



FULLY ALIVE

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

PILGRIMS OF HOPE



The year 2025 has been declared as a Jubilee year. Pope Francis has invited us to be *Pilgrims of Hope*, seeking opportunities to enter more deeply into an encounter with the Lord Jesus. These holy moments can be through prayer, reconciliation and partaking of the Holy Eucharist. In addition, the faithful are invited to also discern and respond to the Signs of our Times (*Jubilee 2025-Theme 4*).

Throughout his life, Blessed Vasyl lived as a Pilgrim of Hope to others. He spoke regularly about the importance of forgiveness and keeping hope alive through faith, trusting in God and dedication to the Mother of God. May the example of Blessed Vasyl inspire us to seek hope in our lives and to bring that hope to others.

As previously shared, Father John Sianchuk has spent over twenty years researching Blessed Vasyl's story. Through his work, the Shrine has been blessed with receiving many artifacts and first hand accounts and experiences about Blessed Vasyl.

The following is an excerpt of an interview from 2005 with Bishop Michael Sabryha, C.Ss.R. in Ukraine. Bishop Michael was born in 1940. In the early 1960's he was interested in joining the Redemptorists. He met with Blessed Vasyl in his apartment to learn more about his Catholic faith and the Redemptorists. Bishop Michael was ordained a Redemptorist priest in 1974 and as a Bishop in 1986. He fell asleep in the Lord in 2006. Here are Bishop Michael's words...



Bishop Michael Sabryha

"Bishop Velychkovsky was very courageous. He led the underground Church heroically and had complete trust in God.

Some people lost their hope and courage. They had doubts in their souls, but with convincing arguments, Bishop Vasyl was able to take these people from this disposition and to encourage them. Those who had doubts, took to heart his words and courageously went forward. Bishop Velychkovsky said: "God is with us. The Greek Catholic Church cannot be defeated, because it is build on the Rock. We have nothing to fear. It is a privilege to suffer for God, for our nation and for our Church. It will not always be like this. We have a chance to gain grace and to witness to Christ in these difficult times."

During the time of the underground, Bishop Velychkovsky received back into the Greek-Catholic Church, those priests who had signed to join orthodoxy. There were many of them who came to him on their knees. He gave them absolution and accepted them back.

The priests trusted him. The priests believed in him.

They knew that he was steadfast, true, followed the right path and was ready to give his life for the truth.

Bishop Velychovsky's mission sermons and teachings had an extraordinary influence on the people, who were fascinated by him. When he preached he often shed tears. In today's day, if someone casually looked at him, they might think to themselves that he was a simpleton. Someone who does not know how to talk and is incapable of saying anything extraordinary. Bishop Velychkovsky did not speak of lofty topics. He simply said: "Love the Mother of God!"



The KGB tried by all means to destroy the Church. They did not want any revival of the church, but this was beyond their power. They did not foresee that there would be anyone like Velychkovsky, who was able to unite the priests. Thanks to him our Church exists. Bishop Vasyl gave the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church a second wind and also hope for the future."— *Bishop Michael Sabryha*,

When the Redemptorists moved out of Blessed Vasyl's apartment, Bishop Michael stored items for safe keeping. This image of the Sacred heart of Jesus was above Blessed Vasyl's altar. The flowers are a light. Blessed Vasyl used it as the Eternal Light. This was a discreet way to indicate that the Holy Eucharist was present. Bishop Michael returned items to the apartment to help create today's Museum in Lviv.



In 1955, Blessed Vasyl was released after ten years of imprisonment working in the coal mines. He returned to Lviv living in an apartment with Brother Irene. He immediately began his work of bringing hope to the people because our Church was now illegal. This was the beginning of the underground Church, which he encouraged and led as priest and then Bishop, until 1969 when he was again arrested and imprisoned. The underground Church continued until 1989, when it was declared legal. Our Church was resurrected and full.

Pilgrimages to the Shrine

Father & Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

On March 3rd the Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine was blessed to have His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk visit and pray before the Holy Relics of Blessed Vasyl. Prayers were especially offered for peace in Ukraine.



Photo (l to r) Fr. Yevhen Zadorozhnyi, C.Ss.R, Fr. John Sianchuk, C.SsR, His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Bishop Andriy Raby, Fr. Ivan Dzhur, C.Ss.R., Fr. Oleh Oleksa, Secretary to His Beatitude

The Martyr's of Canada Meet during this Jubilee Year

In January, the Holy Relics of the Canadian Martyrs St. Jean de Brébeuf, St. Charles Garnier and St. Gabriel Lalemant, along with the Holy Relics of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first indigenous North American Saint, visited the Shrine of Bishop and Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky. It was wonderful to see the earthly remains together in the same room, knowing that they are joined together in the Kingdom of God.

A little heaven on earth.

Thank you to Fr. Edmund Lo, SJ, Julie Kautz and Theresa Anderson for praying with our community.

"Let us turn to our Canadian Saints and Blessed Vasyl for their intercession to grant us the graces we need to imitate their lives.

May we embrace humility, love and a missionary spirit to care for those in need."



St. Basil's Ukrainian Catholic Parish—Winnipeg & All Saints of Ukraine Parish—Morden,

Sister Theresa Matwe SSMI Councilor from Rome



St. John Cantius Catholic Parish



(l to r) Mark Desjardins (Manitoba State Secretary), Claudia Desjardins, Marian Gunasekera, Indrajith Gunasekera (Manitoba State Advocate), Fr. Peter Li (Manitoba State Chaplain), Sam Rainey (Knight of Columbus Field Agent), Wendy Rainey, Beatrice Narine, Nae Narine (Manitoba State Faith Director)

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 November 23, 2024 until March 10, 2025

\$5,000 +

Anonymous

In memory of Marlene Solman

Don & Karen Solman
Patricia Solman
Vladimir Solman

\$1,000 +

In memory of Metropolitan Maxim

Hermaniuk, C.Ss.R.

Anonymous

Health of Michael Borowec

Anonymous

In honour of Fr. Ivan Dzhur, C.Ss.R.

Marcel Chartier

In honour of Father Yevhen

Zadorozhnyi, C.Ss.R.
Sandra Kolter

Nick Dmytryshyn

Dorilyn Garduque

Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe

In memory of Victoria (Vicki) Tycholis

Edward Tycholis

\$500 +

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church (Russell, MB)

Donna Korban

Joan Korchinski

Adrian & Vera Olenick

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In memory of Lillian & Steve Sianchuk

Phyllis Sianchuk

Henry & Iris Spilchuk

Nadia & Olexa Melnyk, Myron

Kramarczuk, Kornijtschuk Family

George & Anna Maria Stefaniuk

Fr. Michael & Dolores Tkachuk

Most Rev. Bishop

Michael Wiwchar, C.Ss.R.

\$100 +

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Redemptorists of Canada

Phyllis Shindak

Most Rev. Bishop

Michael Smolinski, C.Ss.R.

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St. Basil the Great Catholic Church

(Winnipeg, MB)

Les & Natalie Storozuk

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Helen Stockburn

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Jeroslawa Dobush

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Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

Marie Gwozd

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Lillian Skazyk

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Helen Stockburn

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Olga Szutiak

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Christina Sikorsky & Thomas Steur
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Bertha Stoyko
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Siobhan Van de Keere
Darlene Sidak

Elizabeth Veert
Marian Moshansky

Volodymyr & Tetiana
Pani Iryna

John Warrenchuk
Ernie & Diane Mee
Kathleen Warrenchuk

Tom, Nellie & Audrey
Evelyn Thorkelson

Olga Wiebe
Elizabeth Paziuk

Marie Wilson
Clarence & Helena Demchuk

Helen Zacharkiw
Edward Tycholis

In Honor Of...

Ed & Anne Faseruk
Paul & Wendy Kuzina

Dr. Mary Pankiw
Andrew Pankiw

Anna Pollock
Marie Gwozd

Bishop Andriy Rabiw
Marilyn Krochak

Sisters of St. Joseph
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Ellie Maria Stokotely
Mary Kokolski

Fr. Frank Szadiak, C.Ss.R.
Bob & Darlene Famulak

Elise Tin
Mary Valko

Rev. Stefan Tyrawski
Allen & Mary Marcinkow
Marian Moshansky
Lesia Sianchuk
Phyllis Sianchuk

Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky
Dorilyn Garduque
Rev. Stefan & Maria Tyrawski
Mary Valko

Bishop Michael Wivchar, C.Ss.R.
Bob & Darlene Famulak

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Jean Derhak

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Phyllis Shindak

Bereza Family
William Berezny

Pauline Boyko
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

Cruickshank Family
Phyllis Shindak

Dependore Family
Phyllis Shindak

Bob Famulak
Bob & Darlene Famulak

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Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

Albert Galay
Bert & Val Galay

Curtis, Christine & Emily Gazdewich
Emily Gazdewich

Gwozd/Boitson Children & Grandchildren
Marie Gwozd

George R. Harrison
Doreen Harrison

John & Mary Hykawy
Kathleen Warrenchuk

Spencer Katerynuk
Olga Katerynuk

Spencer & Olga Katerynuk
Olga Katerynuk

Svitlana, Viktoriia, Vitaliy, Nastya, Bohdan
Yaroslava Kitasz

Josie Lemke
Dorothy Labay

Patricia Lustle
Dirk Schmid

Cres & Riley Rozdeba
Emily Gazdewich

Sylvia
Annette Rudyk

Saganski Family
Julia Saganski

Sheardown Family
Phyllis Shindak

Shindak Family
Phyllis Shindak

Sidak Children & Grandchildren
Darlene Sidak

Valerie, Peter, Marlene & Kyle Skriniski
Peter & Marlene Skriniski

Victor Sorochuk
Joseph & Elizabeth Senderewich

Bishop Peter Stasiuk, C.Ss.R.
Lorne & Elsie Stechyshyn

Stattin Family
Phyllis Shindak

Martha Terlecky
Slofko & Martha Terlecky

Family and Friends
Larry & Evelyn Tycholis

Jean Uchach
Jean Uchach

DEVOTION TO BLESSED VASYL IMPACTING LIVES TODAY

My uncle is undergoing radiation for cancer, and his nurse told him she's never seen a tumor shrink so quickly.

*They are amazed at how fast his treatment is working. That's how Blessed Vasyl has helped my family-we still have to go through the hard part, but we will come out ok in the end. Kind of like Blessed Vasyl himself.
(grateful for his many blessings - Jess)*

An update was recently received.
The doctor thought the my uncle might still need surgery to remove the remaining parts of the tumor, but today we learned that his tumor is gone. No surgery needed! Thank you, Blessed Vasyl!

MINISTRY IN UKRAINE

ORPHAN MINISTRY

The war in Ukraine has once again recently made it into the mainstream news. However, the war is a daily reality for those in Ukraine. Because of its length, over three years, there are deep scares that are penetrating the people, especially the young and the children. Recently, speaking with Sister Natalia, it was obvious the heaviness and the toll that the war is taking upon her, her girls and the orphan children. During the nightly war siren raids, she allows the children to sleep, because this is such a common occurrence. Instead, she stays awake and if the missiles are approaching close to their area, then she wakes the girls up and takes them to shelter. The psychological toll is great. Visible everywhere, there is the constant stream of wounded soldiers returning from the front line. War is terrible. Yet Sister keeps her spirits up through prayer, daily Divine Liturgy and giving of herself totally for the good of her girls and the orphans for whom she is responsible. Just recently, European countries have now begun sending orphans back to Ukraine, whom they had accepted at the beginning of the war. 350 have returned so far. They all pass through Sister's care. Sister has asked that we all pray for this war to end and for the healing of all the trauma it has caused. Your support is greatly appreciated and needed. It educates the girls, gives them counseling and provides them some "normality". Your donation can be made payable to "Ukrainian Catholic Mission". Please indicate in the memo "orphan fund". Thank you and God bless you for your support.



Orphans on an outing

Day of Prayer for Ukraine February 24



On Monday, February 24th 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."



Bishop Ivan Kulyk from the Cathedral of the Nativity of the most Holy Theotokos in Khmelnytsky, Ukraine during a presentation on Blessed Vasyl.



Museum Pilgrims from the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy and Life-giving Cross - Lviv



As part of the Jubilee Year
the
**Bishop Velychkovsky
National Martyr's Shrine**
invites you to the
Healing Divine Liturgy
1st Wednesday of
every month at 7:00 p.m.

*Confession available beginning at 6:30 p.m.
The Liturgy will include special prayers
and
Anointing with Holy Oil blessed by the
Holy Relics of Blessed Vasyl.*

Bishop Velychkovsky National
Martyr's Shrine at
St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church



SAVE THE DATE!
June 27, 2025

**Blessed Vasyl
Velychkovsky Feastday**
Pilgrims of Hope

Services will begin in the evening of June 26th with a Pilgrimage Rosary Walk. The Feastday on June 27th will have services and opportunities for Confession and Anointing throughout the day and evening. Details to be in the next Fully Alive Shrine Newsletter.

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

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 favours/graces received.



As we approach the end of our Lenten Journey and prepare to celebrate that Christ is Risen, we pray through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl that your Easter be blessed with peace and great joy.

May you also be filled with a renewed spirit of hope especially during this Jubilee year.

Christ is Risen—Glorify Him
Христос Воскрес—Воистину Воскрес!

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
(Acatlist or Moleben)**

For more information: 204-338-7321
e-mail: info@bvmartyrshrine.com

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



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