

WELCOME TO THE GOD-LODING & GOD-PROTECTED PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL'S!

A parish of the UOC-USA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate
74 Harris Ave. Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 401.762.3939 |
www.StMichaelUOC.org | Fr. Borislav Kroner

"Each one shall give what he has decided in his own mind, not Grudgingly or because he is made to - for God loves a cheerful giver." - II Cor. 9:7

November 26, 2023

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, Nov. 26: 25th Sunday after Pentecost / St. John

Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople

Tone 8 / Epistle: Eph. 4:1-6; Gospel: Lk. 10:25-37

9:00AM Divine Liturgy – Live video broadcast on our Facebook

page: page: https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/

WEEKDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon., Nov. 27: Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip

Epistle: 1 Tim. 1:1-7; Gospel: Lk. 14:12-15

LAST DAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY FAST

Tues, Nov. 28: **BEGINNING OF THE NATIVITY FAST** / Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus. - FAST

Epistle: 1 Tim. 1:8-14; Gospel: Lk. 14:25-35

Wed., Nov. 29: Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew – FAST

Epistle: 1 Tim. 1:18-20 – 2:8-15; Gospel: Lk. 15:1-10

Thur, Nov. 30: St. Gregory the Wonderworker - FAST

Epistle: 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Gospel: Lk. 16:1-9 Fri., Dec. 1: Martyr Platon of Ancyra – FAST

Epistle: 1 Tim. 4:4-8, 16; Gospel: Lk. 16:15-18; 17:1-4

Sat., Dec. 2: Ven. Barlaam, abbot of the Kyiv Caves -- FAST

Epistle: Gal. 3:8-12; Gospel: Lk. 9:57-62

Sunday, Dec. 3: 26th Sunday after Pentecost / Forefeast of the

Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple – FAST

Tone 1 / Epistle: Eph. 5:8-19; Gospel: Lk. 12:16-21

9:00AM Divine Liturgy - Live video broadcast on our Facebook

page: page: https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/

Remember: even when you are absent, expenses continue

SCRIPTURE READINGS: SUNDAY, NOV. 26, 2023

Ephesians 4:1-6 (Epistle)

BRETHREN, I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Luke 10:25-37 (Gospel)

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him,

he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise.

PARISH NEWS

--IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that we share the news that Jaroslaw Krawciw fell asleep in the Lord Thursday morning. Information on his funeral services will be announced soon. Please pray for the soul of Jaroslaw and for peace and strength for his family and friends during their time of grief. Memory Eternal!

--SPECIAL MEETING: December 3, 2023, During Coffee Hour Dear Parishioners of St. Michael,

On December 3, 2023, there will be a Special Meeting in the church hall regarding the request of some of the parishioners to change from the from the Julian ("old") calendar to the Revised Julian ("new") calendar.

I have asked Father Boris to speak regarding this requested change and to report on what our Hierarchs in South Bound Brook have spoken about the calendar change at the annual Clergy Conference held in October 2023. There will be opportunity for questions and we also encourage anyone who would like to speak on the matter to please do so at this meeting.

This is a very important meeting and we want to keep everyone aware of the discussions on this topic in order to discern our parish's interest. A vote would need to take place (possibly at the next annual meeting in June 2024) before any change to the calendar would take place. Please note, only those parishioners in good standing (have paid their yearly dues/diocese fee of \$105 per person) will be able to participate in this vote to change the parish calendar. We need everyone's input regarding this topic and more importantly your support of the Church. The \$105 fee per parishioner is money we take out of our parish treasury and send to the Consistory to support the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this Special Meeting.

Your servant in Christ, Irene Shewchuk, Parish Board President

-<u>SEEKING COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS</u>: We are seeking volunteers to sponsor a coffee hour. There will be a white board setup in the Hall with the dates. Simply, write your name for the Sunday you wish

to sponsor. Usually the coffee pot and water kettle are ready to go upon your arrival. The coffee pot needs to be plugged in by 8:30 am. You are responsible for purchasing milk and half & half for the coffee. There are presently packaged goods in the kitchen. There also may be frozen items in the freezer designated for coffee hour. Feel free to bring your own items as well. At the end of coffee hour, you are responsible for washing the coffee pot, utensils, plates, etc., wrapping any leftovers, cleaning the food tables and kitchen counter. Please ask if you have any questions or need help with your coffee hour. Thank you for volunteering. Thanks, Eleanor

-ST. MICHAEL CEMETERY ACCESS: Polish National Cemetery has a contract to excavate and to remove gravel from their cemetery. The operation will take place Monday thru Friday between 7am − 5pm and Saturday 9am − 12 pm. Be aware that you may encounter quite a bit of activity involved on the shared road. Excavation and removal of the sand has begun, so please be careful entering and leaving the cemetery.

--ADOPT-A-FAMILY: The Senior UOL asks for your help with this outreach project! For 37 years, the Community Care Alliance of Woonsocket has sponsored "Adopt-A-Family" at the Christmas Season. This is a program that helps families with children who would normally not have anything for Christmas. These families are provided with gifts that they can leave under the Christmas tree for their children.

We have "adopted" a family of a single mother, with with four children.

They are asking for help that her children might have a normal Christmas.

Please visit the "Christmas Tree" display on the wall in the Parish Hall and take the ornaments for the gifts you will be providing.

Once you choose the gift(s) you'd like to purchase, here's what you'll do.

You will wrap your gift, and leave tags on, in the event exchange is needed. Do NOT put receipts with the gifts.

Your gift must be labeled with the child/family information provided on the back of the ornament.

All gifts MUST be delivered to the Church Hall by Sunday, December 3rd!! There are absolutely NO exceptions to this date. (We must deliver on December 4th)

Please see or contact Cindy if you can help or volunteer for the drop off day. charestr@aol.com

Thank you all for your participation in making this holiday a little brighter for at least one local family! "God Bless Us, Everyone"!

-NOV. 26TH: Sr. UOL Soup Sale with Fr. Dn. Paul's famous borsch. Suggested donation is \$5 per bowl/container. Future soup sale dates: Dec. 31st Mar. 31st. And our Souperbowl Sunday on Feb. 11, 2024.

-2ND COLLECTION: The Special Collection will be to help with the expenses of repairing the front steps of the Church. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you!

--COOKIE WALK: "Now that our festival is over, we need to turn to our next largest fund raiser of the year, the annual Cookie Walk! It is not too early to begin baking and freezing your favorite cookies! Bins will be available for freezing and storage. And you can bring them here to freeze. We need at least six dozen cookies of each variety."

Thank you all in advance for your participation. If any questions, (or you need a recipe), see Cindy!

--ST. ANDREW, BOSTON: St. Andrew's Day Celebration! Sunday, December 10, 2023 @ 10 A.M. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy Celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony. In honor of the 65th anniversary of St. Andrew's and especially in honor of Very Reverend Father Roman Tarnavsky on the 45th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood Join us for dinner and a concert after the Liturgy. Tickets - \$25 for adults Please make a reservation by email to: standrewukrainianboston@gmail.com

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All events at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Boston / 24 Orchardhill Road, Boston, MA 02130

KITCHEN SESSIONS

Tuesday, Dec. 5 - **8:00AM** - prepare potato filling.

Wednesday, Dec.6 – 8:00AM – make Potato Varenyky.

UPCOMING PARISH & INTER-PARISH EVENTS

—2nd Thursday of every month — Akathist to the Mother of God, Healer of Cancer @ 7PM / Followed by Adult Religious Education class. Please submit the names of those you want to have remembered to Fr. Boris.

-Saturday, December 16 - Annual Cookie Walk

UOL CORNER

--UOL'S MISSION STATEMENT: "The Ukrainian Orthodox League is a national volunteer organization of members in the Ukrainian Orthodox

Church of the USA, who are committed to promoting the Orthodox Faith, supporting the Church, developing the potential of our youth and their active participation in the life of the Church, and preserving Ukrainian heritage and culture."

--UOL MOTTO: "Dedicated to our Church, Devoted to Its Youth"

-GOALS OF THE UOL:

- Promoting active participation in all aspects of the Orthodox faith and supporting the Church.
- Developing and maintaining programs and projects which educate members and promote dedication and commitment to the Church, Her teachings, traditions, and missions.
- Proving opportunities for the development of leadership skills and responsibility among the youth of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.
- Providing and promoting information on Ukrainian heritage and history to the general public and establishing means which ensure the continuation of cultural awareness and pride within our membership.
- -NOV. 26TH: Sr. UOL Soup Sale with Fr. Dn. Paul's famous borsch.
- -Dec. 31st: UOL Soup Sale
- -- Feb. 11, 2024: Souperbowl Sunday
- -- Mar. 31st: UOL Soup Sale
- -JAN. 14, 2024: UOL Meeting during the coffee hour.

CHURCH SCHOOL CORNER

- -15 MINUTES WITH FATHER -- Last Sunday of the month.
- -SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 St. Nicholas Day Children's Celebration

PATRON SAINTS OF THE YOUTH OF THE UOC OF THE USA - HOLY MARTYRS CHRISTINA AND JULIAN

Holy Martyr Christina lived during the third century in Tyre, modern-day Lebanon. Her father, governor of Tyre, wanted the exceptionally beautiful girl to be a pagan priestess. He, therefore, placed her at age 11 in a tower with gold and silver idols. St. Christina begged God to reveal Himself and

was visited by an angel who revealed Christ to her. St. Christina smashed all the idols and as a result endured many tortures at the hands of her father, including beatings, being burned, and having a large stone put around her neck in an attempt to drown her at sea. Each time an angel protected her. In terror, her father ascribed this to sorcery and he decided to execute her in the morning. That night he suddenly died. Subsequent governors subjected St. Christina to many more cruel tortures including cutting off her tongue. The martyr took her tongue and threw it in the governor's face, and he was instantly blinded. Finally, the torturers executed St. Christina with a sword.

The Holy Martyr Julian of Tarsus was born in the Asia Minor province of Cilicia. He was the son of a pagan senator, but his mother was a Christian. After the death of her husband the mother of Saint Julian moved to Tarsus, where her son was baptized and raised in Christian piety.

When Julian reached age 18, a persecution against Christians began under the emperor Diocletian (284-305 AD). Among those arrested was Saint Julian. They brought him before the governor Marcian for trial, and for a long time they urged him to renounce Christ. Neither tortures nor threats, nor promises of gifts and honors could convince the pious youth to offer pagan sacrifice and deny Christ. The holy confessor remained steadfast in his firm faith.

For a whole year they led the martyr through the cities of Cilicia, everywhere subjecting him to interrogation and tortures, after which they threw him in prison. After continued imprisonment and the young man's refusal to deny Christ, they tied the Martyr Julian into a sack, filled with sand and poisonous snakes and scorpions, and threw him into the sea. The body of the sufferer was carried by the waves to the shores of Alexandria, where it was found by Christians and given a proper burial.

Through the intercession and example of these two young martyrs the youth of the Church have strong mentors and protectors. In today's ever darkening society, the youngest members of the Church are continuously faced with difficult decisions and situations. It is easy to get lost in all the propaganda and misinformation they are exposed to. Therefore, more than ever, it is crucial that the Church continue to pray for the safety and salvation of the children of the Church.

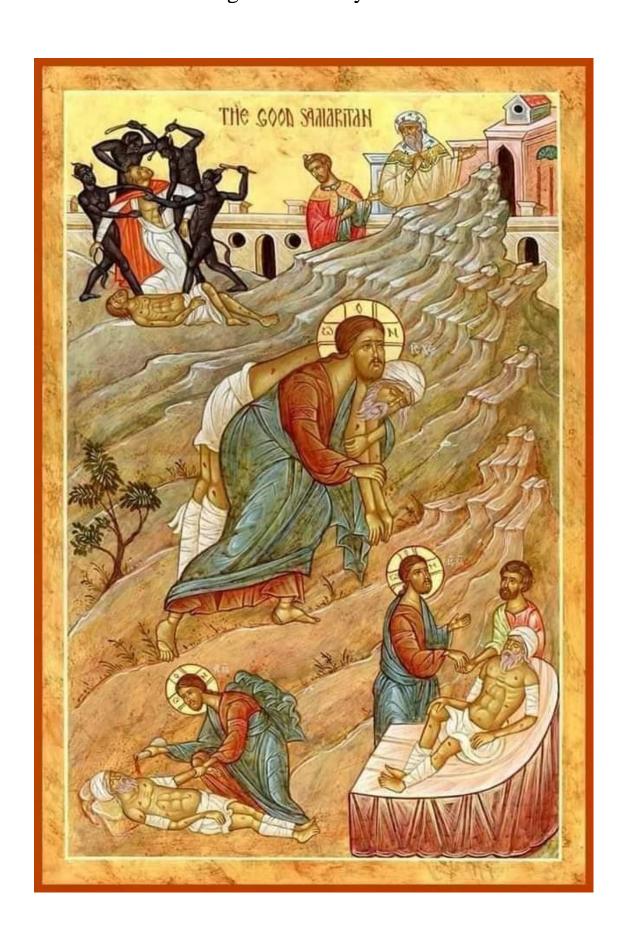
An icon of the two young martyrs was commissioned and written by Church iconographer Michael Kapeluck. Copies were made of the icon and during the evening service, the hierarchs blessed them all before distributing them to the clergy present in order to be taken back with them to their home parishes. In addition to the regularly served Akathist to the Birth-Giver of God – the Nurturer of Children served monthly, additional services and prayers will be raised to benefit the youth, to grant them wisdom, guidance, integrity, maturity and dedication to Christ and His teachings, and not to wander off the narrow path which leads them to salvation.

TROPAR (St. Julian) [Tone 4]

Your holy martyr Julian, O Lord, through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God. For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. Through his intercessions save our souls!

TROPAR (St. Christina) [Tone 4]

O Lord Jesus, unto Thee Thy lamb doth cry with a great voice: O my Bridegroom, Thee I love; and seeking Thee, I now contest, and with Thy baptism am crucified and buried. I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee; for Thy sake I die, that I may live in Thee: accept me offered out of longing to Thee as a spotless sacrifice. Lord, save our souls through her intercessions since Thou art great in mercy.



Holiday Cookie Walk 2023 December 16, 2023 9-11AM

We're back! But we have competition! And we **NEED** your help!!! We are trying to make this Cookie walk something special for us all! We want to offer new items and wonder if you have an idea??????

This year we will offer pre-scooped, frozen ready to bake chocolate chip cookies. And also quart sized jars of ready to mix cookies adding a few fresh ingredients. We are considering offering a fresh frozen home made cheeseball for an appetizer table. But we need to think of, and do MORE! You may know that Wright's Dairy Farm is now using the Cookie walk concept, as is Mount St. Charles, Blackstone Library, North Smithfield Library and many more! Some charge more than we do (yes, some less), but frankly, we think our cookies can't be beat! What you can offer us as ideas to help offer NEW products???

The MOST important part of this sale will be a firm commitment from YOU!!! Your promise to bake lots of cookies will be the key to our success (and sanity).

Please let us know ASAP how you will help, by completing this form and returning to Donna or Cindy. And remember....you can team up! It eases the work and doubles the profit...er product!

White bins will be available for freezing and are our preferred form of delivery as they pack nicely in our freezers. Yes, you can bring your cookies as soon as they're baked. We'll take good care of them (nom, nom)! And if you're a last minute Suzy, all cookies need to be delivered and trayed by 7AM the morning of the walk. Please don't make us more anxious by not being prepared. Organization is a key and is extremely important to us. This is one of our largest fund raisers and lots of fun!!!

Please return to Cindy or Donna ASAP

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will make 10-12 dozen of:
)
)
)
NORE????? Please use the back side
ll be there to help at the walk!!yes!! Oh! What fun! ☺
orry, no, I can't be there with you all. ☺
lame·

THE NATIVITY FAST NOVEMBER 28TH THROUGH JANUARY 6TH

During the Nativity Fast the Church encourages us to intensify our spiritual lives in order to ready our souls and bodies for the Feast. We do this through fasting, prayer, alms-giving, confession and increased attention given to "preparing for His coming", to make sure we've done what we can to make a "fit dwelling place for Him" in our hearts and lives.

"increase your prayer life, read more scripture and spiritual books, especially lives of the saints. A little less television, no anger, no gossiping, no laziness and let's try to avoid the Christmas parties. If we prepare in this way, God will bless us and we will find the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord to be far more spiritually rewarding than ever before. May God help us to struggle courageously." Bishop Joseph

The Purpose of Fasting

The purpose of fasting is to focus on the things that are above, the Kingdom of God. It is a means of putting on virtue in reality, here and now. Through it we are freed from dependence on worldly things. We fast faithfully and in secret, not judging others, and not holding ourselves up as an example.

- Fasting in itself is not a means of pleasing God. Fasting is not a punishment for our sins. Nor is fasting a means of suffering and pain to be undertaken as some kind of atonement. Christ already redeemed us on His Cross. Salvation is a gift from God that is not bought by our hunger or thirst.
- We fast to be delivered from carnal passions so that God's gift of Salvation may bear fruit in us.
- We fast and turn our eyes toward God in His Holy Church. Fasting and prayer go together.
- Fasting is not irrelevant. Fasting is not obsolete, and it is not something for someone else. Fasting is from God, for us, right here and right now.
- Most of all, we should not devour each other. We ask God to "set a watch and keep the door of our lips."

Fasting Periods

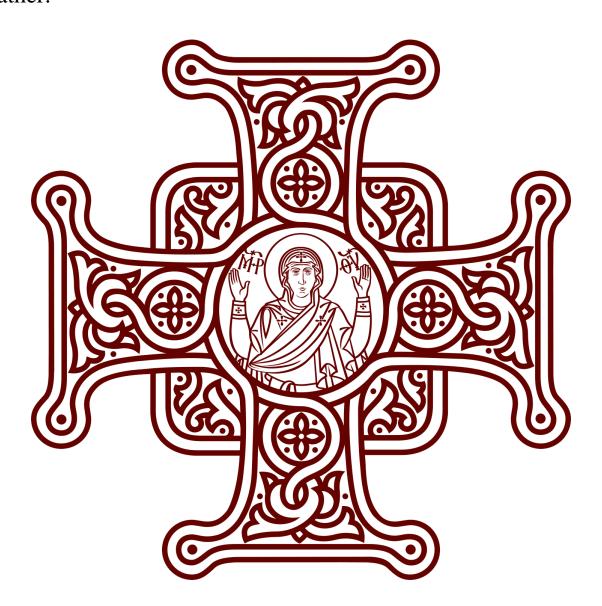
The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a joyous fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ. That is the reason it is less strict than other fasting periods. The fast is divided into two periods.

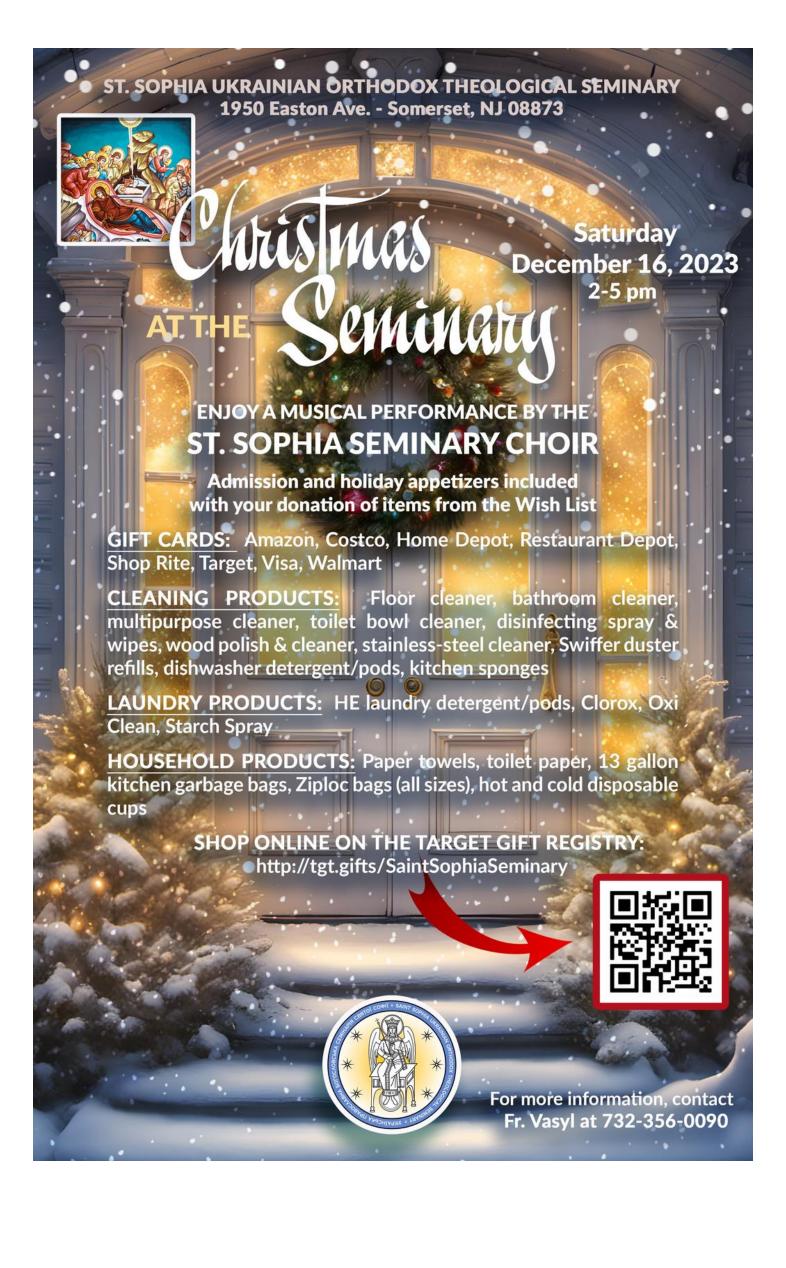
- 1. **November 28th through January 1st** the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Similarly, fish, wine, and oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays.
- 2. **January 2nd through January 6th** traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday during this period.

Please note that this is the letter of the tradition and certain allowances should be made for the occasional suspension of the severity of the fast, not as an excuse for laxity or indulgence, but when love requires. When in doubt, talk to your priest!

When Not to Fast

- between January 7 and January 18th (even on Wednesdays and Fridays);
- if you are pregnant or nursing a newborn;
- during serious illness;
- without prayer;
- without alms-giving;
- according to your own will without guidance from your spiritual father.







St. Philip Fast in Anticipation of the Nativity of our Savior!

Dearly beloved Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Churches beyond the borders of Ukraine and those of our Holy Church in Ukrainian lands:

CHRIST IS AMONG US!

We have begun the Fast of St. Philip, called such because it commences the day after the Feast of St. Philip the Apostle, which falls on 27 November (14 November on the Gregorian or New Calendar) and continues through the Eve of the Holy Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on 6 January (24 December on the Gregorian Calendar).

During this time of spiritual journey, we are to seek the ways in which we can place our lives into the context of the events of Bethlehem, knowing that in Christ our Savior we are claimed as God's own forever. The whole of this St. Philip's Fast and the salvation story is premised on the birth of the Child, which offers us a glimpse and hope of new life. Unfortunately, during this time each year we often fail to comprehend the reason of this special and sacred season.

During the next several weeks, we shall seek to proclaim in word and deed the possibility of new life for all humanity. By the time Orthodox Christians enter into the season of St. Philip fast and begin to prepare to greet into the world a new-born Child, the commercial world has already declared its version of the "Xmas Holidays". Being bombarded by the materialism surrounding the celebration of this "joyful season", we sometimes forget that we have entered the time of waiting, reflection and a heavy dose of joyful expectation. We are invited to fast in order to renew our faith, deepen our prayer life and prepare ourselves for a Holy Encounter with the Christ-Child.

Now more than ever, we who proclaim our love to Christ must remind the world that the Nativity season is, indeed, a proclamation of the Incarnation of Christ – the Word who "was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1;14) in all humility as a child in a manger – while we remember the promise of Christ to return in all His Glory at the Great and Final Judgment.

To reflect on the historical Nativity of the Christ-Child and to await His glorious return has no value unless we willing and able to nurture this birth in our hearts every single day. In order to worthily celebrate Christ's Nativity, we are invited during this fasting period to participate in the fulfillment of God's mission "to bring good news to the poor, to release the captives and all who are oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Lk. 4:18-19).

The liturgical readings of the next several weeks, leading us to the Nativity of Christ are as much about our birth as they are to prepare us for the Nativity of the Savior. They are about our identification with the events we read and hear in the Sacred Scriptures. As Orthodox Christians, we need understand that there is certain urgency about how we live out our Christian values. We are invited to come and see Him – the Christ-Child – and to see ourselves in Him. Where do we encounter weakness in our own hearts? How do we become a neighbor to those who are weak in our society? How well do we represent the caring presence of God in the world?

When we live lives characterized by love and caring, we do image that presence to the world today. The parish communities that take seriously their call to image the reality of God offer what secular institutions cannot: holiness of life, rejection of evil, compassion for the other and a willingness to share. We cannot model a better way of living without first encountering the Christ-Child – the Incarnation. This time of St. Philip's fast calls us to detach from the things and ways that are not of God and to stand with God.

As in the past, we call upon you all as our spiritual children to join us in praying fervently during this season for the leaders of the world we live in, especially for the end of the invasion of Ukraine with her boundaries intact. We ask you to also join in our prayers for all the many war-torn areas in the world - Israel, Gaza, and in other nations around the world suffering also through genocide, slavery and repression. Finally, we ask you to pray for our United States of America, that the divisions, hatred, racism and mass murders be ended. It is a secularized world full of strife, economic weakness instability. Pray for the maturity of those who lead the nations – again especially Ukraine, which is so dear to our hearts.

As we prepare ourselves for the sacred time of the Nativity of our Lord, we pray for your successful journey through St. Philip's Fast and for your willingness to accept God's Gift of Love to us all. May we all respond to the Good News of Christ's Nativity by looking not only down at the world's misery, but up to God and out to your family, friends, neighbors – and strangers.

Assuring you of our prayers and love and requesting yours, we remain your servants in the Lord,

+ ANTONY

By the Grace of God, Metropolitan

+ JEREMIAH

By the Grace of God, Archbishop

+ DANIEL

By the Grace of God, Archbishop



Свято-Пилипівський піст - підготовка до Різдва Ісуса Христа, нашого Спасителя

Дорогі улюблені священнослужителі, монахи та вірні Українських Православних Церков поза межами України та нашої Святої Церкви на українських землях:

ХРИСТОС ПОСЕРЕД НАС!

Вже розпочався піст св. Пилипа, названий так через те, що він починається на наступний день після свята св. Апостола Пилипа, яке припадає 27 листопада (14 листопада за григоріанським чи новим календарем) і продовжується до надвечір'я святого свята Різдва Господа нашого і Спасителя Ісуса Христа 6 січня (24 грудня за григоріанським календарем).

Під час наступних декілька тижнів, ми будемо проповідувати словом і ділом можливість нового життя для всього людства. Заки настає час Свято-Пилипівського посту для православних християн, які почнуть готовитись зустрічати у світ новонародженого Дитяти, промисловий світ вже давно оголосив свою версію "Різдвяних свят". Будучи заваленими матеріалізмом, що оточив святкування цього "радісного сезону", ми часто забуваємо, що прийшов час очікування великої радості. Ми постимо для того, щоб відновити свою віру, покращити своє молитовне життя та підготувати до святої зустрічі з Дитятком-Христом.

А зараз як ніколи, ми, що проповідуємо нашу любов до Христа, мусимо нагадати світові, що Різдвяний період, насамперед, є проголошенням втілення Христа - Слово, що "стало тілом і перебувало між нами" (Ів. 1:14) з повною смиренністю як дитя у яслах - пам'ятаючи про обіцянку Христа повернутись у всій Своїй Славі під час великого та остаточного суду.

Згадуючи про історичне Різдво Христа та очікуючи Його славне повернення не має для нас ніякої цінності аж поки ми не будемо хотіти та виховувати це народження у наших серцях кожного дня. Щоб достойно відсвяткувати Різдво Христа нас закликається, під час цього періоду, взяти участь у завершені Божої місії "Добру Новину звіщати вбогим,

проповідувати полоненим визволення, відпустити на волю помучених, щоб проповідувати рік Господнього змилування" (Лк. 4:18-19)

Літургійні читання на наступних декілька тижнів, що ведуть нас до Різдва Христового, є і про наше народження, так як вони готують нас до Різдва Спасителя. В цих читаннях ідеться про наше спів-ставлення з подіями про які ми читаємо і чуємо у Святому Письмі. Як православні християни, ми повинні розуміти, що існує певне занепокоєння про те, як ми живемо вживаючи християнські чесноти. Нас закликається прийти і побачити Його - Дитя-Христа - і побачити в Ньому самих себе. Де ми знаходимо слабість у нашому серці? Як ми стаємо ближніми до тих котрі є немічні у нашому суспільстві? Чи вміло показуємо світові дбайливу Божу присутність?

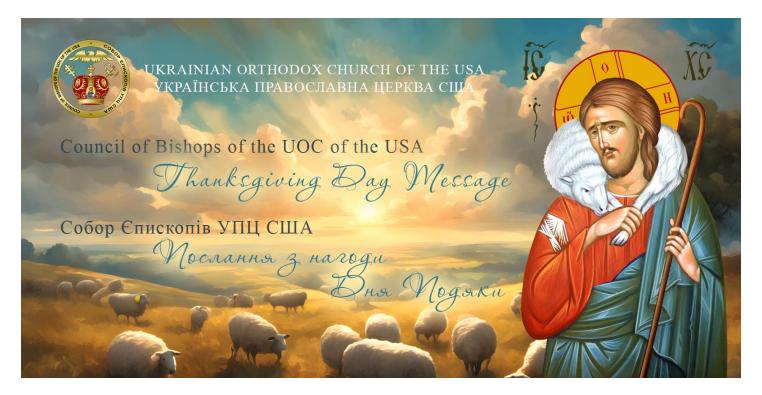
Коли ми живемо своє життя осягнене любов'ю та дбайливістю, ми показуємо добрий приклад світові. Парафіяльні громади, які серйозно ставляться до свого покликання - показати Божу присутність, пропонують те, що світські установи не можуть робити, а саме: святість життя, відхилення від злого, співчуття іншим та бажання ділитися. Ми не можемо показати кращий шлях життя не беручи до уваги Дитяти-Христа - Втілення. Цей час Свято-Пилипівського посту закликає нас відкинути шляхи та дії що не від Бога і бути з Богом.

Як і в минулому, ми закликаємо вас усіх, наших духовних дітей, приєднатися до нас у ревній молитві протягом цього сезону за лідерів світу, в якому ми живемо, особливо за кінець вторгнення в Україну з її недоторканими кордонами. Ми просимо вас також приєднатися до наших молитов за всі охоплені війною території світу — Ізраїль, Газу та інші країни по всьому світу, які також страждають через геноцид, рабство та репресії. Нарешті, ми просимо вас молитися за наші Сполучені Штати Америки, щоб було покладено кінець поділам, ненависті, расизму та масовим вбивствам. Це секуляризований світ, повний чвар, економічної слабкості та політичної нестабільності. Моліться за зрілість тих, хто веде народи – знову ж таки, особливо Україну, яка так дорога нашим серцям.

Готуючись до Різдва нашого Господа ми молимось за ваше успішне проведення Свято-Пилипівського посту та за ваше бажання прийняти Божий дар любові. Нехай ми всі у відповідь на Добру Вістку Різдва Христового будемо дивитись не лиш на недолю світу, а на Бога, на нашу сім'ю, друзів, ближніх та незнайомих.

Запевняємо вас у наших молитвах та просимо ваших, ми залишаємось слугами у Господі,

+ АНТОНІЙ
Ласкою Божою, Митрополит
+ ЄРЕМІЯ
Ласкою Божою, Архієпископ
+ ДАНИЇЛ
Ласкою Божою, Архієпископ



Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA: Gratitude is the Heart of Thanksgiving

Beloved clergy, brothers and sisters in the Lord: **CHRIST IS AMONG US!**

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is Good, for His steadfast love endures forever." – Ps. 136:1

With this quote come our warmest wishes for a most Blessed Thanksgiving Weekend to you and your families!

Thanksgiving is traditionally a time of year when we gather with family and friends in sincere gratitude for God's abundant blessings in our lives. This year, confronted with so many unique challenges in our country and throughout the world, it may be difficult to recognize the blessings God has provided for us in 2023. But gratitude must be experienced in this present moment and in our daily reflections about the value of life.

In the Gospel narrative according to the Holy Evangelist Matthew, our Lord invites us to "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (6:26). Each of us matters that much to God!

Throughout history, thanksgivings have been held at the end of harvests, in celebration of successful growing seasons. But the yield at harvest time is always unpredictable, just as life's trials. However, our faith assures us that when challenges abound, God's Grace abounds all the more!

That is why Thanksgiving Day is a celebration that reaches deep into our faith journey. It is a day that we set aside to remind us to be grateful and to express that gratitude - to God, to our loved ones, co-workers, people whom we encounter in our daily lives. It is also a time to let our gratitude be transformed into actions of generosity, as we feed those who are hungry and help those who are separated.

As we reflect on this year, we remain truly grateful to see God blessing our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA through each of you, our faithful laity, clergy, and seminarians. Your support of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, during this horrific war, your generosity in providing food for the hungry, clothing for the naked; helping with the efforts to keep our parish churches Christ-centered - have all certainly been edifying. We remain always grateful for all of you who volunteer in our parishes and for our Metropolia Center Consistory staff - for your steadfast devotion to the Church and her mission. It is our joy and privilege to be coworkers with all of you for Christ the Savior, Who gives us courage and hope.

On Thanksgiving Day, whether we gather with family and friends together around the same table or remotely gather through the gift of technology, let us always remember to give thanks for the many blessings from our Lord.

May you experience the nearness and love of Christ this Thanksgiving Day and always.

With prayers for all of you,

+Antony, Metropolitan

+Daniel, Archbishop



Собор Єпископів Української Православної Церкви США: **Вдячність** – це є Суть Подяки

Всечесні отці, улюблені брати і сестри: ХРИСТОС ПОСЕРЕД НАС!

«Принесіть подяку Господеві, бо Він благий, бо повіки ласка Його!» Пс. 136:1

Цими рядками з книги Псалмів ми щиро вітаємо вас та ваші родини і бажаємо благословенного Дня Подяки!

Традиційно День Подяки є тим часом у році, коли ми збираємося в колі сім'ї та друзів і висловлюємо вдячність за рясні Божі благословення в нашому житті. Однак цього року, зіткнувшись з багатьма незвичними викликами в нашій країні та й у всьому світі, може бути непросто помічати ті благословення, які Бог дав нам у 2023 році. Але попри все це, необхідно усвідомлювати відчуття вдячності та пам'ятати про цінність життя у наших щоденних роздумах.

У Євангельському читанні від святого Євангелиста Матвія, Господь запрошує нас: «Погляньте на птахів небесних, що не сіють, не жнуть, не збирають у клуні, та проте ваш Небесний Отець їх годує. Чи ж ви не багато вартніші за них?» (Мт 6:26). Кожен із нас є цінним для Бога!

Впродовж історії, Дні Подяки проводилися наприкінці осені, щоб відсвяткувати вдалий збір урожаю. Звичайно, що врожай під час жнив є завжди непередбачуваним, такими як і життєві випробування. Однак наша віра запевняє нас, що коли випробувань багато, то Благодать Божа ще дужче рясніє! Ось чому День Подяки – це свято, яке глибоко проникає у нашу віру. Це день який пригадує нам бути вдячними та виражати цю вдячність Богові, нашим близьким, колегам по роботі, людям, з якими ми зустрічаємось у повсякденному житті. Це також час, коли наша вдячність перетворюється на щедрість, годуючи голодних та допомагаючи знедоленим.

Розмірковуючи про цей рік, ми вдячні Богу, який благословляє нашу Святу Українську Православну Церкву США через кожного з Вас, наших вірних мирян, духовенство та семінаристів. Адже Ваша підтримка наших братів і сестер в Україні під час цієї жахливої війни; Ваша щедрість у забезпеченні їжею голодних, одягом для нагих; прикладаючи усі зусилля для того, щоб наші парафіяльні церкви зосереджувалися на Христі – є взірцями наснаги для усіх нас. Ми залишаємося завжди вдячними всім Вам, хто працює на благо наших парафій, а також співробітникам Консисторії при

осередку Митрополії – за непохитну відданість Церкві та її місії. Це наша радість і привілей трудитися разом з усіма вами для Христа Спасителя, Який дає нам мужність і надію.

У День Подяки, незалежно від того, чи ми збираємося з сім'єю та друзями за одним столом чи дистанційно, завдяки сучасним технологіям, пам'ятаймо про важливість висловлення подяки Богові за Його численні благословення.

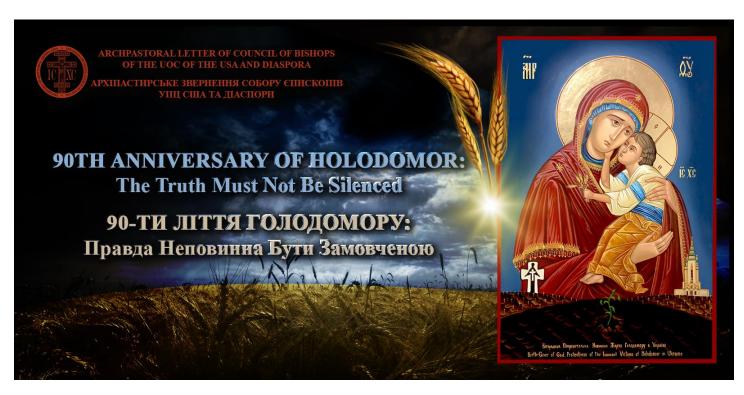
Нехай відчуття близькості та любові Христа будуть з Вами цього Дня Подяки та назавжди.

З молитвою за всіх вас,

+Антоній, Митрополит

+Даниїл, Архієпископ

Archpastoral Letter of Council of Bishops of the UOC of the USA and Diaspora: 90th Anniversary of HOLODOMOR: The Truth Must Not Be Silenced



"The path of the righteous is as the dawning light that shines brighter and brighter unto the perfect day." (Proverbs 4:18)

The 90th Anniversary of the Ukrainian HOLODOMOR – Genocide by Starvation - is before us and our souls resound with a powerful call for justice and truth that will not be silenced.

Each and single day of 2022-2023 must be a day of remembrance and devotion for our people, a spiritual journey to the memorials of our martyrs in Ukraine, the United States of America (especially in Washington, DC and at the Spiritual Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox

Church of the USA in South Bound Brook, NJ) and throughout the world, before which we humbly kneel in prayer with offerings of incense for the souls of our innocent victims, millions of whom lie in unmarked graves, having suffered horrible death by starvation. Indeed, "the path of the righteous is as the dawning light that shines brighter and brighter unto the perfect day."

In 1932-1933, and for years before and after, Soviet Russian Government committed Genocide against the Ukrainian people. In Eastern and Central Ukraine up to 10 million sons and daughters of our nation were subjected to slaughter, famine and disease, left to die on the streets of cities, towns and villages, deported and forced to march to their deaths. The way of life and honest accomplishments and creativity along with thousands of monasteries and churches were desecrated and swiftly destroyed. National institutions and schools were razed and ruined. Our spiritual and cultural treasures were uprooted and obliterated.

Ninety years ago - when fragments of the Ukrainian nation, having lost generations of citizens, were scattered throughout the world, and Ukraine, under Soviet oppression, was waging a life-and-death struggle for survival – it was difficult to believe in a future for Ukrainian people. Nevertheless, a new dawn came. By the Grace of God, our people rose from death. The people, guided by their ancient history and spiritual treasury and traditions, rose like the proverbial phoenix from the ashes, regenerated their country out of the ruins and built a "homeland of light and hope," of science, education and culture, as a true European nation. Ukrainians throughout the world built homes churches and community centers, flourishing in countries near and far, carrying on their traditions and spiritual life. Wherever the children of our nation lived, they achieved success, earned respect and trust, gaining recognition for their conscientious work and contributions to all aspects of human life. This is the history of our people throughout centuries – one of repeated adversity and resurrection.

Today, besieged by yet another genocide, the citizens of our ancestral homeland Ukraine once again defend themselves against the evil regime of death in the Russian Federation. Thus, the memory of the genocidal HOLODOMOR against the Ukrainian people becomes more profound as Russia again murders men, women and children, steals grain, blocks Ukrainian ports and destroys critical infrastructure resulting in starvation, suffering and horror for not only Ukraine but nations throughout the world who depend solely on receiving Ukrainian wheat to feed their citizens – because Ukraine grows and exports a 25% of the world's annual wheat needs and supply.

Glory to you, O Lord, "Like a shield you protect us with your good favor." (Psalms 5:12). By placing our hope in You, O Lord, our people were enlightened and strengthened. Your light kindled the ingenuity of our spirit. Your Might propelled us to our victories. We created, even though others attempt to destroy our creations. We continued to live, even though others want us dead. You, O Lord, willed that our people – condemned to death by a genocidal plan - should live on.

As it was 90 years ago, so it is today – the blood of our innocent martyrs and the suffering of our people cry out for justice. Our destroyed churches, community centers and homes, the violation of our national rights and the usurpation and distortion of our history all cry out for justice. Having survived genocidal HOLODOMOR, we continue to believe that all the nations of the world – beginning with the United Nations – will finally join those righteous nations that have declared the HOLODOMOR to be an act of genocide, rather than a "national tragedy" as proclaimed by the United Nations in 2003. What further proof is needed beyond the devastation in Ukraine today?

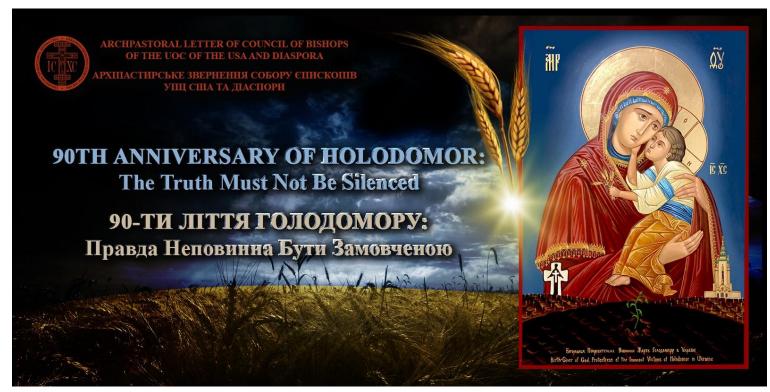
In memory of millions of martyrs from HOLODOMOR, we express our gratitude to those nations, organizations and individuals who have had the courage and conviction to recognize and condemn the HOLODOMOR as genocide. The world sat by in silence as the HOLODOMOR of 1932-33 ravaged Ukraine. Today, the world stands up for Ukraine with incredible unity and conviction. We express gratitude to those nations and individuals that have accepted the citizens of Ukraine as brothers and sisters during the present genocide, providing the necessities of life in many, many ways. These examples of justice shall be luminous pages in the history of mankind. They will be remembered and appreciated unto eternity.

O, God-Loving people of Ukraine, graced from on high - a nation tortured - a nation resurrected - live peacefully and with an unwavering heart, keep your faith and hope alive. The Lord's encouragement and message are addressed to you: "Though you are not mighty, you were faithful to my word, and you did not betray my name... Hold fast what you have so that no one will take away your crown of victory." (Revelations 3:8-11). Thus, let us stay on course before God, righteous and true, on the steadfast path of faith, which like the morning light dispels the darkness and makes the horizons of hope visible. Our way is with God; and the life of faith is our victory. Let us transform the remembrance of our HOLODOMOR victims into strength in our spiritual and national life. Before God and all mankind, may their memory illuminate our path to righteousness and guide our way

toward the realization of our sacred aspirations and justice for the world.

From our Church's cherished spiritual center in South Bound Brook, NJ, the sight of the first Memorial constructed in the world (1965) for the HOLODOMOR victims – ST. ANDREW MEMORIAL CHURCH – let us pray fervently to God for peace, safety and the welfare of our beloved Ukraine and her people – our people. May Love, Justice and Truth reign over all humanity, and may the ways of the righteous radiate, guide and spread the Light of Christ until the dawn of a new day brings peace and happiness to all the world.

- + ANTONY, Metropolitan
- + **JEREMIAH**, Archbishop
 - + DANIEL, Archbishop



«А путь праведних ніби те світло ясне, що світить все більше та більш аж до повного дня!» (Прип. 4:18)

Перед нами 90-ті роковини ГОЛОДОМОРУ в Україні – знаний у світі як Геноцид Голодом, і наші душі невпинно лунають потужним закликом до справедливості та правди.

Кожен день 2022-2023 років повинен бути днем пам'яті та відданості для нашого народу, духовною подорожжю до меморіалів наших мучеників в Україні, Сполучених Штатах Америки (особливо у Вашингтоні та в Духовному осередку Української Православної Церкви США в Саут-Баунд-Бруці, штат Нью-Джерсі) і загалом в усьому світі, перед якими смиренно встаємо на коліна з молитвою за душі наших невинних жертв, мільйони яких лежать у безіменних могилах, зазнавши страшної

смерті голодом. Адже справді, «путь праведних ніби те світло ясне, що світить все більше та більш аж до повного дня!»

У 1932-1933 роках, а також протягом попередніх і наступних років уряд радянської Росії вчинив Геноцид супроти українського народу. У Східній і Центральній Україні близько 10 мільйонів синів і дочок нашого народу були масово вбиті, зазнали голоду та хвороб, були покинуті просто вмирати на вулицях міст і сіл, а інші були депортовані та змушені прямувати на смерть. Спосіб життя, чесні досягнення і творчість, разом з тисячами монастирів і церков були осквернені і швидко знищені. Були зруйновані вщент національні установи та школи. Більше того, були викорінені та стерті з лиця землі наші духовні та культурні скарби.

Дев'яносто років тому - коли часточки української нації, втративши покоління громадян, були розпорошені по всьому світу; а Україна, перебуваючи під радянським гнітом, вела боротьбу за життя і смерть - важко було повірити в майбутнє українського народу. Та все ж настав новий світанок. Милістю Божою повстав із смерті наш народ. Народ, керуючись своєю давньою історією та духовною скарбницею й традиціями, піднявся з попелу, як славнозвісний фенікс, відродивши свою державу з руїн, збудувавши «батьківщину світла й надії», науки, освіти й культури, будучи справжньою європейською нацією. Українці по всьому світу будували домівки та громадські центри, процвітали в близьких і далеких країнах, плекаючи свої традиції та духовне життя. Де б не жили діти нашого народу, вони досягали успіхів, заслужили повагу і довіру, здобули визнання своєю сумлінною працею та своїм внеском у всі аспекти людського життя. Це історія нашого народу протягом століть – історія лиха і воскресіння.

На превеликий жаль, сьогодні наша батьківщина Україна знову бореться зі злом режиму смерті Російської Федерації, яка розпочала новий Геноцид. Для нас усіх, пам'ять про ГОЛОДОМОР проти українського народу стає ще глибшою, оскільки Росія знову вбиває чоловіків, жінок і дітей, краде зерно, блокує українські порти та руйнує критичну інфраструктуру, що призводить до голоду, страждань і жаху не лише для України, а й для народів по всьому світу. Народів, які залежать виключно від отримання української пшениці, щоб прогодувати своїх громадян, адже ж Україна вирощує та експортує 25% річних світового запасу та поставок пшениці.

«Бо Ти, Господи, благословлятимеш праведного, милістю вкриєш його, як щитом!» (Пс 5:12). Покладаючи надію на Тебе, Господи,

народ наш просвітився і зміцнився. Твоє світло запалило винахідливість нашого духу. Твоя міць рухала нас до перемог. Ми творили, хоча інші руйнували наші творіння. Ми продовжували жити, хоча інші хотіли нашої смерті. О Господи, Ти бажав, щоб наш народ, будучи засудженим на смерть через геноцид, жив і надалі.

Як було 90 років тому, так і сьогодні – кров наших невинних мучеників і страждання нашого народу закликають до справедливості. Наші зруйновані церкви, громадські центри та будинки, порушення наших національних прав, узурпація та спотворення нашої історії – все це вимагає справедливості. Переживши геноцидний ГОЛОДОМОР, ми продовжуємо вірити, що всі народи світу – починаючи з ООН – нарешті приєднаються до тих праведних народів, які оголосили ГОЛОДОМОР актом Геноциду, а не «національною трагедією», як було проголошено Організацією Об'єднаних Націй у 2003 році. Які додаткові докази потрібні, окрім нинішньої руйнації в Україні?

В пам'ять про 10 мільйонів наших мучеників ГОЛОДОМОРУ ми висловлюємо вдячність націям, організаціям та особам, які мали мужність і переконання визнати та засудити ГОЛОДОМОР як Геноцид. Світ мовчки спостерігав за ГОЛОДОМОРОМ 1932-33 років, який спустошував Україну. Сьогодні світ стоїть на захисті України з неймовірною єдністю та переконанням! Ми висловлюємо вдячність тим народам і людям, які прийняли громадян України як братів і сестер під час нинішнього геноциду, забезпечуючи життєві потреби багатьом різними способами. Ці приклади справедливості стануть яскравими сторінками в історії людства. Їх пам'ятатимуть і цінуватимуть вічно.

О, Боголюбивий народе України, благодатний з висоти - народе закатований; народе воскреслий - живи мирно і з непохитним серцем, бережи свою віру та надію живою. Господні слова звернені до вас: «Хоч ти не сильний, ти був вірний моєму слову, і ти не зрадив мого імені... Міцно тримай те, що маєш, щоб ніхто не відібрав твого вінця перемоги» (Одкровення 3:8-11). Отже, залишаймося на шляху перед Богом, праведним і правдивим, на твердих стежках віри, яка, як ранкове світло, розсіює темряву і робить видимими обрії надії. Наша дорога з Богом; і життя віри є Перетворімо пам'ять перемога. про ГОЛОДОМОРУ на силу нашого духовного та національного життя. Нехай перед Богом і всім людством їхня пам'ять освітлює наш шлях до праведності та направляє нас до здійснення наших священних прагнень і справедливості для світу.

З духовного центру нашої Церкви в Саут-Баунд-Брук, штат Нью-Джерсі, споглядаючи на перший у світі споруджений Меморіал (1965) жертвам ГОЛОДОМОРУ – СВ. АНДРІЇВСЬКУ ЦЕРКВУ-ПАМ'ЯТНИК, усердно молімося до Бога за мир, безпеку та добробут нашої любої України та її народу – нашого народу. Нехай любов, справедливість і правда панують над усім людством, а шляхи праведних випромінюють, направляють і поширюють світло, доки світанок нового дня не принесе мир і щастя всьому світу.

+**АНТОНІЙ**, Митрополит + **ЄРЕМІЯ**, Архієпископ +**ДАНИЇЛ**, Архієпископ

