



“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

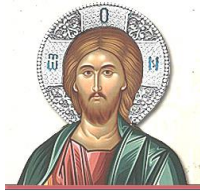
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

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

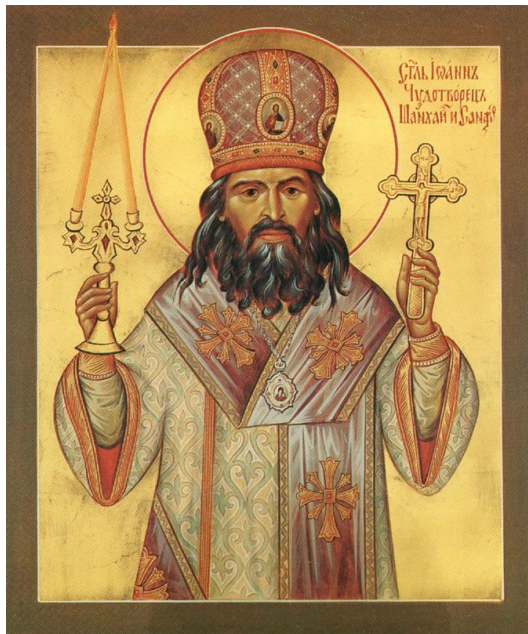
Facebook.com/St. Mary's Russian Greek Orthodox Church

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



Volume 66, Issue 10

October 2024



October 12 – uncovering of the relics of St. John Maximovitch, archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco (1993)

Born in southern Russia on June 4, 1896, to well-off parents, John Maximovitch (baptized “Michael”) was a frail boy who loved to study. Throughout his growing up years, Michael was exposed to true holiness as his family attended church regularly and took him to venerate holy icons and the relics of holy people. These experiences had a profound and lasting impact on his life.

He studied in a military school and then got his law degree before his family was forced to leave Russia because of the Russian revolution. When the revolution happened, his family escaped to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, where Michael studied theology and got his theological

degree in 1925. During these years, he met and was mentored by Archbishop Anthony Khrapovitsky, who tonsured Michael as a monk named John, and ordained him to the diaconate.

John was a very humble man all his life. A lady who knew him relates how she met him at this time on a streetcar in Belgrade. He told her that he was in town by mistake, having been sent for in place of some other Hieromonk John who was to be consecrated bishop! When she saw him the next day, he informed her that the situation was worse than he had thought: it was him they wished to make bishop!

After his ordination, Bishop John was sent first to Shanghai to look after the many Russians who had fled the Soviets in Russia and ended up in China. While he was there, he tenderly cared for his flock. He assisted in the completion of a cathedral, improved religious education, and cared for many orphans.

In his extreme humility, the bishop did not care about how he looked or lived. Despite his status in the church, he wore clothing made from inexpensive material and usually walked barefoot. Even when he was

told to wear sandals, since the Russian word for “wear” also means “carry,” he fulfilled the request by tucking the sandals under his arm so he was, indeed, “carrying” sandals!

Bishop John visited the sick daily, praying for them and doing whatever he could to help them. For example, once a woman, who was thrown from her horse, had her skull crushed but couldn’t be operated on because her pulse was so faint and the doctors knew she would not survive surgery. The bishop visited her and prayed over her for 2 hours. The woman’s pulse returned to normal. The surgery was able to happen, and was a success, through the prayers of the holy bishop.

When he and his flock had to leave China, bishop John moved with his people to Tubabao, Philippines. This island, usually regularly buffeted by typhoons, was calm for two years and three months. During that time, Archbishop John walked around in the refugee camp every night, praying for his people and blessing the camp.

When the Russian refugees were relocated to the USA and Australia, Archbishop John was assigned to Western Europe. He oversaw the French and Dutch Orthodox Church, and gathered information on saints from that region that were part of Orthodoxy before the Latin Church left. Living in Europe didn’t sway the archbishop’s manner of dress: he continued to dress simply, and as a result, the French called him “St. John the Barefoot.”

Eventually, Archbishop John was sent to San Francisco, California. He worked hard to care for his flock, and also to enable the construction of the cathedral dedicated to the icon of the Theotokos, “Joy of All Who Sorrow.” He had plenty sorrows with that project, as opponents falsely accused him and stood in the way of the building. He patiently continued on with his work, blaming only the devil for the troubles, and the cathedral was successfully completed.

During this part of his life, the Archbishop wrote sermons and encouragement to his people. Some of these have been published in English. All are full of his wisdom and contain answers to many questions about the Orthodox Faith.

Throughout his years of ministry, the Archbishop always arrived early to church and stayed late. On July 2, 1966, he stayed particularly late – 3 hours, to be exact – praying in St. Nicholas’ Cathedral in Seattle. He was visiting the cathedral along with the “Kursk” icon of the Mother of God. After he left the cathedral, he went next door to a parish house, and reposed in the Lord.

For 28 years, people visited his remains, which were buried in a chapel below the cathedral in San Francisco. When they visited, people would often ask Archbishop John to pray for them. They would also write petitions on slips of paper and place them beneath his mitre. Archbishop John continued his work after departing this life, and even today he continues praying on behalf of his people. Many miracles have happened because of his prayers. Glory to God for His work through the prayers of His servant!

In 1993, Archbishop John’s relics were discovered to be incorrupt. His relics, along with the way that he lived, and the miracles God has performed in response to his prayers both during this life and since his repose, were the evidence enough for him to be recognized as a saint of the Holy Orthodox Church. He was glorified as such on July 2, 1994. Today, his relics are housed in a special shrine in the cathedral in San Francisco. His prayers continue on for all who request them, and his marvelous life is depicted in the story of his holy life after the Lord Jesus Christ, that we recommend every Christian to get acquainted with.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco, please intercede for us and for our salvation!

October 7 – 230 Years Anniversary of the Arrival in America of the first Orthodox Mission of Sts. Herman, Juvenaly, and others (1794)



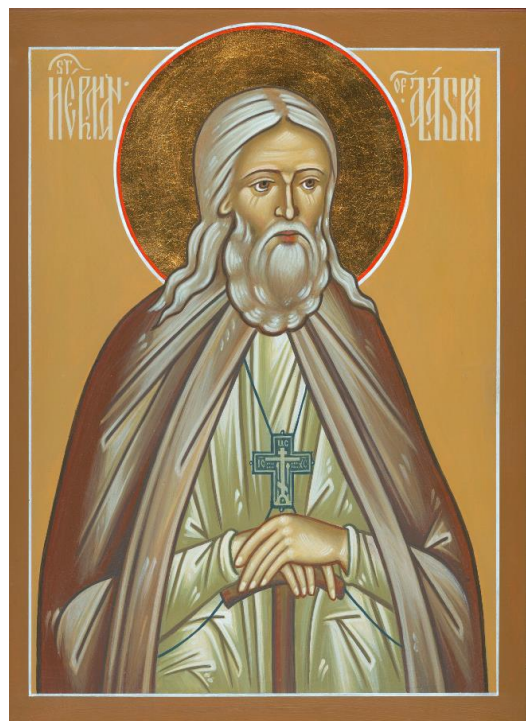
During the 18th century Russian missionaries began to move across Siberia towards the Pacific Ocean.

In 1794 ten monks from the Valaam Monastery in Finland and two other nearby monasteries arrived on the island of Kodiak in Alaska.

It had taken them a year to walk across the length of North Asia through Siberia and the Far East, and then to sail across the cold Bering Sea of the northern Pacific Ocean. They had walked and then sailed over 12,900 km (8,000 mi) from Lake Ladoga.

These first Orthodox missionaries to North America were pleasantly surprised to find nearly all of the Native Americans quite eager to accept the Orthodox Faith. In fact, many of them had already been baptized by laymen working for the Russian American fur-trading Company. The missionaries were careful to honor the local religion and culture as much as possible, especially as the natives' basic worldview was in many ways already oriented towards the

sacramental, tradition-based worldview of Orthodoxy. This very much helps explain how it was that some 12,000 natives were baptized and/or chrismated by the missionaries in their first two years there.



The missionaries also proved to be ardent champions of the human rights of the natives, who were often abused by the managers of the Russian-American Company. At the same time, many of the fur-traders married native women, and a distinctive creole, Aleut culture gradually developed.

One of the first ten missionaries was the 35-year-old Hieromonk Juvenaly (Hovorukhin). He left Kodiak to spread the Faith on the Kenai Peninsula of the mainland, and beyond. He was martyred by natives in 1797, thus becoming the Protomartyr of North America - Saint Juvenaly of Lake Iliamna.

Another member of this first missionary party was Saint Herman of Alaska, a deeply pious, hesychastic (the adapt of the silent and peaceful prayer) monk who eventually settled in a hermitage on tiny Spruce Island, near Kodiak Island. His gentle compassion and care for the natives won their hearts. With his glorification as a saint by the newly formed Orthodox Church in America in 1970, he became North America's first officially canonized saint.

Dear brothers and sisters, please, find more details about the mission and the lives of the saints on these links:

[https://orthodoxcanada.ca/Saint_Juvenaly_\(Hovorukhin\)_of_Alaska](https://orthodoxcanada.ca/Saint_Juvenaly_(Hovorukhin)_of_Alaska)

https://orthodoxcanada.ca/Saint_Herman_of_Alaska

The Church Hall Renovation at Whitsuntide Church at Thorsby



The Thanksgiving service of September the 7th of this blessed year was marked by the completion of the Thorsby Holy Trinity Whitsuntide Church Hall renovation!

In 2024 the President of the Parish and the Parish Council made an outstanding effort in cleaning the territory surrounding the church and the cemetery, removing a great number of the old trees and bushes, stones, and tidying up the grounds.

On September the 7th the renovated church hall was hosting the congregation after as many as more than 25-30 years of desolation!

For that, a lot of work was undertaken both outside, and especially inside: repairing, cleaning, and removing the old things.

On that occasion and on the occasion of our traditional annual Thanksgiving service – Liturgy and special Moleben – we had a little celebration with the Parish President treating people with many delicious dishes he had cooked, and the people present also sharing their treats with each other.

Through the years the congregation, though shrinking in number, still keeps the Church in good care, making the services warm, bright, comfortable and solemn. Thus, encouraging the younger generations to come and join our Faith and Hope.

May God bless the Parish Council and the people of the Holy Trinity Whitsuntide Church, and keep everyone in good health and mood, and bring to Salvation in the Lord Jesus!



Patronal Feast at St. Mary's Church at Nisku in 2024

One of the most solemn celebrations in the whole church year - is the one marking it's very beginning - the Nativity of the Mother of God - the Patronal Feast of St. Mary's Church.

We always dedicate more time and effort on those holy days, and always have a Great Compline service, Liturgy, Blessing of Water, and the Cross Procession around the Church (if the weather permits).

During the last years, the former rector of the Church Father Igor (now the rector of St. Barbara's cathedral) takes part in the celebration of at least Evening Service, with the choir of the Cathedral contributing into the solemn singing of the complete Vespers and Matins.

This year our Parish fully felt the bliss of the Patronal feasts as, in addition to the great efforts Parish Council did for it, we had the clergy is the Patriarchal Parishes co-serving, even reinforced by the young, and diligent experienced altar helpers! Father Alexios was co-serving the Liturgy, contributing his voice and prayers.

By the God's grace our former church choir director Sergei Kuflevskiy was on his vocations, and gladly took part in the celebration, and helped our current choir director Cathy Krawchuk! The young singers and readers from the Cathedral joined again the chorus.

There was a joint congregation of all the main churches of the Patriarchal Parishes: a lot of new immigrants, as well as the old parishioners from St. Barbara's, people from Orthodox V, and from the other churches.

With many participants in the Holy Mysteries of Christ, a word of edification by the Rector, the singing of the Magnification to the Mother of God, we then moved to the Blessing of water, and to the procession with Cross and festive icon banners.

Since every Patronal Feast is a minor Pascha, we were reading the Resurrection Gospels crosswise from every side of the Church, four of them – from every of the four Evangelists, with the holy water sprinkling over the people "who pray in this Church, and live there".

After the dismissal, Father Deacon Andrew said a word of greeting and best wishes on behalf of His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourzh, congratulating the clergy, the Parish Council, and the people.



The Parish President greeted the congregation on the Patronal Feast, giving thanks to the clergy and the choir for the service, and to the people for their prayers and our holy Church visitation and support. He then invited everyone to the festive lunch, to the Church Hall.

Half of the Parish Council and some parishioners were preparing the great meal there while we were paying all the Church.

As always people brought their best dishes and treats, and some drinks were also there for the toasts of kind words.

All three Parish Presidents - David Borys of Orthodox IX, Kim Lopushinsky of Orthodox V, and Roman Lopushinsky - addressed the participants with their greetings and kind wishes.

We thank people and God for this solemn celebration, and wish our parishioners and guests peace from Above and many years!

Congratulations on the 100th Birthday!



We cordially greet Mrs. Anne Shewchuk, the *mother* of the Holy Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God Church at MacNutt on the God Blessed Anniversary of 100 years!

This is a very special and joyous day for you, your wonderful big family, your friends, the parishioners of the Holy Dormition Church, for all of us! On the 5th of October 2024 you celebrate your very glorious, as well as, very outstanding among all the people, a blessed jubilee - 100 years of your life. On behalf of all parishioners of the Holy Dormition of the Mother of God Church and Orthodox IX Parishes, we extend to you kindest wishes and heartfelt congratulations on this remarkable date in your life!

On this day we wish you and your family the unfailing help and consolation of God! May the Almighty Lord, through the prayers of His Most Pure Mother, for Whose Church you, together with your kindest husband William, and all your family, have been tending for the most of your life, grant you many more years, spiritual and bodily powers, strengthen all your efforts to continue your Christian life, so as to also give consolation and good example to the God-given offsprings.

This is a remarkable celebration and, we believe, is another sign of God's grace to our whole family of Orthodox IX parishes!

May God continue to bless you and keep you and your big and friendly family always in His tender, loving care!



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!

Sergius Mankow

October 8, 1939 – September 9, 2024



Sergius Mankow, of Milk River, passed away peacefully at the Chinook Regional Hospital, on Monday, September 9, 2024, at the age of 84 years.

Sergius is the loving father of Lisa (Rob) Still (Jaelynn (Tanner) and Alyssa [Cole]) of Lethbridge, David (Kelly) Mankow (Megan and Ryan) of Cranford, Darlene (Doug) Snow of Lethbridge, Tania (Jake) Wall (Ocean, Triveni, Vienna, and Briggs) of Crowsnest Pass, Natasha (Jason) Webber of Brandon, MB, Jonathan Mankow of Ixtapa, and Pauline Mankow of Lethbridge. He is also survived by sister Joan (Reay) Clarke and sister-in-law Ethel Mankow as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by his righteous parents John & Katherine (née Koziol) Mankow, sister Elizabeth (Doug) Moffat and brother Leon Mankow, as well as friends Charles & Margaret Oslanski.

Serg was born in 1939 in Edmonton, Alberta, and raised in the small hamlet of Buford. He was the third of four children born to the late John and Katherine Mankow.

Sergius proved to be a good Christians who loved and attended his church and was always pleasant and sociable to his fellow members, and helpful and generous to the Church – a peace-loving man with a good heart! He was a sincere, generous, hard working.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed the pursuit of knowledge, creating new inventions, and sharing all he learned with his children. Serg had a kind and adventurous soul, and was ready to help anyone in need.

The mercy of God, the Kingdom of Heaven!

Elizabeth Rovinsky

November 8, 1931 – September 17, 2024



On September 17, 2024, at the age of 92 years, Elizabeth Rovinsky passed away peacefully at Leduc Extendicare.

Elizabeth was an active member in the community of Thorsby, having spent many hours and days aiding and supporting the two churches.

Elizabeth is survived by two daughters, Phyllis (Marvin) Ostapchuk and Sherry (Cordell) Banks; five grandchildren, Jason Ostapchuk, Darren (Dakota) Ostapchuk, Charlene (Michael) Horsman, Michael (Brittany) Banks and Brian (Laryssa) Banks; 8 great-grandchildren, Ryley Ostapchuk, Skyla Dool, Macauley Banks, James Horsman, Marlow Banks, Asher Banks, Vyllette Banks, Lilyana Ostapchuk; sister, Nadia Harrish; sister-in-law, Millie Chubocha as well as numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

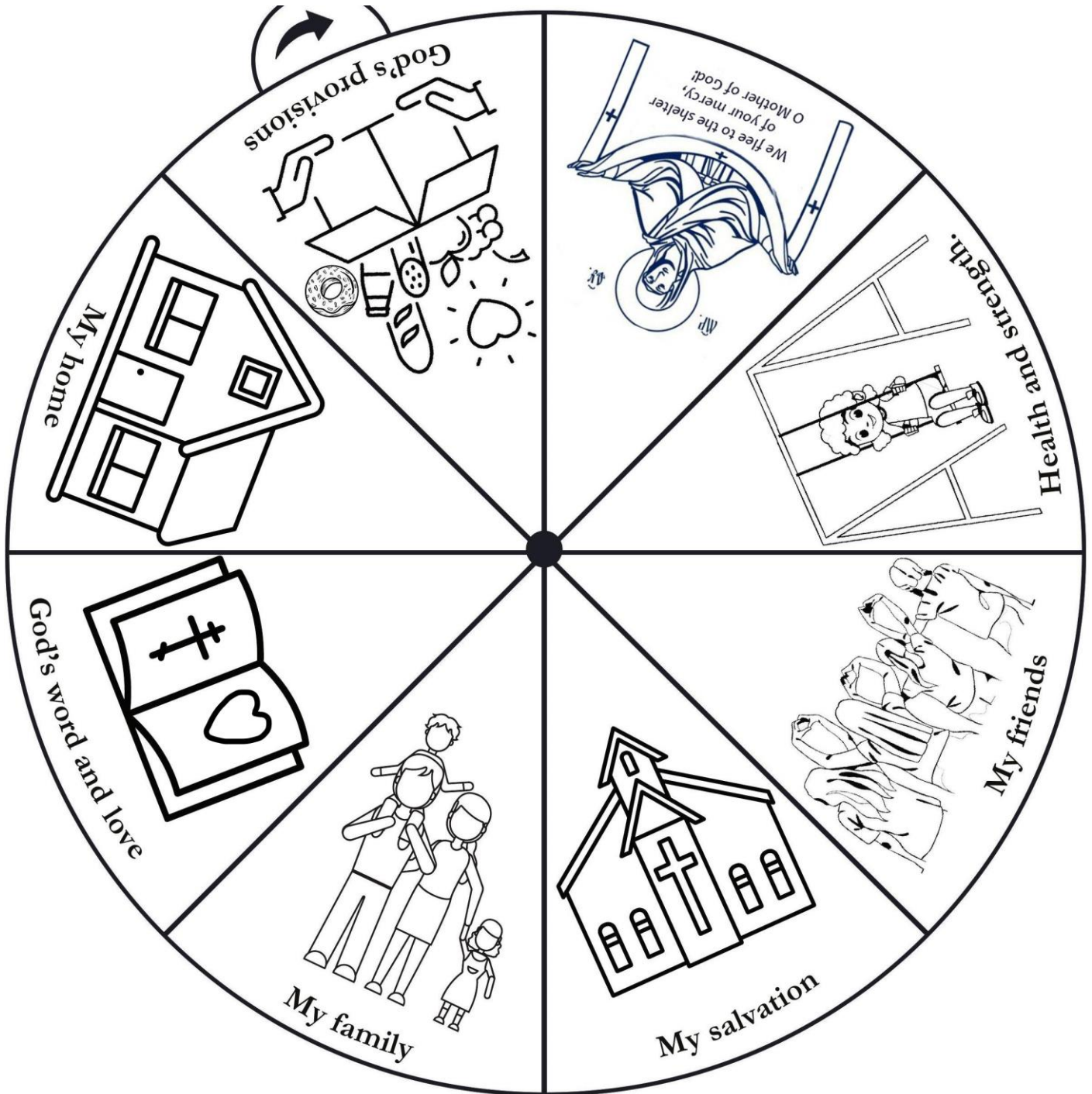
She was predeceased by her husband, John; parents, Fred and Mary Chubocha; parents-in-law, John and Marie Rovinsky; sisters, Ann Kuzio and Irene Pawlyk; brother, Edward Chubocha; brothers-in-law, Walter Kuzio and Edward Harrish.

The family would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the staff at the Leduc Extendicare for all their care given to our mother.

The mercy of God, the Kingdom of Heaven!

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

In Constantinople many, many years ago lots of people were gathered in a large Cathedral to pray, to be saved from enemies that wanted to attack them. St. Andrew, known as the Fool for Christ, and his disciple Epiphanius were there praying too. As everyone was praying St. Andrew and Epiphanius saw the Mother of God enter the church! She moved towards the altar. She stood there and tearfully prayed for a long time. Then she went even closer to the altar and continued to pray with tears flowing from her eyes. Finally, she turned towards the people. She was surrounded by angels of heaven and by saints that had lived a long time before! She was wearing a veil on her head. She took off her veil and held it out and over those who were praying in church. St. Andrew and Epiphanius understood that she was showing them that she was protecting the people from their enemies. The people in the city were saved! This happened because people 'went away' from God – did not do His commandments, which is the same as going out of house late at night without a light and into some dangerous places. But when they were in this danger they remembered about the new Mother of all godly people – St. Mary, Who with Her motherly love covered and saved them, so that they could turn away from their evil life and go back to Her Son and our God! This Feast is called the Protection of the Holy Mother of God, and we commemorate it on October the 14th, which this year (2024) is the same day with the feast of Thanksgiving. Combine the pictures placing one on another, pin them together, and find in it the Protecting Veil, as well as all the other benefits of God we should be thankful for!





I AM GRATEFUL

For...



October 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<u>1</u> St. Hilarion, of Optina (1873) 	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> St. Oleg, prince of Bryansk, (1285) 	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> New Hieromartyr Benjamin 
<u>6</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – NISKU (Thanksgiving Service)	<u>7</u> Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecla of Iconium (1st c.) 	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> New Hiero-confessor Patriarch Tikhon 	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> St. Chariton the Confessor, abbot, of Palestine (350) 	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – CALMAR (Thanksgiving Service)	<u>14</u> Protecting Veil of the Mother of God 	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> New Hiero-confessor Agathangelus (1928) 	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> Hieromartyrs Dionysius, (264-265) 	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – NISKU	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> Holy Apostle James, son of Alphaeus 	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> St. Theophanes, faster, Kiev Caves (12th c.) 	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> New Martyr Bosiljka Rajicic (18th) 
<u>27</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – St Barbara Cathedral	<u>28</u> New Hiero-confessor Athanasius 	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> Monk-martyr Andrew of Crete (767) 	<u>31</u>		