



# FULLY ALIVE

## Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

### "You brought hope to the hopeless"

*Ikos 7 - Acathist Hymn in Honour of Blessed Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky*

Seeds that were planted in the spring have grown, flourished and matured into produce for harvesting. Faith is often referred to the idea of planting spiritual seeds that take hold and grow if nurtured regularly.

Blessed Vasyl's life is a wonderful example of deeply rooted seeds of faith. From an early age, he experienced the importance of being able to receive Jesus daily through Holy Communion. At the age of seven, at the request of his mother, Blessed Vasyl was consecrated in a special way to the Mother of God in his grandfather's church. This relationship and dedication to Mary would be a part of his daily life no matter where or when. Blessed Vasyl embraced each day in a way that would nurture and grow his faith. He unconditionally was a follower of Christ. He recognized the face of Christ in others, responding to those in need no matter the circumstance.

As a young Redemptorist priest, he was assigned as a missionary in the Volyn region of Ukraine. He served the people who moved there from Western Ukraine after World War I, scattered in various colonies. They were abandoned and in need of spiritual nourishment. He also ministered to the Orthodox, whose grandparents and great grandparents were once united to the Catholic Church and were forced into Orthodoxy.



Easter Celebration in Kovel, May 1932

Blessed Vasyl and other Redemptorists regularly visited villages and towns, going to areas where the need was the greatest. He already showed signs of being a great missionary, and was beloved by the people. Through his deep faith, conviction to Christ, dedication to the Mother of God and God's guidance, entire families, villages and towns were brought back to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Being a missionary, bringing the Word of God, giving messages of hope to those in great need was evident throughout Blessed Vasyl's life.



Altar of the Mother of God in Probizhnia, Blessed Vasyl's grandfather's church

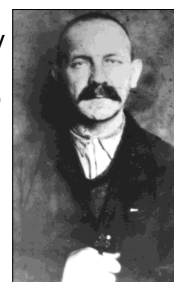
Imagine being arrested and sentenced to death by firing squad, for the crime of being faithful to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. There was Blessed Vasyl, sharing a cell with criminals who were on death row waiting to be called to be executed. In this cell, some immediately recognized him as a priest and respected him, giving him a spot by the window. During those three months while prisoners were being called name by name to go to their execution, Blessed Vasyl brought them hope, preaching, praying, hearing confessions and experiencing moments of conversion. Through the strength of his deeply rooted faith, Blessed Vasyl choose to continue to live out his priestly ministry in a place of great hopelessness.

The day Blessed Vasyl's name was called; he was ready to sacrifice his life for the sake of Christ. However, this was not to be the case. Instead, his sentence was changed to ten years of hard labour in the Soviet coal mines of the far north. There are firsthand accounts from fellow prisoners who shared the same barrack, and witnessed daily moments of how Blessed Vasyl was fully committed to accepting the will of God.

In the deep darkness of the coal mines, Blessed Vasyl, with the community of prisoners, would secretly celebrate the Divine Liturgy. The Liturgy was simple, no cantor or vestments, just a humble cross, a jar lid, and a broken spoon for vessels. Yet it was remembered as the holiest of Divine Liturgies that the prisoners every experienced.

*"The prisoners respected, honoured and loved Father Vasyl for his spiritual guidance."*

Myroslava Romash - fellow-prisoner



Blessed Vasyl  
1945-1955  
Imprisonment in  
the coal mines

*"Father Vasyl always prayed the rosary. In fact it was strange to me. It was a thing totally forbidden in our prison in Vorkuta. This rosary was made from black bread beaded onto a string. Whenever I came to him in the mineshaft, the rosary was always in his hands. He prayed all the time. He prayed as he walked. He prayed in the barracks. He prayed and encouraged others to pray. Whenever one had a conversation with him, he always insisted 'pray, pray', and this will help you and make it easier for you."*



Boris Mirus - fellow-prisoner



When Blessed Vasyl was released from prison in 1955, he returned to a different Ukraine. The Church was now officially illegal. He found that the faithful were scattered and afraid, for fear of being arrested if they publicly demonstrated their Catholic faith.

Blessed Vasyl immediately went to work. If he was able to bring the Holy Eucharist to prisoners, while being a prisoner himself, why could he not create ways to keep the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church alive. He began to organize the underground church. Organizing Liturgical services, retreats, inviting young people to join the seminary and convents that he helped establish. He ensured that there were items in place to administer the sacraments, to catechize the faithful. He ordained priests and even a Bishop. All of this was done secretly, but yet effectively, which enabled the underground church to flourish despite all the danger.

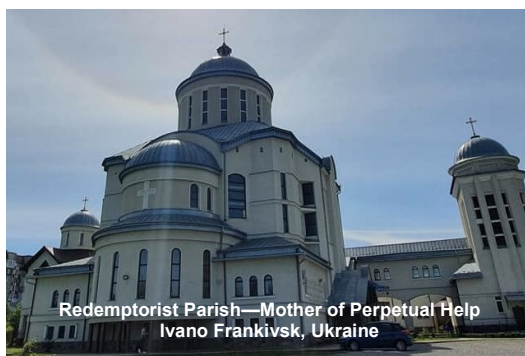
Blessed Bishop Vasyl is often referred to as the Father of the underground Church. The hope that he brought to the hopeless was very apparent when Ukraine became independent in 1991. The hopefulness of

nurturing the deeply rooted faith of the people was evident as thousands upon thousands gathered in the Churches freely.

Unfortunately, Blessed Bishop Vasyl did not witness this expression of religious freedom. However, he did believe and once shared with Boris Mirus in the coal mines that  
*"I will probably not live to see the day, but you will live to see the day when new churches will be built and our country of Ukraine will be free."*

What a conviction of faith knowing that all things are possible when you put your trust in God.

The example of Blessed Vasyl's life is not some far off parable. It is a witness in our times, that all are called to bring hope to the hopeless. Through daily prayer, spiritual nurturing and action of noticing and responding to those needs, no matter how small or great, you too can bring hope.



Redemptorist Parish—Mother of Perpetual Help  
Ivano Frankivsk, Ukraine



Bishop Bryan Bayda with newly ordained Deacon Ivan Dzhur

## BLESSED VASYL FEASTDAY JUNE 27, 2023

On June 27th, the Blessed Velychkovsky Feastday began with a great blessing, as all those gathered witnessed the ordination to the Diaconate of Sub-Deacon Ivan Dzhur, C.Ss.R.

After the morning Divine Liturgy and celebration, the Feastday continued with Liturgical services and commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Blessed Vasyl's death. To view a video of this commemoration visit the Bishop Velychkovsky YouTube Channel.

The day of prayer and reflection concluded with a living Rosary. Thank you to Bishop Bryan Bayda, C.Ss.R. and Bishop Andriy Rabi for their inspiring reflective homilies throughout the day.

Thank you to all those that helped make this memorable day, and thank you to those who participated in prayer throughout the day.



Bishop Andriy Rabi



Veneration of the Holy Relics of Blessed Vasyl & Anointing with the Holy Oil





# BLESSED VASYL MINISTRY IN UKRAINE



St. Nicholas Church  
Hamaliivka, obl. Lviv



Butyny, r. Chervonohrad, obl. Lviv



Oleh with Sr. Teresa, who as a young girl  
went to confession to Blessed Vasyl



Mission in Blessed Vasyl Museum/Apartment, in Lviv

The Shrine Staff  
in Ukraine  
continue to  
gather with the  
faithful in prayer  
and to share the  
story of  
Blessed Vasyl



Cathedral of Sts. Peter & Paul, Sokal, obl. Lviv

## VISITORS TO THE SHRINE



Fr. Laurier, Sr. Stephanie & Sr. Marie from SK



Fr. James del Rosario visiting from the Philippines  
presiding at Mass in the Shrine Chapel while  
livestreaming to his parishioners back home



Wendy Bredeman with her son  
Josiah Vasyl visiting from BC



Immaculate Conception Parish  
Cook's Creek, MB  
Grade 5 Catechism Student Payton Billekop  
learning about Blessed Vasyl

Over the Summer Shrine  
Staff & Volunteers  
met visitors from  
Canada  
USA  
India  
Philippines  
Europe  
Ukraine



Group from Toronto & Detroit

# THANK YOU!!!

*Your generous donations make it possible to conduct our ministry of the Shrine and to promote the knowledge of Blessed Vasyl throughout the world. Thank you to all the contributors to the Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine. Through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl may each of you be blessed. Contributions listed below are from May 27, 2023 until September 15, 2023*

## **\$5,000 +**

Estate of Lillian Sianchuk

## **\$500 +**

Louise Rodzen  
James Simmons

## **\$100 +**

Helen Byskal  
Catholic Women's League  
– St. Vital Parish  
Joe Coffey  
Dave Fedorowich  
Jean-Marc & Karol Guenette  
Knights of Columbus  
Fr. Shyshkovich Council #8925  
Karen Mayer  
Walter & Mary Melnyk  
Eugene Nakonechny  
Marge Ortynski  
Henry & Iris Spilchuk  
St. Joseph's U.C.W.L.C., Wpg.

## **<\$100**

Maria Barcelon  
John Bergbusch  
Chantal Bishop  
Michelle Blanchard  
Dan & Rose Boll  
Isidro De Guzman  
Marianne Derkach  
Maria Dvorski  
Patrick Gwozd  
Paul Hamel  
Mary Kohut  
Barbara Kutcher  
Very Rev. Michael Kwiatkowski  
Cycelia Lazarowich  
David Misbrener  
Ariadna Ochrymovych  
Richard & Marietta Persian  
Tetyana Pokeza  
Theodore Reznowski  
Manuela Rubio  
Jared Sarbit  
Mariya Savka  
Yaryna Shvetz  
Iris Smellie  
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic  
Men's Club, Wpg.  
William Vandervan  
Fr. Andrzej & Lidia Wasylanko  
Gregory Yakimischak

## **In Memory Of...**

### **Berezny & Sakundiak Families**

William Berezny  
**Family Members Berezny**  
William Berezny

## **Souls of the Deceased**

Nicholas & Hazel Borodey  
**Family & Friends Boychuk**  
Olga Boychuk  
**Ewhen Brenycz**  
Stephanie Brenycz  
**William & Ann Chanway**  
Alan & Gabrielle Chanway  
**Glenor Crepin-Elbourne**  
Alan & Gabrielle Chanway  
**Sophie Demjanew**  
Linda Kohut  
Yaroslawa Senyjk  
**William Domitruk**  
Sonia Domitruk  
**Draganiuk Family**  
**- Parents & Siblings**  
Josephine Draganiuk  
**Dubowits Fathers - Alex & Bill**  
Leslie & Caroline Dubowits  
**Joseph & Katherine Happpychuk**  
Bill & Olga Katerynuk  
**Reta Hrechka**  
Rick & Jeannette Kendall  
**N. Kotowycz**  
Harry & Marika Szkwarek  
**Jean Kowbel & Danny Kowbel**  
Cathy Kowbel  
**Carol Lazaruk**  
Clarence & Helena Demchuk  
**Kost & Anna Lazaruk**  
Clarence & Helena Demchuk  
**Anne & Joseph Leniuk**  
Allan & Joanne Malenko  
**Leschyshyn & Keyowski families**  
Leonard & Kasie Leschyshyn  
**Kevin Mandziuk**  
James & Elaine Mandziuk  
**Oksana Kotovych Manyuk**  
John & Martha Baluta  
Anna Banera  
**Eddie Mydyski & Families**  
Eugenia Mydyski  
**Helen & Jacob Nechwediuk**  
William J. Karlicki  
**Shirley Novalkowski**  
Ron & Sharon, Ava, Kara,  
Ryan Paziuk & Elizabeth Paziuk  
**Peter & Katherine Panko**  
Robert & Elisabet Panko  
**Andrei Parkasewych**  
Orysia Parkasewych  
**Nadia Pelechaty**  
Helen Jakimeczko  
**Veronica Rawlyk**  
Michael Rawlyk  
**John Romance**  
Marissa Lorenzo  
**Anne Romaniuk**  
Ken Romaniuk  
**May Ryczak**  
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

## **Lillian Sianchuk**

Sonia Domitruk  
Marian Moshansky  
**Mike & Mary Stychyshyn & Families**  
Eugenia Mydyski  
**Manolo & Elisea Tagarda**  
Marfe Prado  
**Victoria (Vicki) Tycholiz**  
Mark Lloyd &  
Janice Tycholis-Lloyd  
**Michael Uchach**  
Jean Uchach  
**Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky**  
Donna Krawchuk  
Marilyn Krawchuk  
**Mila Yambao**  
Valerie Stanowski  
**George Zawortny**  
Kay Zawortny  
**Claudia Zurba**  
Rick & Jeannette Kendall

## **In Honor Of...**

**Jerry Baluta & Olia Kandia**  
Anna Banera  
**Darlene Dahl**  
Rick & Cynthia Bryant  
**Dolores Daniels**  
Rick & Cynthia Bryant  
**Fr. Dmytro Dnistrian, C.Ss.R.**  
Marie Gwozd  
John and Mary Hykawy  
**Deacon Ivan Dzhur, C.Ss.R.**  
Deacon Stepan, Natalia &  
Irena Bilynsky  
**Fernandez & Thater Family**  
Celia Fernandez  
**Marie Gwozd**  
Teresa Kuzyk  
**Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren Herasymyuk**  
Lawrence & Nadia Herasymyuk  
**Bill & Olga Katerynuk**  
Bill & Olga Katerynuk  
**Spencer Katerynuk**  
Bill & Olga Katerynuk  
**Fr. Raymond Lukie, C.Ss.R.**  
Bruce & Cornelia Bobinski  
**Helen Marcischuk**  
Bill & Olga Katerynuk  
**Family Members Oandasan**  
Lolita Oandasan  
**Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.**  
Steve Prokop  
Helen Stockburn  
**Robert & Lydia Sliva Family**  
Robert & Lydia Sliva  
**Fr. Michael Smolinski, C.Ss.R.**  
Lucy Burich McNamara



**Fr. Frank Szadiak, C.Ss.R.**  
 Bruce & Cornelia Bobinski  
 Marie Gwozd  
 Katherine Leochko  
 Les & Natalie Storozuk  
 Brett Strutyński  
**Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky**  
 Lise Anglin  
 Fr. James Miara  
 Anne Pawelek  
**War victims in Ukraine**  
 Olga Pozniak

**For the Health Of...**  
**Agcaoili Family**  
 Hermalyn Agcaoili  
**Baby Lainey Andrusyshyn**  
 Valerie Stanowski  
**Margaret Antonyshen**  
 Jean Derhak  
**Don James Antosko Family**  
 Maureen Lawrence  
**Hazel, Janice, Toni,**  
**Gail & Nick Borodey**  
 Nicholas & Hazel Borodey  
**Roberta Braid**  
 Robert & Debbie Braid  
**Eugene Luke Brenycz**  
 Stephanie Brenycz  
**Helen Chubaty**  
 Valerie Stanowski  
**B. Demjanew**  
 Sophia Demjanew  
**Ivan, Halyna, Tetiana, Alexandra**  
 Ivan Deresh

**Dave Derksen Family**  
 David & Elaine Derksen  
**Francis & Aleisha-May Elbourne**  
 Alan & Gabrielle Chanway  
**Orest Eveneshen**  
 Orest & Evelyn Eveneshen  
**Roman, Oleksandra, Nadiia,**  
**Andrii, Yurii**  
 Nadiia Fedoriv  
**Haley & Hannah**  
 Helen Stockburn  
**Craig Jessap**  
 Sophia Demjanew  
**Jessap Family**  
 Sophia Demjanew  
**Olga Marie Katerynuk**  
 Bill & Olga Katerynuk  
**Spencer Katerynuk**  
 Bill & Olga Katerynuk  
**Bill Katerynuk**  
 Bill & Olga Katerynuk  
**Kokolski Family**  
 Mary Kokolski  
**Joseph Kozakewich**  
 Thomas Bailey  
**Br. Stephen Krysak, OSBM**  
 Deacon Stepan &  
 Natalia Bilynsky & Irena  
**Charles Lawrence**  
 Maureen Lawrence  
**Mark Lee**  
 Sophia Demjanew  
**Mickey & Emily Lucko**  
 Valerie Moskal  
**Metro Lukie**  
 Metro Lukie

**Marlene Mackalski**  
 Jacequeline Jackson  
**Beckki Maughan**  
 Douglas & Cona Maughan  
**Gerry McAdam**  
 Dirk Schmid  
**Maria Miniano**  
 Romeo & Maria Miniano  
**Mary Theresa Papinko**  
 Greg & Mary Papinko  
**Steve Prokop**  
 Iris Smellie  
**Mary & Brian Roberts**  
 Sophia Demjanew  
**Senyk Family**  
 Sophia Demjanew  
**Elmer Zador &**  
**Tammy Serelo**  
 Virginia Serelo  
**Helen Stockburn**  
 Iris Smellie  
**Suknacki Family**  
 Sophia Demjanew  
**Alicia Topor**  
 Helen Stockburn  
**Chris Topor**  
 Helen Stockburn  
**Tyrawski Family**  
 Rev. Protodeacon Stefan &  
 Maria Tyrawski  
**Blessed Vasyl's Family in Canada,**  
**Croatia, Ukraine & USA**  
 George & Christine Welleck  
**Anatolii Yarosh**  
 Nadiia Yarosh

*When planning your charitable donations  
 remember to include the*

### ***Blessed Vasyl National Martyr's Shrine***

*All gifts are used for the upkeep of the Shrine and  
 Museum, and for the ministry to promote the  
 knowledge of and devotion to Blessed Vasyl.*

*It is also a wonderful way to remember family and  
 friends by choosing to make your donation a  
 Tribute Gift in memory, in honour, or for the health  
 of someone special.*

*Donations can be mailed in, called in or made online  
 through the Shrine website.  
 Thank you*

### **The Blessed Vasyl National Martyr's Shrine can now accept gifts of public traded securities.**

Your gift of securities entitles you to **a donation receipt  
 for the full market value** of your contribution.

For more information contact the Shrine Office  
 at 204-338-7321 or email your request to  
 info@bvmartyrshrine.com

## **DEVOTION TO BLESSED VASYL IMPACTING LIVES**

In April this year, the Shrine office received a call from a person wanting to express her gratitude for the intercession of Blessed Vasyl.

Earlier in April her husband was having surgery, however he had an infection. His toes and finger tips were turning black and there was concern about the onset of gangrene.

She knew about Blessed Vasyl and had visited the Shrine years ago, and knew that she needed to come to pray. While at the Shrine, she purchased Holy Oil.

She went to the hospital and anointed her husband especially his finger tips, toes, forehead and areas on his skin where there was inflammation. The next day when she came to visit him in the ICU, she discovered that the fingers and toes had returned to their normal colour. The inflamed areas on his body were marked by a pen mark to monitor the size of the redness. These areas on his body became smaller and within a few days disappeared.

Today, he is at home still recuperating from his illness but doing well.

## ROSARY MINISTRY OF BLESSINGS

As a small child I knew God very deeply and was very close to him and really loved Jesus.. This was surprising to my parents as I did not attend church and had no instruction. But my love for Jesus has carried me through my life and was present even being so distant from the church all that time. I was growing up and through many hard life experiences, I became more distant from God, full of pain and not sure how to reconnect. It took a very serious illness for me to surrender and reach for Him again in a very profound way. Out of the darkness, I took a leap of faith to trust Him. He showed up in my life and heart in a big way and led me to the church and to practice and learn my faith.

It was during my recovery from a serious illness and surgery that I was inspired to begin making Rosaries and Rosary Bracelets. Through God healing me and inspiring me to go deeper in my faith, I felt that He showed me a way to help other people reconnect and appreciate the beauty of this world and our faith in the Rosary. I also began praying the Rosary more and feeling all the many graces and blessings of it in my heart and life. I believe it has blessed everyone in my life and to pray for family, friends and all people in need. God's graces and abundant mercy are endless and overwhelmingly present to me every day.

Devotion to Blessed Vasyl has also been a big part of my life. Earlier this year I began to faithfully participate in the weekly rosary service Praying for Ukraine. On February 24th, the Blessed Vasyl Shrine devoted the entire day to public prayer marking one year since the conflict in Ukraine escalated into a war. It was during this prayer time that the concept of creating a special Blessed Vasyl rosary was envisioned. After many months of prayer and discernment, the rosary was unveiled at the annual Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky Feastday in June.

*Chantal Bishop—Winnipeg, MB*

### ROSARY IN HONOUR OF Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky



Prayerfully created by Winnipeg Artisan Chantal Bishop. The Rosary contains wooden beads imported from the Czech Republic. A Blessed Vasyl Medal and his 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Relic is also incorporated into the design. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Relic is a piece of cloth that was touched to the Holy Body of Blessed Vasyl upon exhumation.

During the process of creating your rosary, Chantal will be offering prayers for your needs, through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl.

The rosary is \$70 (*plus tax*) and is available:

Online: [www.bvmartyrshrine.com](http://www.bvmartyrshrine.com)  
In person: 250 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, MB  
By phone: 204-338-7321

### Prayer to Blessed Martyr Bishop Vasyl

*O Lord God, You are praised by the whole world for the marvelous works in your saints. I thank you for the grace you gave to **Blessed Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky** to be a faithful witness to You unto the point of death. Through his intercession I ask for the following favour \_\_\_\_\_ for your Name is glorified forever. Amen.*

### Call in Prayer Requests

For a special intention or prayer request you may phone, email or submit them though our website. Your prayer request will be placed in the Shrine and remembered in prayer every Wednesday evening after the service in honour of Blessed Vasyl and during the morning Divine Liturgy in the Shrine.

### ONLINE MINISTRY

Pray before the Holy Relics

**The Rosary**

**The Blessed Vasyl Chaplet**

all are available at anytime on the  
Blessed Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine  
YouTube Channel.

**LIVE STREAMING** of the Devotional Liturgical  
Services are broadcast every  
Wednesday at 7 p.m. CDT on



facebook

### SHRINE SCHEDULE

**Monday:** Shrine is closed  
**Tuesday to Friday:** 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
**Saturday:** 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
**Sunday:** Shrine is open during Divine Liturgies.  
The Museum is open after the Divine Liturgies.

Group tours are available. To make a reservation  
call **204-338-7321** or e-mail: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com)

Website: [www.bvmartyrshrine.com](http://www.bvmartyrshrine.com)

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY:

**8 a.m.** Divine Liturgy in the Shrine  
**1:30 p.m.** Praying for Ukraine  
**7 p.m.** Liturgical Service to Blessed Vasyl  
(Acafist or Moleben)

**Blessed Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine**  
**250 Jefferson Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R2V 0M6**  
**Tel: 204-338-7321 Email: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com)**  
**Website: [www.bvmartyrshrine.com](http://www.bvmartyrshrine.com)**