

Displeased at the Greek dishonesty, Prince Volodymyr collected his forces and moved "against Korsun, the Greek city" it fell, and it was a vital important hub of the economic and mercantile links of the empire. Volodymyr had the upper hand. His emissaries sought after the imperial daughter. Eight days passed in Anna's preparation, during which time her brothers consoled her, stressing the significance of the opportunity before her: to enlighten the Rus' realm and its lands, and to make them forever friends of the Byzantine realm. St Volodymyr to his titles there was added a new one -- Caesar (tsar', emperor).

With the empress Anna, metropolitan Michael came with his retinue and clergy, and many holy relics and other holy things. In ancient Chersonesus, the marriage-crowning of St Volodymyr and Blessed Anna took place. In the Spring of 988 the greatprince returned to Kiyv with his spouse. Leading the greatprincely cortege with frequent moliebens and priestly singing, they carried crosses, icons and holy relics.

Then occurred the Baptism of the Kiyvans in the waters of the River Dnipro. On the evening before, St Volodymyr declared throughout the city: "If anyone on the morrow goeth not into the river -- be they rich or poor, beggar or slave -- that one be mine enemy". The wish of the holy prince was fulfilled: "all our land all at the same time glorified Christ with the Father and the Holy Spirit". "Then did the darkness of the idols begin to lift from us, and the dawn of Orthodoxy appear, and the Sun of the Gospel didst illumine our land".

Everywhere throughout Holy Rus', from the ancient cities to the far outposts, St Volodymyr gave orders to tumble down the pagan sanctuaries, to flog the idols, and in their place build churches. It was the custom from the early centuries of Christianity to raise up churches on the ruins of pagan sanctuaries. And so St Volodymyr built the church of St Basil the Great upon an hill, where a sanctuary of Perun had been located. On May 11, 960, the church of Sophia -- the Wisdom of God was consecrated at Kiyv. St Volodymyr donated a tithe or tenth on the Church; it was then called the Desyatinnaya (Tithe) church.

During the time of St Volodymyr "throughout all the cities and villages, churches and monasteries were set up, and the clergy increased, and the Orthodox Faith did blossom forth and shine like the sun". To advance the faith amongst the newly enlightened people, learned people and schools were needed for their preparation. St Volodymyr therefore "commanded fathers and mothers to take their young children and send them to schools to learn reading and writing".

Amid Christian preaching were also the feasting of St Volodymyr: after Liturgy on Sundays and Church Great-Feasts abundant feasting tables were put out for the Kiyvans and goods were distributed to many of the poor, destitute, and wanderers. He delivered bread, meat, fish, and cheese, to the sick and the needy desiring that "all might come and eat, glorifying God".

In 1011, he buried his spouse and companion, the Blessed Empress Anna.

St Volodymyr did not take revenge on those that "opposed and hated" him.

In the preparations for his final campaign against his enemies, he fell grievously ill and gave up his spirit to the Lord, on 15 July 1015. He had ruled the Rus' realm for thirty-seven years (978-1015).

The first venerating of the holy prince began with the Metropolitan of Kiev St Ilarion (+ 1053), in his "Word on Law and Grace", spoken on the day of memory of St Volodymyr at the saint's crypt in the Desyatinnaya church. He called him "an apostolic sovereign", "like" St Constantine, and he compares his apostolic evangelization of the Rus' Land to that of the evangelization by the holy Apostles.

St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church

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Sunday July 28, 2024

5th Sunday after Pentecost / Saint Volodymyr



Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Volodymyr: the Baptiser of Rus' was the grandson of holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Olga, and he was the son of Svyatoslav. His mother, Malusha became a Christian (together with GreatPrincess Olga at Tsar'grad), but she preserved in herself a bit of the mysterious darkness of the pagan Drevlyani forests. She fell in love with the austere warrior Svyatoslav, who against the will of his mother Olga made her his wife. The enraged Olga, sent Malusha away to her own native region. And there the boy, called with the pagan name -- Volodymyr, meaning peaceful ruler, was born in 960.

In 970 Svyatoslav set out on a campaign from which he was fated not to return. He had divided the Rus' Land amongst his three sons. At Kiyv Yaropolk was prince; at Ovrucha, the center of the Drevlyani lands, was Oleg; at Novgorod was Volodymyr. His first years as prince we see Volodymyr as a fierce pagan. He heads a campaign, in which the whole of pagan Rus' is sympathetic to him, against Yaropolk the Christian, and on 11 July 978 he enters into Kiyv, having become the "sole ruler" of the Kiyv realm, "having subdued the surrounding lands, some -- by peaceful means, and the unsubmissive ones -- by the sword".

Young Volodymyr indulged himself in a wild sensuous life. He "shepherded his land with truth, valor and reason", as a good and diligent master he extended and defended its boundaries by force of arms, and in returning from military campaign, he made liberal and merry feasting for his companions and for all Kiyv.

But the Lord prepared him for another task. The acceptance of Baptism was facilitated through external circumstances. The Byzantine empire was in upheaval under the blows of mutinous regiments which sought to gain the imperial throne. In these difficult circumstances the Byzantine emperors turned for help to Volodymyr.

In August 987 Bardas Phokas proclaimed himself emperor and moved against Constantinople, while in Autumn of that year the emissaries of emperor Basil were in Kiyv. "And having exhausted his wealth, it compelled emperor Basil to enter into an alliance with the emperor of Rus'. He was his enemy, but he sought his help, and the emperor of the Rus' consented to this.

In reward for his military help, Volodymyr sought the hand of the emperors' sister Anna, which for the Byzantines was an unheard-of audacity. Princesses of the imperial lineage did not go off to marry "barbarian" rulers, even if they were Christian, but this time the emperor was obliged to consent.

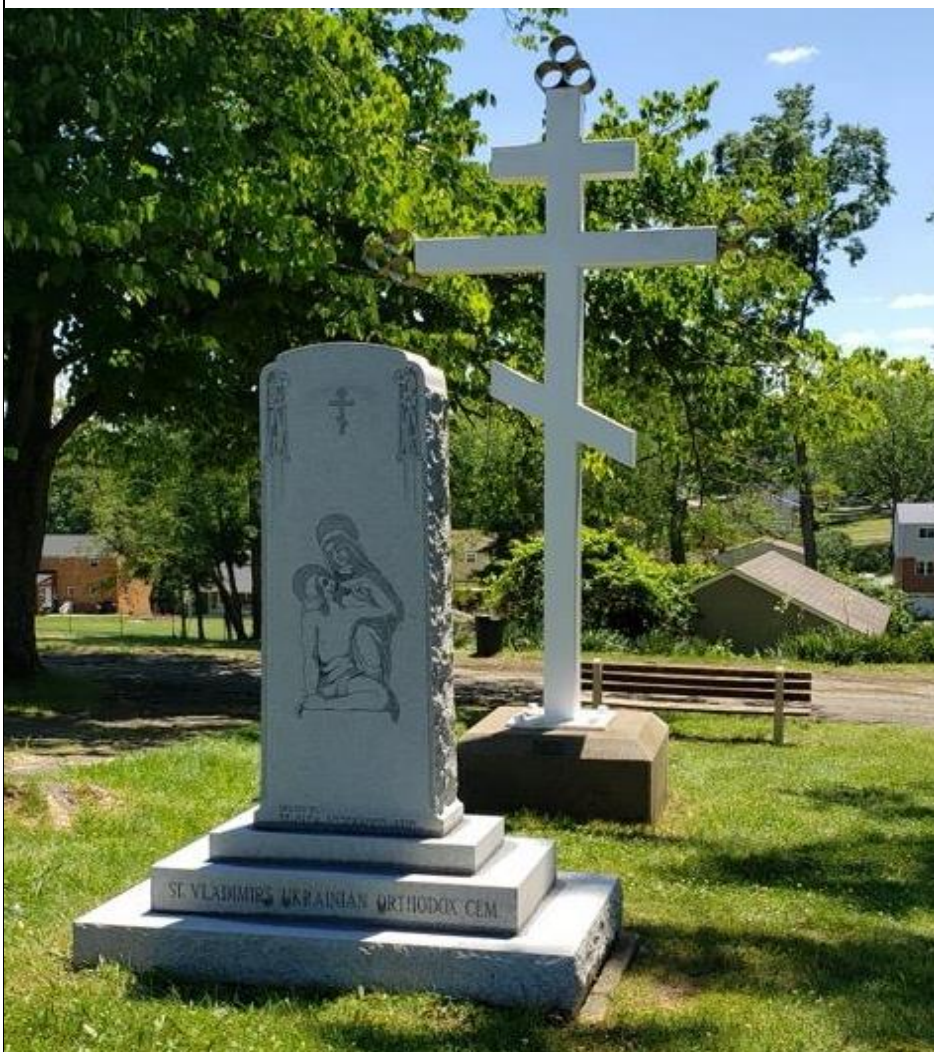
An agreement was made; Volodymyr had to send to the emperor six thousand Varangians, to accept holy Baptism, and under these conditions he would receive the hand of the imperial daughter Anna. Volodymyr accepted Baptism and dispatched the military assistance to Byzantium. With the aid of the Rus', the mutineers were destroyed, but the Greeks were in no hurry to fulfill their part of the agreement.

Continued on back page

Remember in Prayer

Lyubba, Cecelia, Lotti, Ksenia, Cindy, Wesley, Celia, Carl, Lisa, Peter, Victoria, Theodore, Jamie, Gloria, Maryanne, Marilyn, Chance, Jim, Pauline, Mia, Tatiana, Mary Ann, Wesson, Nicholas, Kateryna, Aleksandra, Kaleena, Amy, Natalia, Stephen, Katherine, Victoria, Peter, Nicole, Jerry, Kathleen, Bohdan, Evalyn, Joseph, Anea Rose, Joshua, Denise, Miriam, Freida, Jaylynn, Collette, Sophia, Theodore, Donna, Lisa, Cathy, Allison, Anna, Stephanie, Mike, Theo, Ann, Chris, Tim, John, Ivy, Cathleen, Shirley, Lucas Rogers, Dietrick, Carlos, Blair, Amanda, Jim, Jeff, Alexandra, Allysia, Len, Metropolitan Anthony, **David Scharba** , **Lilia Lyamar** (Fr. Ivan), **Myroslava Petruchtchak** (Fr. Ivan), **Faith Abrahamson** (Fr. Michael) **Sofia Wronskyy** (Fr. Volodymyr), **Andrii**

O Lord, Jesus Christ, the physician of souls & bodies, look down on your suffering servants, relieve them of their pain and suffering in order that they may be able to arise from their sick-bed and glorify your Holy Name. Amen!"

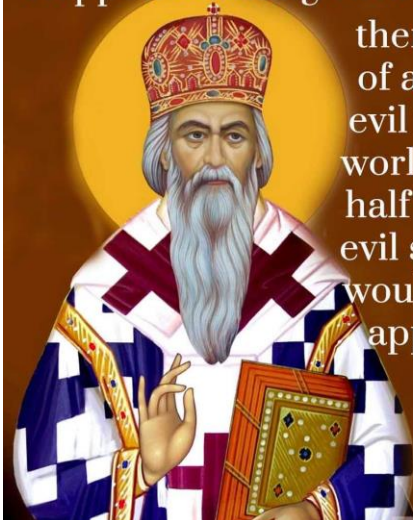


Many thanks to Mr. Scarpaci from Ace Pressure Washing who pressure cleaned the Cross and St Olga's monument at St Volodymyr Cemetery

Unfortunately, we do not have a "before picture" to show how much mold a dirt had accumulated on them

If men of our day simply restrained their tongues and stopped insulting each other,

then half of all the evil in the world, and half of the evil spirits, would disappear.



St. Nikolai Velimirovich
† 1956
(Serbia)

It took me a long time to understand what it means to forgive someone. I always wondered how I could forgive someone who chose to hurt me? But after a lot of soul searching, I realized that forgiveness is not about accepting or excusing their behavior. It's about letting it go and preventing their behavior from destroying my heart.

SAVE THE DATE

September 15

Annual church picnic

At Bethel Park Lions Pavillion



FAMILY FEST 2024

LABOR DAY WEEKEND: AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2



TO REGISTER: JOSH@ALLSAINTSCAMP.ORG

MORE INFO: WWW.ALLSAINTSCAMP.ORG

BIRTHDAYS

JOSH ORYHON 7/23

JERRY BURGAN and
JASON POTUZKO 7/29

MISSY SHEPTAK 7/30

STEPHEN PERDZIOLA 7/31

Join us at All Saints Camp for Family Fest

Registration is now open for our annual Labor Day gathering at All Saints Camp. This weekend is a perfect opportunity for families and individuals to reconnect with ASC friends and make new ones while relaxing in an idyllic environment.

Best Part:

Family Fest is **free** to the All Saints Camp community, but free-will donations are appreciated.

Online registration is available
(Deadline: Friday 8/23)

Questions? call
(724) 867-5811

Please note that we cannot accommodate any drop-ins.

