



“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

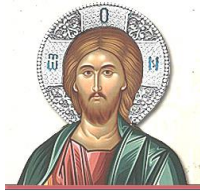
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



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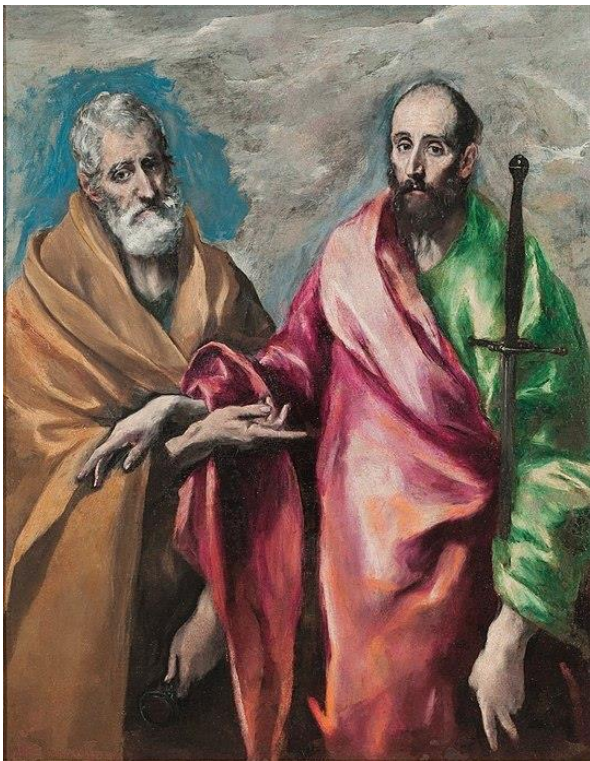
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July 12 – The Holy, Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter and Paul (67)



At the very beginning of his apostolic ministry, being a simple, illiterate fisherman, Peter reverently left all his inheritance, like Abraham, and followed the Divine Teacher into the unknown.

He was the one to combine boldness and humility, the most Christian combination, thus we can say, he is not only *the mouth of the Apostles* (as St. John Chrysostom says), but he is the voice of all Christian people.

For example, when many of the Savior's followers departed from the Lord, having seen that He did not claim earthly authority, Peter, answering the Lord's question, if they (the apostles) wanted to leave too, said: "Lord! Who shall we go to? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6; 67–68). This is what we sometimes say, if we observe the reality as it is...

But not only that, there is much more to it, that Peter says on our behalf, and let it be so, that together with him we receive the same blessing in response from the Lord:

Saint Peter, the fervent follower of Jesus Christ, for the profound confession of His Divinity: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God," was deemed worthy by the Savior to hear in answer, "Blessed are you, Simon ... I tell you, that you are Peter [Petrus], and on this stone [petra] I build My Church" (Mt.16:16-18). On "this stone" [petra], is on that which you say: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God" it is on this your confession I build My Church. (Blessed Augustine, (354–430) the great Church Father of the West)

(continued on the next page)

The temporary hesitation and fear, which the Lord had foretold to Peter before the crucifixion, the Apostle washed with tears of deep repentance. Wisely and patiently, despite the danger that threatened him, he preached after the Ascension of Christ His Gospel among the Asia Minor pagans.

The martyrdom under Emperor Nero was the crown of his life's journey. When they crucified him, he considered himself unworthy to be put to death just like the Lord Himself and asked that he be crucified upside down. So, no matter how the Cross is depicted, it retains its grace!

No less glorious was the ministry of another chosen one of God - the Apostle Paul. He was not an eyewitness of the Savior, like other apostles. Unlike them, he was not a Galilean, from a simple estate, but came from a noble family, that he also left for the sake of the Great Light.

Prior to his evangelistic ministry, he was named Saul and was a zealous guardian of the laws of the Pharisees. Once he heard on the way a Voice from Heaven "Why are you persecuting Me?" and was suddenly struck by temporary blindness. And then from the persecutor of Christ, he became His zealous follower.

All his life he used to say: "I am the least of the Apostles, and not worthy to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God" (1 Cor. 15; 9).

The same combination of boldness and humility, and with a literacy turned to a profound wisdom, possible only to those who always listen to God!

The Apostle Paul preached Christ to everyone: kings and slaves, wise and ignorant, Jews and Greeks. His messages contain a special seal of the Spirit, striking all who read and listen up to now. His zeal for preaching the Word of God is unlimited: "Woe to me," he says, "if I do not preach the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9; 16).

Burning with love for his people, like the God-seeing Moses, for the sake of saving his people, as he said, he was even ready, if it were possible, to be excommunicated from Christ!

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal...

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away...

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Kor.)

He also says: Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians)

He writes in his letters about the grace of God, about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and calls on us all to be filled with these gifts of the Spirit: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5, 22)*

Saint Apostles Peter and Paul, they both say it to us by their own lives! And they both help us to achieve this through their prayers and intercessions for us.

Holy Prime Apostles pray God for us! Amen

Fedor-Borys Family Reunion on July 2nd at St. Mary's at Nisku

Dear brothers and sisters, on July the 2nd a prominent event is going to happen at St. Mary's Church and Hall – the great reunion of the families of Fedor, Borys, and certainly the descendants of some other respected families of our parishes, all the families that put the grand beginning to our Church Spiritual life!

We are going to celebrate Liturgy at St. Mary's Church at 10 am, and after – we shall have a Thanksgiving Moleben (service) at the church, and then we'll go out to the grave yard and have a Commemoration Litia, and then bless the graves of our Godly Ancestors.

The festive lunch, graciously prepared by the families, will be at St. Mary's Church Hall after the service!

Church Picnic after the service on July 23rd at St. Mary's at Nisku



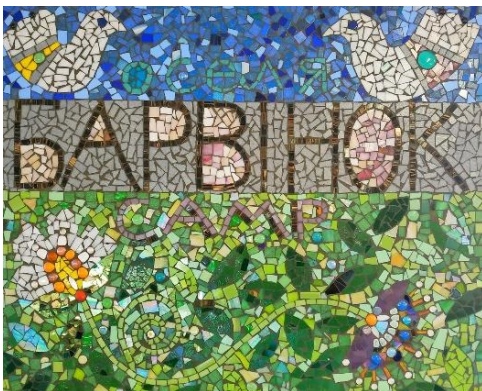
Dear brothers and sisters, on July 23 right after the service, at about 12-12.30 pm we are happy to announce our Church Picnic at St. Mary's Church at Nisku!

That is a good opportunity to reunite and have a good time in communication and a good meal together.

We have again planned to prepare more than basic treat, but you are welcome to bring your own treats too!

We hope that it will be a joyous event, and everyone will have a lot of fun and have a very good rest, at the same time contributing to our common labour of supporting the church and the services! May God grant us good weather – a warm and sunny day, and His peace and grace!

Children Bible Camp 2022 – July 30 - August 6



Dear brothers and sisters, our parishioners, and friends!

We are glad to again announce the Children Bible Camp on the banks of the beautiful Pigeon Lake, the event awaited as the summer itself, very much profitable for the kids physically and spiritually, that they are likely to remember with pleasure for many years.

The camp will be conducted from July 30th to August 6th, 2023. Christian spiritual life activities, recreation, sports and art will be again the core for the retreat. We again ask the families to take active part in volunteering during the camp, especially at the kitchen.

Please, see it on the official website of the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada - <http://www.orthodox-canada.com/bible-camp/>

There you can find the detailed information and download the registration form.

The theme of the camp is 'The 7 Sacraments of the Church'.

If you have any experience in organizing any kind of activities for children – you are welcome to share them with us and/or take an active part in the 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.

Two years ago we gave an account of St. Tikhon's first historic and very fruitful visit. But a great good Archpastor, the future Patriarch and Saint confessor, kept visiting his flock granted by the Lord to his care.

Today we would like to continue depicting Bishop Tikhon's visits, so that to show the life of the Saint and the difficulties and temptation the Church is facing and overcoming in the persons of Her faithful children through the Grace of the Holy Trinity.

This 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 the country, that the builders faced.

On February 24 (March 8) (Monday), 1903, Vladyka left San Francisco "alone, without companions." Very soon, the difficulties of the long journey affected: the train on which the Right Reverend was traveling was 40 minutes late, as a result of which the Bishop did not have time to transfer to the train to Minneapolis, because it had already left.

His Grace went to Winnipeg (Canada) in the evening, accompanied by Priest Konstantin Popov. The first stop was made 12 miles from Winnipeg in the colony of Gonor, in order to discuss the joining of some Uniate Galicians to Orthodoxy. The fact was that about 120 Uniate families lived in Winnipeg, and built a small Uniate church at the outskirts of the city. They did not have their own priest, and the services were performed by the priest Zholdak, the former secretary of the Lviv Catholic Metropolitan, who had recently arrived there. The French bishop of Winnipeg demanded that not only the Uniates and their priests be under his jurisdiction, but also the church land should be registered in his name. Zholdak also persuaded the inhabitants of the colony to do the same, but without success. In response to this, the bishop completely forbade serving Zholdak in the Winnipeg church, and the parishioners were left without a service at Christmas. Many of them decided to convert to Orthodoxy after this incident, which was reported to His Grace.

Until late at night, people came to talk with the Right Reverend. In accordance with the needs of the local church business, he recommended organizing a brotherhood that would develop Orthodoxy here.

The next day Vladyka Tikhon departed to Yorkton. The road was very tiring: trains ran every other day, and therefore were crowded with passengers. One had to drive for 14 hours.



**The Holy Dormition Church at MacNutt SK after the service, June 2023.
The first church building here was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon**

At the train station Vladyka was met by the former Bukovina inhabitant I. Yastremsky, with whom they went to the Bukovina colony of Crooked Lake (28 miles from Yorkton). By 13 o'clock they arrived at the Yastremsky farm, where 74 people had already gathered, who greeted Vladyka on their knees with candles in their hands. His Grace celebrated Vespers with the Akathist of

the Mother of God, and Fr. Konstantin Popov sang with the people. Vladyka thought

the people that **"here in the new land they should not forget their native Faith and guard with all their might the spiritual Treasure of their own, which they brought here with them and which no riches will ever replace."** The issue of the need for a priest to be present here was discussed. About 500 Bukovinian families lived in the vicinity of Yorkton. Vladyka advised to conduct a census, collect enough money and inform him so that he would contact Metropolitan Vladimir of Bukovina in advance about sending a priest. It is known from the report for 1903 that the request was indeed made, but a refusal was received: the metropolitan replied that he himself had a shortage of priests. After that, Vladyka Tikhon made a submission to the Holy Synod "dated September 23, 1903, No. 117" on the appointment of a priest Dimitry Goncharyuk as a missionary here "with a government salary of two thousand rubles, at least for the first time, while the church business is organized there, and after that the parishioners themselves will be able to support the priest."

After the conversation, His Grace visited the Dukhobors (the Russian 'old believers' Spirit-clasts sect), who lived near Bukovina. They lived in villages, of which there were forty-seven in Assiniboia. One of them, Besedovka, was located four miles from Yastremsky's farm. That was where Vladyka went. They were hosted at Nikolai Popov's house.

It is noteworthy that there was no place for religious fanaticism there: these doukhobors did not take part in the "spiritual quests" of their brethren. There were 13 courtyards in this village, its own school, where children were taught Russian literacy. In summer they would go and take some temporary jobs.

The next day, at the farm of I. Yastremsky, Fr. Konstantin Popov celebrated the Liturgy (there were 160 communicants!), and Vladyka read the Akathist to the Savior. After lunch, the Right Reverend went to Skrylyuk's farm (12 miles from Yorkton). On the way, the chapel, which was being built at the expense of parishioners nearby, was examined.

Vespers was served at the Skrylyuk's farm, and the next day Fr. Konstantin served the Liturgy. Moreover, the prayers before communion, as well as akathists to the Savior and the Mother of God were read by Vladyka.

After the liturgy, seven children were baptized, four children were given Christmation, because they had been baptized by a layman and a Catholic priest.

(to be continued in the next, August, bulletin)

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"

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?*



Recently, I seriously wondered: are there many successful and happy people among the families of my friends, relatives, parishioners or just acquaintances? Where both husband and wife are happy with their family life?

This problem really "hit" me, and I even compiled a list of married couples known to me, and then divided them into three categories: happy, unhappy and neutral (where spouses can not be attributed to either happy or unhappy).

The results of my little study comforted me. There is still family happiness! About half of the families, I know, can definitely be attributed to happy. One quarter can be called

neutral, and a quarter — disadvantaged. Of course, any such amateur sociological research is very relative and subjective. Someone among their friends will name more happy people, someone less, and someone will not find a single happy couple at all. The parish priest communicates with many people, including family ones, which means that he sees the problem from the inside. Listening to their stories about family problems, accepting Confession.

But my main task was not statistical calculations. It was much more interesting to understand what happy families have in common, what underlies the happiness of these people?

When I was calculating happy couples, I found that most of them are people over forty who have lived together for twenty years or more. The older generation, overall, was much more serious and responsible about marriage. People begin to appreciate and cherish the family, as a rule, already with age. Over the years, wisdom comes, experience appears. Egoism and maximalism are more characteristic of youth. Young people do not appreciate what they have today; to them it seems: "The whole life is ahead, hope and wait." And older people understand, we need to cherish and appreciate what we have, hours and even minutes of happiness, because they will not happen again.

As if to confirm my thoughts, I recently read, that American scientists, based on a survey of three hundred and fifty thousand residents of the United States, found that family people over fifty years old are more satisfied with their

lives compared to the young. At the same time, social conditions — lack of work or cohabitation with children — have little effect on the internal state of these people.

For me, as a family man, the older generation has always been an example of a careful, reverent, touching relationship between spouses. I remember one archpriest I knew. This man was gray-haired and had already been awarded, it seems, all the priestly awards. After the service, he used to call his wife, just like that, to inquire about her health, to say something good. And he would address her with such loving and tender words!

Another friend of mine, a now deceased elderly priest, had a matushka (a wife) who, according to rumors, was not a sugar character, but he still loved her very much. They liked to travel together, and the Father later described these trips in detail. His wife had a diseased heart, and he was worried about her. He bought the two of them a plot in the cemetery. When she died, every time he would go to the church for service (the cemetery was located next to the church), and every and each time he visited her grave. And soon he was laid down next to her, not having survived his wife by much.

I remember how much my grandparents talked and talked to each other. People have lived a long life, retired, spent whole days together, well, what else can they discuss, what can they talk about? But yet, they were just good together and always had something to talk about.

Of the relatively young couples I know, there are also a lot of happy ones, but, as a rule, their path to happiness was quite thorny. I also have such a married couple friends from St. Petersburg. Now looking at them, you might think that this is the perfect couple, and it has always been so, they are so gentle, affectionate, and attentive to each other, just like two doves. But ten years ago, their marriage was in jeopardy. The husband left the family, rented an apartment, and began to live with a woman. Only the prayer and love of his wife made a miracle, now they are together again. The shock made them completely reconsider their lives, think about many things, and rediscover love.

Another husband, my age, separated from his wife for a while, by mutual consent. The situation in their family was unbearable due to constant quarrels and conflicts. It came to physical assault. After leaving his wife, the husband realized two weeks later that he could not live without her.

I also know just wonderful examples of family resurrection. Young people from Volgograd turned to me. They went through a lot, there were also repeated mutual betrayals. Frankly, I didn't really believe that they would be able to reunite, especially since the marriage was dissolved. But they wanted to go through the Sacrament of Repentance and start all over again. And the Lord created a miracle. Now they are happy.

But is it really necessary to go through inhuman sorrows and temptations in order to find family happiness? Of course not.

Unfortunately, very often the simple truth is — that love, family, and the feelings of spouses are the greatest value in the world — does not reach people immediately. Most find their happiness after going through trials. It is not for nothing that they say: "A peasant needs a thunder to cross himself and wonder." After all, many people come to the church through tribulations. And it is also known: "We do not keep what we have, having lost it, we cry." But to understand that love needs to be kept and cherished, it is absolutely not necessary to lose it. The path of mistakes and losses is fraught with the fact that one day you can lose, what you have gained, forever.

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

(to be continued in the next, August, bulletin)

We celebrate the feast of Saint Apostles Peter and Paul on the 12th of July.

Peter was a fisherman by trade, then he met Jesus and the Lord called him to be one of his closest disciples. He left his boat and his family, followed Jesus and became His apostle, that is a special messenger.

He was known for being brave. When time came, *he* expressed the common belief of all the apostles: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". Sometimes he was impulsive. Once Peter said he would never deny Jesus, but he did so three times before Jesus' crucifixion. However, after Jesus rose from the dead, Peter became a strong leader of the early Christians, because he loved the Lord. He went and told people about Salvation of all in Jesus Christ and did not fear anything anymore!

Paul, on the other hand, was not one of Jesus' original disciples. In fact, he used to think that Christians are enemies, and treated them cruelly. But one day, while he was traveling, he had a powerful encounter with Jesus.

The Lord asked him: "Why do you persecute me?" Paul understood that Christ is the true God, and he dedicated his life to spreading the message of the Lord Jesus and traveled to many places, far away from his country, to tell people about Him, and also wrote a lot of letters to teach the newly created Church.

Peter and Paul got acquainted and became friends, and both faced many challenges and hardships in their mission to spread the good news of Jesus. They endured persecution and even spent time in prison for their beliefs. Despite the difficulties, they remained faithful and steadfast in their commitment to Jesus.

Peter and Paul are considered to be two of the most important figures in Christian Church. They are often depicted in artwork and are honored as Saints. Peter is often shown with keys, symbolizing his role as the "keeper of the keys" to heaven through the power of forgiving sins given to the disciples of Christ, while Paul is depicted with a sword, representing the power of his words and teachings.

Until now they remind us of the importance of faith, courage, and spreading love and kindness to others, and help us when we pray to them!



Look at the icon and try to do your best to add colors to the picture of the Saint Apostles in the next page.



July 2023 (July 1st – Canada Day)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>2</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – St. Mary’s Church at Nisku Fedor-Borys Family Reunion	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> Martyr Julian of Tarsus in Cilicia 	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Martyrs Agrippina, Paula, Bassa, Agathonica 	<u>7</u> Nativity of St. John the Baptist 	<u>8</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Patronal Feast – Vegreville (Blessing of water)
<u>9</u> 10:00 am – Divine Liturgy at St. Barbara’s Cathedral	<u>10</u> Hieromartyr Gregory (1918) 	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>  St. Peter and Paul Day	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> St. Angelina of Serbia 	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy at St. Barbara’s Cathedral 2:00 pm - Grave Yard Service at Tomahawk	<u>17</u> St. Andrew, archbishop of Crete 	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> St. Sisoës of the Kiev Caves (13th c.) 	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> Martyr Alexander the Soldier, of Egypt (361-363) 
<u>23</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy – NISKU and the Annual Church Picnic	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> St. Michael, monk, of Maleinus 	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> St. Nicodemus of Mt. Athos 	<u>28</u> Holy Equal-to- the-Apostles Great Prince Vladimir 	<u>29</u> Martyr Antiochus, physician, of Sebaste (4th c.) 
<u>30</u> 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy – NISKU Departure to the Camp						