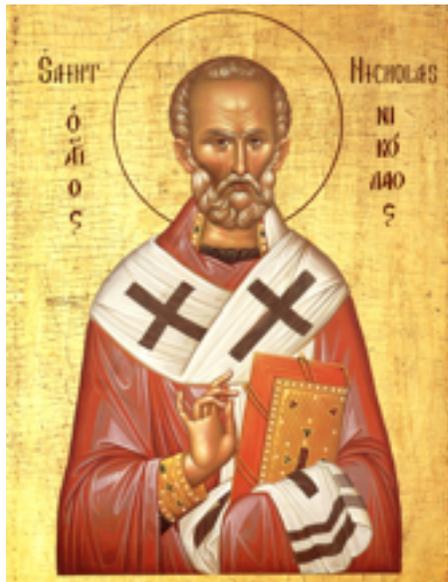


WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS & GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY!



**ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER PARISH
ПАРАФІЯ СВ. МИКОЛАЯ ЧУДОТВОРЦЯ**

Pastor: Fr. Yuriy Vyshnevskyy

Emergency: 250.891.4507

Res: 250.384.2292 Hall: 250.384.2255

1112 Caledonia Avenue, Victoria, BC V8T 1G1

Web: www.stnicholasparish.org E-mail: stnicks@telus.net

Sun DL - 10am; Tue-Fri DL - 9am; Sat DL - 10am

*The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster
Bishop: Most Rev. Ken Nowakowski
www.nweparchy.ca*

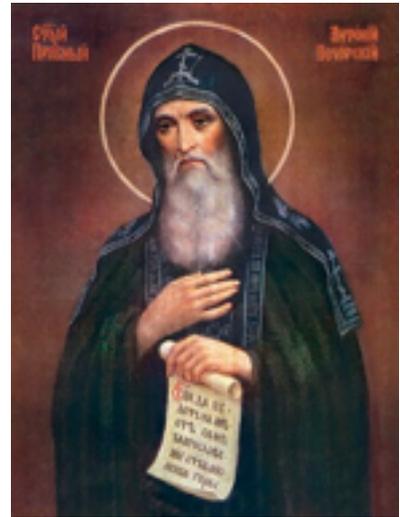
**ВОСЬМА НЕДІЛЯ ПІСЛЯ П'ЯТИДЕСЯТНИЦІ
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

When the love of God took possession of you, venerable Anthony, you began to look upon the enticements of the world as vain. For this reason you left your homeland and settled on the Holy Mountain. There, among the father, your virtues have shone forth like a light. Pray to Christ, Whom you have served already from your youth, for the enlightenment and salvation of our souls.

Your feastday has arrived, O God-bearer. Brighter than the sun, your memory enlightens all who come to you in faith. O Anthony, intercessor for our souls, your soul is fragrant with immortality and you pour out healing for our souls.

O wonder-worker Anthony, you subdued the sensual and bodily passions with the bridle of abstinence. On earth you displayed angelic zeal in subjecting bodily lusts to the spirit. In the heavenly courts where you now dwell, offer prayers for our souls.

O blessed Anthony, by discarding the old self and its urges, and by truly clothing yourself with Christ, you laid a foundation for virtue. And so, after repelling many hostile attacks, you became a guide for monks, O venerable one. Offer your prayers for the salvation of our souls.



**Venerable Father
Anthony of the
Monastery of the Caves**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP AFTER DIVINE LITURGY!

SUNDAY HYMNS			
OPENING HYMN	В Страсі І Покопі / We Are Gathered Here To Worship pg. 234-235		
COMMUNION HYMN	Пливи Світами / Let All Creation pg. 256-257		
CLOSING HYMN	How Glorious Is Our God In Sion pg, 962-963		
<i>Please join us today in singing our Sunday hymns!</i>			
SUNDAY & DAILY SCHEDULE			
SUNDAY, July 10	Divine Liturgy - for the Parishioners of St Nicholas Parish		10:00 AM
MONDAY, July 11	NO SERVICES		*****
TUESDAY, July 12	Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom		9:00 AM
WEDNESDAY, July 13	Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom		9:00 AM
THURSDAY, July 14	Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom		9:00 AM
FRIDAY, July 15	Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom		9:00 AM
SATURDAY, July 16	Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom		10:00 AM
SUNDAY, July 17	Divine Liturgy - for the Parishioners of St Nicholas Parish		10:00 AM
<i>Please Note: to request a Divine Liturgy for a special intention, please see Fr. Yuriy to arrange for it!</i>			
SUNDAY EPISTLE READERS			
DATE	READING	UKRAINIAN	ENGLISH
SUNDAY, July 10	1 Cor. 1:10-18	Yuliya Pelekhata	Rita Vanderven
SUNDAY, July 17	Heb. 13:7-16	Glikeria Iwanuck	Darryl Huculak
SUNDAY, July 24	1 Cor. 4:9-16	Andrij Pelekhaty	Graciela Spaciuk-Schwarz
SUNDAY, July 24	1 Cor. 9:2-12	Natalia Bryndak	William Vanderven
<i>Thank you, Epistle readers, for your service in proclaiming God's Word!</i>			
PARISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE		PASTORAL MINISTRY & HOLY MYSTERIES	
CHAIRPERSON.....Alec Rossa - 250.472.3374		CONFESSIONS.....1/2 hour before Liturgy	
VICE-CHAIRPERSON.....Darlene DeMerchant - 250.727.3837		EUCCHARIST.....for the sick - any time	
SECRETARY.....Cindy Lazaruk - 778.677.9072		BAPTISMS.....by appointment	
TREASURER.....William Vanderven - 250.478.1458		MARRIAGES.....by appointment	
FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....David Newberry - 250.598.8197		FUNERALS.....by appointment	
FUNDRAISING/HALL RENTAL.....Robert Herchak - 250.386.7872		ANOINTING.....any time	
MAINTENANCE.....Murray Chapman - 250.658.4769		HOSPITAL VISITS.....any time	
LITURGICAL COMMITTEE...Motria Koropecy - 250.658.3051			
MEMBER AT LARGE.....Caroline Smudy - 778.440.9419			
VIBRANT PARISH.....Darlene DeMerchant - 250.727.3837			
<p>Bequests & Wills: Leaving a bequeath is a process of giving a donation through your will. It is simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization through your last will and testament. It can be as small or as large a donation as you wish. It is important that you talk to your lawyer about the process. In your kindness please remember St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Church in your bequeath and will. If anyone wishes to make such a bequeath in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Parish - 1112 Caledonia Avenue, Victoria BC, V8T 1G1, the sum of \$ _____ (or _____% of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the parish and it's pastoral activities."</p>			

Vibrant Parish Prayer

O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth! Because of your indescribable love for us, you sent your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ - The Way, The Truth, and The Life - and our Salvation. In His name, we turn to You. Strengthen our hearts and minds in Christian love and in unity of purpose as we strive to build a Vibrant Parish. Give us the grace to model our lives according to the Word of God. Instill in us the desire to pray and to celebrate the Holy Mysteries as one Christian Family in our Parish Community. Inspire us to follow Your great command to be a servant to the less fortunate among us! Grant this, O Lord, through the mercies and love for mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Life-Giving Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen!



THE VIBRANT PARISH

A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST

Through the word, the Holy Mysteries & Prayer,
Serving One's Neighbor, Leadership
Fostering & Serving Unity and Missionary Spirit
(His Beatitude Sviatoslav)



Молитва Живої Парафії

Господи Ісусе Христе, Пастирю Добрий, як колись Ти пригорнув заблуканих овечок, щоб вони пізнали Твій голос і були Твоїм стадом, так і сьогодні глянь ласкаво з небесних висот на нашу парафію та зішли на неї Твого Святого Духа, щоб вона була місцем пізнання радості Доброї Новини. Скріплюй нас Твоєю присутністю та єднай нас кожночасно в молитві. Даруй нам духа служіння ближньому, щоб у нашій парафії кожний міг зустріти Тебе, милостивого Бога. Благослови наш духовний провід Твоєю мудрістю і дай, щоб ніхто з нас не шкодував ні часу, ні талантів, ні матеріальних дібр для розбудови Твого царства. Єднай нас у мирі та злагоді, щоб ми були Твоєю спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світилом євангельського слова, молитви і добрих діл, що кличе кожного до участі в Божественному житті, щоб славилось, Спасе, Твоє Ім'я з безначальним Твоїм Отцем та пресвятим, благим і животворящим Твоїм Духом нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.

DIVINE LITURGY PROPERS

The Divine Liturgy - An Anthology for Worship: Liturgy - pg. 388-461; propers - pg. 353

Troparion, Tone 7: By Your cross You destroyed death,* You opened Paradise to the thief,* You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy,* and charged the apostles to proclaim* that You are risen, O Christ our God,* offering great mercy to the world.

Glory: Kontakion, Tone 7: No longer shall the dominion of death be able to hold humanity,* for Christ went down shattering and destroying its powers.* Hades is bound.* The prophets exult

with one voice.* The Saviour has come for those with faith, saying:* “Come forth, O faithful, to the resurrection!”

Now: Theotokion, Tone 7: O all-praised treasury of our resurrection, we hope in You,* bring us up from the pit and depth of sins,* for You have saved those subject to sin* by giving birth to our Salvation,* O Virgin before childbirth, and Virgin in childbirth,* and still a Virgin after the childbirth.

Prokimenon, Tone 7: The Lord will give strength to His people,* the Lord will bless His people with peace. Verse: Bring to the Lord, O you sons of God; bring to the Lord young rams.

Epistle - 1 Cor. 1:10-18 - A Reading from the Letter of Saint Apostle Paul to Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I am thankful that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Alleluia, Tone 7: Verse: It is good to give praise to the Lord and to sing in Your name, O Most High. Verse: To announce Your mercy in the morning and Your truth every night.

Gospel - Mt. 14:14-22 - At that time, when Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

Communion Verse: Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest. Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia!



Тропар, глас 7: Знищив Ти хрестом Твоїм смерть,* відчинив розбійникові рай,* мироносицям плач на радість перемінив* і апостолам звелів проповідувати,* що воскрес Ти, Христе Боже,* даючи світові велику милість.

Слава: Кондак, глас 7: Вже більше влада смерти не зможе людей держати,* зійшов бо Христос, знищивши і знівечивши сили її,* зв'язується ад,* пророки ж однодушно радіють.* З'явився Спас тим, що вірують, промовляючи:* Виходьте, вірні, до воскресіння.

І нині: Богородичний, глас 7: Як на скарбницю нашого воскресіння,* надіємось на Тебе, Всехвальна,* тож виведи нас з ями й безодні прогріхів,* бо Ти спасла підлеглих гріхам, породивши наш Спасіння.* Як перед народ-женням ти була Діва,* так і в народженні і по народженні, Ти залишилась Дівою.

Прокімен, глас 7: Господь силу людям Своїм дасть,* Господь поблагословить людей своїх миром. Стих: Принесіть Господеві, сини Божі, принесіть Господеві молодих баранців.

Апостол - 1 Кор. 1:10-18 - До Коринтян Послання Святого Апостола Павла Читання: Браття і сестри, благаю вас ім'ям Господа нашого Ісуса Христа, щоб ви всі те саме говорили; щоб не було розколів поміж вами, але щоб були поєднані в одному розумінні й у одній думці. Я бо довідався про вас, мої брати, від людей Хлої, що між вами є суперечки. Казку ж про те, що кожен з вас говорить: «Я – Павлів, а я – Аполлосів, а я – Кифин, а я – Христов.» Чи ж Христос розділюється? Хіба Павло був розп'ятий за вас? Або хіба в Павлове ім'я ви христилися? Дякую Богові, що я нікого з вас не охрестив, крім Криспа та Гаїя, щоб не сказав хтось, що ви були охрищені в моє ім'я. Охрестив я теж дім Стефана; а більш не знаю, чи хрестив я когось іншого. Христос же послав мене не хрестити, а благовістити, і то не мудрістю слова, щоб хрест Христа не став безуспішним. Бо слово про хрест – глупота тим, що погибають, а для нас, що спасаємося, сила Божа.

Алилуя, глас 7: Стих: Добре воно - прославляти Господа, і співати Твоєму імені, Всевишній. Стих: Звіщати вранці Твою милість, ночами - Твою вірність.

Євангеліє - Мт. 14:14-22 - У той час, вийшовши, Ісус побачив силу народу і змилосердився над ними та вигоїв їхніх недужих. Якже настав вечір, підійшли до нього його учні й кажуть: “Пусте це місце та й час минув уже. Відпусти людей, нехай ідуть по селах та куплять собі поживи.” А Ісус сказав їм: “Не треба їм відходити: дайте ви їм їсти.” Вони ж мовлять до нього: “Ми маємо тут тільки п'ять хлібів і дві риби.” Тоді він каже: “Принесіть мені їх сюди.” І, звелівши народові посідати на траві, взяв п'ять хлібів і дві риби, підвів очі до неба, поблагословив і розламав ті хліби, і дав учням, а учні – людям. Всі їли до насити й назбирали куснів, що zostалися, дванадцять кошів повних. Тих же, що їли, було яких п'ять

тисяч чоловіків, окрім жінок та дітей. І зараз же спонукав учнів увійти до човна й переплисти на той бік раніше від нього, тим часом як він відпускав народ.

Причасний: Хваліте Господа з небес,* хваліте Його на висотах. Алилуя, алилуя, алилуя!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to all those who celebrated their birthdays this past week. May the Lord Our God continue to bless you abundantly and the Holy Mother of God protects you at all times. Многая Літа!

◆ **HYMN BOOKS - SING TO OUR GOD:** books have been purchased and we would be most appreciative for any donations to offset the costs of the books (\$300.00). This is the book we use every Sunday for Liturgy's opening, communion and closing hymns. A very comprehensive resource for all members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church! This hymnal includes music notation and Ukrainian lyrics for every hymn, plus transliteration of all Ukrainian texts. Additionally English lyrics are provided for the vast majority of hymns. Included are hymns for all major feasts within the liturgical year, as well as the following sections: Great Lent, Resurrectional Hymns, Hymns for the Divine Liturgy, General Church Hymns, Hymns to our Lord Jesus Christ, Hymns to the Mother of God, Hymns for Children, plus over 80 pages of Christmas Carols. The hymnal is hardcover and very attractive in appearance.

◆ **THE DIVINE LITURGY - AN ANTHOLOGY FOR WORSHIP:** books have been purchased and we would be most appreciative for any donations to offset the costs of the books (\$400.00). This is a one-volume source for singing the Divine Liturgy in English with sections in Ukrainian. This book contains Sundays, Festal and Weekday Musical Settings for the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, Music for the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, the Hours in English, Propers for the Liturgical Year, Tables for Scriptural Readings, Hymns and Carols, Blessings and Other Brief Rites. May the use of the Anthology bring abundant blessings to all of us, and with one voice and one heart sing the praises of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

◆ **WE NEED YOUR HELP:** Dear Parishioners. You probably noticed that we trimmed all the chestnut tress on the church property and we removed one tree for a cost of \$1,500. We want to let you know that we received a donation in the amount of \$1,000 towards this expense and we would welcome any donations to cover the rest of this cost. We also received another generous donations in the amount of \$1,000 to cover the cost of the repair of our industrial fridge in the kitchen. May God bless our donors abundantly for their generous donations to support our parish.

- ◆ **JOIN OUR CHOIR:** Do you enjoy singing? Please consider joining our St Nicholas Parish Choir and remember that we ALWAYS looking for new members! Contact Motria Koropecky for details at 250.658.3051

- ◆ **VIBRANT PARISH PRAYER:** Please help yourself to a copy of the Vibrant Parish Prayer card located in each pew. You are most welcome to take one home with you. This prayer is recited at the end of each Liturgy. "It is in our parish the faithful most frequently encounter Christ through Christian instruction, community prayer and service to ones neighbour. In promoting and enlivening our parish life, we also enliven the entire Church."

- ◆ **CATECHISM ANNOUNCEMENT:** *"And they were bringing to Him also the infants, in order that He may be touching them; but after the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, Let alone the little children to come to Me, and cease hindering them; for of such is the kingdom of God."* We are happy to welcome all children to our St. Nicholas The Wonderworker catechism program. Weekly classes are scheduled Sunday morning during Divine Liturgy. We want your children to learn more about their Catholic faith, sacred scripture, feast days, and religious practices and customs of the Ukrainian Catholic church. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Marian Chalifoux at 250.507.1005

- ◆ **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please keep in your prayers members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, are in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join actively in their community.

- ◆ **THRIFTY'S PRE-PAID FOOD CARDS -** We all have to buy groceries. Why not have 6% of it returned back to the church at no extra charge! Cards are available in \$100, \$200, and \$500 denominations. Talk to Alec after today's liturgy to pre- order your cards. We need to sell A LOT of them! We encourage you to consider purchasing them for yourselves as gifts too.

- ◆ **TRAVELING ICON:** Anyone interested in gracing their home with Christ The Teacher Icon can call Darlene DeMerchant at 250.727.3837

- ◆ **RENOVATIONS TO THE RECTORY:** In our today's world, everything is costing more and more money. We as a Parish community really need your help. We need your financial help toward the costs of the renovations to the rectory. Renovation Fund is \$30,000 but we are still short over \$15,000 of our goal. We need to rebuild the front porch and steps and the rear stairs as well as do seismic upgrade to the basement which will cost us approximately \$25,000. Please consider donating generously to this work. We thank you and pray for you!

- ◆ **SUNDAY COFFEE VOLUNTEERS** act as hosts and serve light refreshments following the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, providing an opportunity for the faithful to socialize with friends and visitors following their shared worship experience. We thank all of our parishioners

who kind volunteer to serve refreshments. Whether you are new to the Parish, or are a long-time members, please join us for coffee.

◆**BE A STEWARD:** Have you ever wondered what more can you do to help our parish? Here are some suggestions: **Steward of property security**; **Steward of grounds cleaning**; **Steward of cleaning church**; **Steward of church linen**; **Steward of outreach**; **Steward of caring**; **Steward of prayer**; **Steward of service**. Quite often, our homebound or senior members, once active in their younger years, want to find purpose in their senior years. It's not only about doing but about "BEING" present to others. Contact Fr. Yuriy **OR** Darlene DeMerchant for more information. You will be amazed how "BEING" can make a difference.

◆**SUNDAY, JULY 3 DONATION:** Coffee: \$51.75; Vigil lights: \$8.98; Loose collection: \$75.00; Envelope collection: \$444.00; Pre-authorized payments June 27 to July 3: \$330.00

CAMP ST. VOLODYMYR - 21-28 AUGUST, 2016

We are currently in need of a camp nurse, arts & crafts co-ordinator and someone to help to take the leadership role in the kitchen. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be able to fulfill these roles please contact Jennifer Caldwell @ [604.220.0584](tel:604.220.0584) or jennsawka@hotmail.com. Visit our website via www.nweparchy.ca

REGISTRATION

Camp offers a wide range of activities for campers aged 7-15 (as of December 31, 2016). Registration is available online via Eventbrite "Camp St. Volodymyr BC 2016."

DONATE

We are always happy to accept food donations.

SPIRITUAL READINGS - ST. ANTHONY OF THE KYIV CAVES

Saint Anthony of the Kyiv Caves was born in the year 983 at Liubech, not far from Chernihiv, and was named Antipas in Baptism. Possessing the fear of God from his youth, he desired to be clothed in the monastic schema. When he reached a mature age, he wandered until he arrived on Mt. Athos, burning with the desire to emulate the deeds of its holy inhabitants. Here he received monastic tonsure, and the young monk pleased God in every aspect of his spiritual struggles on the path of virtue. He particularly excelled in humility and obedience, so that all the monks rejoiced to see his holy life.

The hegumen saw in St Anthony the great future ascetic, and inspired by God, he sent him back to his native land, saying, "Anthony, it is time for you to guide others in holiness.

Return to your own land, and be an example for others. May the blessing of the Holy Mountain be with you.

Returning to the land, Anthony began to make the rounds of the monasteries about Kyiv, but nowhere did he find that strict life which had drawn him to Mt. Athos.

Through the Providence of God, Anthony came to the hills of Kyiv by the banks of the Dnipro river. The forested area near the village of Berestovo reminded him of his beloved Athos. There he found a cave which had been dug out by the Priest Hilarion, who later became Metropolitan of Kyiv. Since he liked the spot, Anthony prayed with tears, "Lord, let the blessing of Mt. Athos be upon this spot, and strengthen me to remain here." He began to struggle in prayer, fasting, vigil and physical labor. Every other day, or every third day, he would eat only dry bread and a little water. Sometimes he did not eat for a week. People began to come to the ascetic for his blessing and counsel, and some decided to remain with the saint.

The virtuous life of St Anthony illuminated the land with the beauty of monasticism. St Anthony lovingly received those who yearned for the monastic life. When twelve disciples had gathered about St Anthony, the brethren dug a large cave and built a church and cells for the monks within it.

After he appointed Abbot Barlaam to guide the brethren, St Anthony withdrew from the monastery. He dug a new cave for himself, then hid himself within it. There too, monks began to settle around him. Afterwards, the saint built a small wooden church in honor of the Dormition of the Mother of God over the Far Caves.

At the insistence of Prince Izyaslav, the hegumen Barlaam withdrew to another monastery. With the blessing of St Anthony and with the general agreement of the brethren, the meek and humble Theodosius was chosen as hegumen. By this time, the number of brethren had already reached a hundred men. The Kyiv Great Prince Izyaslav (+1078) gave the monks the hill on which the large church and cells were built, with a palisade all around. Thus, the renowned monastery over the caves was established. Describing this, the chronicler remarks that while many monasteries were built by emperors and nobles, they could not compare with those which are built with holy prayers and tears, and by fasting and vigil. Although St Anthony had no gold, he built a monastery which became the first spiritual centre of Kyivan Rus'.

For his holiness of life, God glorified St Anthony with the gift of clairvoyance and wonderworking. One example of this occurred during the construction of the Great Caves church. The Most Holy Theotokos Herself stood before him and St Theodosius in the Blachernae church in Constantinople, where they had been miraculously transported without leaving their own monastery. Actually, two angels appeared in Constantinople in their forms. Having received gold from the Mother of God, the saints commissioned master architects, who came from Constantinople to the Kyivan Rus' on the command of the Queen of Heaven to build the church

at the Monastery of the Caves. During this appearance, the Mother of God foretold the impending death of St Anthony, which occurred on July 10, 1073.

Through Divine Providence, the relics of St Anthony remain hidden.

NEWS

World Youth Day pilgrims face 18-mile hike to and from key site

Young people attending World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland, will have to walk 18 miles to and from one of its key sites, event organizers said.

“They’ll have to be ready for a long foot journey of several hours, but this has always been a feature of World Youth Days,” said Anna Chmura, WYD’s communications coordinator.

“There’ll be several designated routes, mostly from Krakow, and they’ll all be used heavily. But we’re confident the logistics and security have now been carefully worked out,” she told Catholic News Service.

The event, which runs July 26-31, is expected to bring 2 million people from 187 countries. They will be accompanied by 47 cardinals, 800 bishops and 20,000 priests.

The July 30-31 vigil and Mass, on the fourth and fifth days of Pope Francis’ visit, will require nearly all of the participants to make the nine-mile journey to Campus Misericordiae, near Poland’s Wieliczka salt mine, Chmura said.

Buses will be available only for the 2,000 handicapped people registered for the event, elderly pilgrims and those with special needs, she added.

“Although we don’t have a final number for the buses, there’ll certainly be dozens, but the foot pilgrimage theme is central to the WYD,” Chmura explained.

“All registered groups from the various sectors will have their paths precisely indicated, to keep people moving and to avoid logjams or safety hazards.”

The closing events include an evening prayer vigil July 30 at the campus as pilgrims stay overnight at the site. World Youth Day concludes the morning of July 31 with Mass and recitation of the Angelus before Pope Francis departs for Rome.

Organizers said seven new bridges had been constructed nearby with 20 giant “eucharistic tents” as well as computer links to enable people worldwide to follow activities using 32 “pilgrim avatars.”

Meanwhile, Wieliczka Mayor Artur Koziol said roads and highways had been widened, and irrigation ditches and dikes strengthened following heavy summer rainfall on the 450-acre site.

“We’re effectively building a city of 2 million here, so there must be an appropriate infrastructure,” Koziol told journalists June 29.

Krakow Mayor Jacek Majchrowski said an expected doubling of the city population during the event had necessitated “elasticity in transport and communications.”

Both Krakow and Wieliczka would be “as secure as the Vatican” during the celebration and that numerous scenarios had been reviewed for months by Poland’s security personnel, he said.

Meanwhile, Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz of Warsaw said he believed God would be “waiting for us with open arms” at World Youth Day, “whatever our sinfulness and failings.” He predicted the event would foster “an attitude of mercy in the church toward all needy people.”

“When discussing pastoral priorities, it’s often asked whether it’s essential such events are massive or whether forming groups and communities is more important. In reality, they both matter,” Nycz told the Polish church’s Catholic information agency, KAI, June 28.

“I’ve heard from parents, both in Poland and abroad, that many are afraid of sending their children to Krakow because of the terrorist threat. I appeal to them to trust God and those responsible for security. Otherwise, the success will lie with those who wish to scare us,” he said. In a late June report, Krakow officials said 275 individual locations in and around the city would be used for events and that 184 schools had been requisitioned for overnight accommodation. There also are camping facilities for 28,000 people.

KAI reported that more than 920,000 people had registered for events by the June 30 deadline, including more than 77,000 Italians, 31,000 Spaniards, 35,000 French, 27,000 Americans and 14,000 Brazilians.

However, Father Grzegorz Suchodolski, secretary general of the World Youth Day Organizing Committee, cautioned that previous celebrations suggested up to three times as many could turn up without registering.

“We must reckon with the spontaneity of young people. Many still haven’t even heard there’s a registration system,” the priest told KAI July 1.

“We’re already seeing a miraculous increase in numbers, and I’m convinced God will bring many, many more. As the organizational team, we’ve given our two fishes and five loaves, and God is preparing baskets for all the leftovers.”

Poland's state rail network, PKP, said June 24 it would provide 350 additional trains for visitors.

The head of the Polish church's Krakow-based Child Protection Center, Jesuit Father Adam Zak, said he was working with organizers to ensure safety of under-age participants, particularly among the 200,000 expected to be lodged with private families.

(cruxnow.com)

Pope to Armenian Church: 'Let us race towards full communion!'

Working toward full communion is a project of love, humility and peace, Pope Francis told Armenian Orthodox leaders gathered at an ecumenical meeting.

“With great joy, we are walking together on a journey that has already taken us far, and we look confidently towards the day when by God’s help we shall be united around the altar of Christ’s sacrifice in the fullness of Eucharistic communion,” he said. About 95 percent of Armenia’s 3 million people practice Christianity. Of those Christians, about 92 percent belong to the Armenian Apostolic Church, which is in communion with the other Oriental Orthodox Churches.

Pope Francis, together with the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos Karekin II, the leader of the Armenian Apostolic Church, offered prayers and remarks on peace and unity in the Armenian city of Yerevan during the Holy Father’s visit to the country.

“On this journey, we have been preceded by, and walk with, many witnesses, particularly all those martyrs who sealed our common faith in Christ by their blood. They are our stars in heaven, shining upon us here below and pointing out the path towards full communion,” he said. Francis particularly focused on the example Catholicos Nerses Shnorhali, a 12th century leader and saint of the Armenian Apostolic Church who showed a great love not only for his own people but also for those in other Churches, the Pope said. Nerses understood that Christ desired the unity of all churches, Francis said, and he worked tirelessly to achieve that goal. He also understood the need to grow in mutual love in order to heal past wounds.

“Let us make up for our shortcomings in harmony and charity,” said Pope Francis, quoting Saint Nerses, “and even – (Nerses) suggested – with a particular gentleness of love capable of softening the hardness of the heart of Christians, for they too are often concerned only with themselves and their own advantage.”

By praying together in a spirit of love and humility, both Churches can prepare to receive God’s gift of unity, Pope Francis added.

“Let us pursue our journey with determination; indeed, let us race towards our full communion!” Pope Francis and Catholicos Karekin II also both spoke of the need to work for peace in their addresses at the meeting. In addition to the current conflicts in the Middle East, Pope Francis also recalled “the terrible trials” of the past century in Armenia, particularly the massacre of as many as 1.5 million Armenian Christians in 1915, which the Holy Father has referred to as a genocide.

Pope Francis’ June 24-26 trip to Armenia includes a time to pray at the Tzitzernakaberd Genocide Memorial Complex. He is the second Pope to visit Armenia, after Pope John Paul II who, in 2001, signed a joint declaration with Catholicos Karekin II, calling the 1915 massacres a genocide.

“At the same time, I recall with admiration how the Christian faith, even at the most tragic moments of Armenian history, was the driving force that marked the beginning of your suffering people’s rebirth,” Francis added.

“Those terrible, painful wounds suffered on the cross, transfigured by love, have become a wellspring of forgiveness and peace. Even the greatest pain, transformed by the saving power of the cross, of which Armenians are heralds and witnesses, can become a seed of peace for the future.”

Pope Francis also recalled the peaceful witness of the Armenian Saint Gregory of Narek, whom the Holy Father declared a Doctor of the Church last year.

“He could also be defined as a ‘Doctor of Peace,’ Francis said. “Narek... sought also to identify with the weak and sinners of every time and place in order to intercede on behalf of all. He became ‘the intercessor of the whole world.’ This, his universal solidarity with humanity, is a great Christian message of peace, a heartfelt plea of mercy for all,” the Pope said. “The whole world needs this message, it needs your presence, it needs your purest witness.”

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