



INDULGENCES OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - TO WASH AWAY YOUR SINS AND CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

**EVENT: INDULGENCES OF THE
LORD'S BAPTISM IN THE EASTERN
ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE
NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED
MOTHER OF GOD IN TRAKAI**

DATE: (I QUARTER)

LOCATION: TRAKAI

The celebration of the Baptism of the Lord is one of the main celebrations in the Eastern Orthodox calendar. It's celebrated on the 19th of January. Jesus Christ came to John the Baptist, who baptized him in the Jordan River and announced about himself to the whole world.

The celebration of the Baptism of the Lord is Jesus' first step towards taking

responsibility for the sins of the people. The main feature of the celebration is the water, which is consecrated in the church. According to the church traditions, worshipers must refrain from eating on the 18th of January. On the day of the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, prayers are sung during the Liturgy.

From ancient times, the celebration of Baptism has been associated with severe cold. The calendar winter used to allow to cut an ice hole in a form of a Cross, where the bravest of all could bathe in open waters. It's said that all the water is consecrated during that day.

Eastern Orthodox Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother of God in

Trakai stands in the very center of the city. It was decided to build an Eastern Orthodox church in 1861. 6,000 rubles were donated for its construction by the Russian Empress Maria Alexandrovna, and 50,000 bricks were donated by G. Adelson, the builder of Kaunas and Paneriai railway tunnel. The construction of the Eastern Orthodox church began in 1862, when an engineer of the State Treasury A. Pozlov was appointed to supervise the construction. He adapted a typical Eastern Orthodox church design to the chosen construction site. On September 22nd, 1863, the Eastern Orthodox church was consecrated, giving it the name of the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother of God, which formerly was used at the southern end of the city.

The church was visited by a 1,000 worshipers in 1915. During World War I, two military projectiles hit the church and nearly destroyed its bell tower. Mass was held in private homes for a long time. A major overhaul of the church was carried out only in 1938. Priest Mihail Starikevič have organized the repairs: Fixed the torn roof and

patched the walls. The church was also opened during the Second World War.

In 2012, the priest Aleksandras Šmailovas completely restored the church's bell tower and towers according to architectural drawings. The church celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2013. Metropolitan Inokentijus of Lithuanian Eastern Orthodox church participated in the celebration.

Celebrating the Baptism of Jesus, attending worship services, bathing in the ice hole in order to wash away your sins, meeting your loved ones, remembering friends, caring for one another, and simply enjoying lives – those are the highlights of the indulgences of the Lord's Baptism. It's a celebration for each Eastern Orthodox individually and for the entire community all together.

The Baptism of Jesus is still of great significance. It's a celebration that has deep ancient traditions. As the celebration approaches, the worshipers rush to the church, where they once again remember an important event that changed the whole world.





TO REMEMBER AND PRESERVE - THE 16TH OF FEBRUARY IN ONUŠKIS

EVENT: MASS OF THE 16TH OF FEBRUARY, HONOR OF THE GRAVE OF THE SIGNATORY D. MALINAUSKAS AND MASS IN ONUŠKIS CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES PHILIP AND JAMES

DATE: THE 16TH OF FEBRUARY
LOCATION: ONUŠKIS

The signatory of the 16th of February Act of Independence Donatas Malinauskas who fought for the Lithuanianness, freedom and independence of the country, and spent a lot of time searching for the remains of Vytautas the Great, was fated to be exiled and starve to death in Siberia. The signatory

was one of the founders of the secret society called "Twelve Apostles of Vilnius". Its members sought to foster Lithuanian traditions and defend the rights of the Lithuanian language. In 1901, they managed to achieve that in at least one of Vilnius churches i.e. St. Nicholas, the believers would be allowed to pray in the Lithuanian language. Therefore, it's no surprise that he was arrested by the Soviet occupation authorities and sent to exile in Altai region, Siberia in 1940.

The remains of the signatory and his family members were reburied on the 14th of June, 1993 in the yard of Onuškis church of the Apostles Philip and James. The celebration of the 16th of February and other public holidays of Lithuania always has a special form and

purpose in Onuškis town.

In Onuškis, events dedicated to the 16th of February are organized in co-operation with all the institutions of the town: the gymnasium named after the signatory Donatas Malinauskas, the eldership, the community, and people of the parish. The events are diversified by various creative acts, educations, competitions that give a sense to the importance of today, emphasizing the beauty and significance of statehood symbols. Onuškis residents and guests of the town gather at Onuškis Kipras Petrauskas square for the solemn raising of the State flag, later the memory of the signatory is honored in the churchyard. Relatives of the signatory of the Act of Independence put a bouquet of flowers brought from the Presidency of the Republic of Lithuania on his grave every year. Mass commemorating the signatory of the Act of Independence Donatas Malinauskas (1869–1942), his family, all the loved ones, Lithuanian freedom fighters as well as Lithuania and the people deserving is held. After



Mass, people gather to listen to the concert program, communicate and spent time together in the House of Onuškis Community

The 16th of February is the day when the history of our country is remembered, commemorated, and preserved. When the 20 signatories dared to proclaim the will of the nation in 1918. Few hoped that it would become a reality, but God's patronage, endless faith and work led one forward.



THE HERALD OF SPRING - „TYMBYL CHYDŽY“ - CRIMEAN KARAITES EASTER IN TRAKAI

EVENT: RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY OF
CRIMEAN KARAITES HOLIDAY
“TYMBYL CHYDŽY” IN TRAKAI

DATE:

LOCATION: TRAKAI,
TRAKAI KENESA

To determine annual celebrations, the Crimean Karaites use a separate lunar calendar, according to which a year consists of 354 days, 8 hours, 48 minutes. It's divided into a 19-year cycle with 12 normal and 7 leap years with a thirteenth additional month. A month consists of 29 or 30 days. Thus, dates of the holidays in the Gregorian calendar change every year.

Tymbyl chydžy (Tymbyl's holiday) be-

gins on the 15th day of the first month of spring Artarych-aj (March–April), and lasts a week. The first and the last days of the holiday, as well as Saturday and Sunday of the holiday week are particularly important. Special prayers and songs are offered during the Tymbyl chydžy services in Kenesa. The first festive prayers in Kenesa are offered on the holiday eve. Afterwards, a festive dinner is being eaten at home.

Tymbyl chydžy is one of the most important religious holidays of the year. It's a bright herald of spring (much like Easter to Christians) and an important tradition of family reunion, not only celebrating religious origins of the holiday but also emphasizing the joy of the whole family staying together, talking,

reflecting on belief and important family issues.

Excerpts from the Bible are being read as one sits down at the dinner table. The prayer lasts up to 40 minutes. Then, God's gifts are being consecrated: wine and round tymbyl cakes (the feast is named after them) baked specifically on this occasion according to the relevant requirements. They are usually baked from cream and butter. The main dishes of the festive dinner are fried eggs and šišlik (mutton or veal steak). Pastries, cake, walnuts with honey, and dried fruit compote are also served. All foods used in the preparation of this holiday are subject to special requirements – they can't contain yeast, acid, fish, meat other than mutton or veal. Products that reflect the experiences described in the Bible are also necessary (bitterness, sweetness,

acidity, spiciness). Therefore, there are horseradish, radish, and onion leaves on the table.

Throughout the holiday week, it's customary to visit friends and relatives as well as taste tymbyl in every home as the taste of each housewife's cakes is usually different. Tymbyl used to be baked in a furnace, however, now it's done in an oven. Since families were large and they needed a lot of cakes, a special tool – talky – was used to make the dough. Today, the talky model is exhibited at the Seraya Shapshal Crimean Karaites National Museum in Trakai.



INDULGENCES OF ST. STANISLAUS OF SZCZEPANÓW IN AUKŠTADVARIS - TO FOCUS AND OPEN UP TO BELIEVING

EVENT: INDULGENCES OF ST. STANISLAUS OF SZCZEPANÓW IN AUKŠTADVARIS CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
DATE: II QUARTER
LOCATION: AUKŠTADVARIS

One of the most striking and attractive objects of Aukštadvaris is a wooden church located in the center of the town on the shores of Lake Nava. Historical sources say that this impressive sanctuary of the Transfiguration of Christ was designed by the architect Antanas Filipovičius-Dubovikas in the early 20th century. In the summer of 1908, a temporary chapel had already been built, where the

first services were held. The cornerstone of the new church foundations was consecrated in 1910, and in 1913 its construction was completed.

The Gothic-style church preserving an unforgettable historical treasure within has enlivened and decorated the town of Aukštadavaris. Even today, on every Sunday and during the great indulgences of St. Stanislaus of Szczepanów in Aukštadvaris, the church of the Transfiguration of Christ invites all the believers to stop and gather for common prayers as well as ask for patronage of St. Stanislaus of Szczepanów.

St. Stanislaus (1030–1079) was a bishop and a martyr, born in Szczepanów near Kraków, Poland. He became the bishop of Kraków in 1072. Stanislaus

was determined and straightforward, he had the nerve to warn and excommunicate King Boleslaw II the Brave of Poland for immoral and cruel behavior. Stanislaus sent a warning message to the King Boleslaw II the Brave regarding his violent behavior and injustice, the monarch promised to make amends, but didn't keep his promise, therefore he was separated from the church. When Boleslaw found out about it, he furiously broke into the bishop's chapel on the outskirts of Kraków and murdered Stanislaus during Mass. Stanislaus was acknowledged as a Saint in 1253. It's said that he had the power to heal people by resurrecting them from the dead. The Saint Bishop is considered the patron of Lithuania after its baptism.

Many locals and guests come to the indulgences of St. Stanislaus of Szczepanów, they gather for a common prayer. Mass of the indulgences is traditionally held by Aukštadvaris priest along with visiting priests from other parishes.



After the Mass, the believers gather in the churchyard, where they taste various treats, communicate, share mutual insights as well as stories.

Indulgences of St. Stanislaus of Szczepanów in Aukštadvaris church of the Transfiguration of Christ invite everybody to open to believing, spread joy and gather while strengthening the Catholic community and remembering the beautiful traditions of the region.





ST. DOMINIC – TO BE DETACHED FROM LANDS AND WEALTH

EVENT: INDULGENCES OF ST. DOMINIC IN AUKŠTADVARIS
CHURCH OF ST. DOMINIC
DATE: THE MONTH OF MAY
LOCATION:

The first Catholic wooden church of St. Dominic was built in Aukštadvaris in 1518 with support of the bishop Vytautas Radvila. With the funds of Jonas Alfonsas Liackis, the construction of a brick church was started in Aukštadvaris, and a Dominican monastery was established in 1629. Construction of the complex was completed in 1674.

Historical sources mention that the church was constantly demolished and

rebuilt – it was either turned into an Eastern Orthodox church or transformed into a grain warehouse until it was eventually returned to the Catholics. The church of St. Dominic withstood many events, and the people seeking prayer, concentration and forgiveness for their sins gather here today.

The church indulgences is the day when believers i.e. those who performed the ceremonies established by the church can receive forgiveness for their sins and, therefore, earn forgiveness for themselves and the dead. The Catholic Church always emphasizes that the subject of indulgences is not a sanctuary, a cathedral or a reliquary, but a work of a Christian prayer, a pilgrimage, worship practices, mercy and

love. During the indulgences of St. Dominic, the locals parishioners and guests gather in Aukštadvaris and participate in Mass, procession and ask for St. Dominic's patronage. The Saint reminds every believer that the witness of faith, which is obligatory for every Christian in family, work, social activities and moments of relaxation, arises from a prayer and personal relationship with God.

St. Dominic was born in 1170 in the city of Calaruega, Castile (historical region of Spain). At the age of fourteen, he moved to Palencia to study art and theology. Having received the ordinations of the priest, he was immediately appointed the canon of the Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Osma. On a one-time visit to the papal mansion, Dominic was offered to preach the Gospel to rather abundant albigensians (a group of erroneous believers) in southern France, they, at the time, preached a dualistic concept of the universe, according to which the world is ruled by good and evil.

Dominic willingly accepted the offer and immediately embarked on a journey to preach the gospel. Followers emerged soon, from whom the new community of monks is to be established in the future. The new monastery was officially confirmed in 1216. The Dominicans chose the form of a Mendicant order i.e. mobility, direct contact with people, detachment from lands and wealth. A very important decision that determined the future of the order was to send brothers to the best schools of the time so that they would be prepared for their work as best as possible. Dominic died in Bologna in 1221. Very soon, in 1234, he was already proclaimed a Saint.

Aukštadvaris church of St. Dominic remembers difficult and bumpy historical path that each of us must walk symbolically in order to discover the real peace and joy of life. Having withstand the challenges of time, today the church invites the believers to come and celebrate Mass as well as life.





THE TITLE INDULGENCES OF RŪDIŠKĖS IN THE CHURCH OF JESUS' HEART - CELEBRATION OF THE JESUS' HEART

EVENT: THE TITLE INDULGENCES OF RŪDIŠKĖS IN THE CHURCH OF JESUS' HEART
DATE: ALL YEAR
LOCATION:

Rūdiškės parish was established in 1910. The wooden chapel was built first, and later, after more than fifteen years, the construction of a brick church began, which was completed in 1932. The church is historic, it has neo-Romanesque and neo-Gothic features of a Latin cross plan and a single tower, with a turret. There are three naves inside. The churchyard is bricked.

Rūdiškės church invites the believers to the indulgences of Jesus' Heart every year. Invites you to have a one more look at the Gospel and remember how much love, sacrifice, and mercy the heart of Jesus Christ holds. The church indulgences is the day when believers i.e. those who performed the ceremonies established by the church can receive forgiveness for their sins and, therefore, earn forgiveness for themselves and the dead. The Catholic Church always emphasizes that the subject of indulgences is not a sanctuary or cathedral, but a Christian prayer, a pilgrimage, works of worship practices, mercy and love.

During the indulgences of Jesus' Heart, the local parishioners and

guests that came to Rūdiškės participate in Mass, procession and experience the joy of communality and concentration.

In Rūdiškės church of Jesus' Heart the service is usually held every Sunday in Polish and Lithuanian languages. Lithuanian and Polish choirs singing during the service elevate the spirit, and allow the mind to break away from the everyday routine.

