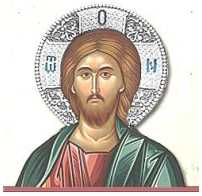
"ORTHODOX 9" PARISHES BULLETIN

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN CANADA

Monthly Newsletter for the family of Orthodox Churches including:

St. Mary's (the Nativity of the Holy Virgin) - NISKU

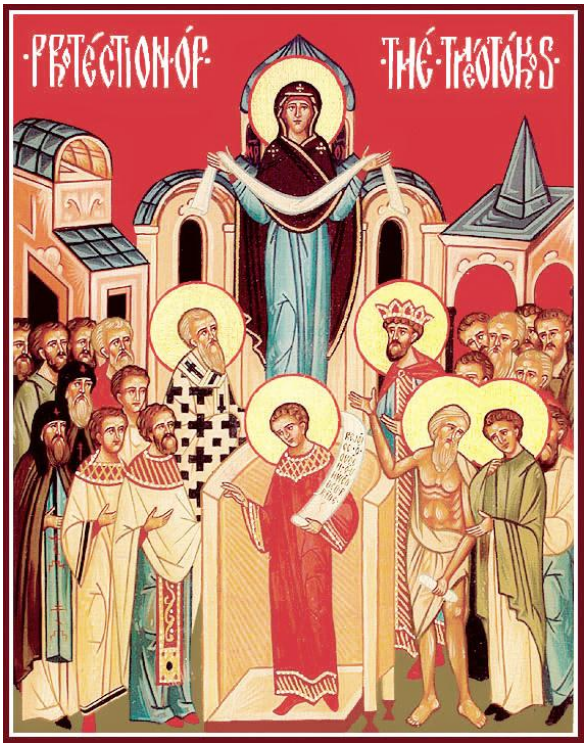
Sts. Peter & Paul - BONNYVILLE
Holy Ascension - CALMAR
Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY
St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE
St. John the Baptist - HOREN
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)
Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)
Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



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 89, Issue 9 **October 2026**



The 14th of October – the feast of St. Mary's Protecting Veil

Dear brothers and sisters! Warm greetings to all of you on the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos!

In the tenth century, at the Blachernae church in Constantinople, Blessed Andrew and his disciple Epiphanius saw the Mother of God. She spread Her veil over the people at prayer. According to one tradition, our Slavic ancestors, who were still pagans, were besieging the city at that time. So the Mother of God was protecting Christians from our own forefathers. Blessed Andrew himself was also of Slavic origin, but he was already a Christian, a "new man". In him we can already glimpse the change that would soon come to our people through Holy Baptism.

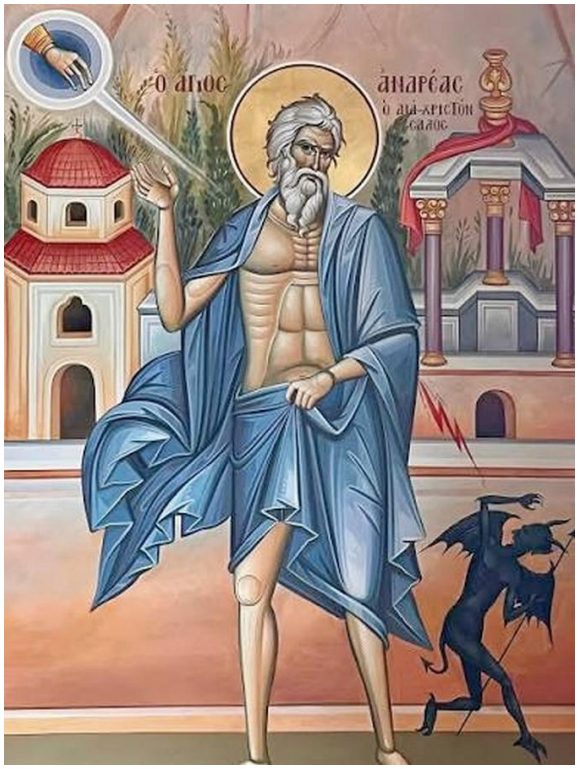
The Mother of God appeared to people who were in mortal danger. In that hour their prayer was especially fervent, sincere and full of repentance. "For whom the Lord loves He chastens" (Heb. 12:6). The trials we face, which we often bring upon ourselves, do not mean that God has abandoned us. Through them He calls us to repentance and leads us onto the path of righteousness. By interceding for us, the Mother of God bears witness that God's wrath is ready to turn to mercy when our repentance is sincere and bears fruit.

Our people have long held this feast especially dear. And two and a half centuries after the event, the holy Prince Andrew Bogolyubsky was surprised that this miracle had no place in the Church's services. Largely through his efforts, the Feast of the Protection was established in Rus. Ever since, all Slavic peoples have honoured it, and today so do we, living far from our native land.

May the Most Holy Theotokos cover each of us, our families, our parish and our people with Her precious Omophorion. May She guard us from every evil and strengthen us in faith, hope and love.

A blessed feast to you all! Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

What Do We Know About the Man Who Saw the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos?



A Slave Who Became a Saint

Most of what we know comes from *The Life of Saint Andrew the Fool for Christ*, written by Nicephorus, a priest of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. Many scholars date Andrew to the reign of Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886–912). The Greek text calls him a "Scythian", and the Slavonic Lives of Saints call him a Slav. Both may be true, since the Byzantines used the name "Scythians" for all the peoples north of the Black Sea.

As a boy, Andrew was sold as a slave to Theognostus, a commander of the imperial bodyguard. He was baptized, sent to school, and showed such gifts that his teacher marvelled at him. A career at court seemed to lie ahead, but Andrew loved the lives of the martyrs and the holy fathers and longed to imitate them. One night at prayer, he saw in a vision angels wrestling with demons, and Christ holding three heavenly crowns. Andrew fought the leader of the demons and threw him to the ground. Christ crowned him and said: "Become a fool for My sake, and I will make you a partaker of many blessings in My Kingdom."

A Fool for Christ

The next night, Andrew cut his tunic to pieces at the well, muttering as if he had lost his mind. Under Byzantine law this freed him from slavery, but at a heavy price. He was chained in the church of St. Anastasia, where the insane were kept. When demons attacked him there, St. John the Theologian drove them away, and from then on, he was Andrew's protector.

Released as a hopeless case, Andrew lived on the streets of Constantinople in rags. He slept outdoors in every season and ate only scraps. People beat and mocked him, and children threw stones at him. In secret, though, he prayed without ceasing. A devout woman once saw him with spiritual eyes as a shining pillar of light moving through the marketplace, while angels gave him flowers from Paradise. During one bitter winter, even a stray dog ran from him when he tried to warm himself against it. As he lay freezing to death, an angel carried him up to Paradise, where he saw the Lord Himself.

The Vision at Blachernae

One night Andrew was keeping vigil with his disciple Epiphanius in the Blachernae church, where the robe of the Theotokos was kept. Around the fourth hour of the night, he saw the Mother of God enter with St. John the Baptist, St. John the Theologian and a multitude of saints singing hymns. For a long time She knelt in prayer with tears. Then She took the veil from Her head, which shone "like lightning", and spread it over all the people. "Do you see the Lady and Queen of the world?" Andrew asked. "Yes, my spiritual father," Epiphanius answered. When She departed, the veil vanished with Her, but the grace remained with the people.

His Repose

Andrew foretold that Epiphanius would one day become Patriarch of Constantinople. After a final night of conversation, Andrew blessed his weeping disciple, went out into the city, lay down in a portico and peacefully gave up his soul to God. A fragrance of myrrh and incense filled the neighbourhood, but his body was never found. In Nicephorus's words, he was "a hidden sun and a pillar of fire reaching to heaven, a poor wanderer and a fool for the Lord, rejected by all," but his service was known to God, and to His people.

Based on an article by Priest Andrei Chizhenko, from pravlife.org

Congratulations and Gratitude



The Parishioners of St. Mary's Church are thankful to the Parish Council of St. Mary's Church, and personally to Davis and Beverly Borys, and Marianne Lecapoy, and all our parishioners for preparing all necessary for the Patronal Feast Celebration!

We are grateful to the clergy who joined the celebration: Father Igor Kisil, Father Deacon Andrew Boldireff, and Father Deacon Alexandr Toporchan; and the church choir of St. Barbara Cathedral directed by Irina Trutneva, and the readers and singers from both the cathedral and our holy church, the carriers of the Church Banners and Icons; the altar helpers, servants of God Paul, Alexandr, and Iliya; and to our parishioners and guests from St. Barbara Cathedral for joining our common and accordant prayer!



We also thank everyone who contributed to the festive meal and our friendly communication at the Church Hall! **May God grant you peace from Above and good health!**



The Parishioners of St. Mary's Church congratulate the dean of Patriarchal Parishes and a former rector of several decades of Orthodox IX parishes, archpriest Igor Kisil and Matushka Natalia, on their 30th Wedding Anniversary!

We prayfully wish Father Igor and Matushka Natalia unfailing love, family joy and prosperity, spiritual and physical strength, and God's all-powerful help in all their labors and endeavors! **Many Years! Mnohaya Lita!**

The Parishioners of St. Mary's Church are very much thankful to our parishioner Chuck De Jong, known within the regional community for his photography and custom woodworking, who also made a replica of St. Mary's Church in 2025 – for recreating the cross on the auxiliary icon stand used during the greatest feasts celebration! **Thank you so much Chuck, and may God keep blessing your creative works!**



In Memoriam

The parishioners of Orthodox IX Parishes extend our deepest condolences to the relatives and friends of the newly departed servants of God William Hadzariga and Larry Belozer. May God comfort you with His compassion, and may God settle His servants where the light of His countenance shall visit!



William "Bill" Hadzariga

August 6, 1950 – August 27, 2026



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of William “Bill” Hadzariga, on August 27, 2026, at the age of 76 years.

Bill will be lovingly remembered by his mother, Annie; his daughter, Lori (Wes); his daughter-in-law, Kyla; and his grandsons, Brayden, Tyran, and Grayson. He is also survived by his brother, Mike (Sharon); his nephew, Nathan (Connie), and their children, Noah and Ezra; and his niece, Damara (Filipe), and their children, Zorion, Alaia and Luciana. He will be fondly remembered by his extended family and many friends. Bill was predeceased by his father, Roman Hadzariga, and his beloved son, Alex Hadzariga.

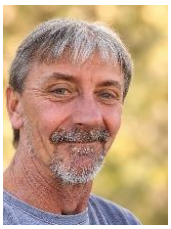
A heavy-duty mechanic by trade, Bill spent much of his working life in Hinton. Later in his career, he worked in small engine repair at NAPA, where he remained until his retirement. Retirement brought Bill back to his roots on the family farm in Tomahawk, a place he truly loved. He was happiest on the farm, especially when he was behind the wheel of his tractor.

Bill genuinely enjoyed people and made friends wherever he went. He loved to socialize, tell jokes, and share a laugh, and it never took long for a stranger to become a friend. He was simply one of the good ones and people loved being around him. His warmth, sense of humour, and easygoing nature will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

William followed the Christian example of his father and mother, and their home was an unofficial parish office and the coordinating centre for many church events and initiatives. He was given trials in this life that many people could scarcely have borne, and yet he never lost heart and never lost his Christian faith: the Lord truly loved him and desired him for His Kingdom — and so those trials made him a better man and a better Christian. His cheerful spirit was an inspiration to clergy and parishioners alike, and his kindness and generosity drew people to the Church. Together with his devout mother, William helped to restore the divine services in our church, and he always received the Holy Mysteries of Christ with joy.

Larry Richard Belozer

February 4, 1971 – August 30, 2026



It’s with great sadness that we announce the passing of Larry Richard Belozer on August 30, 2026, at the age of 55.

Larry was well-known for spending time in the shop watching Oilers games, bringing humor to everyday situations, and always being ready to help with family shopping or errands.

Larry leaves behind his wife, Lisa, of 27 years; sons, Tyler and Justin; daughter, Megan; and 3 grandchildren: Hunter, TJ, and Lexi. He will be dearly missed by his siblings: Sharon (Gab), Bob(Marianne), and Doug; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

He had a heart of gold and was an amazing guy who loved his family with all his heart!

Larry was counted worthy of Confession and Holy Communion before going to God. Parishioners of our churches warmly remember his professional labour for the church buildings of our neighbourhood.

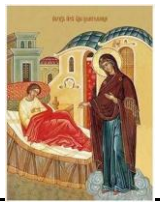
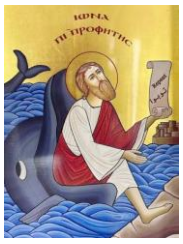
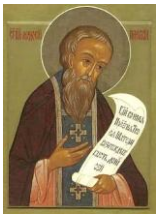
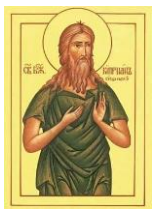
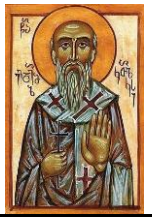
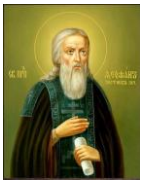
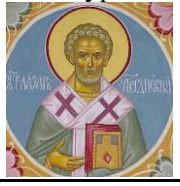
Memory Eternal! The mercy of God, the Kingdom of Heaven!

Children's Corner: Drop in with your children and great & grand children!

Traditionally, autumn - the season of crops - is the time of one of the most antient Thanksgivings that people ever celebrate with prayers and sacrifices. Though we Christians have the most perfect Thanksgiving every Liturgy we serve and every day we live - for the Sacrifice of the Only-Begotten Son of God - Our Lord Jesus Christ, instructed by the Holy Spirit, we never forget to give thanks for this crown of the year with its God-given good things from the fields and gardens. Here is an activity for you where you can join the Thanksgiving of the Church by adding yours and also giving colors to this beautiful picture if you like.



October 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 "The Healer" Icon of the Mother of God 	2	3 St. Oleg, prince of Bryansk, monk (1285) 
4 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – CALMAR – Thanksgiving Service	5 Prophet Jonah (8th c. b.C.) 	6	7 St. Theodosius, abbot, of Manyava Skete 	8	9 Repose of the Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian 	10
11 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – NISKU – Thanksgiving Service	12 St. John (Maximovitch), archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco 	13	14 **Protecting Veil of the Mother of God** 	15 Blessed Cyprian of Suzdal, fool-for-Christ (1622) 	16	17 Hieromartyr Evdemoz, catholicos of Georgia (1642) 
18 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – St Barbara Cathedral	19	20 St. Jonah, bishop of Hankou, Manchuria 	21	22 Holy Apostle James, son of Alphaeus 	23	24 St. Theophanes, faster, of the Kiev Caves 
25 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – NISKU	26 New Martyr Zlata (Chryse) of Meglin, Bulgaria 	27	28 Hieromartyr Lucian, hieromonk of the Kiev Caves 	29	30 St. Lazarus "of the Four Days", bishop of Kition on Cyprus 	31