <http://www.orthodox-canada.com/bible-camp/>*




*And let us not grow weary of doing good. Galatians 6:9*

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



# August 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>7</u> Dormition of the Righteous Anna, Mother of the Theotokos</p> 	<p><u>8</u></p>	<p><u>9</u> St. Herman of Alaska (1970)</p> 	<p><u>10</u></p>	<p><u>11</u></p>	<p><u>12</u> Sitka Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos</p> 	<p><u>13</u> Righteous Eudocimus of Cappadocia</p> 
<p><u>14</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy at St. Mary’s Church, Nisku</p> <p><b>Start of St. Tikhon’s Children Bible Camp</b></p>	<p><u>15</u> Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen</p> 	<p><u>16</u></p>	<p><u>17</u></p>	<p><u>18</u></p>	<p><u>19</u> <b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b></p>  <p><b>Liturgy at Camp</b></p>	<p><u>20</u></p>
<p><u>21</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy at <b>St. Tikhon’s Children Bible Camp</b></p>	<p><u>22</u> Holy Apostle Matthias</p> 	<p><u>23</u></p>	<p><u>24</u> Holy Hieromartyr Archdeacon Euplus</p> 	<p><u>25</u></p>	<p><u>26</u> St. Tikhon, bishop of Voronezh</p> 	
<p><u>28</u> <b>Dormition of the Mother of God</b> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Patronal Feast – MacNutt (TBC)</p> 	<p><u>29</u></p>	<p><u>30</u> Hieromartyr Myron, priest, of Cyzicus (250)</p> 	<p><u>31</u></p>			