

St. Mary's Newsletter

St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish
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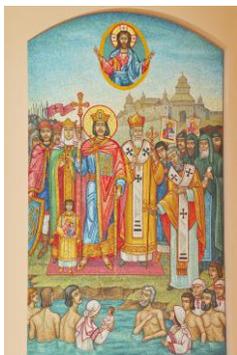
Divine Liturgies

Sundays: 8:30am English (spoken)
10:30am Ukrainian (sung)
Mon-Sat: 7:30am (Chapel)
Holy Days: 10:00am
Fr Joseph Pidskalny OSBM (Admin)

Baptism of Kyivan Rus (988 AD) Mosaic

(located inside on the right side of the church)
The crowned man holding a cross is Prince Volodymyr the Great (Saint Vladimir), the ruler of Kyivan Rus who converted to Christianity and initiated the mass baptism of his people.

- The scene shows the mass baptism in the Dnieper River, symbolizing the official Christianization of Kyivan Rus. This was a turning point that aligned the region with Byzantine Christianity.
- Volodymyr's conversion was both spiritual and political—he married the sister of Byzantine Emperor Basil II, strengthening ties with Constantinople.
- The event laid the foundation for the Eastern Church in the Slavic world.
- Jesus Christ at the top, blessing the scene, reinforces divine approval.
- Bishops and clergy in liturgical vestments represent the ecclesiastical authority guiding the baptism.
- Architecture in the background symbolizes the Church of the Tithes in Kyiv.
- The icon uses hierarchical placement—Christ above, Volodymyr central, and the baptized below—to show spiritual order.
- Rich golds and reds often signify divine light and royal authority.
- Icons like this are not just art—they're theological statements meant to teach, inspire, and sanctify.



Parish Stewardship: Living Faith Daily

Parish Stewardship isn't a program or a checklist—it's a personal journey of conversion and renewal. It's choosing to live our Faith each day with gratitude, love, and purpose.

Time is our first offering: moments spent in prayer, reflection, and the sacraments, followed by service to others, healing, feeding, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Talent is our unique gift from God. Stewardship means using those gifts to serve—teaching, comforting, and proclaiming the Good News, just as Jesus did.

Treasure is our material blessing. Stewardship invites us to give joyfully from the heart, offering the first fruits of what we have as a response to God's generosity.

Together, these form a life of intentional discipleship—where every action becomes an expression of love and faith.

Get Involved

Our parish offers many opportunities to serve. Whether through liturgical ministries, outreach, or community support, your time, talent, and treasure can make a lasting impact.

Let's build a vibrant parish—one prayer, one gift, one act of service at a time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ukrainian TV Network

Ukrainian Kontakt on OMNI TV:
SUN 7:00 AM (new) SUN 9:00 pm
TUE 9:00 am THUR 2:00 pm

Ukrainian Food Sales

Friday October 17 supper 4-630pm
Ukrainian Food Saturdays 10-2
Ivan Franko Society Richmond

Maria Riva-7 lives and 1 year in Ukraine
Vancouver Writers Fest

October 20-26, 2025
Grandville Island Venues

Bez Obmezhen Music
Thursday October 23 7-10pm
Michael J Fox Theatre Burnaby BC

Ukrainian Halloween Party
Saturday October 25 9pm
Gallery Night Club Vancouver

Inventions in Colour – Anna Sagalova
Saturday November 1 at 7:30pm
Anvil Theatre New West

Christmas Market
Saturday November 15 10-4pm
Ivan Franko Society Richmond BC

Ukrainian Christmas Fair
Saturday November 29 11-4pm
St Mary's Ukrainian Centre Vancouver

Ukrainian Winterfest
Saturday December 13 1-9pm
Holy Trinity Cathedral Vancouver

Malanka
January 2026
Various Venues Lower Mainland

Check with the venue for details or updates

Pokrova – The Feast of the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary (October 1)

In the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC), Pokrova commemorates the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who appeared in the 10th century at the Church of Blachernae in Constantinople. According to tradition, she was seen by St. Andrew the Fool-for-Christ and his disciple Epiphanius, praying and spreading her veil (pokrov) over the faithful as a sign of protection. The city was spared, and the vision became a powerful symbol of Mary's intercession.

✝ Spiritual Themes:

- Mary as Protectress: She is honored as a guardian of the faithful, especially in times of danger and war.
- Prayer for Peace and Protection: The feast is often marked by prayers for Ukraine's defenders, families, and the homeland.
- Symbolism of the Veil: The pokrov (veil) represents divine shelter, maternal care, and spiritual covering.
- In the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC), this feast is deeply revered. Mary is honored as:
 - The Protectress of the Faithful
 - Queen of Ukraine, entrusted with the nation's spiritual guardianship by Prince Yaroslav the Wise in 1037
 - A symbol of hope, peace, and maternal care, especially in times of war and upheaval

🕒 Historical and National Significance

- Defenders of Ukraine Day: Since 2015, this date also honors all who defend Ukraine, including in the current war

🎨 Folk Traditions and Symbolism (Pokrova blends liturgical reverence with folk customs)

- Divine Liturgy: Special services honor Mary's protection and ask for peace in Ukraine.
- Icon Veneration: The icon of Pokrova shows Mary extending her veil over the faithful
- Icons and Art: Mary is often depicted with her veil extended over the faithful, or in the "Virgin Orans" mosaic in Kyiv's St. Sophia Cathedral—arms raised in prayer, symbolizing the "Indestructible Wall"
- Marriage Blessings: Young women pray, "Свята Покрова, покрий мою голівоньку" ("Holy Pokrova, cover my head"), seeking a husband and referencing the head covering worn by married women
- Moleben (Prayer Service): Often held for soldiers, veterans, and those suffering from war.
- Seasonal Change: Pokrova is said to "cover the earth with leaves or snow," marking the shift to late autumn

