



“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

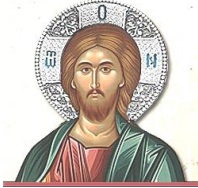
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

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

Immediately after the fall of the first people, the Lord not only condemned them, according to, strictly speaking, their own wish, to getting to know the good and evil of this life outside of paradise and without God; but the Lord also gave them a comforting promise that "The Seed of the Woman will crush the head of the serpent" (Gen. 3:15), that is, He who is born of a Woman will overcome the devil, who by flattery and lies, had deprived them of paradise, the sight of God, and eternal life with and in Him.

Thus, "foretold from the ancient generations", by the prophets Moses, Isaiah, Ezekiel and others, the Immaculate Virgin Mary had to be born on earth from earthly parents at a certain time in order to become the Mother of the Son of God in the flesh, and to lay a new beginning for Humanity.

According to the church calendar, this holiday is the first among the twelve greatest; and the new Church year is also celebrated in September.

For, the feast of St. Mary, the Mother of God is a very appropriate way to start the new year. We celebrate the birth of a new life, we also celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in the history of salvation.

Just as the life of Christ began with Mary, so the life of a Christian begins with Mary.

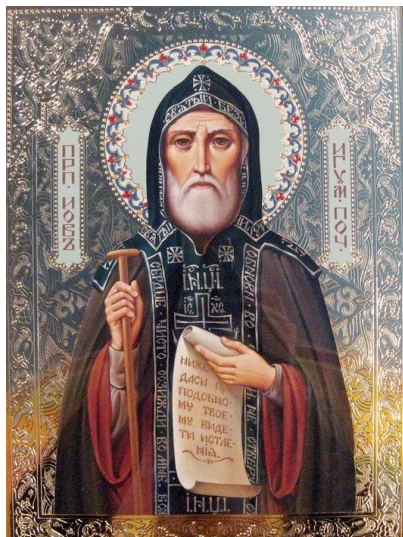
Thus, this oldest of all Marian holidays in our liturgical life is the most suitable for new beginnings, new decisions, the renewal of our life, soul, mind, and heart, which takes place on the Christian graceful path of confession, forgiveness and reconciliation with God and neighbor!

So, today, we wish for all of us to obtain, during the celebration of Her Birthday, the heavenly intercession of the new-born Mother of Light, to have enough wisdom and resolution for the blessed renewal!

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



September 10 – Uncovering of the relics of St. Job, abbot and wonderworker of Pochaev (1659)



Saint Job, Abbot and Wonderworker of Pochaev (in the world named Ivan Zhelezo), was born around 1551 in Pokutia in Galicia. At age ten he came to the Transfiguration Ugornits monastery, and at age twelve he received monastic tonsure with the name Job. The venerable Job from his youth was known for his great piety and strict ascetic life, and he was accounted worthy of the priestly office.

Around the year 1580, at the request of the renowned champion of Orthodoxy Prince Constantine Ostrozhsky, Saint Job was appointed the head of the Exaltation of the Cross monastery near the city of Dubno, and for more than twenty years he governed the monastery amidst the growing persecution of Orthodoxy on the part of the Catholics and Uniates.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, Saint Job withdrew to Pochaev hill and settled in a cave not far from the ancient Dormition monastery, famed for its wonderworking Pochaev Icon of the Mother of God (July 23). The holy hermit, beloved by the brethren of the monastery, was chosen as their Igumen. Saint Job zealously fulfilled his duty as head of the monastery, kind and gentle with the brethren, he did much of the work himself, planting trees in the garden, and strengthening the waterworks at the monastery.

Saint Job was an ardent defender of the Orthodox Faith against the persecution of the Catholics. Following the Union of Brest (1596), many Orthodox living in Poland were deprived of their rights, and attempts were made to force them to convert to Catholicism. Many Orthodox hierarchs became apostates to Uniatism, but Saint Job and others defended Orthodoxy by copying and disseminating Orthodox books, and contributed to the first printed edition of the Orthodox Bible (1581).

In taking an active part in the defense of Orthodoxy, Saint Job was present at the 1628 Kiev Council, convened against the Unia. After 1642, he accepted the great schema with the name John.

Sometimes he completely secluded himself within the cave for three days or even a whole week. The Jesus Prayer was an unceasing prayer in gentle heart. According to the testimony of his disciple Dositheus, and author of the Life of Saint Job, once while praying in his cave, the saint was illumined by a heavenly light. Saint Job reposed in the year of 1651. He was more than 100 years old and had directed the Pochaev monastery for more than fifty years.

The uncovering of Saint Job's relics took place on August 28, 1659. There was a second uncovering of the relics on August 27-28, 1833.

Troparion — Tone 4

Having acquired the patience of your Forefather, / and having resembled the Baptist in abstinence, / you shared the divine zeal of both / and were counted worthy to receive their names. / You were a fearless preacher of the True Faith; / in this way you brought a multitude of monastics to Christ. / You strengthened all people in Orthodoxy, / Job, our venerable father; / pray that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion — Tone 4

Podoben: "Today You have shown forth..." / You were a pillar of the True Faith; / a zealot of the commandments of the Gospel; / a denouncer of pride, / and a defender and teacher of the humble. / Therefore, those who honor you pray for the remission of their sins, / and that this, your holy habitation, be kept safe from all harm, / Job, our father, who resembled the long-suffering Patriarch of old.

WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS



The first feast of the liturgical year is the Nativity of the Theotokos on September 8. And this is truly fitting, for **it is through the Mary the Theotokos (a title that literally means “God-bearer” in Greek) that God will choose to send his Son for the salvation of the world.**

Thus, we begin this Church year at the beginning—waiting for our salvation and seeing glimpses of its coming through the humility and patience of Saints Joachim and Anna, the parents of the Theotokos and grandparents of Christ.

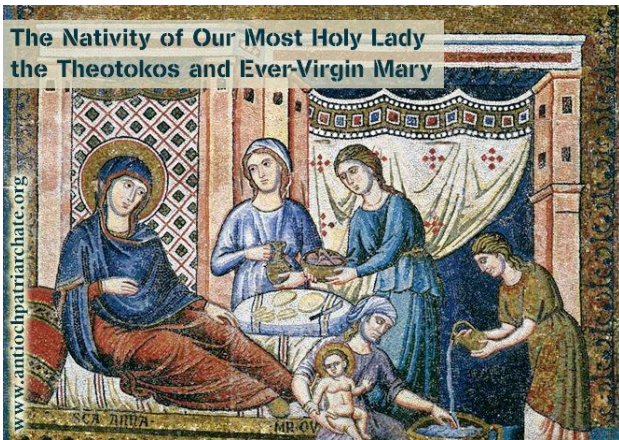
1. Attend Vespers or Divine Liturgy for the Feast



If at all possible, make an effort to attend Divine Liturgy for the feast as a family. Some churches have Liturgy in the evening on feast days to better accommodate the work schedules of parishioners. If you are unable to attend the Liturgy, perhaps you can go to Vespers the evening before the feast. When you are in church, you will be able to hear the Scripture readings for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos and meditate upon them, sing the hymns for the feast and learn them to use in your home, and receive the Eucharist as the ultimate celebration of thanksgiving for the work of God in the world.

2. Read or Listen to the Story of the Feast

My children love to read and be read to. Sit down as a family and read the story of the feast together.



Long ago, in the land of Israel, there lived a righteous couple named Joachim and Anna. They were descended from the great Jewish kings, David and Solomon. But there was one thing that made Joachim and Anna very sad – they were very old and had not been able to have any children.

Among the Jewish people, a family was worthless if there were no children. Remember the stories in the Old Testament of Abraham and Sarah and of Hannah and her son Samuel. So, Joachim and Anna were very sad. But they loved God very much and went every day to the Temple to give gifts. Finally, one day, the Temple servants refused to accept their gifts and told Joachim and Anna that they were cursed since they could have no children.

Anna cried and went home. And Joachim was so sad that he went out to a mountain. There he fasted and prayed for forty days. At the end of the forty days, God sent an angel to Joachim and Anna. The angel had wonderful news: even though they were so old, they would have a baby girl. And this little girl would be the one spoken of by the prophets many years before – the one chosen by God to be the mother of His own Son. The angel told them to dedicate the daughter to the service of God.

And so, Joachim and Anna had a baby girl and named her Mary. And Mary is known to this day as the Theotokos – the Mother of God.

3. Sing the Troparion for the Feast

In our house, we try to sing the hymns of the feast during morning and evening prayers and occasionally at the dinner table. Through this repetition, even our youngest children are able to learn them—belting the hymns out at church (sometimes a bit too loudly!).

Here is the troparion for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, and a link to the music to sing along:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6HkDSaxsRc>

“Your nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!

The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos.

By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing;

By destroying death, He granted us eternal life.”

4. Bake a Birthday Cake for the Theotokos



Younger children really get excited about birthdays! So, explaining this feast as the birthday of the Theotokos can help them understand the significance. One way to really emphasize that point is to make a birthday cake for the Theotokos. The children can help mix up the cake together, and then the whole family can celebrate at dinner. During the celebration you can tell the story or read a book about the feast.

5. Make a Family Tree for Jesus and Themselves

Understanding who is related to whom can be a bit confusing for young children. One way to help them understand the relationships in this story is to create a family tree for Jesus. You can make this activity as simple or as crafty as you would like. For very young children, the tree may just include Jesus, the Theotokos, and Joachim and Anna. If these children are a bit older, you could add a few biblical characters from the line of David on Joachim’s side (David, Solomon, etc.) and a few from the line of Aaron on Anna’s side (Aaron, Eleazer, etc.).



This activity could lead to an interesting discussion about your own family tree, so feel free to make one for your child as well. The children will enjoy putting themselves, siblings, parents, grandparents, and aunts and uncles onto the tree. You could even use photographs or draw pictures to represent each person.

6. Go Birdwatching



Finally, in one part of the story of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Saint Anna prays to God for a child while walking in her garden. There she sees a mother bird caring for her babies and is filled with longing for her own little ones. Parents can tell this part of the story and then take the children outside. Have the kids look for birds in the backyard or a park. If you have a field guide (or the Internet), you can try to find out what kinds of birds you are seeing. The children can draw the birds once they return inside.

by Sarah Wright, orthodoxmotherhood.com

2023 St. Tikhon's Orthodox Children Bible summer camp at "Bar-V-Nok" campground, Pigeon Lake



Due to the people that made a great job for preparing and gathering everything and everyone, were eager to volunteer and donate, and Father Igor Kisil, who organized all the aspects of the camp, one of the most anticipated events happened on the shores of the Pigeon Lake in this year of 2023 from July 30 to August 6.

So, we spent again the blessed week at our camp “monastery” getting charged with the energy of sun, fresh and clean air, and good and healthy food (also blessed each time by the prayer!), as well as getting pacified and edified by the grace of God through the common prayer, Liturgy, His Word, learning about the Church’s foundations, Her Saints, and spiritual communication.

We started the day with the morning prayers and did not go to bed without the evening prayers, and by the God’s mercy, we had this year as many as three Liturgies! With our church choir constituted by the young counselors (some, the campers of just the last year), and the campers and their parents, as well as the choir of St. Barbara’s Cathedral. Our children choir (both singing and reading at church), we should mention this, were very diligent in practising, literally every time and everywhere! With the result of the harmonious peaceful and correct singing during the Liturgies.

The beautiful St. Michael's Church, although humbly standing aside was our spiritual home and the *center* during this blessed week. Some children tasted the fruit of the prayer at church for the first time, some were sharing the gift of reading with the rest of us.



The topic of the camp was “Seven Sacraments of the Orthodox Church”, with a lecture on one or two Holy Sacraments every day, both for the younger campers and the seniors. That we tried to make not overly complicated and with the accent on the essence of things, with quizzes and creative tasks, and even prizes at the end of each lesson.

While one group (elder or younger) had a lecture at the building that

included a classroom and a playroom, the other had a craft lesson with our talented volunteers who shared with the kids their art talents: modeling, decoupage, vintage postcards, drawing and painting.



And at the same time, our children had a lot of time for the outdoor activities, starting with the morning exercises, and all the way through the swimming in the lake, up to the campfire on every evening (yes, with mashmallow)!

We were worried about the weather, but it never failed us; this year we spent even more time in the lake, and the water was cleaner and warmer. If there was rain, it was at the time we were occupied inside or well asleep in our cozy premises!

At least three birthdays were celebrated during the camp time, with cakes and candles and “Many Years” sung, and the friendly applauding and wishes!

What had the most of our applauding was again our wonderful meals; the kitchen staff, headed by our experienced camper cook Natalia Ilina, again did their best to not only sustain but treat and surprise us.

Always on guard was our ‘doctor’ Tatiana Popovskaya, never letting the situation grow, no matter how serious it could seem at the first glance. Thanks God we were all kept under His protection!

This was one of the easiest camps for us, due to the great and kind cooperation of the campers and counselors, when they were not just eager to listen and labour but were eager to contribute to in many ways on their own initiative! We never had any problem with the everyday chores that were given several times a day to every group, to do a lot of ‘household’ things, to keep the camp clean and safe!

And the final concert when children presented the lives of the Saints of the groups was a good surprise for us as for how serious our kids tackled this task, especially the boys of the senior group.

We, the campers and the staff, would like to express our sheer gratitude to all those who laboured selflessly for the common joy of this camp, to those who provided all kinds of



supply, paper work, organizational, kept an eye on the babies, took beautiful photos, decorated our kitchen with flowers, were ready to help and assist not only those they were in charge of, donated their money and time, venturing for the journey to the campground (quite remote for some), helping repair and keep in proper order things, correcting and eliminating any safety issues, providing us with their labor, vehicles, devices, fulfilling the supply of water and food, humbly labouring at the kitchen till late at night!

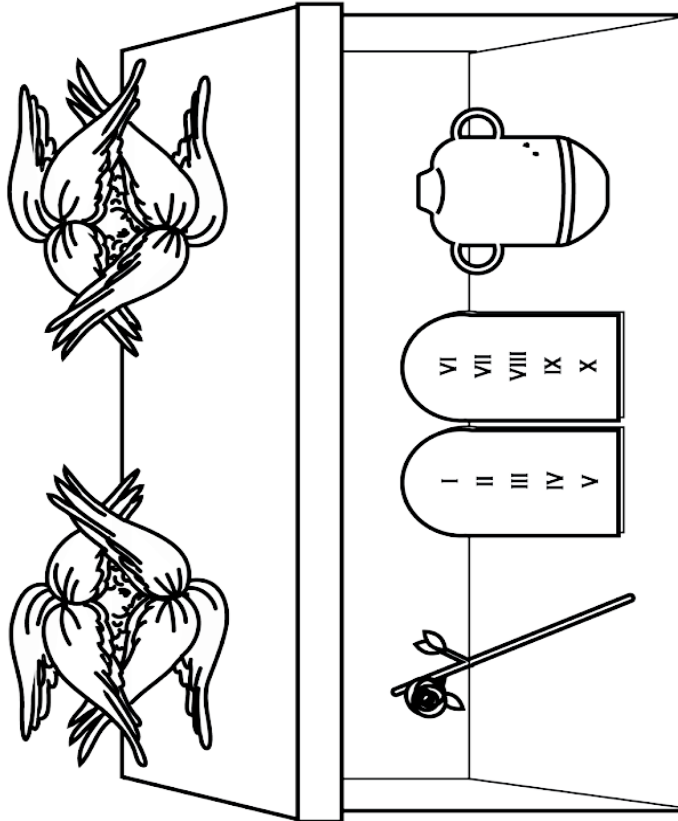
May God remember and bless all of us and grant us to have a no less graceful time at the camp in the years to come!

With the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God, dear children and their parents and grand-parents!

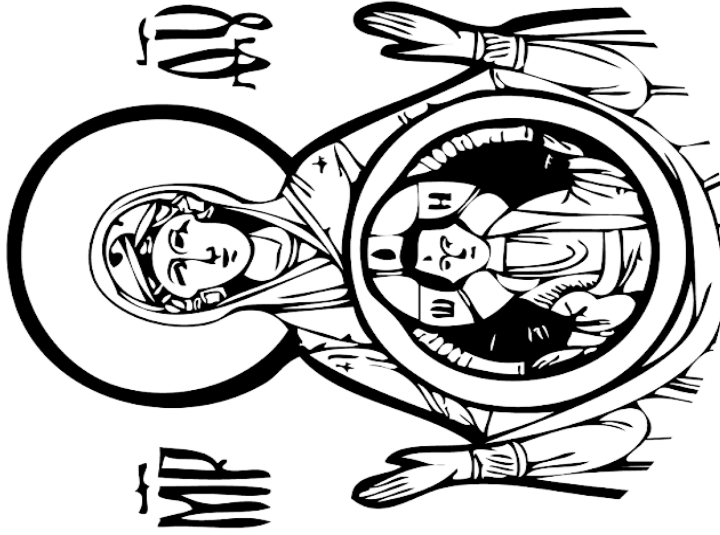
When we say that the Nativity of the Holy Theotokos - the Birth-Giver of God - was fore-told many centuries before, we mean not only by words of the St. Prophets and Righteous it was, but also by the certain Prototypes!

One of the prototypes was the Ark of the Covenant, that was built according to the Lord's word long long before the Birth of the Theotokos. Carefully read the message under the picture, that explains the ways that the ark is a type of the Theotokos, then color it to the different colors that, you think, are appropriate for the picture!

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT
and Mary the Birthgiver of God



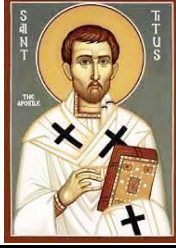
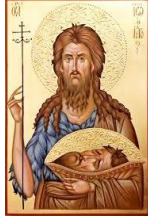
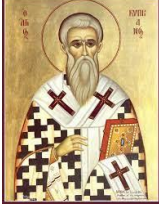



The Ark was the beautiful, golden throne of God in the temple. Inside it held Aaron's rod, the law of Moses, and the jar of manna. When the ark was brought to David, he danced for joy, and the ark's presence blessed the family who kept it.



The Theotokos is the throne of God incarnate, Jesus Christ! The Virgin bore Christ, who is the Word of God, and the Bread of Life. When Mary came to Elizabeth, the babe leaped in Elizabeth's womb, and the Theotokos blesses and protects those who love her.

<http://manymercies.blogspot.com/2016/09/the-nativity-of-theotokos.html>

September 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>3</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy at St. Mary’s Church, Nisku</p>	<p><u>4</u></p>	<p><u>5</u> Martyr Lupus, slave of St. Demetrius of Thessalonica (306)</p> 	<p><u>6</u></p>	<p><u>7</u> Holy Apostle Titus of the Seventy (1st c.)</p> 	<p><u>8</u></p>	<p><u>9</u> St. Liberius the Confessor, pope of Rome (366)</p> 
<p><u>10</u> 10:00 am – Liturgy – Thorsby Thanksgiving Service</p>	<p><u>11</u> <i>Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John</i></p> 	<p><u>12</u></p>	<p><u>13</u> Hieromartyr Cyprian, bishop of Carthage (258)</p> 	<p><u>14</u></p>	<p><u>15</u> Sts. Anthony and Theodosius of the Kiev Caves</p> 	<p><u>16</u> 6:00 p.m. Vespers & Matins at St. Mary’s</p>
<p><u>17</u> 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water Patronal Feast, Festive Luncheon St. Mary’s Church, Nisku</p>	<p><u>18</u></p>	<p><u>19</u> Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossae</p> 	<p><u>20</u></p>	<p><u>21</u> The Nativity of the Mother of God</p> 	<p><u>22</u></p>	<p><u>23</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Mac Nutt – Thanksgiving Service</p>
<p><u>24</u> 9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Foam Lake – Thanksgiving Service</p>	<p><u>25</u> Hieromartyr Autonomus, bishop, in Italy (313)</p> 	<p><u>26</u></p>	<p><u>27</u> Elevation of the Holy Cross</p> 	<p><u>28</u></p>	<p><u>29</u></p>	<p><u>30</u> Martyrs Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love (Lyubov), at Rome (ca.137)</p> 