



ST. NICHOLAS
THE WONDERWORKER
—+—
СВ. МИКОЛАЯ ЧУДОТВОРЦЯ

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Pastor:
Fr. Yuriy Vyshnevskyy

~ 31 October 2021 ~

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ДВАДЦАТЬ ТРЕТЯ НЕДІЛЯ ПІСЛЯ П'ЯТИДЕСЯТНИЦІ



Like the demon-possessed man, we must also die to accepting our distorted condition as normal, natural, or who we truly are. There is some pain in doing that, for we get used to living on our own terms, giving in to temptations that are all too familiar, and excusing any behaviour by saying we are being true to ourselves. The problem is that the self so comfortable with sin is not our true self, but a form of “Legion” - of a distorted identity that we take on due to our acceptance of corruption in our hearts and lives. The Gadarene demoniac asked Christ not to torment him, and we may feel the same way when we realize that we must do the hard work of repenting and reorienting our lives according to God’s purposes for us. But like him, we must do so in order to become our true selves in the image and likeness of God. That is never a reward for legalistic perfection, but a way of dying and rising with Christ as we become more fully human in God’s image and likeness.



SUNDAY HYMNS	
OPENING HYMN	Вислухай Боже Могучий / Hear Our Petition pg. 280-281
COMMUNION HYMN	Тіло Христове / Let Me Receive You O Lord pg. 258-259
CLOSING HYMN	Як Славен pg. 292

SUNDAY & DAILY SCHEDULE		
SUNDAY, Oct 31	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom - ONLINE	10 AM
MONDAY, Nov 1	NO SERVICES	
TUESDAY, Nov 2	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9 AM
WEDNESDAY, Nov 3	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9 AM
THURSDAY, Nov 4	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9 AM
FRIDAY, Nov 5	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9 AM
SATURDAY, Nov 6	NO SERVICES	
SUNDAY, Nov 7	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom - ONLINE	10 AM

NOTE: to request a Divine Liturgy, please speak with Fr. Yuriy

SUNDAY EPISTLE		OCTOBER 24 DONATIONS
DATE	READING	Loose collection: \$35.00; Envelope collection: \$500.00; Pre-authorized donations Oct 18 to Oct 24: \$135.00 <b style="color: red;">TOTAL: \$670.00 May God bless and reward you abundantly for your generosity!
SUNDAY, Oct 31	Eph 2:4-10	
SUNDAY, Nov 7	Eph 2:14-22	
SUNDAY, Nov 14	Eph 4:1-6	
SUNDAY, Nov 21	Eph 5:9-19	

DONATE ONLINE - www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/45460

PASTORAL MINISTRY & HOLY MYSTERIES	
CONFESSIONS.....	by appointment
EUCCHARIST.....	by appointment
BAPTISMS.....	by appointment
MARRIAGES.....	six months notice should be given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made
FUNERALS.....	by appointment
ANOINTING.....	by appointment
HOSPITAL VISITS.....	by appointment

Apostolic Administrator ~ Bishop David Motiuk ~ www.nweparchy.ca



ANNOUNCEMENTS

▶ **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to DMYTRO MAKSYMIV and 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!

▶ **CONGRATULATIONS** to DMYTRO & NATALIYA MAKSYMIV on their Wedding Anniversary. May you two continue be a blessing to God, to others, and to each other in your marriage together. Многая Літа!

▶ **THE FIFTH WORLD DAY OF THE POOR** will be marked on **November 14**. Pope Francis' message for the occasion focuses on the theme of: **The poor you will always have with you** (Mk 14:7). At the best of times, and especially during COVID-19, many families and individuals struggle to put food on the table. As a sign of solidarity with those in need, and to live out our Christian vocation to see the face of Christ in each other, parishes and families are encouraged to support their local food bank (or similar agency) by making a food or cash donation. This eparchy-wide social outreach activity **“Feeding the Poor of Today”** also honours the memory of the millions who perished in the **Holodomor Famine** (1932-1933) in Ukraine – commemorated this year on Saturday, November 27 – and in other like genocides throughout the world by providing food for the hungry today. A concrete way to help those in need this Christmas is to collaborate with the **Knights of Columbus' annual initiative Coats for Kids Program**, which provides warm clothing for children during our cold prairie winters. A case of 12 winter coats costs only \$330 (including shipping). **Please make your donations (marked ‘Coats for Kids’) to St. Nicholas parish. Tax receipts will be issued.** Children during the Holodomor perished from hunger during the cold winter of 1932-1933. Let us honour their memory by providing warmth for our children today.

▶ **JOIN THE CONVERSATION WITH THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH** - Thursday nights at 4-6 PM. Join us weekly to dialog with Bishop, Clergy and Featured speakers. Follow us on [Tranquillight Calling YouTube channel](#). Email your questions and receive the Zoom link: uccconversation@gmail.com

▶ **CONFESSIONS** - if you would like to come to confession please contact Fr. Yuriy at [250.891.4507](tel:250.891.4507) or st.nicholas.victoria@gmail.com

▶ **PRAYER REQUEST** - Please keep in your prayers SYLVIA KELLY, CHARLOTTE & ED KRAKOWSKI, RICHARD NEWBERRY, LANCE DELVES, ANNE DRAPACK, PETER IWANUCK, LEO VANDERVEN, ED SALYN and other members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join actively in their community.

▶ **EASTERN CHRISTIAN TRADITION** - learn more about Eastern Christian Tradition from the Newman Theological College. The program provides an introduction to the rich tradition of the Eastern Christian faith. Participants will explore their faith through the study of the Theology

of Eastern Christianity, Worship and Spirituality of the Eastern Catholic Churches, Praying with Icons, and The Holy Mysteries, the terminology for what the West calls the Sacraments. For more information go to <https://newman.edu/ccs>

► **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."

DIVINE LITURGY PROPERS

*The Divine Liturgy of our Father among the Saints John Chrysostom.
Scripture readings from the New Testament are taken from the
New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition.
Українською - у перекладі Івана Хоменка.*

Troparion, Tone 6: Angelic powers were upon Your tomb* and the guards became like dead men;* Mary stood before Your tomb* seeking Your most pure body.* You captured Hades without being overcome by it.* You met the Virgin and granted life.* O Lord, risen from the dead,* glory be to You!

Glory: Kontakion, Tone 6: With His life-giving hand* Christ our God, the Giver of life,* raised all the dead from the murky abyss* and bestowed resurrection upon humanity.* He is for all the Saviour,* the resurrection and the life, and the God of all.

Now: Theotokion, Tone 6: Undaunted patroness of Christians,* O steadfast intermediary with the Creator,* turn not away from the suppliant voices of sinners,* but in your kindness come to help us who cry out to you in faith.* Be quick to intercede, make haste to plead,* for you are ever the patroness of those who honour you, O Mother of God.

Prokeimenon, Tone 6: Save Your people, O Lord, * and bless Your inheritance. *Verse:* Unto You I will cry, O Lord, my God, lest You turn from me in silence. (*Psalm 27:9,1*)

Epistle - Ephesians 2:4-10 - A reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians. Brothers and Sisters, God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the

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heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**Alleluia, Tone 6:** *Verse:* He who lives in the aid of the Most High, shall dwell under the protection of the God of heaven. *Verse:* He says to the Lord: You are my protector and my refuge, my God, in Whom I hope. (*Psalms 90:1,2*)

**Gospel - Luke 8:26-39** - At that time, the Lord arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia. (*Psalms 148:1*)



**Тропар, глас 6:** Ангельські сили на гробі Твоім\* і сторожі омертвіли;\* Марія ж стояла при гробі,\* шукаючи пречистого тіла Твого.\* Полонив Ти ад і, не переможений від нього,\* зустрів Ти Діву, даруючи життя.\* Воскреслий з мертвих, Господи, слава Тобі!

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**Слава: Кондак, глас 6:** Животворною рукою Життєдавець, Христос Бог,\* воскресив з темних безодень всіх померлих\* і подав воскресіння людському роду.\* Він бо усіх Спаситель,\* воскресіння, життя і Бог усіх.

**І нині: Богородичний, глас 6:** Заступнице християн бездоганна,\* Посереднице до Творця незамінна,\* не погорди молінням грішних,\* але випередь, як Блага, з поміччю нам, що вірно Тобі співаємо.\* Поспішишь на молитву і скоро прийди на моління,\* заступаючи повсякчас, Богородице, тих, що Тебе почитають.

**Прокімен, глас 6:** Спаси, Господи, \* людей Твоїх \* і благослови спадкоємство Твоє. Стих: До Тебе, Господи, взиватиму; Боже мій, не відвертайсь мовчки від мене.

**Апостол - Еф. 2:4-10 - До Ефесян Послання Святого Апостола Павла Читання:** Браття і сестри, Бог, багатий милосердям, з-за великої своєї любови, якою полюбив нас, мертвих нашими гріхами, оживив нас разом із Христом – благодаттю ви спасені! – І разом з ним воскресив нас, і разом посадовив на небі у Христі Ісусі; щоб у наступних віках він міг показати надзвичайне багатство своєї благодаті у своїй доброті до нас у Христі Ісусі. Бо ви спасені благодаттю через віру. І це не від нас: воно дар Божий. Воно не від діл, щоб ніхто не міг хвалитися. Бо ми його створіння, створені у Христі Ісусі для добрих діл, які Бог уже наперед був приготував, щоб ми їх чинили.

**Алилуя, глас 6:** Стих: Хто живе під охороною Всевишнього, під покровом Бога небесного оселиться. Стих: Скаже він Господеві: Ти заступник мій і пристановище моє, Бог мій, на котрого я надіюся.

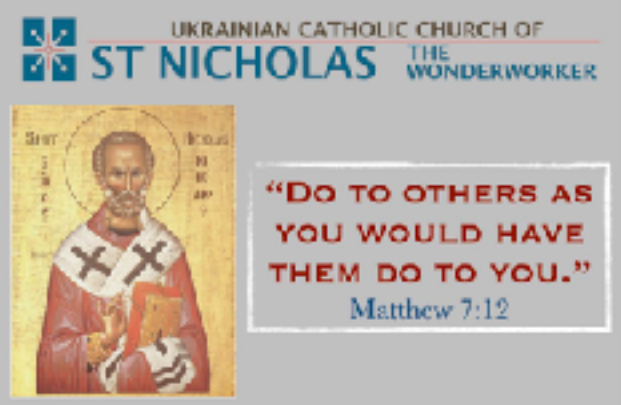
**Євангеліє - Лк 8:26-39 -** І вони припливли до землі Гадаринської, що навпроти Галілеї. І, як на землю Він вийшов, перестрів Його один чоловік із міста, що довгі роки мав він демонів, не вдягався в одягу, і мешкав не в домі, а в гробах. А коли він Ісуса побачив, то закричав, повалився перед Ним, і голосом гучним закликав: Що до мене Тобі, Ісусе, Сину Бога Всевишнього? Благаю Тебе, не муч мене! Бо звелів Він нечистому духові вийти з людини. Довгий час він хапав був його, і в'язали його ланцюгами й кайданами, і стерегли його, але він розривав ланцюги, і демон гнав по пустині його. А Ісус запитався його: Як тобі на ім'я? І той відказав: Легіон, бо багато ввійшло в нього демонів. І благали Його, щоб Він їм не звелів іти в безодню. Пасся ж там на горі гурт великий свиней. І просилися демони ті, щоб дозволив піти їм у них. І дозволив Він їм. А як демони вийшли з того чоловіка, то в свиней увійшли. І череда кинулась із кручі до озера, і потопилась. Пастухи ж, як побачили теє, що сталось, повтікали, та в місті й по селах звістили. І вийшли побачити, що сталось. І прийшли до Ісуса й знайшли, що той чоловік, що демони вийшли із нього, сидів при ногах Ісусових вдягнений та при умі, і полякались... Самовидці ж їм розповіли, як видужав той біснуватий. І весь народ Гадаринського краю став благати Його, щоб пішов Він від них, великий бо страх обгорнув їх. Він же до човна ввійшов і вернувся. А той чоловік, що демони вийшли із нього, став благати Його, щоб бути при Ньому. Та Він відпустив його, кажучи: Вернися до дому свого, і розповіж, які речі великі

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вчинив тобі Бог! І той пішов, і по цілому місту звістив, які речі великі для нього Ісус учинив!

Причасний: Хваліте Господа з небес,* хваліте Його на висотах. Аلیلія, аلیلія, аلیلія!

PRAYER DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Be with our priests and spiritual care givers. May they know that they are loved and cared for.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

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For You are a God of mercy, kindness, and love, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.



## МОЛИТВА ПІД ЧАС СПАЛАХУ КОРОНАВІРУСУ

Ісусе Христе, ти подорожував по містах і селах, оздоровлюючи від хвороб і немочей. За Твоїм повелінням хворі видужували. У час пандемії коронавірусу повели цій хворобі відступити, щоб ми відчули Твою оздоровлюючу любов.

Вилікуй тих, хто хворий вірусом. Нехай вони відновлять свої сили та здоров'я завдяки якісній медичній допомозі.

Вилікуй нас від нашого страху, який заважає націям спільно працювати та сусідам допомагати один одному.

Вилікуй нас від нашої гордості, яка може змусити нас претендувати на невразливість до захворювання, що не знає меж.

Залишайся поруч у цей час невизначеності та смутку. Будь з тими, хто помер від вірусу. Нехай вони спочивають з Тобою у вічному спокої. Будь з родинами тих, хто хворий або помер, коли вони турбуються і сумують, захищай їх від хвороб і відчаю. Нехай вони знають Твій спокій.

Будь з лікарями, медсестрами, дослідниками та всіма медичними працівниками, котрі прагнуть вилікувати та допомогти постраждалим та, котрі піддають себе ризику в своїй праці. Нехай вони знають Твій захист і спокій.

Будь з нашими священиками та духовними опікунами. Нехай вони знають, що їх люблять і піклуються про них.

Будь з лідерами всіх націй. Дай їм передбачення діяти милосердно та зі справжньою турботою про добробут людей, котрим вони призначені служити. Надай їм мудрості інвестувати у довгострокові рішення, які допоможуть підготуватися або запобігти майбутнім спалахам. Нехай вони пізнають Твій мир, коли разом працюють над досягненням його на землі.

Будь ми вдома чи за кордоном, в оточенні багатьох людей, які страждають цією хворобою, або наодинці, Ісусе Христе, залишайтеся з нами, коли ми терпимо і сумуємо. Замість нашої тривоги дай нам спокій.

Бо Ти - Бог милосердя, доброта та любов, і ми прославляємо Тебе, Отця, і Сина, і Святого Духа, нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

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THE GADARENE DEMONIAC (*Luke 8:27-39*)



The Gospels record several instances when the Lord Jesus called people to be His followers. At times He called people to leave their homes and livelihoods and follow Him. He called Peter and Andrew, James and John as they were busy fishing “*and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him*” (Mt 4:22). Similarly Matthew walked away from his toll booth and followed Jesus (see Mt 9:9); the other disciples whose calls are not recorded in the Gospels did the same.

Sometimes the Lord called but was refused. The cost of following Jesus was more than some people could bear. To the rich young man who wanted to be perfect Jesus said, “*If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.*’ *When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth*” (Mt 19:21-22).

In other instances the Lord raised objections Himself before the would-be follower could discover through failure and discouragement that following Christ meant enduring hardships. Thus “*a teacher of the law came to Him and said, ‘Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.’ Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head’*” (Mt 8:19-20). The Lord wanted this teacher of the law to know that following Christ would not provide the comfortable lifestyle he may have been anticipating.

To a procrastinator, however, He gave the opposite advice. “*Then another disciple said to him, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ But Jesus told him, ‘Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead’*” (Mt 8:21-22). The Lord surely wanted followers but He had a different approach based on the readiness of the person before Him.

This passage suggests the hurdles that people in any age will face when they consider following the Lord in a radical way: fear of the unknown, self-concern, pre-occupation and attachment to other things all can hinder us from following Christ.

The Vocation of the Gadarene

The Gadarene whom Jesus healed (Lk 8:27-39) wanted to follow Jesus as well; the Scripture says that he “begged to go with Him,” but the Lord had another plan for him. “*Jesus sent him away, saying, ‘Return home and tell how much God has done for you.’ So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him*” (Lk 8:38-39).

The Gadarenes had made it clear that they wanted Jesus to go away. He would not force Himself on them. At the same time He wanted to leave them with a permanent reminder of His presence: their own fellow countryman whom He had delivered. This man had once been a burden to the townspeople; now he would be a blessing.

The apostles were told to go through the world preaching the Gospel; this man’s call was to go home and do the same in his village. Was his call by Christ less of a vocation than that of the apostles? It was different, surely, but it was a vocation nonetheless.

Some people in the Church tend to think that “vocation” refers exclusively to the calling of a cleric or monastic. The Lord does call some people in every age to serve the Church as priests, deacons, chanters, etc. He does invite others to serve Him as a monk or nun, or as a member of a religious community. But these are not the only people whom He calls to serve Him.

Our Fundamental Vocation

Every person baptized into Christ has a vocation. The essence of that vocation is perhaps best expressed in the First Epistle of Peter: “*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light*” (1 Pt 2:9).

There are three important aspects of our universal vocation expressed in this passage. First, our vocation is to a **priesthood**: what the Scripture calls a “royal priesthood.” Christ is the true kingly priest and because we have been baptized into Him and sealed in His Holy Spirit we share in His priesthood. Secondly, we share in this priesthood as **members of a people**, the people of God. We are not individually priests, as are the ministers of the altar, but members of a priesthood because of our common union with Christ the High Priest.

This passage also tells us **the reason for this priesthood**: “*that you may declare the praises of*” God. Our vocation as members of the royal priesthood is to share in the Church’s call to proclaim the work of God in Christ. Some, like the apostles and evangelizers, are called to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Others, like the Gadarene whom Jesus delivered in the Gospel or the Samaritan Woman, are called to show forth God’s love for mankind in their own corner of the world. Still others – most of us in fact – are called to share in the Church’s common vocation to proclaim Christ.

How Can We “Proclaim?”

When we think about “proclaiming God’s works” we invariably think about speaking or writing. There is a host of other ways by which the Church makes the Good News present in our world. At the Bridegroom Matins on Holy Tuesday we are reminded that the abilities we have received are often the way in which the Lord makes known to us our way of responding to this call:

“Come, O faithful, let us work eagerly for the Master, for He distributes wealth to His servants; and let us increase the talent of grace, each one according to his ability. Let one adorn his wisdom with good deeds. Let another beautify the celebration of the service. Let someone strong in faith communicate the word to the uninitiated, and another dispense his wealth to the poor. Thus, we shall increase what has been loaned to us and, like faithful stewards of grace, shall be worthy of the Master’s joy. O Christ God, make us worthy of that joy, for You are the Lover of Mankind.”

Through each of these ways and countless others believers can take their place in the royal priesthood, joining in the Church’s mission to declare through word or work “*the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.*”

What Happened to the Gadarenes?

The Gospels record that the Lord Jesus sent the man He had healed back home to witness to his neighbours. They do not tell us whether he was successful: was this village converted or not?

We do know that by the third century AD the village was all but deserted. The crag which overlooked the Sea of Galilee, however, had become a place of pilgrimage for Christians seeking to commemorate the healing of the Gadarene. By the fifth century a large monastery serving the pilgrims had been established there. The monastery was expanded in the sixth century but abandoned after a catastrophic earthquake destroyed much of the area in 749. Ruins of the monastery were excavated in the 1970s by the Israeli department of antiquities and were later incorporated into a national park.

CANADIAN BISHOPS TO WELCOME POPE FRANCIS TO CANADA ON HISTORIC PILGRIMAGE OF HEALING AND RECONCILIATION



The Catholic Bishops of Canada are grateful that Pope Francis has accepted their invitation to visit Canada on a pilgrimage of healing and reconciliation. The Holy Father’s full statement on the matter can be found [here](#).

In anticipation of this visit, the planned delegation of Indigenous survivors,

Elders, knowledge keepers and youth will travel to the Holy See, where they will have the opportunity to speak to Pope Francis about the timing, focus, and themes in preparation for his future pilgrimage to Canada.

“The Bishops of Canada have been engaged in meaningful discussions with Indigenous Peoples, especially those affected by Residential Schools who have shared stories about the suffering and challenges that they continue to experience,” said CCCB President, the Most Rev. Raymond Poisson. “We pray that Pope Francis’ visit to Canada will be a significant milestone in the journey toward reconciliation and healing.”

The Canadian Bishops recently pledged to work with the Holy See and Indigenous partners on the possibility of a pastoral visit to Canada by the Pope. Following this pledge and informed by three years of ongoing dialogue between the Canadian Bishops, the Holy See, and Indigenous Peoples, the President and former-President of the CCCB met in Rome with the Secretary of State of the Holy See to discuss next steps on the reconciliation journey earlier this month and in preparation for the delegation.

This delegation to the Holy See will take place from December 17-20, 2021, and is being planned in close collaboration with National Indigenous Organizations and other partners.

“We will invite the delegation of Indigenous survivors, Elders, knowledge keepers, and youth who will meet with Pope Francis to open their hearts to the Holy Father and share both their suffering as well as their hopes and desires for his eventual visit to Canada,” added Bishop Poisson.

Additional details about Pope Francis’ pilgrimage to Canada, as well as the Rome delegation will be announced by the CCCB as details are confirmed.
