



# “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**

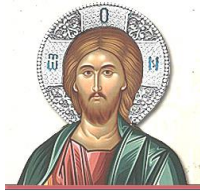
**St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)**

**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*

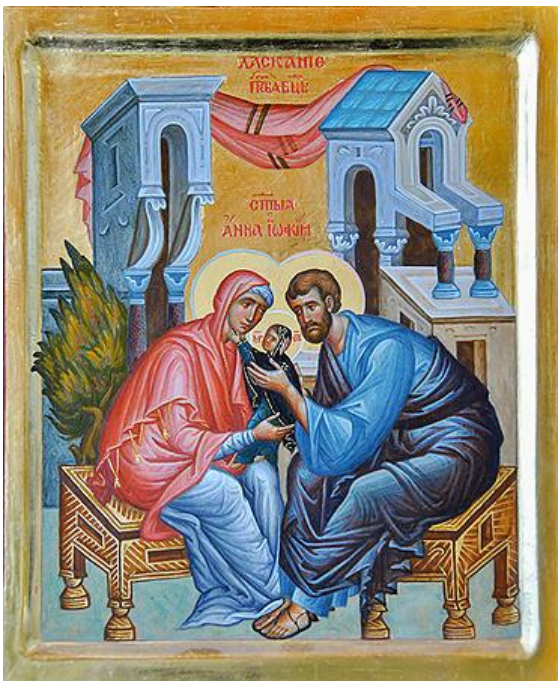
*E-mail: pokrova70@gmail.com; web: <http://www.orthodox-canada.com>*



**Volume 65, Issue 9**

**September 2024**

## September the 21<sup>st</sup> – The Nativity of the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary



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

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not just the birthday of the Mother of Jesus Christ. This is one of the events in the chain that led humanity to the path of salvation. According to God’s intention.

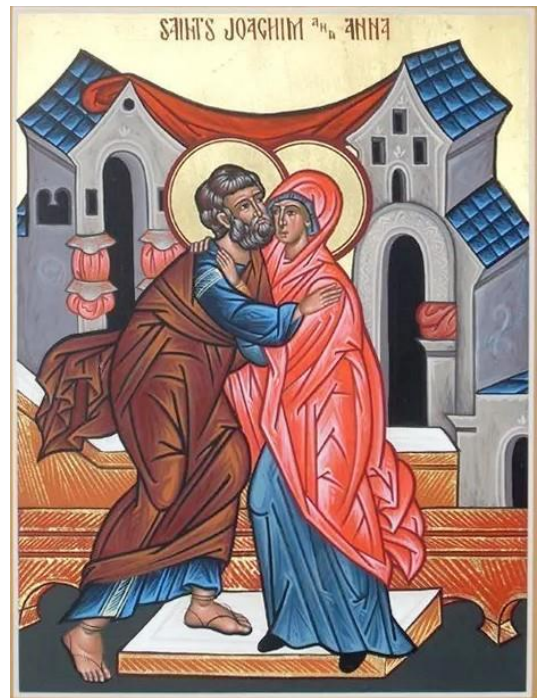
The Gospels of Matthew and Luke begin their narrative with the Nativity of Christ, more precisely, with the events that immediately preceded Christmas. But the Church has carefully kept the Holy Tradition that tells us about the miraculous circumstances of the birth of the Virgin Mary – the One Whom the Lord entrusted to become the Mother of His Only Begotten Son.

In the ancient city of Nazareth, which is located in Galilee, in the north of the Holy Land, there lived a righteous couple – Joachim and Anna. They came from an ancient royal family, dating back to

the holy King David. However, the holy couple did not live royally but modestly, their wealth was Faith in God. This alone made them happy, but there was still one circumstance that marred the happiness of the couple – they did not have children. It is always very sad when there are no children in a family in which love reigns. And for Jews, the birth of a child was generally considered a special religious duty: each family hoped that the promised Savior, the Christ of God, would come from their family.

The childlessness of Saints Joachim and Anna even caused ridicule and vilification from other people. One day Joachim came to the Jerusalem Temple for a feast to offer a sacrifice to God. But the priest rejected the offering and rebuked Joachim, saying: "It is not proper for you to participate in the sacrifices offered to God, for God has not blessed you and has not given you offspring in Israel." *(continuation on the next page)*

When Joachim heard these insulting and unfair words, he went into the desert. There he fasted for 40 days and 40 nights and tearfully prayed that the Lord would give him a child, at least in old age. Upon learning about this, the righteous Anna also began to fervently pray to God to become a mother, and in the upper room, she received the good news from an Angel that their prayer had been heard. Early in the morning, they hurried to the Temple with gratitude and met at the Golden Gate. The icon "Meeting of Joachim and Anna" depicts this.



Soon the Angel's words came true – Joachim and Anna had a Daughter, who was named Mariam, or Mary. The name "Maria" means "Mistress". This is not accidental, because the Virgin Mary was to become the Queen of Heaven and earth. And the celebration in Her honor is "revered as the day of salvation of the whole world" (St. Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople, IX century).

These days we celebrate another Feast of the Mother of God – Her Holy Dormition, which is the last Feast in the row of all Twelve Greatest Feast of the Church, when we celebrate the outcome of the Most Holy Theotokos – the Dormition (falling asleep) instead of death, Her personal Pascha – the transition to the Kingdom of Her Son.

That is why this Feast is a joyous Celebration, and the event full of hope, beginning with the Holy Apostles who rejoiced and exclaimed “O Most Holy Theotokos save us!” knowing that She has become now an even more powerful intercessor for them and for all the Christian world.

Even more to it can be said, as we read in the Akaphist to the Intercession of the Mother of God: “The Long-suffering All-seeing Lord, desiring to reveal the abyss of generosity, chose You to be His Mother, and established You for the people as an insurmountable protection: if anyone from them is worthy of condemnation by the righteous judgment of God, Your sovereign protection preserves such for the repentance!”

As the motherhood had served the purpose of coming into the world of the Lord of Heaven and earth for the sake of the salvation of people, it was – in the person of the Mother of God – blessed and empowered by the Lord’s grace as even everything good that He touches by His mercy!

This tender and unconditional love was begging for the poor people at the wedding of Cana of Galilee even though ‘His hour has not yet come’ (See Gospel of John, chapter 2). And “What Jesus did *there* in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.”

The events of the Intercession (the Protective Veil) of the Mother of God were also like this: godless people were about to receive their just retribution; and they realized how far they went from the Lord and his commandments...

Her motherly help is a mystery, that cannot be rationalized, and, especially, considered as the means of us being not vigilant and faithful, being reckless, thus making this help false.

Instead, we should be thankful to God that he chose Her for the purpose of His salvation, thankful to Her for Her meekness, kind heart, sufferings for the sake of this salvation.

And today we should be thankful to her godly parents – Joachim and Anna - who served such a great Mystery of God’s Mercy!

# Rules of Happy Family Life



*(See the beginning – in July and August bulletins)*

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.

Today we shall consider parts 7-9 of this cycle, where Father Paul presents his experiences in the form of nine vital principles for building a happy Christian marriage (See July-August bulletins):

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.*

## **Give no place to anger and other negative emotions**

Angry people are always wrong, because when a person is blinded by anger, he can neither examine a conflict situation, nor correctly resolve it. And generally, in anger a person is inept and in a state of some kind of passion. How can we fight against anger? We'll talk about this in a series that will focus on family conflicts and crises, but for now I want to say just this: the habit of getting annoyed, and the habit of making comments and nagging another person are very bad habits. We very often see how a husband and wife already living in marriage for a long time literally torment one another, turning life—for both of them—into hell over wholly insignificant trifles, for completely unimportant reasons.

Anyone who wants to build a happy family life should take this rule: rise in the morning, pray, supplicate God: Lord, help me this day to live without anger, without irritation, without various empty comments. And you will see how one day passes, the second, the third... In this way you little by little train your soul, attune it to a peaceful disposition, and the Lord will, naturally, grant you aid that the day might bring you joy.

## **Do more to please your family**

The word “joy,” “to delight” is used 211 times in Holy Scripture! The Lord calls us to joy; He didn't create us for suffering but for joy; usually we create suffering ourselves through our relationships, and even sorrow. We must follow the rule to rejoice as a counterweight to irritation, melancholy, resentment, and grievances.

Modern man is surrounded on all sides by negative information crushing him: the internet, television, radio, stress, traffic... So at least when someone gets home, they should get something smart, good, eternal, and bright from family and loved ones. And it's really not hard: say kind words, compliment your wife, give her chocolates, flowers, please her with the small things... These are all easy things to do. It's also not hard for the wife to give her husband

words of encouragement, to compliment him, not to meet him at the doorstep with talk of your problems, but with a cup of hot tea at least if you can't quickly make dinner. You can please someone with various, absolutely simple small things—for the path is not gifts, but loving attention. It's not the magnitude of things that someone does for us, but constant attention that is most necessary.

## **Give help and mutual assistance**

Of course, every member of a family has his own range of responsibilities, but to lend one another a hand and to help out is the task of this body we call the family. We know, for example, that when someone has seriously hurt right hand, he develops his left. It's the same in family life. It's very important, I repeat, having our own tasks to do at home, to always be ready to help someone else.

I think of my family life. When my wife and I got married I had already lived on my own in the seminary dorm, and knew how to cook some stuff, how to do things by hand, but my wife is the only child in her family and she was bad with this kind of stuff. It weighed on me that I was doing everything quickly, but I would give her a task: for example, tomorrow is my birthday—here's the groceries, please prepare something—and she couldn't handle it. I became seriously annoyed by it, which wasn't good for our family life. But in one moment I realized: I just needed to help her, and after a while she had learned how to do everything.

Now our family feasts are celebrated with joy. We prepare the table together. For example, I cut up one salad and she does the second; I prepare the main dish and she does dessert. Together it's quite easy, and it became even easier when we had kids because you can give your kids some tasks to do. It's important to distribute responsibilities, so the family feels like one team in one boat. We do common tasks and there's no bickering.

In conclusion we've returned to where we began our conversation: it's important to always remember the first thing—why did we become a family? We became a family for happiness, joy, love, peace and to find joy together in mutual communication.

## **May God help you all! Take care of one another!**

### *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 servant where the light of His countenance shall visit! Memory Eternal!*



### **Leslie Wasieczko**

**December 18, 1932 - August 16, 2024**

On August 16, 2024, the faithful parishioner of St. Mary's Church Leslie Wasieczko passed away at the age of 91 years.

Leslie is survived by his loving wife of 19 years, Connie, and by his stepdaughters, Dianne (Kevin) Ewing, and Sandra (Steve) Long; siblings, John (Arlene) Wasieczko, and Natalie Unger; nieces and nephews, Darlene Biffert, John Sych, Annette Sullivan, Yvonne Pawliw, Angie Szabo, Gayle Corah, Shelley McMillan, Tyler Wasieczko, Christine Wasieczko, and Justin Guathier.

Leslie was predeceased by his parents, Fred and Bessie Wasieczko; siblings, Virginia Sych, Marie Kotyk, Serg Wasieczko, and Eugenia Wasieczko.

Leslie was a very hard-working and dedicated man, loving and supporting the Church, and serving as an altar helper, partaking the Holy Communion till the end of his earthly life!

Connie and the family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Extended Care in Leduc who gave him such wonderful care and compassion in his last years.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Church.

**The mercy of God, the Kingdom of Heaven!**

# 2024 St. Tikhon's Orthodox Children Bible summer camp at "Bar-V-Nok" campground, Pigeon Lake



By God's grace, in this year of 2024, we were once again able to hold the Children's Orthodox St. Tikhon Camp on the shores of Pigeon Lake.

We are grateful to Father Igor Kisil and many people who started taking care of the camp long before

it began, gathering people – reaching out to each person individually, and then holding general meetings, analyzing past experiences, attracting new people and new ideas.

This year, we updated our children's prayer books, for which we thank Alexey Anokhin for beautifully designing them in the form of books, taking into account the specifics of our camp, in two languages, and in a sufficient number of copies. Our morning prayers included the reading of the daily Church Gospel, some litanies, and a somewhat shortened prayer rule, but including all the main prayers, which we both read and sang.

There was also something unique this year. For the first time, our camp was visited by a small zoo, and as you can probably guess, it brought great joy and delight to the children. Parishioners of the Patriarchal Parishes, Allan and Carol Borys, traveled quite a distance with an entire caravan, bringing us many different marvelous animals. With the help of our counselors, they set up an enclosure and not only allowed the children to see their cute pets but also to hug them, brush them, give them water, and play with them!

On the same day, Alexey Anokhin organized computer courses for the older children, introducing them to the basics of web development using a significant number of laptops he brought.



And on that same day, the boys were introduced to the art of wrestling by the former head coach of Kyiv in this sport, Aristos Aleksandriddi. Together with his partner, they taught the boys the basics, not forgetting the moral aspects, and every move was immediately practiced under their careful supervision.

As we mentioned, every day the children learned some art from experienced instructors. Under the guidance and assistance of the Sunday School teacher of St. Barbara's Cathedral, Maria Holden, and also Matushka Olga Protsenko, Ekaterina Udod, Mariia Zhurova, Olena Ivanova, and Svetlana Storozhenko shared their experience and secrets with the children, of course with the help of our counselors, and also helping each other.



The sacred events and their celebrations – the Twelve Greatest Feast and the Holy Pascha – were explained by clergymen – Father Igor Kisil, Father Alexei Suraev, Father Eugene Protsenko, Protodeacon Andrey Boldireff, and the experienced Sunday School teacher from Calgary, Alena Ivanova, sometimes with the help of the children whose teams were named after the Twelve Great Feasts and Easter, with interesting

tests, crosswords, and quizzes with prizes at the end of the lessons.

To get the children moving after their nap, during exercises, and in free moments, those responsible for sports and games were our head councillor Konstantin Sumkin, Nykodym Demianchuk, Matthew Ivankiv, Kateryna Trutnieva, Illia Zarychniuk, Mark Verovochkin, and Ksenia Aleksandridi.

One of the most permanent activities in the large and very active group of children certainly was providing medical assistance, which our kind and attentive Nurse, Tatyana Popovskaya, has been helping with for several years now.

All day long, and until midnight, both literally and figuratively, work was boiling in the kitchen. After all, as they say, the food in our camp is unmatched to anywhere else. The variety of dishes, generosity, and culinary skills of our cooks, led once again by the Head Chef Natalia Ilyina, deserves great thanks (with applauses, as we used to have after each of our meals). We want to express our immense gratitude to her, as well as to the servants of God, Evgenia, Milania, Lydia, Tatyana, Matushka Faina, Oksana, Anna, Victoria, Valentina, Alena, Zinaida, as well as Olga, Margarita, Diana, Irina, and all our kitchen helpers!

The unique and interesting introductions between the children at the very beginning, the festive and instructive concert on the penultimate day, and two Liturgies with the participation of the church choir of St. Barbara's Cathedral under the direction of the experienced choir director Irina Trutnieva – all of this created an atmosphere of a blessed Christian community, in the likeness of the ancient Christians, which was very edifying and beneficial for our souls.



Once again, we thank everyone who patiently bore all the trials and labors and gave the children a charge of spiritual and physical health, and we hope that the Lord will continue to bless us in this good work!

**On September 21 we celebrate the Birthday of the Mother of God Mary!**

Mary was born in the city of Nazareth. Her parents were Joachim, a descendent of King David, and Anna, a descendent of the Old Testament Priest Aaron. The couple was sad because they had no children, and they had become old. Their neighbors were unkind to them because they thought that the reason, they had no children was that God was punishing them for some sin. But Joachim and Anna had faith that with God everything is possible. So, they prayed for a child and made a promise to dedicate the child to the service of God in the Temple. But their Child Herself became the Temple of God as She bore our Lord Jesus Christ the True God!

*Here is a very simple illustration of Our Lady Mary, as a baby. The sleeping Virgin Mary wears a baby cap and tunic. She is crowned with 12 stars and the moon is beneath her feet: "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Revelation 12:1).*

To the right of the main coloring page are the examples, how you could color this picture, joining the Church of Heaven and earth in our joy of this most blessed Birthday!



# September 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>1</u></p> <p><b>10:00 am – Liturgy – St. Barbara’s Cathedral</b></p>	<p><u>2</u></p> <p>Prophet Samuel (11th c. b.c.)</p> 	<p><u>3</u></p>	<p><u>4</u></p> <p>New Hieromartyr Gorazd (1942)</p> 	<p><u>5</u></p> <p>Hieromartyr Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons (202)</p> 	<p><u>6</u></p>	<p><u>7</u></p> <p><b>10:00 am – Liturgy – Thorsby Thanksgiving Service</b></p>
<p><u>8</u></p> <p><b>10:00 am – Liturgy – St. Barbara’s Cathedral</b></p>	<p><u>9</u></p> <p>St. Liberius the Confessor, pope of Rome (366)</p> 	<p><u>10</u></p>	<p><u>11</u></p> <p><i>Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John</i></p> 	<p><u>12</u></p> <p>Virgin-Martyr Elisaveta (Yarigina) (1937)</p> 	<p><u>13</u></p>	<p><u>14</u></p> <p><b>Church New Year</b></p>
<p><u>15</u></p> <p><b>10:00 am – Liturgy – VEGREVILLE Thanksgiving Service</b></p>	<p><u>16</u></p>	<p><u>17</u></p> <p>Holy Prophet and God-seer Moses (1531 b.c.)</p> 	<p><u>18</u></p>	<p><u>19</u></p> <p>Icon of the Mother of God of Kiev-Bratsk (1654)</p> 	<p><u>20</u></p>	<p><u>21</u></p> <p><b>The Nativity of the Mother of God</b></p>  <p><b>6:00 pm – Vespers &amp; Matins – Nisku</b></p>
<p><u>22</u></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy &amp; Blessing of Water <b>Patronal Feast, Festive Luncheon St. Mary’s Church, Nisku</b></p>	<p><u>23</u></p>	<p><u>24</u></p> <p>St. Silouan, of Athos (1938)</p> 	<p><u>25</u></p>	<p><u>26</u></p> <p>Great-martyr Ketevan, queen of Kakheti, Georgia (1624)</p> 	<p><u>27</u></p> <p><b>Elevation of the Holy Cross</b></p> 	<p><u>28</u></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Mac Nutt – Thanksgiving Service</b></p>
<p><u>29</u></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Foam Lake – Thanksgiving Service</b></p>	<p><u>30</u></p> <p>Martyrs Sophia and her three daughters, Faith, Hope, and Love</p> 					