



# **FULLY ALIVE**

*National Shrine of Blessed Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky*

## **LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME**

### **IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SCHOOL PILGRIMAGE**



One of the missions of the Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky Shrine is to have catechism classes and Catholic School children come to spend time with Blessed Vasyl. On November 22, 2017, the grade 5 & 6 classes from Immaculate Heart of Mary School (Winnipeg) spent a pilgrimage day at the Shrine.



**Students responding to the Divine Liturgy**

A week earlier, our staff member, Kseniya Kravtchouk, had a presentation for these students about Blessed Vasyl's life. On the pilgrimage day 40 students arrived at the Shrine. The day began with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. During the Liturgy, Fr. John Sianchuk spoke to the students about the meaning of a pilgrimage and the precious gift from God that Winnipeg has received - a Christian Martyr.

After the Divine Liturgy, the students were divided into two groups. One of the groups spent time in the museum where Mrs. Kravtchouk shared the various artifacts used by Blessed Vasyl and their significance during the underground church in Ukraine. Together with these artifacts, she related interesting and inspiring stories from Blessed Vasyl's life. The other group spent time with Ms. Mary Jane Kalenchuk in the Shrine. Here students discovered the meaning of the many symbols present in the chapel, the meaning of the holy relics of Blessed Vasyl and some of the graces and blessings that have already been received through his intercession.

After having lunch in the church auditorium, students were led in a project of making rosaries. These were very special rosaries, rosaries made of dark brown bread. Blessed Vasyl himself made a rosary of bread while in prison and upon which he prayed constantly. Making these rosaries was very interesting and challenging for the students.

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As we were ending our day, each student had the opportunity to write their own personal prayer petition. These were then placed into a special decorative box and taken to the Shrine. As they gathered in the Shrine, the students brought their icons of Blessed Vasyl which they had previously made in the classroom. These icons were blessed with holy water and the students were encouraged to create their own icon corner of Blessed Vasyl. Students prayed the prayer of intercession for all the petitions they had written. To complete the day, each student was anointed with holy oil blessed through the 1<sup>st</sup> Class Relics of Blessed Vasyl. Upon returning to their school, each student shared their impression and experience of the pilgrimage day.



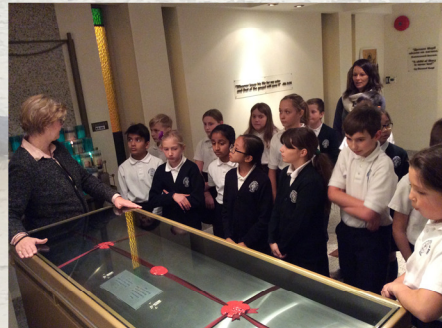
Olivia Gr 5  
This is what I learned  
in the Shrine was that  
Blessed vasyll helped this  
boy named Samuel. Because  
Samuels mother prayed to  
blessed vasyll and she bought  
holy oil rubbed it on his hip →  
and then samuel went  
for an exray and then the  
Doctor said that it was  
a miracle because she  
said that he was all  
better. Blessed vasyll helped  
the little boy named samuel.

I learned so many things just to make  
this short I'll only talk about one  
thing. It's so cool and awesome how when  
you walk in you feel like your  
protected you have a shield around  
you no one can hurt you but remembre  
you are still in a church (go to the  
gift shop the little rosaries are my fav!!)

Lukas  
Grade 5

ps: Count  
how many  
red tiles there are in pairs

I learned how you  
fitted blessed vasyll  
in the coffin. I can  
name much more.  
like, how he made  
wine, and that he  
gave communion in  
prison! Thanks for having  
me! Gr 5  
Bryden



I learned that Saint Vasyll  
broke a spoon in half and  
used it as a chalice, and  
that he would put raisins in water  
and let it sit for 3 weeks or  
so and made wine.  
Gr 5  
Kristen

I had a great time  
my favorite part was  
when blessed vasyll  
went to jail in  
scibra and freeze  
his toes so they  
won't get cold.

Wansh Gr 5

When I entered the shrine  
I got the chills, the good  
kind though. Nicholas  
Gr 5

Something that I found  
interesting was hearing about  
Blessed Vasyll's life and how  
he died for his faith and  
what he believes in.  
Khushleen  
Age 11

I found the shrine very  
interesting because of how small  
the stainless steel container  
was so small that they  
managed to fit him in it.  
Sanman  
Gr 6







I had a very nice experience. The shrine is beautiful, same with the museum. I really liked the icons and the stained glass windows.

Nazar Gr 5



I learned that Blessed Vasyly made a rosary out of bread when he was in prison.

Molly Gr 5



I thought it was a very fun and holy experience. I liked looking at all the stuff he owned. I liked the feeling knowing someone very special was in the church

Gr 5 Katya

Nazar Grade 6 Age: 11

Something I found interesting was seeing all the relics like the belongings of Blessed Vasyly.

I was shocked when Blessed Vasyly made rosaries in prison.

Maksym Gr 5



My feelings were about to explode. The church was so beautiful. I loved learning about Blessed Vasyly, and to see what he used a long time ago. I also liked when we went to the shrine. Everything was so holy and nice. I'm really thankful I had a privilege to go learn about Blessed Vasyly.

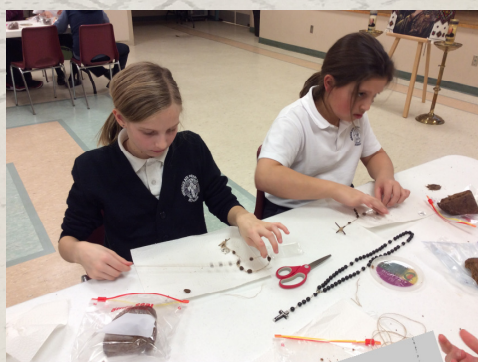
Julia - Gr 5

I loved my field trip to the church.

I felt so Religious when I was there.

And when I was holding the Rosary I felt so safe. I felt like that is my home, that is the only place I want to be.

"I really liked to learn about how St. V. made communion rosaries in prison." "It was amazing that we got to make rosaries out of bread." Emily - Gr. 5

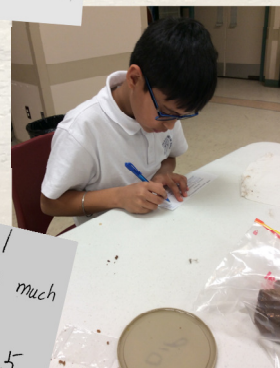


Jacob Grade: 6 Age: 11  
Something that "spoke" to me is that in prison he still celebrated Mass with the very little amount of supplies he had at the prison (specifically communion).



What a wonderful experience. I learn so much about Blessed Vasyly.

Dennis Gr 5





## Blessed Vasyl's Love for Children, the Poor, the Vulnerable and the Orphans

As we approach this time of Christmas/Epiphany, children often come into the spotlight. Seeing the Baby Jesus in the manger, reveals to us the vulnerability of children and the need to pay particular attention to them. Blessed Vasyl always had a heart for children, cared for them, catechized them and encountered them.

From an interview with Lybomyra Venhrynovich, she recalled that in 1928, when she was just a little girl, Blessed Vasyl came to her father's parish for a mission. Blessed Vasyl was then 25 years old. She remembers playing with him and that he pushed the swing on which she was swinging.

When Blessed Vasyl was pastor in Stanislaviv (1935-39), his heart went out to young women who had come from villages into the city and were often abused and became slaves for their "masters". He organized them and helped them to remain moral and free, giving them a good Christian upbringing.

In 1939, an eight month old child passed away near Stanislaviv according to Evdokia Sokol, the child's cousin. When Blessed Vasyl heard about it, he got on his bicycle and rode seven kilometers to the bereaving family to console them. They were grieving heavily, but Blessed Vasyl responded to them strongly saying that this baby was completely innocent and is now in heaven with the angels. This child did not need the ordinary funeral prayers for it was already in heaven. He thus consoled the grieving parents. As a young girl, Evdokia, remembered Blessed Vasyl's word of wisdom throughout her whole life.



Iryna Sokil

In 1944, Blessed Vasyl remained in Ternopil while the Soviet Front passed through. The city was filled with shelling and the dangers of war. From an interview with Iryna Sokil, we find this beautiful description: "I am an orphan. I have neither a mother nor father. My mother died when I was about three years old. He (Blessed Vasyl) was so good to the children. When I was fourteen, we were sitting in the basement during the shelling. It was wartime and shells were flying everywhere. He himself was sitting among us children. He looked after us and taught us. He was a man dedicated to the poor and to the orphans. He was a father. He even took his handkerchief and wiped my nose. There were other priests, but he took a special interest in me. He gave me peace of heart. He would say 'Irka, come with me' and we would walk together hand in hand throughout the city. I now understand that this time was a great grace for me. He took me into his life."

From an interrogation by the KGB with Anisia Hirnyak, we hear these words: "I was in charge of an orphanage in Ternopil. Fr. Velychkovsky knew about us. He would come to us and ask us to truly care for these children and give them formation. Personally, he assisted us by giving funds and groceries. I remember that several times he gave us money for food and at times he personally came to work with us and bring us food."

We see Blessed Vasyl's heart through these examples - how he loved children, orphans and young people who were in danger of becoming lost. Blessed Vasyl continues through his intercession to help children and young mothers. There are numerous accounts of graces and miracles involving children through Blessed Vasyl's intercession. May Blessed Vasyl lead us to have a heart for the poor, the needy and the desperate, during this time of Christmas and beyond.

During our trips to Ukraine, we have continued this work of Blessed Vasyl in aiding orphans and in particular, vulnerable girls at risk for human trafficking. Recently, we received a letter from one of them.

*"My name is Lylia. I am 14 years old. My sister Olena and I lived with my mother. I could not go to school for a while and I was very sad about that. I love my mother and I hope that everything goes well for her, but now she is in very difficult circumstances. As a result, my sister Olena and I were completely left alone, without family, without a home, without the help of adults. Then we met Sister Julia. We began to live together and shortly we learned that we have a large family of people whom we did not know, but who loved us and began to help us. This is you - you are our family living in Winnipeg in Canada. This is you - Mary Jane and Father John, and everyone who knows us!*

*I am in grade 8. I have a lot of friends at school and I like to spend time with them. I do not feel that I am worse than anybody else. Because of your help, I have good school clothes and shoes. I am now getting good grades in school.*

*I am taking computer courses and dream of becoming a computer programmer. We recently studied Photoshop and I really enjoyed it. Now we are studying how to create computer games. I also take private English, mathematics and Ukrainian classes. Private lessons have helped me to obtain good grades at school. I love to read about nature and learn new things.*

*In my spare time, I like crafts, creating greeting cards and covers for notebooks. My favourite subject in school is geography because it teaches me about the world. I dream of visiting tropical beaches where palm trees grow. I am very grateful that you all are helping me achieve my goal and my dream - to become a computer programmer."*



Lybomyra  
Venhrynovich



Lylia



## TWO EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS IN UKRAINE

**The Apartment/Museum in Lviv commemorated its 10th Anniversary** in October. Blessed Vasyl's apartment was renewed 10 years ago and is now a place of prayer and pilgrimage. The day was marked by a full day of prayer and presentations to various groups of pilgrims.



On November 14th, there was a **special presentation at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection in Kyiv**. After the Divine Liturgy, Bishop Bohdan Dzyurakh introduced the program about Blessed Vasyl. Sister Tadea led the program during which the seminarians from Kyiv gave a short performance about Blessed Vasyl's life. Blessed Vasyl's relatives Cornelius Petryshyn and Iryna Kolomeyets also spoke about their uncle. The event was concluded with holy anointing.



## VISITORS AT THE SHRINE



Santanielo family (Wpg)  
with parents from Columbia, South America



Fr. Emil Kardasinec anointing  
a parishioner from Nepawa,  
MB



University of North Dakota  
Students Religious Program



Prosvita Seniors, Wpg



## 15th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHRINE

On Friday evening, September 22, we celebrated our 15th Anniversary of the opening of the Shrine. The evening began with a Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving, during which we recalled the privilege it



has been to be part of the Shrine ministry for the past 15 years. We have witnessed many graces, blessings and even miracles throughout these years. At the conclusion

of the Liturgy, all were anointed with holy oil blessed with Blessed Vasyl's 1st Class Relics. The evening concluded with a warm social reception in our church auditorium, where the many volunteers were honoured. A slide show presented many various pilgrims that have come to the shrine and important events that happened these past 15 years. **We now have been honoured to be raised to the status of a National Shrine in Canada.**



## THANK YOU!!!

*Your generous donations make it possible for us to conduct our ministry at the Shrine and to promote the knowledge of Blessed Vasyl throughout the world. Thank you to all the contributors to the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine. May Blessed Vasyl bless each one of you.*

*Contributions listed below are from September 16th until November 30th, 2017*

### 10,000+

Estate of Fr. Peter Pidskalny, C.Ss.R.

### 5000+

Doreen Clark

### 1000+

Adeline Dudar

Robert Patrie & Christine Bobinski

Dominca Stupak

### 500+

Peter & Olga Zachary

In memory of Hlykeria, Wolodymyr,  
Olha, Stepha & Dionis Welyczkowski  
George Welleck

### 100+

Bohdan & Jayne Bury

Sofia Hull

Joan Korchinski

Bill & Lena Lapchuk

Carole Morissette

Sacred Heart Parish, Ituna Sk

Henry & Iris Spilchuk

Ss. Peter & Paul Senior Org. ,  
Saskatoon

Ukr. Cath. Brotherhood, Yorkton SK

Ukr. Cath. Mission, Yorkton, SK

Frances Winkler

### <100

Ewhen & Stephanie Brenycz

### Canadian Ukrainian Institute

Prosvita, WPG

Ron & Evelyn Cinch

Fr. S. Engelbrecht

Josie Ferniuk

Tom Houghton

Pauline O. Komarnicki

Bernard Lapchuk

Fred Odger

Richard & Marietta Persian

Kevin Prada

Mauela Rubio

Dmytro Sikora

Iris Smellie

Gabriel & Alisha Sweeney-Muller

Fr. Stephen & Maria

Wojcickowsky

### In Memory Of...

Wally & Sophie Beau

Elizabeth MacIsaac

Harry Bereza

Ms. Sophie Bereza

Genevieve Berezny

William Berezny

Myron Bielak

Violet Matwihyna

Regena Blocka

Nicholas & Regina Blocka

Alexander Boychuk

Olga Boychuk

Walter & Isabel Lukie

### Andrew Didenko

Margret Didenko

William & Carrie Drosdoski

Darlene Sidak

Yvonne Frank

Joseph & Susan Zeleny

Pearl Genik

St. Basil's Ukr.Cath. Women's  
League, Wpg

Metro & Anne Glute

Bob & Darlene Famulak

Sarah Katherine Hasiak

Peter Adams

Tanya Howard

William & Linda Kalbhen

Myron Hrankowski

Tetyana Pokeza

Neil Hrycak

Phil Hrycak

Deceased family members and  
friends

Oleh & Roksolana Ilhnyckyj

Amanda Johanson

Millie Lefko

Dan Kalenchuk

Tetyana Pokeza

Shirley Kalupar

Stan Kalupar

Mildred Kalyniuk

St. Basil's Ukr.Cath. Women's  
League

John & Barabara Karlicki

William J. Karlicki

Savyna Kisil

Leo & Oksana Baluta



**Fr. Josaphat Korchinski**

Joan Korchinski  
Greg & Mary Papinko

**Michael & Pauline Korol**

Elizabeth MacIsaac

**Jean Kowbel**

Cathy Kowbel

**Anna Labay**

St. Basil's Ukr.Cath. Women's  
League, Wpg

**John & Mary MacIsaac**

Elizabeth MacIsaac

**Fr. Paul Maluga, C.Ss.R.**

Anton & Pauline Dziaduck  
Roman & Anne Indzeoski

**Michael Matwychyna**

Violet Matwychyna

**Joyce & John Pasternak**

Jerry Pasternak

**Michael Peonozek**

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Mr. and Mrs. Tom Abrametz  
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Rick & Cynthia Bryant  
Fr. Peter Chorney  
Grace Chorney  
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Larry & Sandra German  
Rosemarie Glowa  
Lawrence & Nancy Harasymyuk  
William Herasymyuk  
Jo-Anne Heuser  
Deacon Victor & Mary Humniski  
Helen Jakimeczko  
Mary Jane Kalenchuk  
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Victoria Klimczak  
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Irvin & Marg Ortynsky  
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Sonya Pawliw  
Emile & Sylvia Picklyk  
Chris Pidwerbeski  
Julia Saganski  
Jean Schur  
Paul Shumay  
Phyllis Sianchuk  
Darlene Sidak  
Stan & Luba Sirdar  
Iris Smellie

Morris & Iris Smolinski  
Gerald Smysnuik  
Mary Sobkow  
Vladimir & Marlene Solman  
John & Leona Solomon  
Ernie & Marian Spilchuk  
Lorne & Elsie Stechyshyn  
Les & Natalie Storozyk  
Elfia Strilec  
Chris & Mary Winchar  
Peter Wyatt  
Orest & Elizabeth Zahayko  
Kay Zawortny

**Grace Prokop**

Steve Prokop

**Lorne Sakundiak**

Olga Sakundiak

**Lawrence Sapieha**

Stan & Luba Sirdar

**Sharon Bailey/ Mickey Scott**

Tom Bailey & Terri Scott

**Rev. Stanislav, Rev. Ihor & Antonina Shpytkovsky**

Wsevolod Andrew Shpytkovsky

**Olga & Joe Shutiak**

Elizabeth MacIsaac

**Frank Shymko**

Anne Shymko

**Marcia Sitko**

Wendell & Sheila Kolsun

**Sr. Theodosia**

Bob & Darlene Famulak

**Olga & Deacon Michael Woroby**

Irene Kalyniuk  
Stan & Luba Sirdar

**Sylvia Woroniak**

Stan & Luba Sirdar

**Walter Wowczuk**

Olga Homeniuk

**Jacob & Elizabeth Yakimchuk & family members**

Alexandra Fedoruk

**Zdan, Zalluski, Zuke & Ryzner Families**

Rick & Tara Ryzner

**Ted Zopp**

Violet Matwychyna

**In Honor Of...****Douglas Boczulak**

Carl & Nettie Folk

**Paul & Adeline Carbotte's 60<sup>th</sup>**

**Wedding Anniversary**  
Paul & Adeline Carbotte

**Marion & Ray Halushka**

Paul Shumay

**Fr. Bohdan Lukie**

Sophia Pisiak

**Fr. Len Ratushniak, C.Ss.R.**

Sophia Pisiak

**Bishop Michael Wiwchar, C.Ss.R.**

Bob and Darlene Famulak

**For the Health Of...****Rosalinda Almazan**

Joselito & Rosalinda Almazan

**Leo Baluta**

Leo & Oksana Baluta

**Marion, Alex Barszczyk**

Fr. Ivan and Mrs. Marion Barszczyk

**Raymond, Danial, Richard, Gerald & Meagan Carbotte**

Paul & Adeline Carbotte

**Nettie Chuckree**

Lawrence & Nettie Chuckree

**Veronica Domingo**

Veronica Domingo

**Flynn family**

Murray & Anne Flynn

**Fern Forrest**

Paul & Mary Anne Kralka

**Fern Forrest**

Eugene Forrest

**Bob & Diane, Emily & Claire Gingera**

Mary Kokolski

**Gulenchin Family**

Roy Gulenchin

**Ilnyckyj family & friends**

Oleh & Roksolana Ilnyckyj

**Sophia & John Kawaler**

John & Elsie Baryluk

**Richard Korban**

Bruce, Lori & Family Huchko  
Peter & Marlene Skrinski

**Pat Lendzyk**

Patricia Lendzyk

**Walter Lukie**

Gary & Jan Lukie

**Don Melnyk**

Iris Smellie

**Lyndon & Wanda Michalchuk**

Paul & Adeline Carbotte

**Darcy, Brent, Patrick & their Families**

Nestor Mykytyshyn

**Darlene Nelson**

Leslie & Darlene Nelson

**Fr. Peter Pidskalny**

Victor & Elsie Sorochuk

**Orest Pidwerbeski**

Orest Pidwerbeski

**Fr. Len Ratushniak**

Bob & Darlene Famulak  
Dianne Hood

**Werbeniuk Family**

Vera Werbeniuk

**Donna Wiwchar**

Theresa Antoniuk

**Ana Yakobowski**

Metro Lukie

**Joseph Zeleny**

Joseph & Susan Zeleny



## BISHOP VELYCHKOVSKY PILGRIMAGE TO UKRAINE

**A spiritual journey—  
following a martyr's life**  
July 8-29, 2018



We will walk in the footsteps of Blessed Vasyl—visiting the sites where he lived, worked and suffered.



### Pilgrimage includes:

Lviv, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kamianetz Podilsky, Kyiv, Zarvanytsia (participating in the weekend vidpust) and other points of interest such as the Carpathian Mountains, Kolomeya, villages & an orphanage



**Cost:** 4,500.00 CDN (includes airfare from Winnipeg, meals, accommodations and travel throughout Ukraine)

**Deadline for registration:** March 1, 2018  
(limited to 17 pilgrims)

### For more information & registration contact:

Mary Jane Kalenchuk or Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.  
Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine 250 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6  
Tel: 204-338-7321 email: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com)

## VELYCHKOVSKY PILGRIMAGE TO UKRAINE 2018

**July 8 to July 29, 2018** - The Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine is conducting a pilgrimage for 22 days to places in Ukraine where Blessed Martyr Vasyl lived, worked and suffered. Some of the places we will be visiting are: Lviv, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kovel, Kamianetz Podilsk, Kyiv, the Carpathian Mountains, Zarvanytsia, Pochaiv, etc. On this pilgrimage we will have prayer services and hear stories of Blessed Vasyl's life as well as sight-seeing throughout Ukraine.

Cost of the trip is \$4500 CDN which includes: flights from Winnipeg to Lviv/Kyiv to Winnipeg, travelling in air-conditioned bus throughout Ukraine, accommodations, meals and attractions. **Travel and medical insurance is not included.**

For more information contact by e-mail: [bvshrine@mymts.net](mailto:bvshrine@mymts.net) or phone 204-338-7321. Book as soon as possible as space is limited to 17 pilgrims. Deadline for reservations is March 1, 2017. Tour conducted by Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R. & Mary Jane Kalenchuk.



*The Shrine staff wishes all of our supporters, volunteers and families the Love, Peace, and Happiness that the true meaning of Christmas brings. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a peaceful and healthy 2018!*

National Shrine of Bishop and Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky  
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