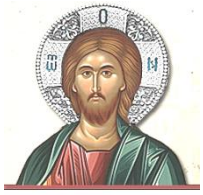
"ORTHODOX 9" PARISHES BULLETIN

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
Holy Ascension - CALMAR
Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY
St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE
St. John the Baptist - HOREN
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)
Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)
Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)

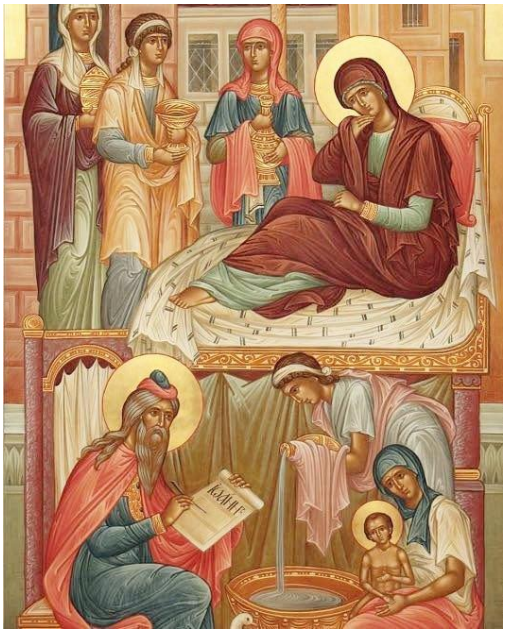


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Volume 86, Issue 6 **July 2026**

July 7 – Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John



In the Orthodox Church, only three people are important enough to have both their birth and their death celebrated as feast days—the Lord, His Mother, and His cousin, St. John the Baptist. For his singular importance to the life and ministry of Our Lord, we honor St. John as prophet, forerunner, and baptist, and commemorate his birth six months before the Nativity of Christ.

The Gospel (Luke 1:5) tells us that the righteous parents of St. John—the priest Zachariah and Elizabeth—lived in the ancient city of Hebron and Elizabeth was barren. Once, while Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to him and foretold that he would have a son who would announce the awaited Messiah. Zachariah was doubting that a son was possible in old age, and asked for a sign. The sign given was also a chastisement for his unbelief: he was struck speechless until the angel's words should be fulfilled.

Elizabeth conceived, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God, and the child John leaped in her womb at the presence of the Most Holy Virgin and her Divine Son.

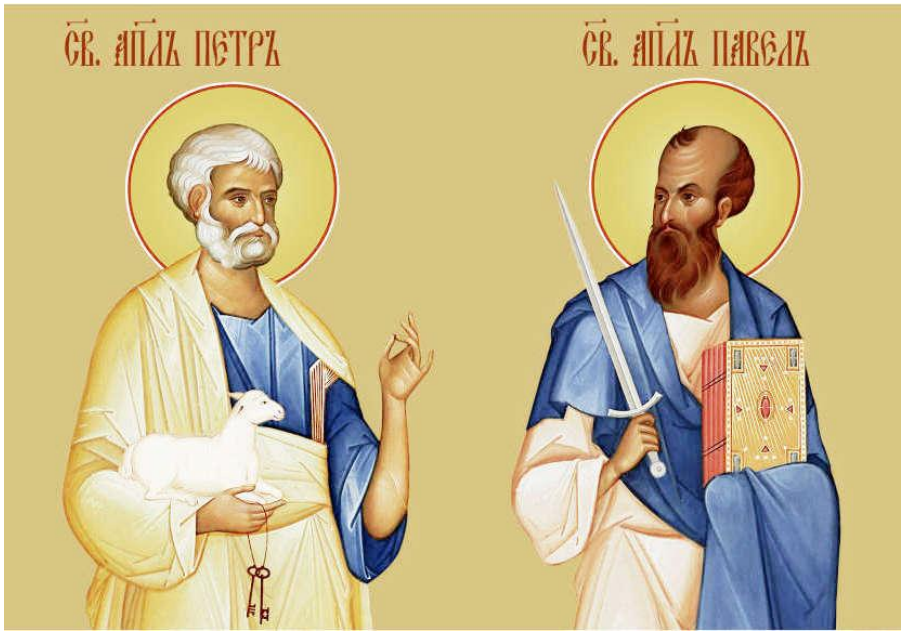
Soon Elizabeth gave birth to a son. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and named John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family bore this name. When they asked Zachariah, he motioned for a tablet and wrote: "His name is John". Immediately his tongue was loosed, and he glorified God, prophesying the coming of the Messiah and the mission of his own son, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke 1:68–79).

After the Nativity of Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, the wicked king Herod ordered the killing of all male infants. Hearing of this, Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave, while Zachariah continued his priestly service in the Temple at Jerusalem. When Herod's soldiers came demanding the whereabouts of the infant John and his mother, Zachariah answered that he did not know, and he was killed there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth lived on in the wilderness with her son and died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the day he came preaching repentance and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

It was St. John who announced to the world the coming of Christ—and so we call him the Forerunner—and it was he who sent the first disciples to follow Him. Only after St. John's beheading did Christ begin His public ministry.

July 12 – Peter and Paul, Foremost of the Apostles

On the Epistles of the Holy Apostles



The notion that the apostolic epistles cannot be properly understood without lengthy study of commentaries and biblical history is not entirely true.

It is no coincidence that many expressions and sayings widely used in everyday life, even by secular people, come from the epistles: "If God be for/with us, who can be against us?" (Romans), "Unto the pure all things are pure" (Titus), and even the words from Second Thessalonians: "If any would not work, neither should he eat." Within the context of the New Testament, these sayings ring far deeper and fuller than in everyday speech.

There are only two epistles of the Apostle Peter in the New Testament, and they are quite concise. Thanks to their clear structure, the epistles of Peter divide easily into complete thoughts no longer than a single tweet. It is fitting to study Peter's letters by breaking them into such short reflections: one day, one thought to ponder. Consider, for example, three verses from the second chapter of his First Epistle:

"Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."

In this way, over a few months one can not only read both epistles (eight chapters in all) but also reflect on each thought the apostle expresses.

Paul's written legacy is far more extensive. In the New Testament his letters are arranged from the longest, Romans, to the shortest, Philemon. The Epistle to the Hebrews is set apart from the rest, for neither the ancient Church nor modern scholars are fully certain of its authorship; most likely this letter, written in the form of a theological treatise, came from among Paul's closest companions or was composed by the apostle together with one of his disciples.

Those wishing to become better acquainted with Paul's epistles might begin with the passages that the Church's order of services appoints to be read at Sunday worship. These are passages of moderate length, and their list can be found in the church calendar. Studying fragments of the apostolic epistles in the rhythm of the church year not only gives a sense of the letters' content but also helps to attune one's life to the life of the Church—especially for those unable to attend services regularly.

Above all, remember that through the apostles' epistles we draw nearer to Christ, whom they knew as no one else did—and Christ, in the words of the Apostle Paul, is "the same yesterday, and today, and for ever."

The epistles of the Apostles Peter and Paul are open letters to each one of us.

From "The epistles of the Apostles Peter and Paul are open letters to each one of us"
miloserdie.ru

An Unexpected Joy at Insinger



On June 28, 2026, a panikhida (memorial service) was scheduled at the cemetery of the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul near the town of Insinger, Saskatchewan. It must be said that the town officially no longer exists, though some houses still stand there, and one of the churches still looks quite majestic as you drive past on the rather busy highway (although this church too has long been inactive and shows signs of dilapidation). Our church—not the one by the highway, but the one located in the old cemetery—was also officially transferred to Regina, the provincial capital of Saskatchewan, in the year of its centennial, in 2011. Nevertheless, every year we celebrate the Paschal commemoration at the cemetery, and each time people gather there, open the church, tidy it up, joyfully take part in the service, and then hold a festive meal right outdoors on the ancient stone table.



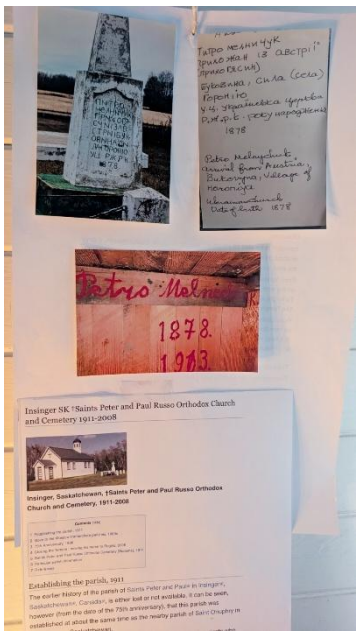
This year, in 2026, my good helper Nikita and I once again undertook the journey there, between fields flooded with water (due to the heavy rainfall), along gravel farm roads—one might say at our own risk, because in some places they could well have been impassable at this point.

At one of the "intersections" of these roads, we suddenly saw a sign of the kind people usually post along roads in towns to invite passersby to a garage sale (typically bright text with an address and an invitation, often with a few balloons, as was the case here too). But where could a garage sale come from, out here in the fields? Drawing closer, we read the words: "Church", and it became clear that something unusual awaited us this year.









Near the church we saw a great many cars and other signs of some special occasion. And as we drew nearer, we saw what we had not expected at all—in the windows of the church, the chandelier (panikadilo) and many other candles were burning!



Most of the people were inside the church; in the narthex stood boxes of food for the meal, mosquito-repellent candles were burning (for the mosquitoes were simply in clouds), on the walls hung a printed history of the church along with some personal photos, and on the tables lay historical books (registry and others) and some of the church's holy items. On our faces, no doubt, was astonishment; on the faces of the people—smiles: the surprise had succeeded!

"Today is the 115th anniversary of our church, so we decided to celebrate it in some special way." And so, on this occasion (a significant anniversary and such heartfelt devotion of the people toward their church), Nikita and I decided to serve a service of thanksgiving (moleben) and afterward the panikhida. We also addressed the people with a word of preaching based on the Gospel reading for the upcoming 4th Sunday after Pentecost, on the unexpected joy of this small patronal feast, and on the fact that this year also marks 50 years since the last service was held in this church—and because there was still much to say to people we see so seldom.



By the time we went out to the cemetery for the memorial services at the graves, heaven granted us an "anti-mosquito" little rain, not heavy, so that it was still possible to serve.



Afterward—this time inside the church—the people set the table and invited us and one another to a festive meal, conversing cheerfully, recalling their church childhood and youth, who used to stand where in the church, and who served back then. And, by tradition, they rang the ancient bell (the bell tower stands separately from the church).

With all our hearts, we thank everyone who arranged this celebration—the large Babichuk family, the family (the brother and wife) of the late warden Maurice Kostichuk, and all who were present there. May the Lord grant you too such grace-filled moments of unexpected joy in your lives.

Taking this opportunity, we would also like to thank with all our hearts those who care for our farm churches of Saskatchewan—the Dormition Church near the town of MacNutt, and the St. Onuphrius Church near the town of Foam Lake, and the Liturgy in them. May the Lord grant everyone good health and long life!

We are also very grateful to the local authorities for continuing to care for the church—in particular, for re-roofing it with new green sheet metal, thus allowing us to continue holding services here for many years to come.

Organizational Meeting of the Orthodox Children's Camp of the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada



On June 2, 2026, the first meeting of the organizers of the **Orthodox children's camp, July 26 – August 2**, of the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada took place.

In a warm, friendly, family atmosphere, Father Igor, the director and organizer of the St. Tikhon's Children's Camp, announced the 26th camp, reminding everyone that it was on this very day in 2000 that the first camp was launched. Based on the applications already submitted (12 from Calgary, 9 from Edmonton), he estimated that there would once again be no fewer than 40 children, mainly from three cities: Calgary, Edmonton, and Red Deer. Father Igor also welcomed and introduced the new people to the meeting — our future camp counselors and helpers.

Special attention was given to arts and crafts: this was the topic we discussed most of all, and Svetlana Storozhenko has already outlined a whole range of planned activities at various stages of readiness.

Also, as part of our "lessons learned", we discussed the afternoon activities — lively, energetic games, quests, and sports games, as well as activities that would be of greater interest to the boys.

We were glad to welcome the most likely participation of our experienced counselors and helpers in the 2026 camp, outlined ways to resolve conflicts with work or study schedules during the camp, and determined who could take on which responsibilities, distributing them among ourselves according to everyone's availability.

We recalled all the best and most joyful moments from past camps, and a unanimous request was voiced to once again invite the mini petting zoo, which everyone came to love so much.

Father Igor announced **the theme of the 2026 camp — the Sacraments of the Orthodox Church** (six lectures will be given to the children); and it was decided that the teams would once again be named after the saints commemorated on those days.

We also remembered and once again planned our fun contest with a bag of candy in a tree, deciding that this quest could be organized and presented in some new way.

We gave thought to how to coordinate the children's activities with the weather conditions, how to organize visits to the games room, and how to ensure that one of the counselors is always on duty there to maintain order and keep the children organized.

Church Picnic — July 19th at St. Mary's, Nisku



Dear brothers and sisters,

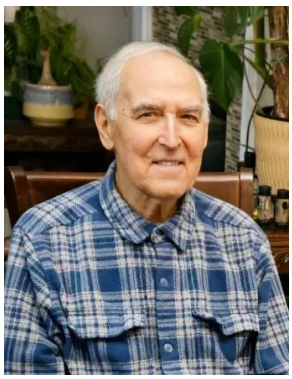
On July 19th, right after the service (around 12:00–12:30 pm), we are happy to invite you to our Church Picnic at St. Mary's Church in Nisku!

This is a wonderful opportunity to reunite, enjoy good food, and spend time together in fellowship. We will again prepare more than a basic treat — but you are most welcome to bring your own as well!

May it be a joyous day of rest and good company, as we share in the common labour of supporting our church. May God grant us warm and sunny weather, and His peace and grace!

In Memoriam

The parishioners of Orthodox IX extend our deepest condolences to Horen St. John the Baptist parish, and to the relatives of the newly departed Adam Kanarski. May God comfort you with His compassion, and may God settle His servant, where the light of His countenance shall visit!





Adam Henry Kanarski

November 8, 1941 – June 18, 2026

We cannot express the grief that we are feeling at the loss of such a wonderful husband, father and grandfather.

On Thursday, June 18, 2026, Adam Henry Kanarski passed away surrounded by love.

Adam's memory will be remembered by his wife, Eva; his children, James, Daniel, Andrew (Paige), Natasha (Jared), Victor (Olena), and Volodymyr (Luba); beloved grandchildren, Clementine, Halie, Saphina, Andrew, Diana, Volodya, Dima, Sasha, and Vladyslava, one great-grandson-Saraphim and his sister, Victoria along with a large loving extended family.

Adam was predeceased by his parents, Vasylyna and Paul Kanarski; siblings, Alex, Helen, and Nettie.

Adam enjoyed the outdoors - it was his sanctuary from the everyday, which he also depicted so wonderful in his paintings. He indulged in hunting, trapping and fishing with his family and friends - a pastime he always looked forward to. Adam was the type of soul that did not sit still for long. He worked as a Battery Operator for many years, but his heart was always at the farm driving a tractor and tending to the cattle. When he was not working hard, you could find Adam sitting in front of an easel painting incredible wildlife and nature scenes.

Family was everything to Adam – to his wife he was "all kinds of husband", as they shared such a deep connection to one another. His children and his grandchildren were his world, he loved to teach them to fish, to give helpful advice, life guidance, and was everyone's dad. He truly wanted the very best for his wife and children – he wanted them to be okay. He was an honest man with strong integrity to himself and others. He was always willing to help if you asked and even if you didn't. As a talkative and friendly sort, he had many lifelong friends and many more he just hadn't meet yet.

Adam and his wife Eve were always friendly and supportive to the priesthood of St. John's Church and used to be famous for their wonderful dishes and catering at the church festive meals.

May God remember His servant in His Kingdom!

Memory Eternal! The mercy of God, the Kingdom of Heaven!

With Gratitude



Orthodox IX Parishes and St. John the Baptist parish of Vegreville extend their heartfelt thanks to Audey and Eileen Sen for their faithful and selfless service to our church. Despite the heavy rains this year, they have kept the grounds mowed and cared for, week after week. We are also grateful for the quiet repair of the shed door, done without being asked.

Such generous, hidden labor is what sustains a small parish, and it does not go unnoticed — by us or by God. May the Lord bless them abundantly for their kindness and love.

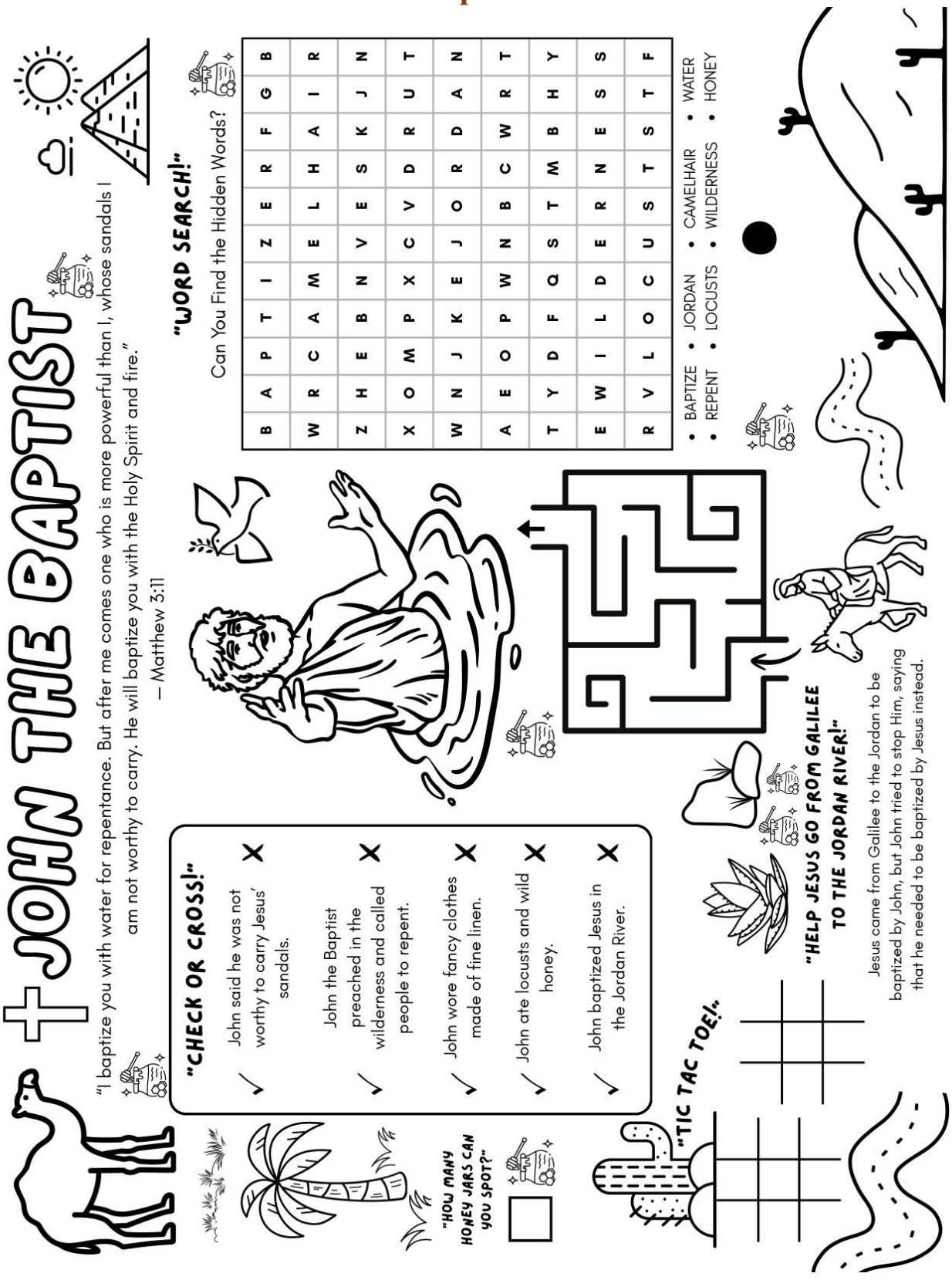


Meet John the Baptist

Long ago, before Jesus began His ministry, God sent a special messenger named John to prepare the way. We call him John the Baptist, or John the Forerunner, because he came first to get people ready to meet the Lord.

John lived simply out in the wilderness. He wore clothes made of camel's hair and ate locusts and wild honey. He preached to the people, telling them to repent — to turn away from their sins and turn back to God. Many came to him at the Jordan River, where he baptized them with water.

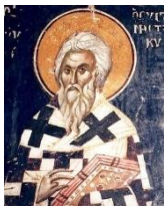
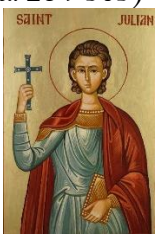
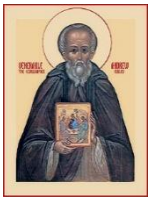
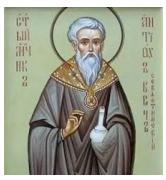
One day Jesus Himself came to be baptized. John felt unworthy and said he was not even fit to carry Jesus' sandals! But Jesus asked him to do it, and as Jesus came up from the water, because by this Jesus was taking on Himself the sins of people, and the Holy Spirit appeared like a dove.



The Church remembers John as one of the greatest of the prophets — the last one before Christ, and the bridge between the Old Testament and the New.

In this month of July, on the 7th, we celebrate his nativity.

July 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 ***Canada Day*** 	2 Holy Apostle Jude, the Brother of the Lord 	3	4 Martyr Julian of Tarsus in Cilicia (ca. 284-305) 
5 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy – Patronal Feast at Vegreville	6	7 ***Nativity of St. John the Baptist*** 	8	9 Tikhvin Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos 	10	11 Sts. Sergius and Herman, of Valaam 
12 ***St. Peter and Paul Day*** 10:00 am – Divine Liturgy at St. Barbara's Cathedral	13 Synaxis of the Holy Twelve Apostles 	14	15 St. Photius, metropolitan of Kiev (1431) 	16	17 St. Andrew (Rublev), iconographer 	18
19 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy – NISKU and **the Annual Church Picnic**	20	21 Great-martyr Procopius of Caesarea in Palestine 	22	23	24 Blessed Equal-to-the-Apostles Olga 	25
26 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy – NISKU **Departure to the Camp**	27 Apostle Aquila of the Seventy, and St. Priscilla 	28	29 Martyr Antiochus, of Sebaste (4 c.) 	30	31 Martyr Emilian in Bulgaria (363) 	