



“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

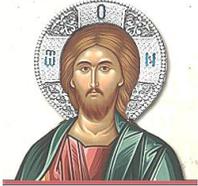
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



Very Rev. Evheniy Protsenko, Parish Priest

10812 - 108 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 3A6

Home Phone: (780) 426-5163 Cell Phone: (780) 818-7343

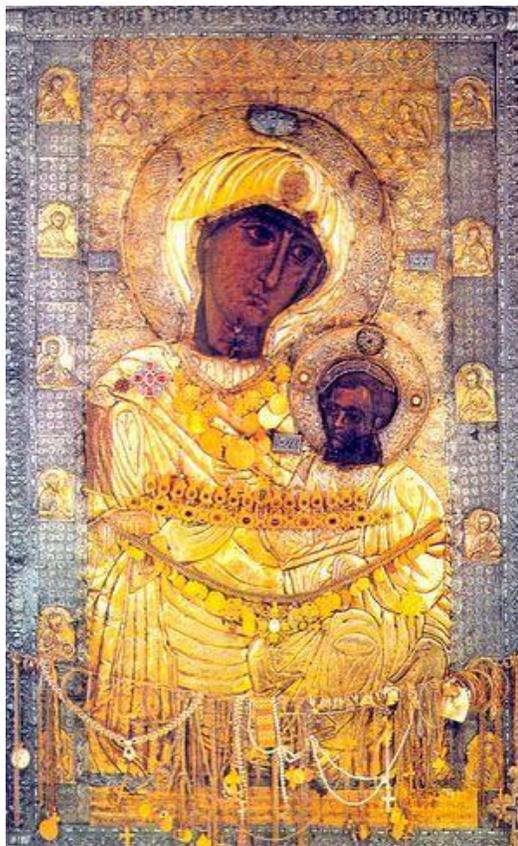
Facebook.com/St. Mary's Russian Greek Orthodox Church

E-mail: pokrova70@gmail.com; web: <http://www.orthodox-canada.com>



Volume 78, Issue 10

October 2025



**Our Lady of Iveron,
Mount Athos, Greece**

October 26 – the Iveron Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos

According to the Holy Tradition of the Church, in the ninth century the Iveron icon of the Mother of God floated in a miraculous way on the sea to the Holy Mountain of Athos. The monks of the Georgian Iveron Monastery on Athos saw the icon in the sea, upheld upon a fiery pillar.

Having received instructions in a dream from the Mother of God, St. Gabriel the Hagiorite (chosen by the Mother of God as the only one worthy) walked upon the water and brought the icon to the Iveron Monastery, which happened on Bright Tuesday.

While the monks were celebrating a paraklesis of thanksgiving, a cold, sweet spring miraculously gushed forth from the ground where the icon stood. Afterwards they took the icon to a church and set it down in the sanctuary with great reverence.

But the next morning one of the monks came to light a lamp and discovered that the icon was no longer where they had left it; now it was hanging on a wall near the entrance gate. The disbelieving monks took it down and returned it to the sanctuary, but the next day the icon was again found at the monastery gate.

This miracle recurred several times, until the Most Holy Virgin appeared to Gabriel, saying, “Announce to the brothers that from this day they should not carry me away. For what I desire is not to be protected by you; rather I will overshadow you. As long as you see my icon in the monastery, the grace and mercy of my Son shall never be lacking!”

Filled with exceeding joy, the monks erected a small church near the monastery gate to glorify the Most Holy Theotokos and placed the wonder-working icon inside. The holy icon came to be known as the ‘Iveron Mother of God’ and, in Greek, Portaitissa, meaning ‘Gate-Keeper’.

God has many times wrought miracles through this icon of the Mother of God—not only through the original icon but also through copies of it, one of which was brought to Moscow in 1648 during the reign of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich.

The miraculous appearance of the icon of the Mother of God in the ninth century, during the era of iconoclastic dispute, was literally a confirmation from Above of what had been pronounced at the **Seventh Ecumenical Council, that we also commemorate the same day**, on the veneration of icons.

After scrupulous investigation of biblical citations and various opinions on icons by 367 fathers of this Council, the following was established: “That... just as the figure of the precious and life-giving Cross, so also the venerable and holy images, as well in painting and mosaic as of other fit materials, should be set forth in the holy churches of God, and on the sacred vessels and on the vestments and on hangings and in pictures both in houses and by the wayside, to wit [namely], the figure of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ, of our spotless Lady, the Mother of God, of the honourable Angels, of all Saints and of all pious people. For by so much more frequently as they are seen in artistic representation, by so much more readily are men lifted up to the memory of their prototypes, and to a longing after them; and to these should be given due salutation and honourable reverence, not indeed that true worship of faith which pertains alone to the divine nature; but to these, as to the figure of the precious and life-giving Cross and to the Book of the Gospels and to the other holy objects, incense and lights may be offered according to ancient pious custom. *For the honour which is paid to the image passes on to that which the image represents, and he who reveres the image reveres in it the subject represented*”

Most Holy Birth-Giver of God guard the gates of our mind and heart, and pray Your Son for us!



The Patronal Feast at St. Mary's – The Nativity of the Mother of God – Church at Nisku in 2025

One of the greatest events in the whole church year is the Patronal Feast of St. Mary's Church, our “Cathedral” of the Orthodox X parishes; this year it was a special blessing as it was on Sunday, which means ‘the day of Resurrection’ in the old language, instilling special hope in us.

The church was beautiful and clean even though it hosted a burial service of one of our old parishioners that morning with many people present.

At the evening service, co-servicing were Father Igor (a several decades rector of the church, now the rector of St. Barbara Cathedral, and Dean of the Patriarchal Parishes), and Father deacon Andrew.

We were serving the complete Great Compline with all solemnity and the blessing of the bread, with protodeacon proclaiming the ektenias.





With our church choir reinforced by the former church choir director of many years Sergey Kuflevskiy, and with the choir of the Cathedral directed by Irina Trutneva, and beautiful singing 'More glorious of the Cherubim' by Nikodim Demyanchuk, who contributed into the solemn singing of the complete Vespers and Matins, and also with the readers and altar helpers from St. Barbara's making this celebration more solemn.

A lot of people from St. Barbara's cathedral joined all our

parishioners to reinforce our common prayer, and we had many partakers of the Holy Gifts after the Holy Confession during the Liturgy.

God blessed us with the nice autumn weather giving us opportunity to properly serve the minor Pascha for our parish.

After the blessing of the water, we went about the church with a paschal Cross procession, reading the Resurrection Gospels crosswise from every side of the Church, from every of the four Evangelists, with the holy water sprinkling over the people "who pray in this Church", and "who live there".

The rector of the parish addressed the parishioners with a sermon on the great event of birth of the Mother of God, about the Holy History of the event and its significance for the Salvation of people.



The Parish President greeted the congregation on the Patronal Feast, giving thanks to the clergy and the choir for the service, and warmly welcoming the guests, and then inviting everyone to the festive lunch to the Church Hall.

As usually, half of the Parish Council and some parishioners were preparing the great meal there while we were praying in the Church.

Many people brought even more of their best dishes and treats this year, and some drinks were also there for the refreshment and toasts of kind words.

The rector of the church, the President of the Patriarchal Parishes, and the President of St. Mary's Church and Orthodox IX addressed the participants with the greetings and kind wishes.



We thank people and God for this solemn celebration of the first Greatest Feast - the Nativity of the Mother of God – a chance for us to put a good foundation for the whole church year.

And we wish our parishioners and guests peace from Above in the unfailing help of God and many years, through the prayers of the Mother of God!

In Memoriam

The parishioners of Orthodox IX extend our deepest and sincere condolences to the relatives of the newly departed! May God comfort you with His compassion, and may God settle His servants where the light of His countenance shall visit! Memory Eternal!

Louie Zak

August 24, 1938 – September 10, 2025



Louie Zak, born August 24, 1938, to Edward and Catherine Zak, passed away September 10, 2025, at Leduc Community Hospital.

He was predeceased by his wife, Violet, and his son, Wally; his parents, Edward and Catherine; and his siblings, Peter, Rose, Francis, Edward, Stanley, and Alben.

He is survived by his son, Terry (Lori-Rae), and his daughter, Valerie (Brendan); his daughter-in-law, Leann (Wally); grandchildren: JD (Taryn), Stephanie (Chad), Tianna (Kevin), Taylor (Cliff), Salena (Kyle), Erik (Kira), Justun, and Kendra (Jayden); great-grandchildren: Tayten, Jayden, Wyatt, Laine, Madden, and Braxton; and his siblings: Laurence, Josie, and Pat.

Louie was a good parishioner of St. Mary's Church, he would often participate in church services, driven here by his faith and love for his beloved belated wife Violet, whose grave he would always visit after the services and during special commemoration services. He would sit humbly at one of the rear seats, focused on prayer, taking Holy Communion, and then friendly and smiling in communication.

The Funeral Service was held on September 20, 2025, in St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Church.

The mercy of God, the Kingdom of Heaven!

GOD GIVES THE HARVEST!

BIBLE VERSE TO LEARN:

"The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us." Psalm 67:6

How many  can you find?

WORD SEARCH

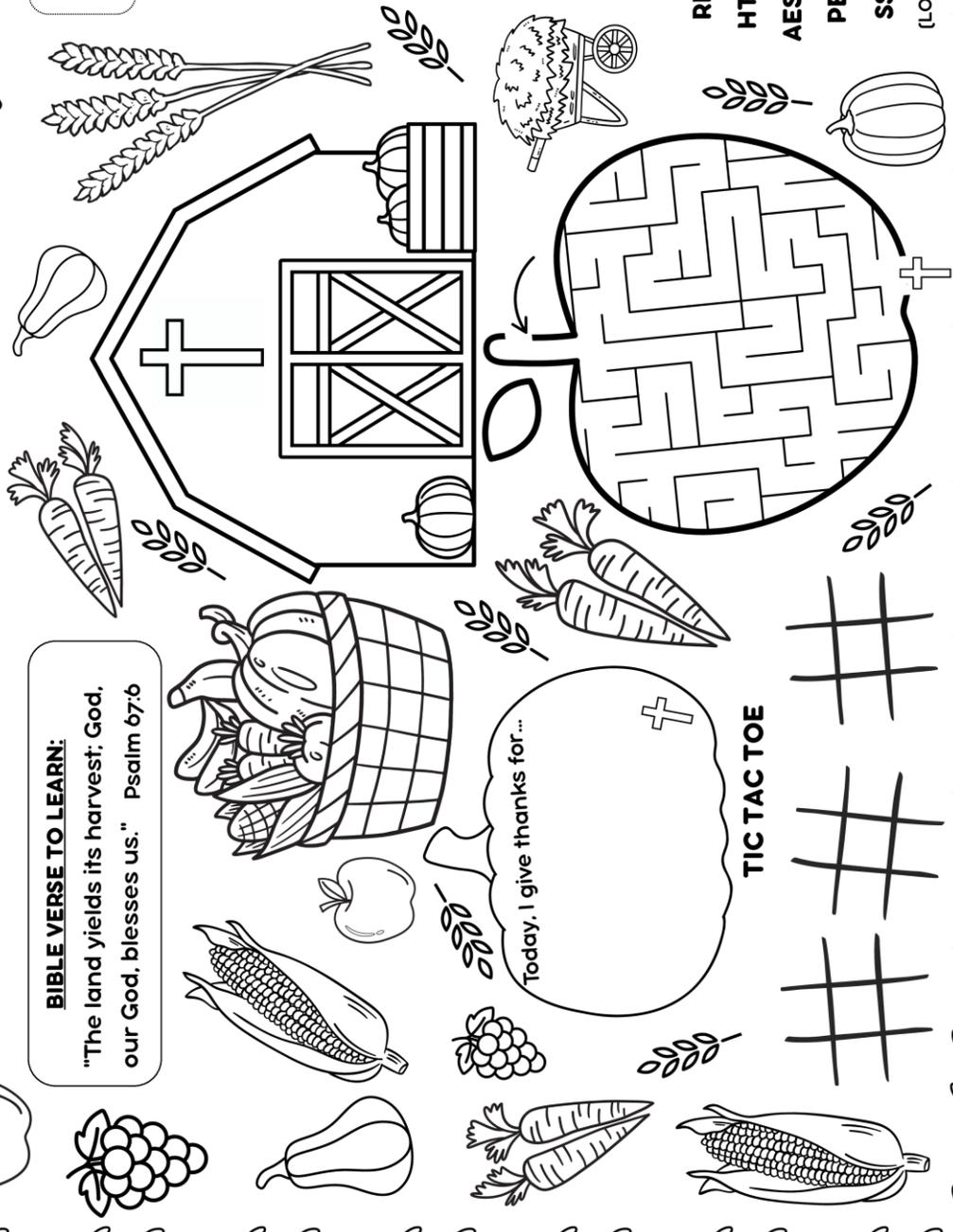
H A R V E S T N
 F P C O R N U G
 A P S E J R K O
 L L B L E S S D
 L E T P R A Y G
 P U M P K I N Y
 W H E A T O Z S

GOD FALL BLESS
 WHEAT APPLE PUMPKIN
 HARVEST CORN PRAY

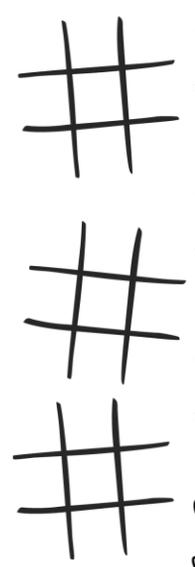
WORD SCRAMBLE

RNCO _____
 HTEAW _____
 AESRVTH _____
 PELAP _____
 SSLEB _____

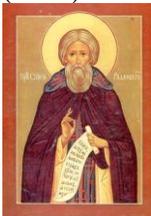
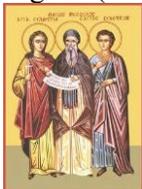
(LOOK AT THE WORD SEARCH FOR CLUES!)



TIC TAC TOE



October 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> St Igor, great prince of Chernigov and Kiev 	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> Apostle Quadratus of the Seventy (117) 
<u>5</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – CALMAR (Thanksgiving Service)	<u>6</u> <i>The Conception of the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John</i>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> St. Sergius, abbot, of Radonezh (1392) 	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> New Hierom. Peter (Polyansky) metropolitan of Krutitsa (1937) 	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – St Barbara Cathedral	<u>13</u> St. Michael, first metropolitan of Kiev (c. 1103) 	<u>14</u> Protecting Veil of the Mother of God 	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> St. Joseph, elder, of Optina Monastery 	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> New Hiero-confessor Gabriel (1959) 
<u>19</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – NISKU (Thanksgiving Service)	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> Virgin-martyr Pelagia of Antioch (303) 	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> St. Theophilus the Confessor, of Bulgaria (716) 	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> Jerusalem Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos 
<u>26</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – NISKU	<u>27</u> St. Nikola Sviatosha, prince of Chernigov 	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> St. Domna, fool-for-Christ, of Tomsk (19 c) 	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke 	