



# FULLY ALIVE

## Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

### Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me

Imagine you are arrested under suspicion of practicing your faith, which is an illegal act in your country. You are questioned for several hours and then released. Upon leaving the police station, you know that you are being watched and followed to see if you continue to go against the Soviet rules of the day.

The life of Blessed Vasyl was one of being watched. When the Ukrainian Catholic Church was illegal in Ukraine, Blessed Vasyl chose to live by his faith rather than a life of fear.

One day, he was brought in for questioning and then released. He did not go home and keep a low profile; instead, he zigzagged through the streets of Lviv, trying to lose the trail of being followed. He managed to succeed and went on to do a retreat talk to some Sisters in their home.

Late that night, he secretly met three men from Lithuania to ordain them to the priesthood. Sister Muza, OSBM described the ordination to Father John Sianchuk when they met in 2004. She remembers it being done quietly and with candlelight so that the neighbours who were KGB agents would not hear or see.



*House and enclosed Altar area within the home where the ordination took place*

Each day throughout his life, Blessed Vasyl embraced his cross, choosing to follow Christ, even to the point of death. His unshakeable faith was rooted in constant prayer. He recognized Christ within those he encountered. He focused on ways to bring hope and salvation to those in need.

In our world today, Blessed Vasyl could be described as a forward thinker. He looked at ways to rebuild, especially the church community, rather than wallow and complain about the pain of the past.

Embracing your crosses does not mean a life of misery, rather it is one of hope. When you come to

know the life of Blessed Vasyl, you might say what a horrible, painful life, always having to look over your shoulder to see if it was safe to do the work that you wanted to do—cautiously interacting with others, fearing that they may be Soviet informants.

Although this was how Blessed Vasyl had to live, he was able to live each day, not concerned that it may be his last. Blessed Vasyl chose a life that was not self-centred but rather Christ-centered. He believed in the message of Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

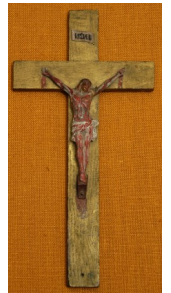
Jesus suffered and died a horrific death on the cross so that we could be saved and fully experience the power and hope of the Resurrection. All we do here on earth is a small act to prepare us for eternal life with our Heavenly Father.

In 1972, after three years of imprisonment filled with torture and chemical injections, Bishop Vasyl was released. The authorities arranged to send him immediately to visit his sister in Yugoslavia.

Before leaving Ukraine, he briefly met with Sister Anna and Sister Yustina in Kyiv.

He walked through the park with them so that KGB microphones would not pick up their conversation. He spoke about his unfinished book about the Mother of Perpetual Help and told them that he would return in a year, and together, they would complete it. Even after being physically broken, his spirit and desire to continue nurturing the faith of others was still his motivation.

Bishop Vasyl was exiled from Ukraine and stripped of all documents, which prevented him from returning to his beloved homeland. After spending time in Yugoslavia and Rome, he arrived in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, through the invitation and help of Metropolitan Maxim Hermaniuk, a Redemptorist confrere. During his final year of life, Bishop Vasyl remained determined to return to Ukraine to continue his minister, however God had a different plan.



*Sister Yustina, was one of the last to see Blessed Vasyl in Ukraine.*

Bishop Vasyl fell asleep in the Lord on June 30, 1973, and was quietly buried in All Saints Cemetery amongst other faithful.

Our knowledge of Bishop Vasyl would be changed in 2001 because of the announcement of his beatification. Twenty-nine years after he was buried, his grave was exhumed, and a holy life-changing moment occurred. God gave us a gift and a sign.

Through his beatification, Blessed Vasyl was glorified in heaven. The day of exhumation



became a great witness to his holiness when his intact body was discovered. It was a moment of great joy and radiance.

We are invited to ask Blessed Vasyl for his intercession to help us take up our cross and follow Christ. At this time of year, we are reminded that our faith takes us beyond the Cross to the joy and hope that comes from the Resurrection.

Christ is Risen—Indeed He is Risen  
Христос Воскрес—Воистину Воскрес

## MINISTRY IN UKRAINE

The War in Ukraine continues. Daily we hear of the missiles destroying buildings, apartments, schools, hospitals and people's lives. As Patriarch Sviatoslav now says, "We are wounded yet unbroken; tired yet resilient." Those wounds are seen in many places in the Ukrainian society. In speaking with Sister Natalia, she shared with us that during the nightly siren alarms and danger of immanent attack, she and the girls huddle in their washroom to save themselves from shrapnel and debris that could come through the windows. One night they could hear the drones carrying bombs over head. They quickly took shelter in the basement of their apartment. The drone kept circling their apartment. They were all very frightened, not knowing if the bombs would fall on them. This latter incident did traumatize some of the younger girls. That same night missiles fell near the orphanage where Sister is the director. The orphans felt the boom and experienced trauma and fear. This is the reality of war. It is ugly. Yet life goes on. The girls continue their studies preparing themselves for the future. They continue to be tutored. This is all possible because of your generosity.

We also heard from our Shrine staff in Lviv, who despite the dangers of war, continue their ministry in spreading devotion and knowledge of Blessed Vasyl. Blessed Vasyl brings people comfort and courage to bear all the suffering they must endure at this terrible time. Oleh and Tanya shared with us how some of their friends who are on the front lines have been wounded.

Some have lost their lives. Their friend is a medic on the front lines picking up and caring for the wounded. One day, their ambulance was shot at and was completely destroyed. Two of the wounded soldiers were killed. One survived.

These are the risks the ambulance drivers take to try and save lives.

There is great need for medical supplies: clotting devises for chest wounds, tourniquets, prosthetics for those who have lost limbs, etc. Doctors, who themselves have lost limbs, continue to serve in the war zone helping other wounded soldiers. They are asking for help.

If you are able to donate to the orphan relief or for medical supplies, *please make the cheques payable to "Ukrainian Catholic Mission" 250 Jefferson Ave. Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6.*

We thank you for your support.

Please pray for the people of Ukraine and for an end to this war. Blessed Vasyl intercede for us!



*Giving 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Relics to the Front Line*



*Medic Friend on the Front Lines*



*Donations will support the purchase of medical supplies like chest seals and prosthetics.*





# 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 National Martyr's Shrine. Through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl may each of you be blessed.*

*Contributions listed below are from December 1, 2023 until March 7, 2024*

## \$1,000 +

Anonymous

Donna Jo

Don & Karen Solman

**For the health of Fr. Frank Szadiak,**

**C.Ss.R.**

Vladimir and Marlene Solman

**In memory of Charlie Van De Keere**

Elizabeth Van De Keere

**For the health of Children &**

**Grandchildren**

Elizabeth Van De Keere

## \$500 +

**In memory of Kyba, Yurkiw & Bobinski Families**

Bruce & Cornelia Bobinski

Donna Korban

Bishop Emeritus Peter Stasiuk, C.Ss.R.

**In memory of Melnyk, Kornijtschuk &**

**Kramarczuk Families**

George & Anna Maria Stefaniuk

**In memory of Victoria (Vicki) Tycholis**

Edward Tycholis

## \$100+

Anonymous

Ione Dodie Abrametz

Vasilj & Eugenia Bartos

Nicholas & Hazel Borodey

William & Doris Boychuk

Norman & Sandra Dobson

Fr. Walter Dudych

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Barbara Gardner

Larry & Sandra German

David & Beverly Hudy

Gertrude Karapita

Janice Klemick

Knights of Columbus Father Hendrick

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Knights of Columbus St. Anne Council

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Joan Korchinski

Natasha Macsymach

Bernadette Mandrusiak

David Newberry

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

– Santa Fe NM

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Redemptorist Formation

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Henry & Iris Spilchuk

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Glenn & Valerie Wowryk

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Mariette Bayer

Carol Bereza-Asham

Michelle Blanchard

Diana Borys

Msgr. Bishop Noel Delaquis

Marianne Derkach

Jeffrey & Marietta Di Nella

Nicole Gauvin & Michel Bilodeau

Frank & Elaine Grzenda

Doreen Harrison

Raymond & Jane Honeybun

Ed Jelinski

Irene Kalyniuk

Mary Kohut

Katherine Leochko

Olga Livingston

Karen Mayer

Peter & Nadia Melnycky

Fr. James Miara

Fr. David Misbrener

Ariadna Ochrymovych

Myron Pawlowsky & Susan Boulter

Richard & Marietta Persian

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Marfe Prado

Joseph Prystupa

Theodore Reznowski

Bev Rolston

Julia Saganski

Peter & Mary Samorodny

Helen Schentag

Phyllis Shindak

Yaryna Shvetz

Iris Smellie

Ihor & Jo-Ann Szelemej

Princess Tagarda

William Vandervan

Pamela Winkler

William & Mary Zaporzan

## In Memory Of...

**Virgilio & Kenneth Abrenica**

Clarita Abrenica

**Rogelio Bafete**

Dorilyn Garduque

**Paraskevia & Wasyl Baluta**

John & Martha Baluta

**John Bereza**

Bill & Bernie Bereziuk

**Ewen Brenycz**

Stephanie Brenycz

**Helen Chubaty**

Leonard & Sylvia Baron

Don & Brenda Gulchak

**Judith Cross**

Dolores Daniels

## Jack Daniels

Dolores Daniels

**Harry Dasse**

Valerie Stanowski

**Sophie Demjanew**

Linda Kohut

**Michael & Natalia Diakiw**

Myroslawa Diakiw

**Jeroslawa Dobush**

Darrel & Monica Champagne

**William Domitruk**

Sonia Domitruk

**Fallen Soldiers of Israel & Ukraine**

Dorilyn Garduque

**Marcella Garner (Drosdoski)**

Gordon & Joan Lasko

Darlene Sidak

**Mary Glowa**

Lillian Skazyk

Kay Zawortny

**Cheryl Haughton**

Tom Haughton

**Tom Haughton Sr.**

Tom Haughton

**Vi Hnatiuk**

Adela Zatwarnitski

**John Holyk**

Rev. Fr. Kolin Berglund

**Mike, Alice & Sharon Hood**

Dianne Hood

**Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn**

Dolores Daniels

**Sofia Hull**

Orysia Hull

**Stella & Nick Jaman**

Nicolette Jaman

**Shirley Kalupar**

Stan Kalupar

**Ann Karlicki**

William J. Karlicki

**Michael Kiernicki**

Edward & Anne Faseruk

Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

Don & Brenda Gulchak

Rick & Jeannette Kendall

Olga Szutiak

**Gerald Kokolski**

Mary Kokolski

**Peter Kokolski**

Mary Kokolski

**Ron Komonko**

Marie Gwozd

**Lidia & Alexander Kotowycz**

John & Martha Baluta

Anna Banera

**Leonard Kozak**

Rose Kozak

**Harry Kozakewich**

Thomas Bailey

**Lorraine Kozakewich**

Thomas Bailey

**Adam & Julia Lega**

Les & Natalie Storozuk

**Bohdanna Leibycz**  
 Oleh & Roksolana Ilynyckyj  
**Leschyshyn & Keyowski Families**  
 Leonard & Kasie Leschyshyn  
**Walter Lukie**  
 Isabel Lukie  
**Peter & Maria Majowski**  
 J.W. Majowski  
**Elko & Olga Nakonechny**  
 Eugene Nakonechny  
**Andrei Parkasewych**  
 Orysia Parkasewych  
**Norris Pawlychka**  
 Don & Brenda Gulchak  
**Phyllis Prokopowich**  
 Elizabeth Paziuk  
**Stanislaw & Michalina Rudzki**  
 J.W. Majowski  
**Ignazio Scaletta**  
 Salvatora Scaletta  
**Fr. Mitrat Ihor Shpytkovsky**  
 John & Martha Baluta  
**Wsevolod Shpytkovsky**  
 John & Martha Baluta  
**Lillian Sianchuk**  
 Paul Shumay  
**Steve & Lillian Sianchuk**  
 Marian Moshansky  
 Phyllis Sianchuk  
**Stan Sirdar**  
 John & Yvonne Sirdar  
 Luba Sirdar  
**Samuel & Julie Storozuk**  
 Les & Natalie Storozuk  
**Norman Szun**  
 Helen Jakimeczko & Joe Krowiak  
**Terlecky & Masny Families**  
 Slofko & Martha Terlecky  
**Victoria (Vicki) Tycholis**  
 Edward Tycholis  
 Mark Lloyd & Janice Tycholis-Lloyd  
**John Warrenchuk**  
 Ernie & Diane Mee  
**Paul & Lyna Yakimischak**  
 Gregory Yakimischak

**John Zatwarnitski**  
 Adela Zatwarnitski  
**Zdan, Zalluski, Zuke & Ryzner Families**  
 Rick & Tara Ryzner

**In Honour Of...**  
**Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky**  
 (in thanksgiving)  
 Deacon Stepan & Natalia. Bilynskyy &  
 Irena  
 Angelica Guina  
**Fr. Ivan Dzhur, C.Ss.R.**  
 Joan Korchinski  
**Fr. Bohdan Lukie, C.Ss.R.**  
 Ernest & Leona Shewchuk  
**His Beatitude Sviataslav Shevchuk**  
 Luba Sirdar  
**Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate**  
 John Wilczynski & Beatrice Papiz

**Health Of...**  
**Adele**  
 Lawrence & Nettie Chuckree  
**Clarita Abrenica**  
 Clarita Abrenica  
**Margaret & Quinton Antonyshen**  
 Jean Derhak  
**Baryluk Family**  
 John & Elsie Baryluk  
**Dave Beeusaert**  
 Larry & Evelyn Tycholis  
**Maria Belen**  
 Romeo & Maria Miniano  
**William Berezny**  
 William Berezny  
**Eugene & Sylvia Bodnar**  
 Gene & Sylvia Bodnar  
**Brenycz Children, Grandchildren  
 & Families**  
 Stephanie Brenycz  
**Randy Crerar**  
 Robert & Debbie Braid  
**Halyna, Ivan, Oleksandra, Tetiana**  
 Ivan Deresh

**Trevor Derksen**  
 David & Elaine Derksen  
**Ed & Anne Faseruk**  
 Paul & Wendy Kuzina  
**Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk**  
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**Donna Gareau**  
 Valerie Moskal  
**Curtis, Christine & Emily Gazdewich**  
 Emily Gazdewich  
**Spencer Katerynuk**  
 Bill & Olga Katerynuk  
**Maria Kchik**  
 Wlodzimierz & Marta Sawka  
**Romeo & Rosie Lo**  
 Anna Marie Verdejo  
**Bernie & Delia Matsalla Family,  
 Children & Grandchildren**  
 Bernie & Delia Matsalla  
**Gerry McAdam**  
 Dirk Schmid  
**Family Miniano**  
 Romeo & Maria Miniano  
**Virgina, Brian & Charles Moore**  
 Phyllis Shindak  
**Marian Moshansky**  
 Dennis & Steffie Wawrykow  
**Cres & Riley Rozdeba**  
 Emily Gazdewich  
**Cheryl Sakundiak**  
 Olga Sakundiak  
**Laurie Sakundiak**  
 Olga Sakundiak  
**Olga Sakundiak**  
 Sakundiak  
**Richard Sarada**  
 Lena Sarada  
**Phyllis Sianchuk**  
 Dennis & Steffie Wawrykow  
**Sveta, Vita, Vitaley, Nastya, Bogdan**  
 Yaroslava Kitasz  
**Vicky Syganiec**  
 Karen Moroz  
**Alicia Topor**  
 Helen Stockburn

*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  
 throughout the world.*

*It can also be 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*

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

Visitors to the Blessed Vasyl Shrine can leave prayer requests in the Chapel. In addition, prayer requests are called in or emailed to the Shrine Office and in turn the Staff places the intentions in the Shrine Chapel. Recently, we received the following email from someone who sent in a prayer request.

*Thank you to all who work and take prayer requests at the Blessed Vasyl Shrine. Some time ago I put in a request for two of my Ukrainian friends, who moved to Calgary and needed to find jobs. They both have jobs now in the areas they wanted. Give glory to God and Blessed Vasyl for prayers answered.*



## Visitors to the Shrine



Christ the King Catholic Church (Winnipeg, MB)  
1st Communion Class



Madonna House Apostolate - Catherine Lesage, & Fr. Zachary Romanowsky (Combermere, ON), Charlie Cavanaugh (Regina, SK), Fr. Michael Winn (Winnipeg, MB)



Darlene Madarash, Tom & Jolie Abrametz  
(Yorkton, SK)



Christ our Saviour Catholic Church (Steinbach, MB)  
Confirmation Class, Teachers & Parents



St. Boniface Diocesan High School Campus Ministry Team (Winnipeg, MB)

## Day of Prayer for Ukraine February 24



On Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, the faithful gathered at St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Blessed Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine for a day of community prayer and personal reflection focused on praying for peace in Ukraine.

*"O Blessed Vasyl, you lived through the danger of war,  
protect your people from all enemies.  
Blessed Bishop and Martyr Vasyl, pray to God for us."*

## 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.*

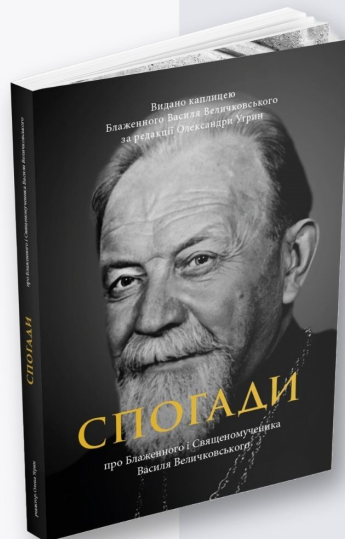
Please inform the Shrine of any favors received.

### NEW!

Available through  
the Shrine Gift Shop

### Чим запам'ятався Блаженний Василь Величковський тим, хто був знайомий з ним особисто?

Його свята душа, глибокий розум і безмежне милосердя залишили незабутні сліди в серцях та думках його знайомих та близьких. Ця книга – це свідчення про його життя, віру та вплив, який він залишив на всіх, кого торкнувся своєю благодаттю.



## 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 Services are broadcast every  
Wednesday - 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

The Shrine is open after weekend Liturgies.  
Group tours are available,  
to make arrangements contact the Shrine Office

**Join us EVERY WEDNESDAY at 7:00 pm**  
**For a Devotional Service in Honour of**  
**Blessed Vasyl**  
**(Acathist or Moleben)**

For more information: **204-338-7321**  
e-mail: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com)

## SAVE THE DATE! June 27, 2024

### Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky Feastday



Pilgrimage Rosary  
Walk 2023

Start planning your pilgrimage today  
to be a part of this annual event.

Services will begin in the evening of  
June 26<sup>th</sup> and continue throughout  
the day and evening on June 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Details to be in the next Shrine  
Newsletter.

If you are out of town and would like  
help to plan your pilgrimage trip,  
please contact the office.

## Call in Prayer Requests

If you have a special intention or  
prayer request and would like it placed in the Shrine  
you can call the office, email or submit it through the  
website. Every Wednesday during the morning Divine  
Liturgy in the Shrine Chapel and at the evening  
devotional service in honour of Blessed Vasyl, these  
intentions are remembered in prayer.

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