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> Office Hours: M-F in-person by appointment only Office: 330-744-5820 Social Hall/Pyrohy: 330-746-9528

Confessions: Every Sunday 15 minutes prior to Divine Liturgy (Other times available by appointment)

## Holy Trinity and St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Churches

Administrator: Rev. Fr. Lubomir Zhybak 330-888-8881 (cell) E-mail: zhybak@hotmail.com

### **Rev. Protodeacon Donald Billy**

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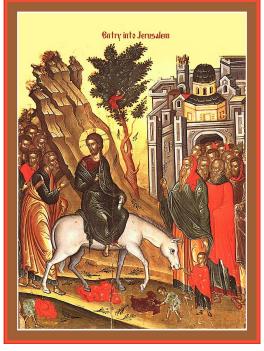
St. Anne Church 4310 Kirk Road Austintown, Ohio 44511 E-mail: yngholytrinity@att.net Website: www.stanneucc.com

Social Hall: 330-799-0084 Operations Manager: 330-792-8555

Confessions: Every Sunday 15 minutes prior to Divine Liturgy (Other times available by appointment)

# Sunday, March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday Tones: Festive Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18



### <u>Next Sunday</u>: March 31, 2024 Resurrection of Our Lord

Tones: Festive Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17

#### **Liturgical Greetings**

Greeting: "Glory to Jesus Christ!" "Slava Isusu Khrystu!"

> Response: "Glory Forever!" "Slava Na Veeky!"

> > Palm Sunday (March 24th)

Day:	Date:	Place:	Time:	Intention:	Offered/Requested By:	Cantor(s)/ Reader(s):	
				Palm Sunday	y		
Sun	Mar 24	SA	8:30a	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in private intention(s)* P. Nachi			
		HT	10:30a	Praying of the Holy Rosary		J. Bodak	
			11:00a	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysosto	M. Marczyszyn		
Mon	Mar 25	SA	5:00p	Holy Monday - Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos Vespers with the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Parishioners of Both Parishes			
Tue	Mar 26	HT	5:00p	Holy Tuesday Cho Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts for God's Peace in Ukraine			
Wed	Mar 27	SA	5:00p	Holy V Liturgy of the Presanctified	J. Bodak		
Thu	Mar 28	HT	НТ	8:30a		<b>Thursday</b> sil the Great for God's Peace in Ukraine	M. Woloszyn
			6:00p	Passion Mat	tins (12 Gospels)	Choir	
<b>-</b> .	Mar 29	HT	<b>4:00</b> p		o <mark>d Friday</mark> Tement of the Holy Shroud	Choir	
Fri		SA	6:30p	Service with the Place	ement of the Holy Shroud	Choir	
			7:00p	Jerusa	lem Matins	Choir	
	Mar 30	SA	~.	8:30a		<b>Saturday</b> sil the Great for God's Peace in Ukraine	Choir
			10:30a	Baske	et Blessing		
			11:30a	Baske	et Blessing		
		HT	12:30p	Baske	et Blessing		
Sat			1:30p	Baske	et Blessing		
			2:30p	Service at the Grave	(Removal of the Shroud)	Choir	
		SA	6:30p	Service at the Grave	(Removal of the Shroud)	Choir	
			7:30p	Resurre	ction Matins	Choir	
			8:30p		m for the Parishioners of St. Anne Church anointing with the blessed oil)	P. Machingo	
				Resurrection of Ou	ur Lord		
			7:30a	Resurre	ction Matins	Choir	
Sun	Mar 31	HT	8:30a		for the Parishioners of Holy Trinity Church anointing with the blessed oil)	J. Kicz	
				*Fr. Lubomir Zhybak's privat			
Prayers Requested         St. Anne Church         You are kindly asked to remember and pray, in your charity, for the repose of the soul and the loved ones left behind of         †Michael Demetra       †Mary Ann Belasco         May God grant †Michael and †Mary Ann Eternal Memory!         "Vichnaya Pamyat"							

My dear Friends,

## Glory to Jesus Christ!

**Blessed Palm Sunday to all of you and your loved ones!** I trust that my message found everyone well and sound and that you had a spiritually fruitful Lent that just ended this past Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Tonight, the Holy Week begins.** If you can, please join us for the Holy Week's services at both churches (please check the bulletin for details). Looking forward to praying with you during this special holy time!

In preparation for the Holy Week and Our Lord's Resurrection, you could go to the following Internet links of our eparchy for:

- a reflection: <u>https://stjosaphateparchy.com/holy-week-our-journey-with-jesus/?</u> <u>mc\_cid=e93e739239&mc\_eid=d5728b89c0</u>
- activities for children: <u>https://stjosaphateparchy.com/activities-for-children-holy-week-and-easter-coloring-pages/?mc\_cid=e93e739239&mc\_eid=d5728b89c0</u>
- our Ukrainian tradition's Easter foods' Christian symbolism: <u>https://stjosaphateparchy.com/christian-symbolism-of-paschal-food-in-the-ukrainian-tradition/?mc\_cid=e93e739239&mc\_eid=d5728b89c0</u>

As you know, during Lent as well as the first three days of the Holy Week, we ordinarily celebrate in our Ukrainian Catholic Church **the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**, which I encourage all of you to attend, since Lent and Holy Week are the only times that we celebrate this beautiful Liturgy in our Church. Since there is no consecration of the bread and wine during the Liturgy, ordinarily, the Body of Christ used during this Liturgy is consecrated during the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom or St. Basil the Great the Sunday before. Consequently, during the Holy Communion time at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, the faithful receive only the Body of Christ that is mixed in the chalice with the wine, which is not the Blood of Christ. Hence, you still receive the Most Holy Eucharist during this Liturgy, namely the Body of Christ, Which in the teaching of the Catholic Church contains inseparably the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ just like the Blood of Christ does, which means that our Lord is fully present in each of the species of the Most Holy Eucharist.

As a reminder, under ordinary circumstances, the faithful in St. Josaphat Eparchy (baptized adults and children) have the obligation to attend a Catholic Church service on the following days, participating in a Divine Liturgy or Vespers the night before or a Roman Mass if need be (including vigil services in all three instances) unless absent due to a legitimate reason (if a person, for example, sings in the choir of a non-Catholic church on Sunday and/or holy day of obligation, this is not considered a legitimate reason not to attend a Catholic Church service on that day, hence, the person still has to fulfill his or her Sunday/holy day obligation on that day):

all Sundays of the entire year; Theophany of Our Lord (January 6<sup>th</sup>); Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos (March 25<sup>th</sup>); Ascension of Our Lord (40<sup>th</sup> day (Thursday) after Easter); Holy Apostles Peter & Paul (June 29<sup>th</sup>); Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos (August 15<sup>th</sup>); Nativity of Our Lord (December 25<sup>th</sup>).

Please also keep in mind that if a person does not attend church on these days, he or she commits a mortal sin (with the exception of children who did not reach the age of reason yet and hence cannot commit a sin), provided of course all three conditions for a mortal sin are present: grave matter (Ten Commandments), which it is, full knowledge, and deliberate consent, and, hence, is forbidden to receive Holy Communion until the person goes to confession, which is applicable to any mortal sin. On all other feast days, the faithful are encouraged to attend church service(s).

Some or all of you already know that recently a Ukrainian documentary titled "20 Days in Mariupol" won an Academy Award (an Oscar) as the Best Documentary Feature. It shows some of the horrible war crimes that were committed in the Eastern Ukrainian city of Mariupol, now occupied by Russia, and it is only one Ukrainian city... You can google it online and see where you can rent/purchase the film. *It's not an easy documentary to watch; hence, viewer discretion is advised.* Although I wish there was never a need for this film, although I wish it was never made, yet, because of this brutal war in Ukraine, I think the world needs to see through this film the "peace" that Russia brough to Ukraine. I wish that all Russians saw this documentary. I wish that all of the anti-Ukrainian people in the world, especially people in this country like, for instance, a U. S. Senator from Ohio J. D. Vance, the Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives Michael Johnson, and a former Fox News host Tucker Carlson saw this film... Maybe their attitude would change afterwards... We can only hope...

Let us continue to *pray and act* for the end of Russia's war against Ukraine as well as for the conversion of Ukraine's aggressors and, as Ukraine's son, I'd like to tell all of you: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR SUFFERING BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN UKRAINE! Ukraine direly needs our help right now! If you would like to help financially your brothers and sisters in Ukraine, please see a separate notice in the bulletin of how you can help. No amount is too small, yet please be generous, and I thank you in advance for your munificence (*if anyone needs a copy of our eparchy's Humanitarian Aid Fund report, please let me know; you can also find it on our eparchy's website: https://stjosaphateparchy.com/*). May our Good Lord reward you abundantly for it in this life and in the life to come!

If you are a Ukrainian refugee or know of someone/some people who need(s) legal services in regard to your/his/ her/their stay in America, please contact a Cleveland office of a non-profit organization called US Together; its services are currently *free* until July of this year:

> US Together, 2800 Euclid Ave., Suite 200, Cleveland, OH 44115 Phone: 216-456-9630 Fax: 216-417-5587 Website: https://www.ustogether.us/

Let us likewise pray and act for peace in the Middle East, particularly in the Holy Land, keeping also in our prayers those who were killed and died during the past and current wars and conflicts there.

- If any of you, who are homebound, would like to partake in the Holy Sacraments, kindly call the parish office number (330-744-5820) or me (330-888-8881) to make arrangements.
- I would like to encourage you to pray (*daily if you can*) the prayers from the **Prayer Corner**.
- I would like to express my gratitude to Father Vit Fiala, OFM and Father David Misbrener for hearing confessions on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Anne Church and on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at Holy Trinity Church respectively. Big thanks to both of them!
- Please keep in your prayers the soul of St. Anne Church's parishioner, Michael Demetra who died on March 13<sup>th</sup> of this year at the age of 89 in Medina, OH (Hummel Funeral Homes: <u>https://www.hummelfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/michael-demetra</u>). Please also pray for all the loved ones he left behind, especially for his wife Dorothy. Thank you! Eternal memory! Вічна пам'ять!
- Please also keep in your prayers the soul of another parishioner of St. Anne Church, Mary Ann Belasco who died on March 19<sup>th</sup> of this year at the age of 73 in North Lima, OH (she would have been 74 the next day, March 20<sup>th</sup>). Please also pray for all the loved ones she left behind, especially for her son, Joseph Belasco and daughter, Maryann Belasco. Thank you! Eternal memory! Вічна пам'ять!
- If you would like to participate in a "Live Virtual Spiritual Retreat" titled "The View From the Cross" today, March 24<sup>th</sup> between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm (EST) organized by the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America (LUC) and the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of USA, please go online to: <u>https://leagueofukrainiancatholics.org/</u>.
- We have Super Cash Bonanza charity tickets from the Ohio State Council of the Knights of Columbus for sale. They are \$5.00 each (over \$108,000.00 in cash prizes), and all proceeds will be used towards local charities. For every ticket sold in our two parishes, \$3.00 will go to the Knights of Columbus and \$2.00 will be kept by a parish. Please purchase your tickets by March 31<sup>st</sup>; drawing date: May 18, 2024. Please consider buying them as both of our parishes can benefit from it. Thank you! For more information online, please go to: <a href="https://kofcohio.org/programs/super-cash-bonanza/">https://kofcohio.org/programs/super-cash-bonanza/</a>.
- We are continuing collecting certain needed items at both parishes for a local branch of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. You'll find a special box for the items at each church. Please be generous and thank you for your benevolence! Thank you also to those who already donated the needed items! If you would like to make a monetary donation, you may do so either online at <a href="https://www.mahoningsvdp.com/product-category/donation-levels/">https://www.mahoningsvdp.com/product-category/donation-levels/</a> or by mailing your check to:

Mahoning County St. Vincent de Paul Society, P.O. Box 224, Youngstown, OH 44501

The organization likewise offers volunteering opportunities. For more information, please go to <u>https://</u> <u>www.mahoningsvdp.com/</u> or call (330) 333-3601. (con't)

- Let us continue to keep in our prayers all people who are on the prayer lists, especially the sick. May our Triune God: The
  Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit bless all of them through the intercession of His and our Most Holy Mother and all
  the Holy Angels and Saints!
- Our weekly bulletins are available online at both churches' websites (<u>www.holytrinityucc.com</u> and <u>www.stanneucc.com</u>). Thank you!
- Furthermore, I would like to thank those of you, who have been sending us your donations. If you still cannot come to your parish church at this time, please continue to support it by sending us your weekly donations to each respectful church (see the church addresses in the bulletin) and I thank you very much for your support of our parishes!
- Should there be anything else that needs my or Dean's attention, please let us know at once.

May our Triune Lord: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit continue to bless all of us in the world! May He help us stop all wars and conflicts on earth, especially the current war of Russia against Ukraine as well as the wars and conflicts in the Middle East, especially the war in the Holy Land! May He protect everyone who is on the front lines defending his or her country's freedom! May He convert the hearts of all aggressors in the world! May He rest in peace the souls of all people on earth, who already died from these wars and conflicts, giving consolation to the families, relatives, and friends they left behind! Likewise, may our Lord protect each of us from all illnesses, especially the coronavirus disease! May He heal all the people in the world, who are infected with it! May He protect all people on earth who are on the front lines in the fight against it as well as everyone who works in public places! May He rest in peace the souls of all people in the world, who died from this and other diseases, giving consolation to the families, relatives, and may He always protect all of us here in America as well as our beloved people of Ukraine, helping us to end the war there! Let us present all of these petitions to our Lord through the intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos and all the Holy Angels and Saints, especially St. Anne!

Have a blessed Sunday, blessed feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos tomorrow, March 25<sup>th</sup>, and a spiritually fruitful Holy Week! May our Triune Lord: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit always bless America, Ukraine, the Holy Land, and the rest of the world through the intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos and all the Holy Angels and Saints!

Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава Україні!

With prayers in the Triune Lord and the Theotokos,

Tr. Rubouir

МОЛІТЬСЯ ЗА УКРАЇНУ!

**PRAY FOR UKRAINE!** 

#### Holy Trinity Church Eternal Light

Doug, Donna, Trevor, and Marshall Beck are sponsoring the week of March 24th-30th in loving memory of

## †Ann Karnofel

Our very Best Wishes and Blessings to our dear Parishioners celebrating their life milestones this week.

Holy Trinity Church Mar 26: Beth Humeniuk Mar 26: John Scrip Na Mnohaya ee Blahaya Leeta!

## Prayer Requests

Holy Trinity Church: Ann Blazina, Andrea Curran, John Fecych, Dan Malarcik, Yvonne Mudryk, James Pirko, Marie Schuller, and the health of all of our parishioners.

<u>St. Anne Church</u>: Joseph Belasco, Joyce Budinsky, Carole Elias, Roger Elias, Susan Kurtiak, Joseph Kury, Louis Mancini, Katie Moran, Margaret Rodomsky, Ann Stevens, Josie Timlin, Helen Yurchison, and *the health of all of our parishioners.* 

Clergy: Bishop Josyf Milyan, Fr. Louis, Fr. Jeff, and Msgr. Martin Canavan.

<u>Non-Parishioners</u>: Kennedy Eatinger, Mark F., Dawn Howard, Yaroslava, Myroslava, Halyna, Petro, Nadiya, Mylan, Yaremiya, Zoryana, Mariya, Connor, Claire, Mark, Christine, Dave Kishton, Fr. Andrzej, Judy Lepore, Jimi Stevens, Carol Martyn Dow, Tonja Delaine, Joann Panko, Kateryna Bolshahova, William J. Smith, Jim, Ivan M., Nadiya M., Anna F., Alexei Y., Nadiya Y., Volodymyr Y., Joe Beeson, Oleh and Oksana, Olha, Ivan, and Vasyl.

## "Rescue the oppressed from the hand of the oppressor" (Jer. 22:3) The Message of the of the Synod of Bishops of the UGCC in Ukraine on War and Just Peace in the Context of New Ideologies.

## (continued...)

II. From the "Russian World" (*Russkij mir*) to "ruscism" — the path of degradation of the aggressor state.

12. From what has been said about contemporary Russian hybrid totalitarianism, it follows that it has a particular attitude toward religion and the Church. Orthodoxy in its Moscow form is being used in Russia today to fill the ideological vacuum that arose because of the fall of communism, considering religion as a means of reinforcing state power and turning it into a political tool. At the same time, the symbols of the communist period are strangely mixed with the mental paradigms of the tsarist empire. The Russian Orthodox Church has a long, one might say the centuries-long tradition of serving the Russian government in its various, sometimes opposing historical forms — from the Orthodox of the Tsardom of Moscow and the Russian Empire to the atheistic and communist Soviet Union. In all these state formations, the leadership of the Russian Orthodox Church sought to be in unity with the political authorities and benefit from a privileged position. Therefore, it should not be surprising that the Patriarch of Moscow supported and blessed Russia's criminal war against the Ukrainian people. Such actions are in line with the Moscow tradition of the Church's ideological service to the authorities and its servility to those in power. Unfortunately, now this long-standing imperial tradition, combined with modern postcommunist totalitarianism, has led to a real crime committed by the leadership of the Moscow Patriarchate to propagandize the war. It was this church leadership that generated the new genocidal ideology now known as the "Russian World" and voluntarily offered its services to the criminal authorities and sanctified them. We observe this deep moral fall of the Moscow Patriarch and his religious supporters with great pain because it compromises Christianity as such and undermines the trust of our contemporaries in the Church and in all those who use the name of Christ. Therefore, today it becomes especially urgent for everyone to "test the spirits" (cf. I John 4:1) in order to be able to distinguish political ideology hidden in pseudo-Christian rhetoric from true faith in Christ.

13. For many years, Ukrainian society has been trying to convey to the international community that a new aggressive ideology is emerging in Russia, a mixture of ressentiment, nationalism, and pseudo-religious messianism. However, during the entire period preceding the war, no one heard us. This ideology, which the Russian authorities called the "Russian World", was established in Russia as the official and only correct ideology, and the role of the Moscow Patriarchate in creating and promoting this ideology is now well-known and undeniable. It is the Russian Orthodox Church that has given the "Russian World" ideology a quasi-religious spirit, portraying Russia as the last bastion of Christianity on earth that resists the forces of evil. At the same time, the Russian Orthodox Church endows the deadliest nuclear weapons on earth with an almost sacred status.

14. The quasi-religious doctrine of the "Russian World" provided ideological justification for Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine. This aggression has raised to the surface a whole layer of issues that should have been left in the past. Thus, it would seem that attempts to ideologize Christianity, when it was identified with a particular country, nation, or nations with their political ambitions and goals, have long since become history, as such instrumentalization contradicts the very essence of Christianity. However, the whole world is now witnessing Russia's most brutal use of Christian symbols and Gospel images to justify the violation of the international order, the attack on a sovereign state, and mass murder. The prophet Jeremiah spoke of such duplicity: "They ready their tongues like a drawn bow; with lying, and not with truth, they hold forth in the land" (9:2).

15. It is important for Christians around the world that the doctrine of the "Russian World" has been condemned by numerous representatives of the Orthodox community itself. In particular, a group of nearly 350 Orthodox theologians called it a heresy and a "vile doctrine that has no justification" [3]. According to these theologians, the basis of the "Russian World" ideology is the false doctrine of ethnophyletism. They also "denounce all those who affirm Caesaropapism, replacing total obedience to the crucified and risen Lord with obedience to any leader who is endowed with authority and claims to be God's anointed, regardless of the title he is known by: 'caesar', 'emperor', 'king', or 'president.' And, as the previously mentioned theologians conclude, 'if such false principles are considered valid, then the Orthodox Church ceases to be the Church of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Apostles, the Nicene-Constantinople Creed, the Ecumenical Councils, and the Church Fathers. Unity becomes fundamentally impossible' [4].

16. The Appeal of the Christian Churches of Ukraine to condemn the aggressive ideology of the "Russkiy mir" states that "Patriarch Kirill Gundyaev of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian Orthodox Church have been and remain one of the main creators and propagandists of the ideology of the 'Russian World', which provides for the exclusivity of the 'Russian civilization' and its separation and hostile confrontation with others. However, such a position — to exclude or delineate others based on ethnicity or cultural affiliation — does not correspond to the foundations of the Christian faith as such. Inciting hatred and waging war based on the 'Russian World' ideology violates Christian principles and contradicts the spiritual norms that the Church is supposed to embody. This ideology today is a challenge to the preaching of the Gospel in the modern world and destroys the credibility of the Christian witness, regardless of confession" [5].

17. Eventually, this quasi-Christian doctrine degraded into a complete ideology of ruscism with its cult of the ruler and the dead, a mythologized past, fascism's inherent corporativism, total censorship, conspiracy theories, centralized propaganda, and a war to destroy another nation. It seems that ruscism has combined all previous ideological constructs, from the Tsardom of Muscovy with its messianic ideas of "Holy Russia" and "the Third Rome" to the USSR with its aggressive imperialism and desire for global domination.

18. This degradation of the Christian nature of the Russian Orthodox Church has revealed major weaknesses in the previous ecumenical dialogue. Its participants, having good will and intentions, remained inaudible to warnings that the Moscow Patriarchate, as in the days of the USSR, was only instrumentalizing this dialogue. Eventually, we came to a point where this instrumentalization became visible, and the quasi-ideological formula of "dialogue at any cost" became contrary to the Gospel principle of "dialogue in truth".

19. In addition, we can state that the European practice of "realpolitik", which sometimes turned into zealotry before the powerful of this world, did not justify itself either. It was considered a reasonable approach that took into account the realities of life. However, such a position is rather evidence of implication and a recognition of the alleged inability of the Gospel to illuminate the paths of human life, where "sensual lust, enticement for the eyes, and a pretentious life" (I John 2:16) leads people. Today, the world needs the prophetic voice of the Church, which will speak the language of justice, take the side of the offended, and shame and condemn the offender.

20. The inability of the Christian world to find adequate spiritual and worldview solutions to these challenges from Russia is partly due to the fact that current Christian postulates in the international community have also undergone a certain ideologization. Evangelical fidelity to the truth, which in a situation of violent confrontation with evil turns into the sword of Christ (cf. Matthew 10:34), has conceded to the ideology of political correctness, which creates the illusion of the possibility of pacifying evil. The reasonable conclusion that only God has absolute truth has turned into a trap of ethical relativism, which gives legitimacy even to deliberately constructed lies. That is why it is so important for Christians to critically reflect on their past perceptions in order to find the truth again in the thicket of modern ideologies and thus restore their ability to "hear His voice" (John 18:37).

21. The current challenges brought about by the doctrine of the "Russian World" and the shift toward relativism are bringing great spiritual and ideological confusion to the human community, causing many people and even some governments to lose the ability to distinguish between truth and deception, good and evil. The tragedy of the current war is that the very language of spiritual values is threatened, as Russia and other authoritarian regimes use this language to persuade people's hearts to commit terrible sin: "as they make a pretense of religion but deny its power" (II Tim. 3:5). For example, the concept of "spiritual fight" has acquired a distorted meaning in Russia and is discredited at a time when spiritual confrontation with evil is becoming almost the only means of saving humanity.

22. The ideological manipulativeness of the "Russian World" doctrine leads not only to worldview but also to pastoral losses. While fictiously defending the interests of the Russian people and elevating them above other nations, this doctrine actually leaves them without pastoral care. The souls of Russians hear the voice of earthly Caesar instead of the voice of God and therefore become defenseless against the demons of Russian history. Therefore, in a spiritual sense, the flock of this Church is left to its own devices. *(To be continued...)* Next Week - III. Nonviolent resistance.

## Remember Our Shut-Ins

Now, especially, is a time of year to remember our parish family members who are unable to attend Divine Liturgy. We want them to know that we miss them, we love them, and are praying for them.

#### Remember them in your prayers. Call them. Send them a note of cheer this Easter season.

#### Holy Trinity Church

Ann Blazina	980 Lincoln Ave., Girard, Ohio 44420
Dan Malarcik	71 Melbourne Ave., Yo., Ohio 44512
Yvonne Mudryk	1252 Shanafelt Ave., Akron, Ohio 44312
Charlotte Nachim	650 Esme Dr., Girard, Ohio 44420
Delores Shuluga	4160 Bob-O-Link Dr., Yo., Ohio 44511

#### St. Anne Church

Susan Kurtiak	8064 South Ave. #1, Boardman, Ohio 44512
Mary Ann Malahtaris	634 N. Bon Air Ave., Youngstown, Ohio 44509
Helen Yurchison	2675 N Lipkey Rd., North Jackson, Ohio 44451

## NOTE ON HOLY SACRAMENTS OF THE EUCHARIST & RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Generally, Catholics (and some non-Catholics under certain conditions) receive Holy Communion worthily if they do not have even one mortal sin on his/her soul (one sins mortally when all of the following three conditions are present: grave matter (10 Commandments), full knowledge, and deliberate consent), and, usually, these are people who go to confession more or less frequently; one is permitted to receive Holy Communion with the venial sins on his/her soul. Otherwise, if one receives Holy Communion unworthily, namely with mortal sin(s) on his/her soul and is aware of it, committing it with deliberate consent, one commits another mortal sin. Although, certainly, it is possible to live one's life without committing even one mortal sin for a long time and, hence, have no need for confession for a long time, such people could be considered exceptions. Also, in accordance with the Church Commandments (also known as the Church Precepts), a minimal requirement is for a person to go to confession at least once a year as well as to receive Holy Communion at least during the Easter season: to go to confession provided one committed at least one mortal sin and to receive Holy Communion provided one did not commit even one mortal sin.

## We are Catholics Not Because of Francis as Pope, but Because Christ Built His Church on the Rock of Peter: Head of the UGCC in the 109th week of the war

#### March 18, 2024

Last week, we Ukrainians felt that even the Holy Father Francis was not immune to this devilish weapon. Due to the insidious manipulation by a dishonest journalist—juxtaposing symbolic gestures and signs with misleading verbal explanations—even the Apostolic See fell victim to it. This was stated by the Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, on the 109th week of Russia's full-scale invasion of our homeland.

The Primate noted that this week was also marked by destruction, the killing of civilians, bloodshed, and tears on our long-suffering Ukrainian land.

The Head of the Church reminded us that on Thursday, we celebrated the Ukrainian Volunteer Day. Therefore, with deep gratitude, we remember in prayer all those who, driven by their conscience and personal goodwill, took up arms to defend their homeland from the Russian aggressor.

"These days, the words we have been repeating for years are becoming more meaningful: Ukraine stands, Ukraine fights, Ukraine prays! Ukraine stands as long as Ukrainian volunteers defend it," said the spiritual leader.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav pointed out that, apart from missiles, drones, and bombs, the Russian aggressor employs another destructive weapon against Ukrainian society: "information and psychological special operation." "By resorting to sophisticated information and psychological manipulations, the enemy is seeking to strike at the Ukrainian heart and kill the ability of our people to fight for their future. It is worth emphasizing that the father of lies, the devil, always stands behind such attempts. The primary 'effect' of employing this weapon is the surge of emotions inside the victim: fear, hatred, and distrust of oneself and those around. Through these means, the enemy seeks to paralyze the will and obscure the minds of Ukrainians so that we lose sight of the boundaries between truth and lies, unable to discern our true opponent and the real enemy." Nonetheless, the Head of the Church calls for us to be wiser and more courageous than our enemy, who intends to paralyze our ability to fight at any cost.

"Regardless of who is holding Peter's position of authority today—whether it be Francis with his human limitations, like any of us who can be vulnerable to such manipulations, or someone else—Peter's Rock remains unshaken! We are Catholics, faithful to the Eastern Catholic Church, not because Francis is the Pope, but because it was on the Rock of Peter that Christ founded his Church. And only such a Church will the gates of hell never be able to prevail against," the spiritual leader of Ukrainians emphasized, adding, "May we be wiser than the wiles and schemes of the enemy of the human race and Ukraine. Only by relying on St. Peter's Rock amid the stormy sea of life, only with the helping hand of our brothers around the world and the support of the Universal Church, which today stands behind Ukraine, are we capable of winning. And we believe that the Lord God will grant us this victory."

This week, we [in Ukraine] enter into Lent, a time of special prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. "We cannot embark on the journey to Christ's Resurrection so long as we do not free our hearts from evil, hatred, and internal occupation by enemy propaganda. And liberation is possible only through the power of forgiveness and reconciliation with God, ourselves, and our neighbors," His Beatitude Sviatoslav summarized.

**Source**: Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church: https://ugcc.ua/en/data/we-are-catholics-not-because-of-francis-as-pope-but-because-christ-built-his-church-on-the-rock-of-peter-head-of-the-ugcc-in-the-109th-week-of-the-war-968/. Article edited.



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#### FASTING & ABSTINENCE REGULATIONS FOR THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In accordance with statute 403 of *The Statutes of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma*, "As each Christian is called to ongoing repentance and amendment of life, the ancient practice of fasting is to be maintained. All those from 14 to 59 years of age, inclusively, must abstain from meat on Holy Saturday and each and every Friday of Lent (the Great Fast), as well as Christmas Eve, December 24 and Theophany Eve, January 5. These faithful must also abstain from meat and all dairy food (including milk, eggs, cheese, etc.) on the first day of the Great Fast (the Monday which follows Cheesefare Sunday) and on Holy and Great Friday. Pregnant and nursing mothers, the ill and infirm, those who work at hard physical labor and the very poor are excused" (statute 403, *The Statutes of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma*, 19 August 1994). The statute continues: "The eparch can dispense all the faithful of the eparchy as well as any individuals for a good reason from any of these fasting prescriptions. A pastor may also dispense individual parishioners for a good reason. He cannot, however, dispense the entire parish" (ibid.). Moreover, according the article 472 of the 1999 *Pastoral Guide of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States of America* (the guide that "supplements [and does not contradict] the Statutes of the Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma" in our eparchy (see article 4 of the *Pastoral Guide*); the guide's revised version is forthcoming), "[t]he periods of penitence and their respective duration are:

- Great Lent, extending from the Monday after Cheesefare Sunday to the Saturday of Lazarus. And Great and Holy Week, extending from Great Monday to Great and Holy Saturday inclusively.
- The preparation for the Birth of Jesus Christ in the Flesh (*Pylypivka*) begins on the day..." after "... the feast of St. Philip (November 15), and lasts until the Eve of the Nativity of Christ (December 24) inclusively.
- The Apostles' Fast (*[P]etrivka*) extends from the Monday following the Sunday of All Saints, and continues through to the day preceding the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul (June 28), inclusively.
- The Dormition Fast (*Spasivka*) begins on August [1] and lasts until the eve of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 14), inclusively" (article 472, *Pastoral Guide of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States of America* (Philadelphia, PA, 1999)).

Furthermore, the "[g]eneral rules governing abstinence [are]:

- Meat is to be understood as including not only the flesh but also those parts of warm-blooded animals that cannot be melted down, e.g., the liver, lungs, blood, graves, etc. Although it is not the authentic practice of the Tradition[,] the meat of fish and crustaceans may be eaten, as well of those mammals, that live constantly in water, as, e.g., whales.
- Dairy Products are to be understood as comprising products derived from mammals and birds, but not regarded as meat, e.g., cheese, lard, butter, milk, and its by-products, eggs, etc.
- Fats of plant origin, e.g., those derived from olives, coconuts, seeds of the sunflower and of the pumpkin, may be used.
- Voluntary penance, prayers for the intentions of the hierarchs of the Church, Bishop of Rome, the Major Archbishop, the Metropolitan, and the Eparchial Bishop; voluntary offerings to the Church, the seminaries, the Church in Ukraine, self-denial of alcohol, smoking, attendance at entertainment, etc., may be supplementary only with permission of a confessor. Bread and water alone [are] a good fast.
- Priests who possess a pastoral assignment are empowered to grant dispensations or relaxation from the laws of abstinence to individual persons as well as to individual families.
  - The following are exempt from abstinence: (1) the poor who live on alms; (2) sick and frail persons;

(3) convalescents who are returning to their strength;
(4) pregnant women, and mothers who are nursing their children;
(5) persons who perform hard labor;
(6) children who have not completed their seventh [currently, fourteenth] year of age;
(7) [p]ersons have completed their 59th year of age" with permission of their pastor or confessor" [the clause "with permission of their pastor or confessor" is no longer valid...] (article 474, *Pastoral Guide of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States of America* (Philadelphia, PA, 1999)).

Furthermore, in accordance with article 475 of the *Pastoral Guide*, "In virtue of rules enacted by the Synod of Bishops under the presidency of the Major Archbishop in 1969 the following rules of abstinence oblige in the United States:

- Abstinence from meat on all Fridays of the year except those which occur in privileged weeks and on holydays of Our Lord and of the Mother of God.
- Abstinence from meat and all dairy products on the first day of the Great Fast (Lent) and on Good Friday.
- Abstinence from meat, in addition to eating only one full meal and a smaller snack, milk products being permitted in accordance with local custom: on Christmas Eve, Epiphany Eve, Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14) and Beheading of St. John the Baptist (August 29).
- During the Great Fast, the faithful may also maintain the tradition of abstaining from meat on Wednesdays" (ibid., article 475).

Compiled by Fr. Lubomir Zhybak on March 3, 2022 and revised on Dec. 22, 2023.

# **Prayer Corner**

+ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we adore You, we praise You, we worship You, and we love You! We thank You for Your gift of life to us! We thank You for the overabundance of blessings that You bestow on us every day! You became man, suffered, and died on the cross for our salvation and we thank You for this gift of redemption that we received from You! We humbly ask You during this holy time of Lent to help us to love You wholeheartedly and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We ask You to continue to bless us and to help us to be Your authentic adopted children. We ask You to have mercy on us, to cleanse us of our sins, and to fill our hearts with Your life-giving grace. In Your immense kindness, please heed these petitions that we present to You:

- for the end of all wars and conflicts in the world, especially for the end of the current wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, for all who died during them, for the loved ones they left behind as well as for the enlightenment and conversion of the hearts of the aggressors, so that a sincere and truthful dialogue may lead to an authentic and lasting peace and reconciliation between people, we pray to You, O Lord, hear us and have mercy! Lord, have mercy!
- for the end of all abortions in the world, for all the aborted and miscarried babies, for the healing of those who committed or assisted with abortions, for the conversion of all who are planning to commit abortions as well as for all the unborn babies in the world and their parents, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for the end of the child slavery, child abuse, domestic abuse, gender ideology, prostitution, and human trafficking in the world, for all the victims both living and deceased as well as for the conversion of all who perpetrate these grave and heinous sins, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for the vocations to the sacred priesthood, diaconate, and religious life, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for the conversion to the true faith of all people in the world, who did not embrace the light of the Triune God yet, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for the conversion of all sinners in the world, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for the consolation of all persecuted Christians in the world, especially the ones in Asia, Middle East, and Africa and for the conversion of hearts and minds of those, who persecute them, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for the end of all wars, conflicts, and violence in the world, especially for the establishment of the authentic and lasting peace, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for all the refugees, the migrants, the poor, the hungry, the orphans, the half-orphans, the homeless, the missing, and the abducted throughout the world, especially the children, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for all prisoners in the world, especially the ones on death row, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for the liberation of all people in the world who are addicted to drugs, alcohol, smoking, and pornography, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for the conversion of all people in the world, who have difficulty telling the truth and acting truthfully, we pray to You, O Lord!
   Lord, have mercy!
- for all people in the world, who are hopeless as well as those, who contemplate suicide, that their hearts may be filled with hope, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for all widows and widowers in the world, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for the healing of all sick and handicapped people in the world, for the repose of the souls of all who died from any disease or handicap as well as for the loved ones they left behind, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for all unemployed people in the world and their families that they may find work soon, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for all faithful of the Catholic Church, especially all members of St. Josaphat Eparchy, as well as for all our families, relatives, friends, and acquaintances, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!
- for the deliverance of all souls from Purgatory to Heaven, we pray to You, O Lord! Lord, have mercy!

Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we humbly ask You to grant all of these petitions in accordance with Your most holy will through the intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos and all the Holy Angels and Saints, and may You be praised forever and ever! Amen.

+ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Composed by Fr. Lubomir Zhybak in 2020 and revised on February 24, 2024. Image: photo of the stained-glass window of Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Youngstown, OH (2021).