



“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

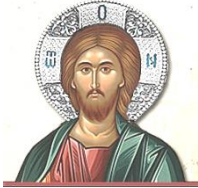
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



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August 2nd – of the Holy, Glorious Prophet Elijah

The great and glorious Prophet Elijah one of the Old Testament prophets lived 900 years before the Birth of Christ. Among the prophets of the Old Testament, he is the most ardent preacher of faith and a denouncer of idolatry.

More than priests and scribes, the ancient prophets were entrusted a hard labour to awaken the human conscience, leading people through repentance to righteousness, all this – by the open rebuke, unpleasant, often unacceptable and painful to the listeners, even for the kings and their impious families.

Through Elijah’s prayers the heavens were closed for three and a half years, the food was multiplied, and the dead son of the widow was raised from the dead. All these resembling so much the first coming of Christ!

One of his greatest signs happened on Mount Carmel. By the commandment of God there was a contest between his sole true worshipper and the army of pagan magician. While the Lord did not accept the pagan prophets’ offering, even the soaked with water Saint Elijah’s sacrifice was burned with the fire that came down from Heaven! And the people fell down to the ground, and were crying out: “Truly, the Lord is God!”

But the most amazing and prophetic was the revelation of God to the prophet. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, “but the Lord was not in them”. The Lord was in “a gentle breeze” (3 Kings 19). The God of Israel is humble and meek! Thus, he foretold the very Christ, our True God, and at the time of His Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17).

An angel in the flesh and the cornerstone of the prophets, the second forerunner of the coming of Christ... With these words the Holy Church glorifies the great Old Testament righteous man. This is because, just as before the first coming of Christ in the world, St. John the Baptist appeared “in the spirit and power of Elijah” (Lk 1:17), so also before the second coming of Christ on earth the Prophet Elijah himself will appear (Malachi 4:5). He did not die but was lifted up to heaven alive, with his flesh, in a chariot of fire (4 Kings 2, 11).

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.



Fedor-Borys Family Reunion in July 2023



On July the 2nd 2023 we had an outstanding event at St. Mary's Church – the 125 Anniversary of Fedor and Borys ancestors coming to Canada.

There was a Liturgy at the Church with a lot of descendants of the two and associated with them families present and praying. With the choir that also was made of by some of their representatives – with Gregory Fedor leading and his son John, and Denis Fedor, and our church families participating.

At the Liturgy the priest reminded that at that period of time we were celebrating the Pentecost, the Descension of the Holy Spirit and the Universal Reunion

of people with God and each other that started with the Apostles and the disciples at Jerusalem, so it was very much symbolic to have the reunion of the big family of the Church people, whose life and happiness has been always supported by prayer and Holy Communion and strong Orthodox Tradition.

At the end of the Liturgy, we gave thanks to the Creator of all and the giver of all good to the Family, and then went to the cemetery to commemorate the fore- fathers and mothers and bless their graves.

After the service everyone was invited to St. Mary's Hall to continue celebrating and friendly communication at the festive table, that was prepared by St. Mary's Parish Council.



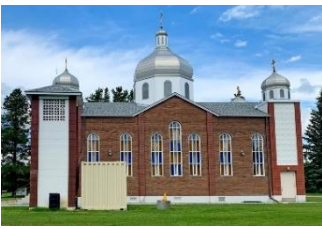
At the lunch there were several presentations made by Vernon Fedor and Tim Trofimuk together with St. Mary's Church: the Family Circle that visualize the idea of how large and intertwined is the family; and the booklet – "Ivan



(John) and Anna Borys' Descendants Guide to the Cemeteries of St. Mary's and St. Barbara's Russian Greek Orthodox Churches".

In addition to that, the event, that actually lasted several days, comprised stories, picture galleries and speeches by family members, as well as a bus tour of family farms, churches and cemeteries of the ancestors.

May God continue blessing the Family and give good health and many years to all who constituted this great celebration!



St. Mary's Church Summer Picnic 2023

On July 23rd, a bit later than usually, on the 6th Sunday after Pentecost we had Liturgy at St. Mary's Church at Nisku, with

almost everyone present, with a lot of young people with their children, as well as our dear guests, for on that day we had our annual summer Family Picnic!

Greg Fedor kindly agreed to help us another Sunday in this July, he, his brother Denis, sister Cynthia and son John with his family, they again supported our church choir.



We were praying and listening to the sermon about great works of the Lord, and the people, so able to see things spiritual even when deprived of the bodily vision, and, unfortunately, the other way round too. And after the service we sung "Many Years" to all those who came into this world in July.



And again, some people were absent, but not far away, preparing the grounds and dishes for us at St. Mary's Hall.

We also had several announcements, the one about re-printing our main historic book – "Echoes of Faith", and the initiative of St. Barbara's Cathedral and its rector Father Igor – to restore the grave of the one whose family was rather the whole Church – the



monastic, hieromonk Methodius, his ruined beautiful white marble tomb cross.

Then, on behalf of the Parish Council, its President David Borys invited everyone to St. Mary's Hall to the picnic.

The day was about as warm and sunny as it was last year, so we put tables closer to the shadow of aspen and poplar trees that grow at the creek by the Hall.

Hotdogs and hamburgers, fresh and warm, and a lot of treats and dishes brought by the people to share with everyone: a variety of salads, pastries, and coke and soda cold drinks, desserts.

The field games were set up for our children, with all necessary items. So, they could try their strength in throwing horseshoes, for example.

We had a very good time communicating informally and discussing both vital and important, and funny things, greeting our guests, getting to know them and each other better, sharing our plans and experiences.

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

May God keep our parishioner and guests and bless them with good health and peace from Above!

Organizational meetings for 2023 Children Bible Camp



On July 13 and July 20 two organizational meetings for 2023 (July 30 – August 6) 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, with a rector of Orthodox IX Parishes archpriest Yevheniy Protsenko and some of our volunteers, counselors and campers present.

The main theme for the 2023 camp is “The Seven Sacraments”, with the priests and deacons preparing to give a lecture on each of the seven Holy Sacrament of the Christian Orthodox Church every day of the camp.

The counselors have been assigned, were given the preliminary instructions as to meet the needs of the camp life considering all the rich experience of the past years.

The menu has already been created by our chef cook Natalia, was gladly approved, with another important task pending – the great purchase of all foods required!

A lot of children, if not the majority, are newcomers, but it is more of the English speaking this year, and the geography and background of our participants is also wider, as we have participants from Regina and Grand Prairie!



We discussed the involvement of the kids into different activities, craft, sport, different games, “free” time, having verified that we have people to provide the activities and enough of the supplies for that.

Again, we are going to give a lot of consideration to the safety aspect, as well as hygiene and healthy interpersonal relations.

Again, we are going to grant this happy and spiritual time to Ukrainian refugees!

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.

We might have an opportunity to embody what we are going to learn, as we might have one Holy Baptizm at the Camp.

Looking forward in taking part in morning and evening prayers at the beautiful St. Michael’s church at the site!

We are very much grateful to the clergy and the participating people!

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

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

120 Anniversary of the 2nd Archpastoral Visit of Bishop Tikhon to Canada - 1903

In this year of 2023, we have the 120th anniversary of the second visit to Canada of Bishop Tikhon (Belavin), the future Patriarch and New Hiero-Confessor of the Russian Orthodox Church and certainly one of the locally venerated saints, by the grateful descendants of the people enlightened and affirmed in Faith by the holy hierarch.

This is the continuation (*the beginning – in the July bulletin*) of the summary of his second visit is taken from the historic treaty "Aleut and North American diocese at times of Saint Patriarch Tikhon" and, we believe, can reveal to us all the complexity of the building of the Church in this country.



In the evening, His Eminence returned to Yorkton, and on the morning of March 5 he went to Winnipeg. The next day there was supposed to be a trip to the colony of Gonor (15 miles from Winnipeg), but because of the snowy weather, Vladyka went to Minneapolis.

Due to the lack of time, Vladyka could not visit other settlements located near Yorkton this time. But even by the one colony it was possible to clearly see the life of Bukovinians (there were more than two thousand of them there. The closest priest to Yorkton was 700 miles away—in Minneapolis). In addition to Minneapolis, he was in charge of colonies in Wisconsin, North Dakota, etc., so he did not have the opportunity to visit Canadian Bukovinians often. That is why Bukovinians were sometimes ready to go to any priest: "Uniate will come — they go to him: after all, he is a Russian priest. When French or Indian comes, they go to him, although they will not understand a sound from his speech: they say, even such a priest is better than none... We live now like animals: no

church, no priest. We wander like sheep without a shepherd. We don't know what will come of us... We ourselves will not forget the faith in which we were born, but what will happen to our children, what kind of faith will they be?"

To understand the religious situation in Canada, it is enough to familiarize yourself with the severe temptation that began at the end of 1902, shortly after St. Tikhon's first missionary trip to Canada. In December 1902, a certain Stefan Ustvol'sky, a candidate of the St. Petersburg Theological Academy, who resigned his priestly rank in Russia, arrived in America. "This scoundrel, having settled in the Junkers Orthodox parish, declared himself a bishop here, allegedly ordained in the East and sent here from the patriarchs as a missionary. Since his claims at Junkers and his actions there were anti-canonical, the Spiritual Board, according to my order, announced this to the parishioners at Junkers and elsewhere, and after that Seraphim was forced to retire from Junkers, having, however, managed to elevate himself to the rank of "Metropolitan of America" and having granted himself a white hood with a cross!" - Vladyka Tikhon reported in his report for 1903.

From America, Seraphim went to Canada, where at that time there were only two permanent priests, and began to "ordain priests" for \$ 50. The dark, deprived of teaching and spiritual nurturing people received both Seraphim and his priests, who soon turned out to be about 25 people. Many Uniates and even illiterate Bukovinians took him for a bishop — "a "real" (?) Orthodox bishop, not "Tzaroslav" [tzar honoring] and "Moscow", but from the East, Greek (!), sent (?) by the Greek Patriarchs... This is what some of the "Greek Catholics" (as the Uniates call themselves) want to have in America." Moreover, Seraphim showed a fake "episcopal letter" signed allegedly by the Patriarch and two Greek Bishops.

"In order to stop such fornication, it is necessary to send a legitimate missionary there," wrote St. Tikhon in a report for 1903.



Yorkton, SK, in 1903, from sasktoday.ca

This missionary became Fr. Konstantin Popov, who faced the difficult task of convincing the people of the falsity of Seraphim. Seraphim himself, when the deception was discovered, left at the end of 1903, but his "priests" remained. Only a small part of them abandoned their "priesthood", others continued to blaspheme, and the people turned to them "for the sake of great need".

Father Konstantin met "Seraphim's priests" everywhere. So, he came to Yastremsky, with whom Bishop Tikhon had stayed during his trip a year ago and whom Seraphim had managed to "initiate as a priest." "The next day after his consecration, Yastremsky received my letters about Seraphim, and therefore he never blasphemed the priestly ministry. Seraphim gave Yastremsky a priestly charter, an antimins [a special blessed piece of linen with the relics of saints to serve the Liturgy on], myrrh, and a chalice. The letter ordered the priest to pray for the Russian Patriarchate, which at that time had been gone for about 200 years before, and for the Russian tsar. Yastremsky gave me all these documents," - Father Konstantin wrote in his travel journal.

The "priests of Seraphim" continued to serve even after the declarations of the Greek Patriarchs, and the Decree of the Holy Synod on the excommunication of the false bishop Seraphim from the Orthodox Church were published in the press. After some time, many of them renounced their "bishop", and he "anathematized" [excommunicated] them. Then the "Seraphimites" organized their own church, "independent of neither the Pope nor the Russian Synod." The Presbyterian mission took advantage of this conflict and lured the majority of the "priests", headed by Ivan Bodruk, with money. Archbishop Platon wrote about him: "... this "independent" presbyter came to me here in New York with a proposal to convert to Orthodoxy at least 36 parishes in Canada belonging to the "independent" church. Knowing Bodruk as a liar and a terrible blasphemer, who, according to my colleagues, threw Gifts of the Holy Mysteries to dogs ... I accepted him formally.

Presbyterian "independent" priests received a salary, had their own newspaper, recruited boys among the Rusyns, trained them and sent them as folk teachers to the villages, built shelters and hospitals in Russian villages. "The infection has taken root deep in the body of Canadian Rus." Although only a handful of priest-farmers remained under Seraphim's rule, the people went to them due to the lack of real priests...

The return of the Uniates to Orthodoxy in Canada was also temporarily suspended by the arrival of the Uniate Basilian missionaries, who acted by "slandering Orthodoxy", intimidating the dark people...

* * *

A year later, in the summer of 1904, there will be a third missionary journey of His Grace Vladyka Tikhon, during which he will visit the church communities of Alberta - the cities of Leduc, Rabbit Hill, Edmonton, East and others.

The basic aim of Christianity is to teach man God's Will, thus bringing them to eternal beatitude. In vain do some want to compare Christianity only to a narrow, isolated sphere of religious experiences. No, Christianity is life, Christianity puts a new stamp on all of life's relationships between people!

Metropolitan Philaret (Voznesensky), Moral Theology, Ch. 22

How do the happy families are happy?

From the author of a popular book "The keys to a happy family" (*beginning in July bulletin*)

Father Paul Gumerov, the author of the book "The keys to the Family Happiness" is giving a short account of his thoughtful experience on the topic, answering the question he put to himself: *what do happy families have in common, what underlies the happiness of these people?*

Let's go back to the beginning of our conversation, where I promised to tell you what all happy families have in common.

I read about happiness in St. Theophan the Recluse: "I understand that the one who feels happy is happy." Very simply said, but what wisdom! And the truth is, if a person does not feel happy himself, even if you shower him with benefits from head to toe, he will not be happy. All the happy families I know had this feeling of happiness, considered themselves happy people and were happy with their lives. Although their life was not at all devoid of trials and



sorrows. So, happiness, joy cannot be achieved without the right mood, the arrangement of the soul. And the Holy Scripture testifies to this. The Gospel says: The kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:21). That is, the Kingdom of God, paradise, begins first of all in a person's heart, in his soul. Being attuned to joy, to happiness, to be able to rejoice in what the Lord gives is not very easy, it is a kind of art. Someone is born with such a happy endowment to see the good in everything, and someone has to learn this. But the ability to feel joy and happiness is available to everyone without exception. God wants us to be happy. In the New Testament, the words derived from the noun "joy", that is, "Rejoice!", "to rejoice" and the like, are used very often, or rather, two hundred and eleven times, because Christianity is a religion of love and joy.

So, building happiness should begin not with changing the external conditions of life, but with internal tuning. Marxists believed that the existence, living conditions of a person, determines his consciousness. In fact, the right way of looking at things is able to determine the being. Using numerous examples from life, I was convinced that a positive-minded person who has peace in his soul and peace with his neighbors will be happy even in difficult conditions. And vice versa, the eternally dissatisfied, grumpy will not be able to be happy even in paradise. I had one friend, it was very difficult to communicate with him, he was constantly dissatisfied with everything and blamed

everyone around for his misfortunes. He considered his mother-in-law a witch and associated all his illnesses with her charms; he did not say a kind word about his wife; if he spoke about his only child, it was only to tell what a slob he was (the only question was: "Who brought him up like that?"). Such chronic discontent is called "loser psychology", and it's true that such depressive personalities seem to attract failures. They cannot build good relationships with anyone; they believe that everyone around them owes them something and are even to blame for their misfortunes. The reason for their bad luck is that psychological losers are preset up for failure, defeat, they initially do not believe in their success. If these people simply changed their attitude to people and to life, it would become much easier and more joyful for them to live.

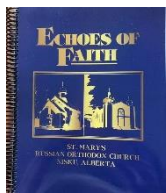
The second condition for family happiness and well-being is, of course, marital love. I will turn again to St. Theophan. He writes to one spouse: "Take care of your mutual love with your wife. This is the source of a happy family life. But you have to watch it so it doesn't get clogged."

Why does the Gospel say so much about love for neighbors and even about love for enemies? Why is the commandment about love for God and people the main, key one in the New Testament (see, for example, Mt 22:36-40)? Why does the Lord say: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another (Jn 13:34)? Because God wants us to be happy. And without love, happiness is impossible. You can, of course, achieve pleasure and comfort for a while without love. But this condition tends to end very quickly or people get tired, and it's difficult to call it happiness. And only the Lord points to a constant, ever-flowing source of happiness and joy - love. If a person does not love anyone, he is unhappy.

In family life, we are given huge opportunities for love. Happy spouses know what value love is and try to protect it, as St. Theophan advises, and he also warns that this source of happiness does not exist without proper care, it can "clog up". Love is supported by our efforts, daily work.

So, the third condition of family well— is a careful attitude to the happiness that God has given us. Because both a correct, positive view of things and love are acquired by our personal work (of course, with the help of God), but these feelings need to be preserved, cherished and supported. After all, "happiness, it's like a bird — you'll miss it and you won't catch it again". For our negligence, happiness can be taken away from us.

News & Announcements



The book “Echoes of Faith” republished!

We are glad to announce fulfilment of the reprinting of our historic Church & Family book “Echoes of Faith”. Now it is again available at St. Mary’s Church at Nisku!

(The Historical Society, that created the book was established 40 years ago (1983), and soon (in 2025) we are going to celebrate 40 years of the book publishing.)



Restoration of the Hieromonk Methodius’ Tomb Cross at Nisku Cemetery

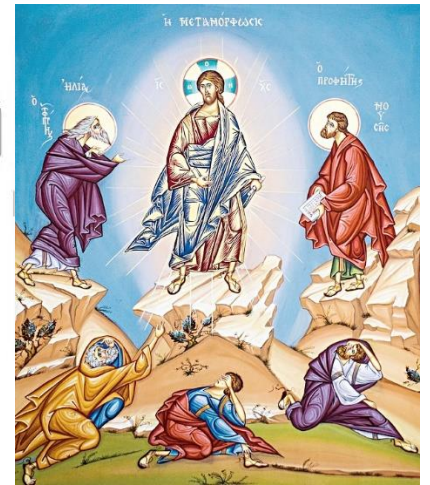
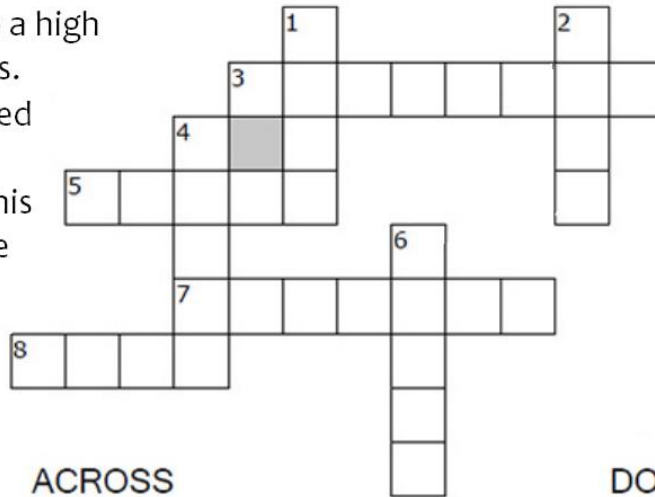
The Parish Council of St. Barbara’s Cathedral and the rector of the Cathedral Right Reverend Igor Kisil took the initiative to restore the cross on the grave of one of the belated priests of the Patriarchal Parishes. This tomb cross, as well as the other six tomb stones were ruined as a result of an act of vandalism in 2022 (a bit more than a year ago), though, very artfully made of clean white marble, this cross was a special decoration of our cemetery. Since the monastics do not have families, which could tackle this restoration

challenge, dear brothers and sisters, we could aid in this godly labour, with St. Barbara’s Cathedral ready to make the main input into it.



Once Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." But a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

The Transfiguration Crossword



ACROSS

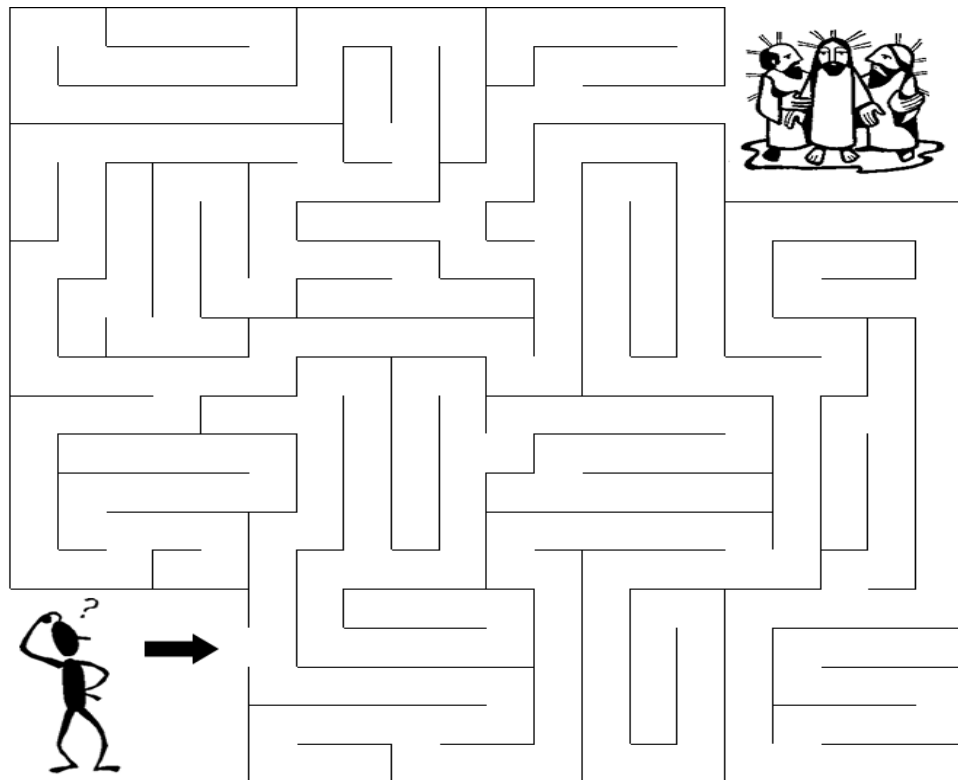
3. A raised part of the earth's surface, larger than a hill
5. A white or gray mass of very small drops of water that floats in the sky
7. Articles of apparel such as pants, shirts, dresses, etc.
8. To have a strong feeling of affection for someone

DOWN

1. Something that is pleasing, enjoyable, or of high quality
2. Having a great distance from top to bottom
4. The sound produced by the vocal organs; what we use to speak
6. The color of snow or milk

high voice cloud good white love mountain clothes

Can you find the way to Jesus, Moses, and Elijah on the mountain?



August 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>6</u></p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy at St. Tikhon's Children Bible Camp 10:00 am – Divine Liturgy at St. Barbara's Cathedral</p>	<p><u>7</u></p> <p>Sts Olympiada and Eupraxia</p> 	<p><u>8</u></p>	<p><u>9</u></p> <p>Great-martyr and Healer Panteleimon</p> 	<p><u>10</u></p>	<p><u>11</u></p> <p>Virgin- martyr Seraphima</p> 	<p><u>12</u></p>
<p><u>13</u></p> <p><i>Forefeast of the Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life- giving Cross of the Lord.</i></p>	<p><u>14</u></p> <p><i>Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord.</i></p> <p>Holy Dormition Fast Starts</p>	<p><u>15</u></p> <p>New Martyr Theodore</p> 	<p><u>16</u></p>	<p><u>17</u></p> <p>Martyr Eudocia of Anatolia in Persia</p> 	<p><u>18</u></p>	<p><u>19</u></p> <p><i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – St. Barbara's</p> 
<p><u>20</u></p> <p>10:00 am – Liturgy – NISKU – Blessing of fruit</p>	<p><u>21</u></p> <p>Sts Zosimas and Sabbatius, of Solovki</p> 	<p><u>22</u></p>	<p><u>23</u></p> <p>Holy Hieromartyr Archdeacon Lawrence</p> 	<p><u>24</u></p>	<p><u>25</u></p> <p>Martyrs Anicetus and Photius (Photinus)</p> 	<p><u>26</u></p>
<p><u>27</u></p> <p>10:00 am – Liturgy – St. Barbara's Cathedral</p>	<p><u>28</u></p> <p><i>Dormition of the Mother of God</i> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – St. Barbara's Cathedral</p> 	<p><u>29</u></p> <p>Translation of the Image Not- Made-by-Hands of Our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople (944).</p> 	<p><u>30</u></p>	<p><u>31</u></p> <p>Martyrs Florus and Laurus</p> 		