



“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

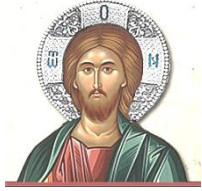
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



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July 8 - Holy Prince Peter and Princess Febronia, Wonderworkers of Murom

Prince Peter was the second son of the Murom prince Yuri. He entered upon the throne in the year 1203. Several years before this St Peter had fallen ill with leprosy, from which no one was able to heal him. All attempts to cure it were in vain—no one could help him. When the prince had reached the point of despair and had nearly given up, he had a significant dream: Peter saw that there lived a girl named Febronia, who was able to heal him.

Unlike Peter, Febronia was from an ordinary peasant family. She lived with her father the beekeeper in the village of Laskovo. From her early years she studied the properties of various plants and had the gift of healing. She was able to tame even wild animals, and they would obey her. This girl of remarkable beauty and kindness was pleasing to the young prince’s heart, and he gave his word to

marry her as soon as he recovers. Febronia restored the prince’s health, but then he became fearful at the prospects of an unequal marriage, and didn’t keep his promise. Soon the same disease returned to Peter with renewed strength.

When Peter’s messengers again came to Febronia, she did not refuse to help and again healed the young prince. Peter repented of breaking his promise, married his benefactress, and the couple honored one another throughout their lives and lived honestly, in peace and harmony.

The boyars [nobles] supported and respected the illustrious ruler, but they could not resign themselves to the fact that next to him on the throne sat a girl from the lower classes. They tried to slander her and urged her husband to get rid of her. One fine day they gave Peter an ultimatum: either his rule, or his beloved wife. Peter abdicated the throne and left Murom together with his spouse.

(to be continued on the 2nd page)

Life in exile was not easy, but the wise princess never lost heart, always found a way out of a difficult situation, and supported her crestfallen husband. Peter never ceased to treat Febronia with great tenderness and never once reproached her with the fact that she was the cause of their exile.

Soon the Murom boyars understood that it was impossible for them to keep order in the city without their wise leader. Coming to their senses, they sent messengers to the princely couple to request that they return to head the government again. After taking counsel with his wife, Peter returned to his native land.

Thus did Peter and Febronia live together heart and soul to the gray temples of age, “praying without ceasing and showing mercy to all people under their authority, like a loving father and mother. They were equally loving to all, hated cruelty and greed, had no desire for corruptible wealth, but became rich in Godly treasures. And for their city they were true shepherds and not hirelings. They governed their city with fairness and meekness, and not with wrath. They gave hospitality to strangers, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and delivered the poor from their misfortunes.”

In their old age the two received the monastic tonsure with the names David and Euphrosyne. Settling in different monasteries, they wrote letters to each other. They prayed to God that He grant them to die on the same day, so that together they might continue their path on to heaven. The couple even prepared a double coffin for themselves, in which their bodies would be separated by only a thin dividing wall. Tradition has it that their prayers were heard, and they reposed in the same hour on June 8/25, 1228. However, the couple’s will was not carried out—the two were buried separately. But then twice occurred something inexplicable, and their bodies turned up together in an unbelievable way. After that the clergy buried Peter and Febronia together near the Church of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Three hundred years after their death, Peter of Murom and his wife Febronia were ranked among the saints. The Orthodox calendar established July 8 as their commemoration day.

The holy spouses were buried in the Cathedral church of the city of Murom in honor of the Nativity of the Mother of God. After the establishment of Soviet power, in 1921, the relics were taken to the local museum, where “with vulgar commentaries they were exhibited for public viewing.” Since 1992, the relics are openly resting in the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity Monastery in Murom. Thousands of pilgrims come to venerate them and ask for their heavenly intercessions, and they receive healing.

In 2008, the Interfaith Council made that day the Day of Family, Love, and Faithfulness that is celebrated in forty countries, and there appeared the first (with many more to come later) monument to Sts. Peter and Febronia— “The union of love is a wise marriage”, and the tradition was established of awarding the medal to families in which a worthy emulation of love and mutual understanding reigns.

Since many Orthodox Christians would like to have their wedding sacrament take place on the feast day of these two heavenly patrons of married couples, the question arose of assigning them an additional feast day outside of a Church fast period. Thus, as Sunday is not a fast day unless it falls during one of the four fasts periods, this date connected with September 19 was chosen—in memory of the day their relics were translated from the Annunciation Monastery to the Holy Trinity Convent.

The example of Saints Peter and Febronia shows us the love that we are all called to. Love is making sacrifices for each other, being forgiving, being united in God. Love is also about caring for one another and helping those in need.

From Culture.ru and Pravoslavie.ru
Translation by OrthoChristian.com

Congratulations on the Baptism!



We cordially congratulate the parishioners of the Holy Trinity Whitsuntide Thorsby Church, Darren Ostapchuk and Dakota Dool with the Holy Sacrament of Baptism of their daughter Lilyana Shirley!

May God Who willed to join Lilyana to the Body of Christ and thus give her New Life, grant it to be filled with the joy, love and endless blessings for the salvation!

May your newly born and baptized daughter be granted good health and all furtherance in the spiritual life for many good years!!!

Church Picnic after the service on July 21st at St. Mary's at Nisku



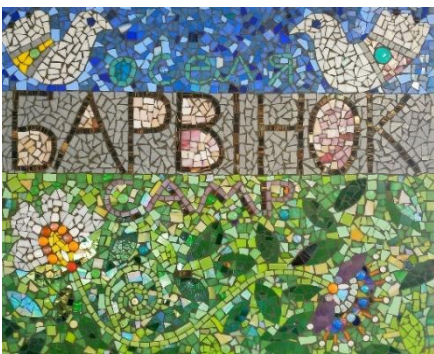
Dear brothers and sisters, on July 21 right after the service, at about 12-12.30 pm we are glad to announce our Church Picnic at St. Mary's Church at Nisku!

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

We plan 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 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 Church Camp 2024 – July 28 - August 4



We are glad to again announce the Children 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 28th to August 4th, 2024. Christian life activities, recreation, sports and art will be there. We 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 2024 camp is 'Twelve Major Feasts of the Orthodox Church'.

If you have any experience in organizing any kind of activities for children – you are welcome to share them with us at the last organizational meeting in July, the 8th and/or take an active part in the camp!

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



Celebrating the memory of the prime apostles on July 12, the Orthodox Church glorifies the spiritual firmness of St. Peter and the mind of St. Paul, praises in them the image of the conversion of sinners and those who correct themselves: in the apostle Peter – the image of the one who rejected the Lord and repented, in the apostle Paul – the image of the one who resisted the preaching of the Lord and then believed.



The Gospels and the Book of Acts tell about the life of these Apostles and their preaching labours. But their holy icons can also tell us a lot of important things. On the icon of the Apostle Peter holds the keys – a symbol of repentance, thanks to which the doors, the gates of the Kingdom of God open to us. In the hands of the Apostle Paul is sword which is the image of the word of God, with which we, as spiritual warriors, must fight the devil, sin, passions, and cowardice.

Both apostles have books in their hands – a symbol of the teaching that they preached, an indication of those messages, letters that they wrote to members of ancient communities and to us. As disciples of Christ, we must constantly read them, because they contain a treasury of wisdom.

In the Orthodox Church there are two Supreme Apostles. This is not accidental, since in Orthodoxy the principle of conciliarity and catholicity is above all. On some ancient icons, two glorious but different Apostles, often polemicizing with each other, are depicted in friendly embraces and fraternal kisses. This is how we should live in the Church and then we can be equal to the Apostles.

The naming of these Apostles by the word "prime (or supreme)" speaks of the glory and honor of these Apostles, of their special place among the other Apostles. But before reaching the eternal heavenly and earthly glory of the church, these Apostles suffered a great deal of work and performed the greatest feat. So, the word "supreme" defines the one who was the first to walk the path of ascent, the first to trample, or pave the way for the others to the heights of spiritual life and Communion with God. These Apostles were not only the first to rise to the very height of the fulfillment of the gospel, but also traveled the entire universe with their preaching. They taught and are teaching not only with words, but also by their example.

The Apostles Peter and Paul are compared to the pillar of fire that led the Israelites through the desert a long time ago. As this pillar, the faithful disciples of Christ lead the "new Israel" – Christians, preaching the Gospel and showing them the way to Salvation. Amen.

**Archbishop Job,
at the celebration of the
Patronal Feast in Regina SK, 2015**

Rules of Happy Family Life



In the cycle of his conversations “The Grammar of family life” Archpriest Paul Gumerov speaks on how marriage is understood in the Orthodox Church, on what foundations it should and could be built, what kinds of problems people will face in family life, and how they can avoid or overcome them.

So, in this bulletin we shall start considering Part 5 of this cycle, where Father Paul presents his experiences in the form of nine vital components, or principles for building a happy Christian marriage:

1. *Never forget what is most important.*
2. *Your family is you.*
3. *Try to communicate more.*
4. *Discuss vital problems, communicate.*
5. *Respect one another.*
6. *Don't try to remake or re-educate your other half, but be able to see the good, bright side in your beloved and in your family life.*
7. *Give no place to anger and other negative emotions.*
8. *Do more to please your family.*
9. *Give help and mutual assistance.*

Never forget what is most important

A person often strives for different goals in his life: career, creativity, a family... There are especially many issues that should be resolved in the first year of spousal life. The first year of marriage is quite difficult: we have to settle some material problems, develop relationships with relatives, find an apartment, then follows the birth of your first child and so on and so on. Of course, at first people don't have experience with any of this, which comes with the years. And in this commotion, it often happens, as they say, that we “throw the baby out with the bathwater,” that is, to forget about the most important thing: why we united ourselves into a family. To love one another, to rejoice, to serve one another. We should especially remember this in difficult circumstances. We joined into a family not at all in order to prove who is right, who is to blame, or to solve some problems immediately: we want it today, we want it now. Of course, we won't be able to solve everything immediately. And with any problem or family conflict we must always give room for the most important thing and pursue it.

Our family is us

Whether we like it or not, our spiritual wellbeing, and physical too, depends now on who is near us. I will speak about myself: at a certain point I stopped separating myself from my family, in general: I had the feeling that I had always had a wife and children, and they were even always of the same age as now. It was somehow forgotten that there was a period where I was unmarried, when I had no one near me that I cared for.

Being a family man, you must align the orientation of your soul and all your actions with other people—it is very important—to try so that everything is good not just for you, or not just for someone else, because if something is bad for you, you will reconcile yourself to it, and do so endlessly, and in the end you won't be able to endure it and you'll explode; or you will habituate someone else to dependence, or maybe even to tyranny...

In family life we must forget the pronoun “I” and remember the pronoun “we.” This refers both to minor issues and to those more important. Everything must be spoken about and discussed.

Try to communicate more

In one American university, if I'm not mistaken, they did some research to determine why marriages fall apart, and it turns out that the majority of marriages break up not from infidelity, not because people have different personalities, not from economic problems, but from a lack of communication between the spouses! People don't find this unity which is so necessary in marriage. It probably was there at first, but then somehow got lost, or always, even before marriage, the partners barely spoke with one another... He and she begin to live their own lives, and it's very grievous when people don't perceive their family as “we.”

It sometimes happens: some kind of “crack” in the relationship appears and begins to grow, but they don't want to get a divorce, and there are already children and they live under one roof essentially as two people, strangers to one another, to each his own life, one not interested in the other... Once a woman complained to me that she and her husband had nothing left in common (they were already middle-aged) except joint housing and children. I began to question her about what and how. She told me that her husband is unchurched, with his own secular interests, and she is a practicing Orthodox. I asked what kind of music he likes, which books, and in general what kinds of hobbies he has. “He listens to Boris Grebenshikov.” And I said: “Then you should go with him to a Grebenshikov concert. What's the big deal?” “How's that? No. Why would I go to a concert?!” You understand, this person doesn't want to make any steps towards the other! And it's quite sad.

A common occurrence: spouses spend their vacations separately—she goes to a resort with the kids, and he, for example, goes to their summer house or somewhere else... I know very many couples who began to live this way—every man for himself. They were united simply at some point to quickly start a family and have kids... It's even happened that they begin to live in separate apartments. Of course, such a disconnection doesn't appear immediately, and, thank God, if the people realize it in time, they can recover their family unity—communicating with one another. But for this you must make an effort!

My grandfather and grandmother gave me an example of a nearly ideal family life. They were already quite old but they were strong for seventy. Visiting them in Ufa, my native city, I was always amazed that these people, who it would seem already exhausted every topic, whose children were grown, whose grandchildren were already married, were so interested in one another. Grandpa would return from the garden and begin to tell Grandma something. They spent hours talking about the day's events! I was amazed at how they could discuss something! Was it about the news that they saw on TV? Not at all. They found one another more interesting.

I recall one batiushka who was always very caring for his matushka, and even when he stayed to sleep in the church house between services, he always took the phone to call her and ask: “How are you? How are you feeling?” He gave her such attention, such gentle care, like we usually see in young people.

Neglecting communication is forbidden, because in communication is born community—that community which is binding and cementing in the beginning of marriage, for lack of which, as researchers say, marriages break up.

After a hard day, when the kids have already gone to bed, discuss the day's events with your spouse over a cup of tea... This is especially for wives, who, as a rule, sit at home with the kids, waiting for their husbands to share with him her experiences, joys, and fears that occurred that day.

Now many spend their leisure time surfing the web, hanging around on social media, playing computer games, and it's very sad. We must not forget about simple human communication! *(to be continued in the next bulletin)*

July the 7th is the Nativity of John the Baptist

Isn't this a strange picture? A family with a newly born baby, with the wife holding a little child, and a husband holding a piece of either a paper or wood with someone's name... This is the name of the child, but isn't it a strange way to give names to children?

This man is Zachariah, who was a priest of God. While he was serving at the temple, he had a miracle of seeing an angel of God.

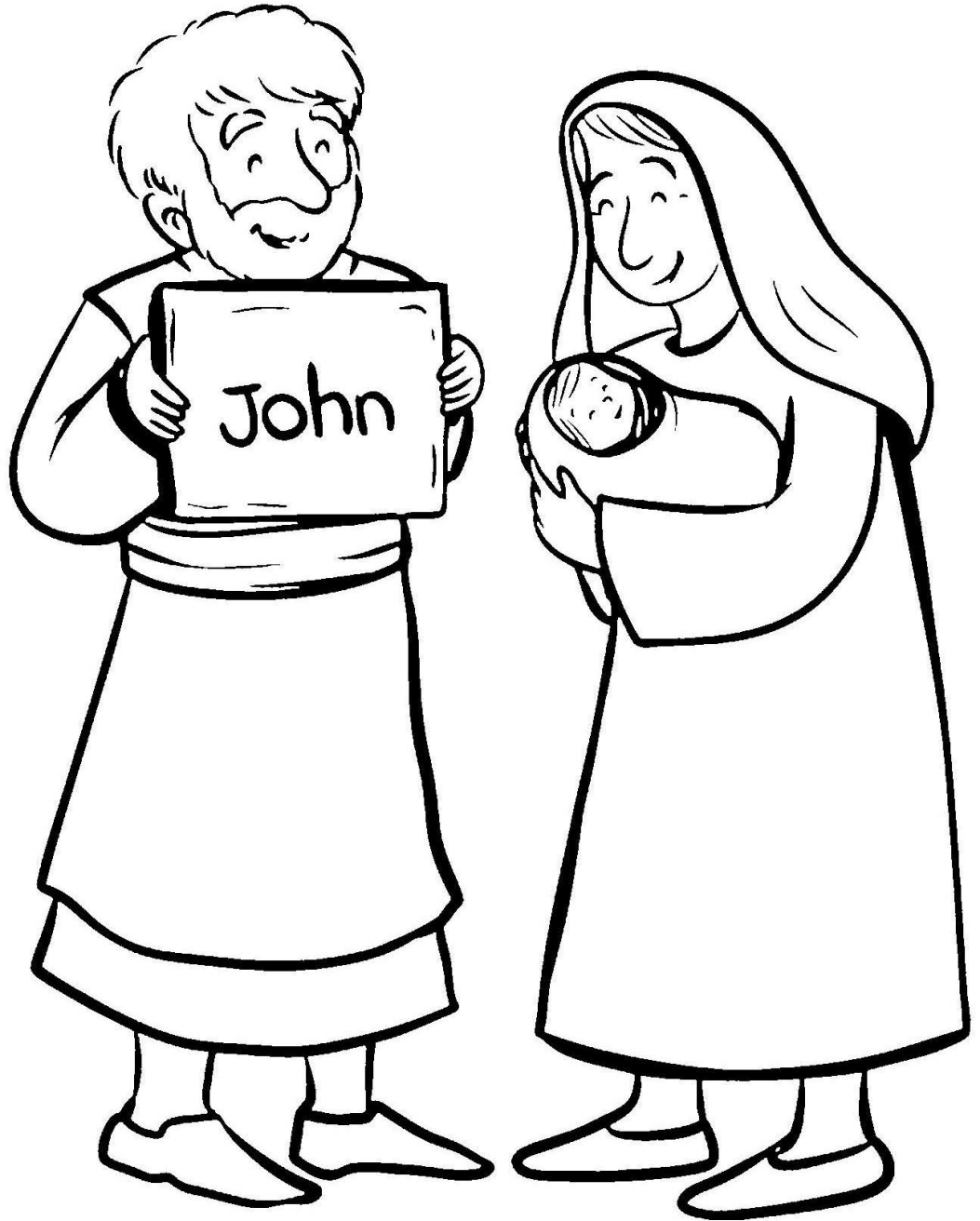
This woman is his wife Elizabeth, who, by the word of this Angel, was going to give birth to a special baby. And this child was going to have a very special job and service to do for God and His people - to become the Baptist of the Lord! *This baby had to become as spiritual and trustworthy as to show the very Son of God to the people, so that they would believe him!* And Zachariah had to name his child John.

But Zachariah had some doubts and was even arguing with the Angel, because "he and his wife were elderly people and could not have children"...

Jesus Christ, the Saviour, is also the Word of God. So, the Angel of God gave Zachariah, because of his doubts, a special and strict sign: the father of the future Baptist of the Word of God could not say a word before and right after the birth of his glorious son!

And when the child was born, no one wanted to give him the name John, because no one ever had such a name in this family.

So, Zachariah asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And his mouth was opened, and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God! And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared to the people of Israel and baptized the One Who did not need to be baptized - the Son of God Who became the Lamb (sacrifice) of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.



Give colors to this simple and solemn picture, and may this holy family help you in all your labours!

July 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>7</u></p> <p>Nativity of St. John the Baptist</p>  <p>10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Patronal Feast – Vegreville (Blessing of water)</p>	<p><u>8</u></p>	<p><u>9</u></p> <p>St. David of Thessalonica (540)</p> 	<p><u>10</u></p>	<p><u>11</u></p> <p>Sts. Sergius and Herman, founders and abbots of Valaam (14 c.)</p> 	<p><u>12</u></p>  <p>St. Peter and Paul Day</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Synaxis of the Holy, Glorious, and All-Praised Twelve Apostles: Peter, Andrew, James and John the sons of Zebedee, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Jude the brother of James, Simon the Zealot, and Matthias</p>
<p><u>14</u></p> <p>10:00 am – Divine Liturgy at St. Barbara’s Cathedral</p>	<p><u>15</u></p>	<p><u>16</u></p> <p>Martyr Hyacinth</p> 	<p><u>17</u></p>	<p><u>18</u></p> <p>New Martyrs Abbess Elizabeth (Romanova)</p> 	<p><u>19</u></p>	<p><u>20</u></p> <p>1:00 pm - Grave Yard Service at Tomahawk</p>
<p><u>21</u></p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy – NISKU and the Annual Church Picnic</p>	<p><u>22</u></p> <p>Hieromartyr Pancratius, bishop of Taormina in Sicily (1st c.)</p> 	<p><u>23</u></p>	<p><u>24</u></p> <p>Hieromartyr Hilarion, archbishop of Verey (1998)</p> 	<p><u>25</u></p>	<p><u>26</u></p> <p>Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel</p> 	<p><u>27</u></p>
<p><u>28</u></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy – NISKU Departure to the Camp</p>	<p><u>29</u></p> <p>Martyrs Alevtina (Valentina)</p> 	<p><u>30</u></p>	<p><u>31</u></p> <p>Hieromartyr Cosmas, of Georgia</p> 			