

St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Newsletter



St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish
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Issue 47

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. Ireneus Prystajeky OSBM (Assistant)

The case of the missing Antiphon



In the traditional Byzantine order, there are three antiphons at the beginning of the Divine Liturgy:

- First Antiphon (Psalm verses with a refrain)
- Second Antiphon (Psalm verses with the refrain "Save us, O Son of God..." followed by the hymn Only-Begotten Son page 23)
- Third Antiphon (often the Beatitudes on Sundays and feast days)

Historically, in cathedral and monastic practice all three antiphons were sung. Over the centuries, however, many parishes shortened the entrance rites.

In the edition used by many Ukrainian Catholic parishes, the Second Antiphon was effectively absorbed into the Third Antiphon section. It is a shortened structure in which the distinct Second Antiphon is no longer sung as a separate unit.

Interestingly, more recent movements toward full Byzantine restoration in some Ukrainian Catholic and other Eastern Catholic jurisdictions have encouraged the fuller use of all three antiphons on Sundays and feasts, bringing practice closer to the older Constantinopolitan tradition.

So, the Second Antiphon was not forgotten or lost. In the Ukrainian Catholic edition, its psalmody was omitted as part of an abbreviated form, while its culminating hymn, "Only-Begotten Son and Word of God," was retained.



Remembrance Day Reflection

On November 11th, Canadians pause in silence to remember and honour those who gave their lives in times of war and conflict. We gather in gratitude for the men and women who served with courage and sacrifice so that future generations might live in freedom and peace.

We remember not only those who died in military service, but also all victims of violence, war, hatred, and injustice throughout the world. We pray for those who continue to suffer the consequences of conflict and for all who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Remembrance Day invites us to reflect on our Christian vocation to be peacemakers. Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches, "**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God**" (Matthew 5:9). Through prayer, compassion, and reconciliation, we are called to bring His peace into our homes, communities, and nation.

As we remember the sacrifices of the past, let us renew our commitment to living the Gospel values of peace, justice, and respect for human dignity. May we never forget those who gave so much in service to others.

Вічна пам'ять Віchnaya Pamyat
eternal memory

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ukrainian Radio in Canada
Vancouver 96.1 FM

Ukrainian TV Kontakt
[Kontakt Ukrainian TV - YouTube](#)

Heart of the City Orchestra Night
Tuesday November 3 5-6:30pm
AUCC Vancouver BC

Spirit Voices Ukrainian folk opera
Saturday November 7, 3:30-4:30pm
AUCC Vancouver BC

Фільм «Довженко» | Film "Dovzhenko"
Saturday November 7 6:30-8:30pm
Black Box Theatre at Go Studio

Ukrainian Vechornytsi - Zapusty
Saturday November 14 6pm
Holy Eucharist Cathedral New West

Distance to Independence
Monday November 16 5:30-8:30pm
VIFF Centre Vancouver BC

Winter Artisan Market
Sunday November 22 11am-4pm
AUCC Vancouver Ukrainian Hall,

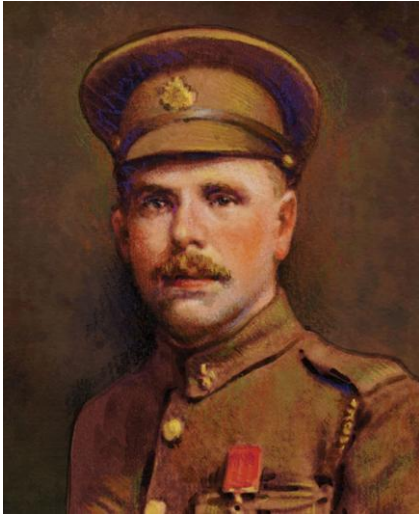
Children's Ukrainian Book Reading
Saturday Nov 28 3-4:30pm
New West Public Library

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

Ukrainian Christmas Celebration
Saturday December 19 5-7pm
Chandos Pattison Auditorium Surrey

Rozkolyada
Sunday January 31, 2027 3-5pm
Holy Eucharist Cathedral New West

Check with the venue for details or updates



Filip Konowal, VC (1887-1959) Canada's Only Ukrainian Canadian Victoria Cross Recipient

Filip Konowal was born on 25 March 1887 in Kutkiw, Ukraine, and was a member of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic faith. Seeking employment and hoping eventually to return home with savings, he left his wife, Anna, and daughter, Maria, in Ukraine. Arriving in Vancouver from Vladivostok in April 1913, Konowal worked as a lumberjack in British Columbia before moving to the Ottawa Valley for similar work.

When the First World War began, Konowal volunteered for service with Ottawa's 77th Infantry Battalion on 12 July 1915. He later transferred to the 47th Battalion (British Columbia), Canadian Expeditionary Force. He fought at the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and distinguished himself at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917, where he helped lead a squad of Japanese Canadian soldiers in the capture of the strategic position known as "The Pimple."

Only a few months later, during the Battle for Hill 70 near Lens, France, Konowal displayed extraordinary courage. Between 22 and 24 August 1917, despite intense enemy fire, he repeatedly attacked German strongholds, personally eliminating enemy positions and capturing prisoners. His actions helped secure a key Canadian victory. During the fighting, he suffered severe gunshot wounds to the face, jaw, and neck.

For his exceptional bravery, King George V personally presented him with the Victoria Cross, the British Empire's highest award for gallantry, on 15 October 1917.

After recovering from his wounds, Konowal returned to Canada on 10 September 1918. Shortly afterward, he joined the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force and sailed to Vladivostok in October 1918, perhaps hoping to return to his homeland. He came back to Canada on 20 June 1919 and was honorably discharged in Kingston on 4 July 1919, having served Canada for nearly four years. Tragically, he would never see his wife and daughter again.

Konowal's postwar years were difficult. On 19 July 1919, he led Ottawa's first postwar Peace Parade to Parliament Hill. The following day, he became involved in an altercation in Hull, Quebec, that resulted in the death of Wasyl Artich. Found not guilty by reason of insanity, likely due to the psychological effects of his wartime experiences, Konowal was confined to Montreal's Saint-Jean-de-Dieu Hospital.

Released in 1928, he struggled with poverty and homelessness. His fortunes improved thanks to another Victoria Cross recipient, Major Milton Fowler Gregg, who helped him obtain employment as a caretaker on Parliament Hill during the Great Depression. While working there, Konowal was noticed by Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, who reassigned him as the special custodian of the Prime Minister's Office, a position he held until his death.

Filip Konowal died in Ottawa on 3 June 1959 at the age of 72. He was buried with full military honours at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Ottawa.

Following his death, Konowal's medals, including his Victoria Cross, were acquired by the Canadian War Museum in 1969. The Victoria Cross was stolen during the 1970s but was recovered in April 2004 and returned to the museum. Today, it forms the centrepiece of a permanent exhibit honouring his service and sacrifice.

Over the years, numerous memorials have been established to recognize Konowal's achievements. These include commemorative plaques in Ottawa, Toronto, and New Westminster; a cairn at the Ukrainian Heritage Village near Dauphin, Manitoba; a monument in his native village in Ukraine; a bas-relief near Lens, France; and a memorial unveiled near Loos, France, in 2017 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle for Hill 70. Filip Konowal remains a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and service. As the only Ukrainian Canadian recipient of the Victoria Cross, his legacy continues to inspire generations of Canadians and Ukrainians alike.