

St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Newsletter



St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish
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Issue 45

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)
Fr. Dionysiy Zavedyuk OSBM (Assistant)

iPraises App Companion.



The iPraises app is a digital prayer companion designed for the Ukrainian Catholic community, offering a rich Byzantine liturgical tradition. It is available for both iOS and Android users and includes features such as:

Daily Liturgical Resources: Access to Divine Liturgy texts, Vespers, and prayers for every day of the liturgical year. **Bilingual Content:** The app offers content in both English and Ukrainian, catering to a diverse audience.

User-Friendly Design: The app is designed for everyone, including clergy, families, and parishioners, to help them stay spiritually connected throughout the day.

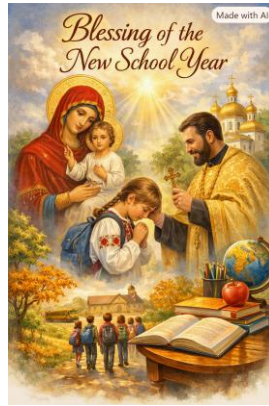
The app encourages users to pause, reflect, and pray, making it a valuable tool for those seeking to grow in faith and prayer.

Android users: open Google Play Store, search for iPraises App, download and install

iOS users: open the Apple App Store, search for iPraises, download and install

Once installed choose English or Ukrainian.

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton launches iPraises App



Spiritual Journey

As the new school year begins, we find ourselves standing at a familiar threshold — one that blends hope, responsibility, and quiet anticipation. September arrives like a soft blessing, reminding us that learning is not only an academic task but a **spiritual journey**.

In our Ukrainian Catholic tradition, we remember that Christ Himself grew “in wisdom and stature,” and that every step of learning was embraced within the loving guidance of the Holy Family. We, too, walk this path with divine companionship. Whether we are students, parents, teachers, or parishioners supporting our youth, the Lord invites us to see education as a place where His grace unfolds.

May this year be one where curiosity deepens, friendships strengthen, and challenges become opportunities for growth. Let us entrust our schools, classrooms, and homes to the protection of the Theotokos, asking her to watch over every child and guide every educator.

As we begin again, may our hearts be open, our minds attentive, and our spirits ready to discover God's presence in every lesson, every moment, and every new beginning.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ukrainian Radio in Canada
Vancouver 96.1 FM

YVR Screen Scene for Ukraine
Wednesday September 9 6-10pm
VIFF Centre Vancouver BC

Film: Kuzma Scarily Funny
Friday September 11 6:30-8:30pm
Alliance Francaise Vancouver BC

Ukrainian Friday Night Supper
September 18, 4 - 6:30pm
Ivan Franko Society Richmond BC

Kampala Nite
Saturday September 19 8pm- 3am
Ukrainian Orthodox Church Surrey BC

Ukrainian New West Fest
Saturday Sept 19 12 pm
New West Ukrainian Cathedral

Ukrainian Golf Tournament
Sunday September 20
Country Meadows Richmond BC

Evening with Vitaly Portnikov
Sunday September 20 7-8:30pm
SFU Campus Harbour Centre Vancouver BC

Ukrainian Friday Night Supper
October 16, 4 - 6:30pm
Ivan Franko Society Richmond BC

22nd Eparchial Convention (UCWL)
Saturday Oct 17, 2026
New West Ukrainian Cathedral

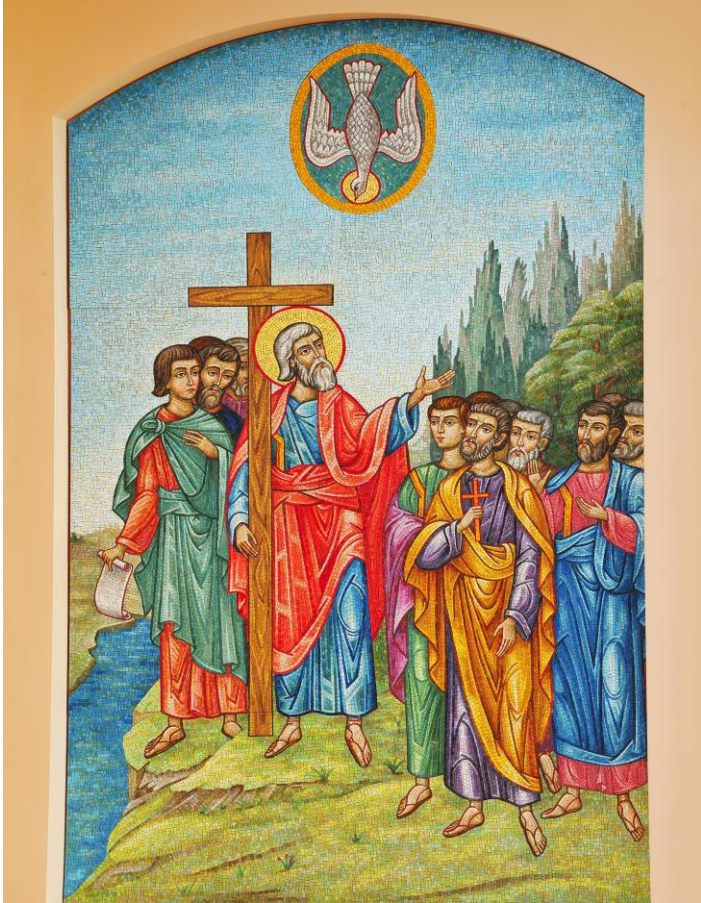
Ukrainian Christmas Fair
Saturday November 28 11am- 4pm
Ukrainian Catholic Centre Vancouver

Check with the venue for details or updates

St Andrew and the Hills of Kyiv Faith in 988

The Apostle Andrew in Early Slavic Tradition

Saint Andrew (Andrii Pervozvannyi), born around 5-10 AD and his death around 60-70 AD in Patras, Greece, was the brother of Saint Peter and the first of Christ's twelve disciples. According to ancient Christian tradition, Saint Andrew journeyed as a missionary to the lands surrounding the Black Sea and traveled north along the Dnipro River.



Both the Byzantine and Ukrainian Churches have long associated the origins of their Christianity with his name. The Kyiv Church Council of 1621 recognized Saint Andrew as the Apostle of Rus', and the magnificent St. Andrew's Church was later built in Kyiv to honor his legacy.

Legend tells that when Saint Andrew reached the high hills overlooking the Dnipro, he proclaimed:

“On these hills, a great city will stand, and God will raise many churches.”

This prophecy, recorded in the Primary Chronicle (early 12th century), symbolizes the spiritual “pre-history” of Christianity in the lands that would become Kyivan Rus'.

St. Andrew's feast day is celebrated on the Gregorian calendar November 30 and on the Julian calendar December 13 it was marked by joyful folk customs throughout Ukraine — especially among young people who played fortune-telling games with melted wax poured into water.

Saint Andrew's connection to Kyiv blends:

Legend — his prophecy of a holy city

History — Kyiv as the cradle of Eastern Slavic Christianity

Identity — the hills as enduring symbols of faith and Ukrainian heritage

For Ukrainian Greek-Catholics and Orthodox alike, the story of Saint Andrew on Kyiv's hills reminds us that Christianity in Ukraine has deep, ancient roots — long before the baptism of Rus' in 988.

The mosaic is located on the East Wall on the left side of St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic church in Vancouver BC