



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

A parish of the UOC-USA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate
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

March 2, 2025

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, Mar. 2: Cheesefare Sunday, of Forgiveness / Expulsion of Adam from the Paradise of Bliss -- FAST FROM MEAT

Tone 3: Epistle: Rom. 13:11–14:4; Gospel: Mt. 6:14-21

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy, followed by the Rite of Forgiveness -- Live video broadcast on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/>

WEEKDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT

Mon., Mar. 3: St. Leo the Great, pope of Rome – STRICT FAST

6th hour: Is. 1:1-20; Vesp.: Gen. 1:1-13; Prov. 1:1-20

7:00 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew

Tues, Mar. 4: Apostles Archippus and Philemon of the Seventy, and Martyr Apphia -- STRICT FAST

6th hour: Is. 1:19–2:3; Vesp.: Gen. 1:14-23; Prov. 1:20-33

7:00 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew

Wed., Mar. 5: St. Leo, bishop of Catania in Sicily – STRICT FAST

6 Hour: Is. 2:3-11; Vesp.: Gen. 1:24–2:3; Prov. 2:1-22

7:00 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew

Thur, Mar. 6: St. Timothy of Symbola in Bithynia – STRICT FAST

6 Hour: Is. 2:11-21; Vesp.: Gen. 2:4-19; Prov. 3:1-18

7:00 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew

Fri., Mar. 7: Uncovering of the relics of the Holy Martyrs at the gate of Eugenius at Constantinople – STRICT FAST

6 Hour: Is. 3:1-14; Vesp.: Gen. 2:20–3:20; Prov. 3:19-34

Sat., Mar. 8: Great-martyr Theodore the Tyro – STRICT FAST,

Wine and oil are permitted

Epistle: Heb. 1:1-12; Gospel: Mk. 2:23–3:5

7:00 PM Sorokousty for the Deceased, followed by THE RITE OF THE SYNODIKON OF ORTHODOXY

Sunday, Mar. 9: 1st Sunday of the Great Lent: Triumph of Orthodoxy / All of the venerable fathers, lit up with great deeds.

First and Second Findings of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist – STRICT FAST, Wine and oil are permitted

Tone 4: Epistle: 11:24-26, 32–12:2; Gospel: Jn. 1:43-51

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy -- Live video broadcast on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/>

6:00 PM Pan Orthodox Vespers – St. John’s Romanian Orthodox Church / 501 E. School St., Woonsocket, RI

Remember: even when you are absent, expenses continue

SCRIPTURE READINGS: SUNDAY, MAR. 2

Rom. 13:11–14:4 (*Epistle*)

BRETHREN, this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has

welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

Mt. 6:14-21 (Gospel)

Jesus said, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” “And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

PARISH NEWS

--WE EXTEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO: Patricia Bourgery (Feb. 25), and Wedding Anniversary Greetings to: Michael & Barbara Erickson (Feb. 24), may God grant you, all, **Many, Happy Years!** Многая літа!

--HELP NEEDED: After the Divine Liturgy, **TODAY**, we will be changing the altar cloths from white to purple. If you can, please stay and help us change the cloths. The more people that help, the sooner we will be done and then enjoy the cheesy brunch. Thank You!

--UPDATE ON PASCHAL BLESSING OF GRAVES: For St. Michael's on Sunday, Apr. 27th [Rain date: Sunday, May 4th]

Blessing of graves at St. John's Cemetery, Saturday May 3rd at 11:00AM and at St. Stephen's Cemetery at 12:15PM [Rain date: Saturday, May 10th]

--ELEANOR GEMSKI: has officially moved to Assisted Living. Her mailing address for any informal letters, cards, notifications etc is

*6316 Great Meadow Road,
Dedham, MA 02026.*

She still has her cell phone-but her land line is 781-234-2262.

--CHEESEFARE SUNDAY POTLUCK BRUNCH: March 2.

--WE HAVE A NEW ONLINE STORE!



We have changed our online store to a platform called Zeffy which will be more beneficial to us. The store is currently open for orders for pick up on April 12th. This is in conjunction with our Spring Cookie Walk. As usual we will also be taking in person orders while supplies last. (You will not be able to order through Square from now on)

Here is the new link:

zeffy.com/ticketing/the-ukrainian-kitchen-at-st-michaels

(You can also scan the QR code above)

A portion of our sales will be directed towards Ukraine Aid.

FYI - Zeffy relies on donations to them, directly from you, our customer, rather than charge us a credit card fee. Kindly consider making a small donation to them so we can continue to use Zeffy. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Cookie Walk/Frozen Food Sale Saturday Apr 12, (9-11am)

Pysanky Easter Egg Class March 26 (info coming soon)

Spring Cookie Decorating Class Apr 4 (info coming soon)

For updates please go to our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063525952305>

--BEYOND BUCHA: By Steve Richards

I am thrilled to announce in conjunction with the Jamestown Ukraine Relief Project (JURP) and the Friends of the Jamestown Library are proud to announce the world premiere screening of Beyond Bucha: Finding the Spirit in Ukraine, from the Churches to the Front, on the heels of the three-year anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. I will of course be on hand to introduce the film, the third in the Trek to Bucha series.

It began with the original film shot in April 2022 after Russia's full-scale invasion. 2023's follow-up, "Back to Bucha," continues to impact audiences with its ongoing American outreach campaign. The latest film continues to document Ukraine's resilience by focusing on Evangelical pastors and their flocks in Kyiv, Bucha, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, and the Orthodox church in Odesa.

Event Details:

Date: Sunday, March 2, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Jamestown Philomenian Library

Admission: Free (Donations welcome)

Following the film, I will host a live Q&A (via Zoom) between the audience and interviewees in Ukraine who appear in the film. Among these is Sasha Pinchuk, who made many friends in Jamestown as a Melrose School student during the 2022-23 school year.

For more information please go to the event page at:

theoeco.org/beyondbuchajamestown.html.

All donations will go toward covering event costs, supporting the film, and aiding charities dedicated to helping Ukraine. For this event, half of the proceeds will go to the Jamestown Ukrainian Relief Project to further their work for Ukraine.

--WE WELCOME ANY AND ALL DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH, LARGE OR SMALL:

We are most grateful for your kindness. Your donation is essential to the church. From your contribution, we pay the priest's salary and health insurance, as well as pay the utilities for the church including water, heat, electricity, lawn care and at this time of year, snow plowing and salting the ice on the driveway.

Checks should be made out to St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Please offer your donations during the church collection or send your dues and donations to:

St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church
74 Harris Ave.
Woonsocket, RI 02895

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

--SATURDAY, MARCH 15: Lenten retreat with Archbishop Daniel. More info to follow.

--FRIDAY, MARCH 21: UOL FISH BAKE / 5 - 7PM / \$20. More info to follow

--SATURDAY, MARCH 22: in the morning (time to be announced) making PB&J sandwiches for Feeding Woonsocket.

--SUNDAY, MARCH 23: St. Michael's will host the Pan Orthodox Lenten Service, Sunday evening. More info to follow.

--SATURDAY, APRIL 12: Spring Cookie Walk. 9 – 11AM, followed by Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy at 11:15AM

--SUNDAY, MAY 4: Teaching Divine Liturgy

KITCHEN SESSIONS

Mar. 5 - pinch cabbage

Mar. 12 - fried (9:15 am), potato prep same day

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.
- Providing 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.

--IMPORTANT NEWS FROM OUR SR. UOL CHAPTER: We have been selected (by our choice) to once again host an Annual UOL Convention! We have plenty of time to plan and fund raise as our year will be **2027**.....10 years since the last time we hosted!

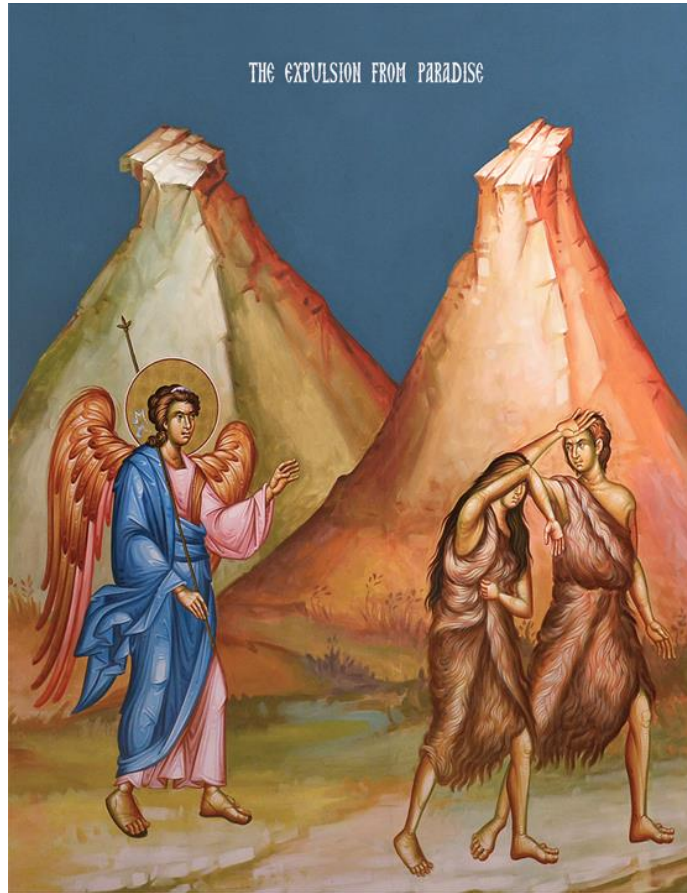
Please help support our worthy cause by helping however you can. Do you have an idea for a fundraiser to help and would you be willing to take charge of it? We need you, as the churches need the UOL! Please consider offering your help. See any of the officers, or better yet, join us at a meeting and consider joining the UOL!! You will not regret it!"

In His Love, (and thank you), Janice, Erika, Cindy and Eleanor

--Friday, March 21: UOL FISH BAKE / 5 - 7PM \$20. More info to follow













--March 30, May 18 & June 22: UOL meeting during coffee hour.

--July 23 – 27, 2025: UOL Convention in Tampa, Florida



OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 9th	 Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 16th	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 23rd FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 2nd FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 9th	 SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 16th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 23rd	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 30th	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 6th	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 13th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 18th	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 20th NO FASTING!	 HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

THE FASTING RULES OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH: THE LENTEN FAST

Great Lent is the longest and strictest fasting season of the year.

Week before Lent (“Cheesefare Week”): Meat and other animal products are prohibited, but eggs and dairy products are permitted, even on Wednesday and Friday.

First Week of Lent: As for all weekdays in Lent, meat and animal products, fish, dairy products, wine and oil are avoided. On Saturday of the first week, the usual rule for Lenten Saturdays begins (see below).

Weekdays in the Second through Sixth Weeks: The strict fasting rule is kept every day: avoidance of meat, meat products, fish, eggs, dairy, wine and oil.

Saturdays and Sundays in the Second through Sixth Weeks: Wine and oil are permitted; otherwise the strict fasting rule is kept.

How Much?

Sad to say, it is easy to keep the letter of the fasting rule and still practice gluttony. When fasting, we should eat simply and modestly. Monastics eat only one full meal a day on strict fast days, two meals on “Wine and oil” days (see below). *Laymen are not usually encouraged to limit meals in this way: consult your priest.*

Exceptions

The Church has always exempted small children, the sick, the very old, and pregnant and nursing mothers from strict fasting. While people in these groups should not seriously restrict the amount that they eat, no harm will come from doing without some foods on two days out of the week — simply eat enough of the permitted foods. Exceptions to the fast based on medical necessity (as with diabetes) are always allowed.

Communion Fast

So that the Body and Blood of our Lord may be the first thing to pass our lips on the day of communion, we abstain from all food and drink from the time that we retire (or midnight, whichever comes first) the night before.

When communion is in the evening, as with Presanctified Liturgies during Lent, a total fast beginning at noon is sometimes prescribed.



GREAT LENT 2025

Sunday, March 2	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy w/ Rite of Mutual Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday)
Monday, March 3	7:00 PM	Great Canon of St. Andrew
Tuesday, March 4	7:00 PM	Great Canon of St. Andrew
Wednesday, March 5	7:00 PM	Great Canon of St. Andrew
Thursday, March 6	7:00 PM	Great Canon of St. Andrew
Saturday, March 8	7:00 PM	Sorokousty for the Deceased, followed by THE RITE OF THE SYNODIKON OF ORTHODOXY
Sunday, March 9	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy Sunday of Orthodoxy
	6:00 PM	Pan Orthodox Vespers – St. John’s Romanian Orthodox Church / 501 E. School St., Woonsocket, RI
Wednesday, March 12	7:00 PM	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Friday, March 14	5:00 PM	Lamentations of the Mother of God
Saturday, March 15	TBA AM	Lenten Retreat with Archbishop Daniel
Sunday, March 16	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy of St Basil The Great
Wednesday, March, 19	7:00 PM	Lamentations of the Mother of God, followed by Adult Ed
Friday, March 21	7:00 PM	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Saturday, March 22	7:00 PM	Sorokousty for the Deceased
Sunday, March 23	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy of St Basil The Great
	6:00 PM	Pan Orthodox Vespers – St. Michael’s in Woonsocket
Wednesday, March 26	7:00 PM	Lamentations of the Mother of God, followed by Adult Ed
Friday, March 28	7:00 PM	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Saturday, March 29	7:00 PM	Sorokousty for the Deceased
Sunday, March 30	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy of St Basil
Wednesday, April 2	7:00 PM	Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Friday, April 4	7:00 PM	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Saturday, April 5	7:00 PM	Akathist to the Mother of God
Sunday, April 6	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy of St Basil
	6:00 PM	Pan Orthodox Vespers – Sts. Mary/Mena Coptic Orthodox Church / 2433 Scituate Ave., Hope (Cranston), RI
Monday, April 7	10:00AM	Divine Liturgy for Annunciation
Wednesday, April 9	7:00 PM	Lamentations of the Mother of God, followed by Adult Ed
Friday, April 11	7:00 PM	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Saturday, April 12	11:15 AM	Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy



HOLY WEEK, PASCHA, AND BRIGHT WEEK 2025

Sunday, April 13	9:00 AM	PALM SUNDAY - Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom + blessing of Willows
Wednesday, April 16	GREAT WEDNESDAY –	6:00 PM Service Of Holy Anointing at St5. John the Baptist (Romanian Church)
Thursday, April 17	GREAT THURSDAY –	Commemoration of the Mystical Supper
	12:00 PM	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, preparation Reserved Sacrament
	7:00 PM	Matins of the Holy Passion (Service of the 12 Passion Gospels)
Friday, April 18	GREAT FRIDAY –	Commemoration of the Saving Passion of Christ
	6:30 PM	Great Vespers – Commemoration of the Burial of Christ Procession

Saturday, April 19 4:00PM Holy Saturday Vespers Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 20 SUNDAY OF PASCHA
8:00 AM Paschal Midnight Office, Procession, Matins & Divine Liturgy;
Blessing of Baskets

Monday, April 21 BRIGHT MONDAY
10:30 AM Paschal Divine Liturgy

Saturday, April 26 7:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday, April 27 ST THOMAS SUNDAY
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of Graves at St. Michael
Cemetery [Rain date: Sunday, May 4th]

Saturday, May 3 11:00 AM Blessing of Graves at St. John’s Cemetery *
12:15PM Blessing of graves at Stephen’s Cemetery *
* [Rain date: Saturday, May 10th]
7:00PM Great Vespers

The purpose of Lent is not to force on us a few formal obligations, but to “soften” our hearts so that it may open itself to the realities of the spirit, to experience the hidden “thirst and hunger” for communion with God.

During Great Lent, we are encouraged to partake of the Sacraments of Holy Confession & Holy Communion and to slow down the pace of our lives and spend more time in quiet and prayer. Unless we focus on the basics (prayer, family, worship) and downsize the rest, the additional disciplines of Lent will either go unused or just add stress to our lives. Neither approach is useful.

RI ORTHODOX CLERGY FELLOWSHIP SERVICE

FOR GREAT LENT 2025

OPEN TO ALL – 6PM



Sunday March 9 – Orthodoxy Sunday - St. John’s
501 E. School St., Woonsocket, RI

3RD Lent – Sunday March 23 – St. Michael’s Parish
74 Harris Ave., Woonsocket, RI

5TH Lent - Sunday April 6 – St. Mary/Mena ‘s Parish
2433 Scituate Ave., Hope (Cranston), RI

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In Addition
Eve of Annunciation Great Vespers Monday, March 24

CATECHETICAL HOMILY FOR THE OPENING OF HOLY AND GREAT LENT (2025)



+ B A R T H O L O M E W

BY GOD'S MERCY

ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE – NEW ROME

AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

TO THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH

**MAY THE GRACE AND PEACE
OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST,**

**TOGETHER WITH OUR PRAYER, BLESSING AND FORGIVENESS BE
WITH ALL**

* * *

Most honorable brother Hierarchs and blessed children in the Lord,

Once again, with the will and grace of God the giver of all good things, we are entering Holy and Great Lent, the blessed period of fasting and repentance, of spiritual vigilance and journey with the Lord, as He comes to His voluntary passion, in order to reach the veneration of His splendid Resurrection and become worthy of our own passage from earthly things to “that which no eyes have seen and no ears have heard and no human heart has ascended” (1 Cor. 2.9).

In the early Church, Holy and Great Lent was a period of preparation of catechumens, whose baptism took place during the Divine Liturgy of the Paschal Feast. This connection with baptism is also preserved by the comprehension and experience of

Great Lent as the period par excellence of repentance that is described as “a renewal of baptism,” “a second baptism,” “a contract with God for a second life,” in other words a regeneration of the gifts of baptism and promise to God for the beginning of a new way of life. The services and hymns of this season associate the spiritual struggle of the faithful with the expectation of the Lord’s Pascha, whereby the forty-day fast radiates the fragrance of the paschal joy.

Holy and Great Lent is an opportunity to become conscious of the depth and wealth of our faith as “a personal encounter with Christ.” It is rightly emphasized that Christianity is “extremely personal,” without this implying that it is “individualistic.” The faithful “encounter, recognize, and love one and the same Christ,” who, “alone and only, revealed the true and perfect human person” (Nicholas Cabasilas). He invites all people—and each person individually—to salvation, so that the response of each may always be “grounded in the common faith” and “at the same time be unique.”

We recall the words of St. Paul that “it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2.20). In this case, the words “in me,” “me,” and “for me” do not contradict the words “in us,” “us,” and “for us” with reference to our “common salvation.” Ever grateful for the heavenly gifts of his regeneration in Christ, the Apostle of freedom “makes what is shared his own,” as if the pre-eternal Word of God became incarnate, was crucified, and was resurrected “for him personally.”

Our experience of faith is “unique” and “profoundly personal” as a freedom given to us by Christ, as something that is at the same time “essentially ecclesiastical,” an experience “of common freedom.” This most genuine freedom in Christ is expressed as love and applied support to our concrete neighbor, as this is described in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10.30–37) and in the passage about the Last Judgment (Mt. 25.31–46), but also as respect and concern for the world and the eucharistic approach to creation. Freedom in Christ has a personal and holistic nature, which is especially revealed during Holy and Great Lent in its understanding of asceticism and fasting. Christian freedom, as existential authenticity and fullness, does not involve a gloomy asceticism, a life without grace and joy, “as if Christ never came.” Moreover, fasting is not only “abstinence from food,” but “renunciation of sin,” a struggle against egotism, a loving departure from the self to the brother in need, “a heart that burns for the sake of all creation.” The holistic nature of spirituality is sustained by the experience of Great Lent as a journey toward Pascha and as a foretaste of “the glorious freedom of God’s children” (Rom. 8.21).

We pray that our Savior Jesus Christ may render all of us worthy of walking the way of Holy and Great Lent with asceticism, repentance, forgiveness, prayer, and godly freedom. And we conclude with the words of our spiritual father, the late Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon, during the Divine Liturgy of Cheesefare Sunday in 1970 at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Athens: “As we enter Holy Lent, what awaits us at the end is vision, miracle, and the experience of the Resurrection, the foremost experience of the Orthodox Church. Let us proceed toward this vision and experience but not without having received and offered forgiveness, not with a fast purely from meat and oil, not with a sense of hypocrisy, but with divine freedom, in spirit and truth, in the spirit of truth, in the truth of the spirit.”

Holy and Great Lent 2025

✠ BARTHOLOMEW of Constantinople

Fervent supplicant for all before God



To the Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America, our Eparchy of Western Europe, of our Eparchy of Australia and New Zealand, and our Eparchy in South America

Dearly beloved Spiritual Fathers, Sisters and Brothers of the FAITH,

CHRIST IS AMONGST US! IS AND ALWAYS SHALL BE!

As we enter the blessed Great Lenten journey in preparation for the celebration of the FEAST of ALL FEASTS – PASCHA or the RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD – it behooves us to contemplate the necessary temporal and spiritual conditions for the successful completion of that journey and the fullness of Joy, Peace and Love of PASCHA. What are these preparations? Through the five weeks in anticipation before Great Lent we are provided with Scriptural lessons that manifest them clearly.

We begin with the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) who was a tax collector/thief, who had such a desire to be with Christ that he faced ridicule by people for climbing a sycamore tree to come face to face with our Lord, Who responded by speaking directly to Zacchaeus, indicating that He knew Zacchaeus and would stay at his home. Zacchaeus responded to criticism that our Lord would stay at the home of a sinner, declaring that he would make amends to all who he had cheated and give half his wealth to the poor. The Lord responded that *“salvation has come to this home today...because the Son of Man has come to see and to save that, which was lost.”*

The lesson about the Publican (also a tax collector) and the Pharisee) (Luke 18:10-14) – a religious leader – depicts the Pharisee standing in the front of the Holy Altar proclaiming his “righteousness” and adherence to the Law and how great he was in comparison to the Publican. The Publican stood simply at the rear of the temple, head bowed low and beating his chest and beseeching: *“God have mercy on me a sinner”* and he alone, through his sincere humility returned to his home “justified”.

Next, we heard the lesson about the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), who demanded what would be his inheritance from his father, received it and rapidly squandered it in a foreign land, finally ending up in the fields feeding swine. Finally, he *“came to himself (схаменувся)”* and returned to his father declaring: *“Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”*

The Last Judgment (Matthew 25:31-46) is the next lesson, presented by our Lord with a clarity that does not leave any room for us to **misunderstand**. The choices we make in relating to ALL our neighbors and ALL mankind will determine whether we will be judged to be lambs or goats. The way we respond to the two Great Commandments: *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it – You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”* (Matthew 22:37-40)

The final scripture lesson is about forgiveness, the manner of our fasting and storing up treasures in Heaven. (Matthew 6:14-21). Each time we pray the “Lord’s Prayer” we ask, “forgiveness of our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”. These cannot be empty words but, rather a heartfelt petition with consequences determined completely by each of us as individuals. If we cannot forgive...neither will we be forgiven. The way we fast is between each of us and God and the way others fast is of no concern to any of us. Forgiveness and sincere fasting enable us to store up treasures in Heaven where we hope to find ourselves after the final judgment.

Having received and internalized all these lessons, we are prepared to enter into the fullness of Great Lent and to make a confession that arises from the depths of our hearts and souls – rather than from the often-confused intellect that can so easily succumb to all the temptations of the world, leading us away from, rather than to Christ. Throughout this Great Lent seek to come face to face with Christ, Who, you will discover, knows you intimately from the moment of your cleansing Baptism and the Seal of your Chrismation. Seek to make amends to those you have wronged; seeking forgiveness from those you have offended and offering forgiveness to those who have offended you; approach God with a humility that does not offer excuses or reasons for bad behavior and sinfulness; “come to yourself” in the recognition that you have squandered God’s gifts to you – your talents, your ability to love, your ability to share yourself and your treasures. Search for the ways that you can minister - to your neighbor, to the homeless, to the naked, to the thirsty, to the sick, to those imprisoned (physically, mentally or emotionally) and search for the ways you have failed to minister to all.

As we enter the Great Lenten Season, we, your hierarchs, successors to the Holy Apostles, humbly beseech your forgiveness for any way we may have hurt you, not been present to you, misled you or have been, in any way, responsible for spiritual confusion or even pain of any nature. We promise to strive for improvement in the future under the Grace and Guidance of the Holy Spirit. In turn, we express, from the depth of our hearts, minds and souls the same forgiveness to you on both the spiritual and temporal level. We love you all

without reserve and assure you of our prayers for you daily, beseeching your prayers also for us.

Finally – as the one-year anniversary of the invasion approaches, we request that throughout this Great Lent and Paschal Seasons you dedicate your prayers, fasting and hope for the welfare of our brothers and sisters suffering through another genocide. This unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine is inspired by an all-consuming hatred in the minds and souls of those who would eradicate Ukraine and her ethnic distinction as a people. Pray fervently for an end to the suffering through deliberate targeting of civilians and non-military infrastructure. Further, pray fervently for the repose of the souls of all those who have perished during the aggressive insanity. May our Loving Lord hear our petitions and bring an end to this horror forever.

In our Lord's All-Encompassing Joy, Peace and Love,

+ ANTONY

By the Grace of God, Metropolitan

+ JEREMIAH

By the Grace of God, Archbishop

+ DANIEL

By the Grace of God, Archbishop



*До Духовенства, Монашества та Вірних Української Православної Церкви
Сполучених Штатів Америки, нашої Єпархії Західної Європи,
нашої Єпархії Австралії та Нової Зеландії та нашої Єпархії в Південній
Америці*

Улюблені Духовні Отці, Сестри та Брати у ВІРІ,

ХРИСТОС ПОСЕРЕД НАС! Є І ЗАВЖДИ БУДЕ!

Розпочинаючи благословенну подорож Великого посту в приготуванні до святкування СВЯТА НАД УСІМА СВЯТАМИ – ПАСХИ - ВОСКРЕСІННЯ ГОСПОДНЬОГО – нам варто заручитися усіма необхідними матеріальними та духовними аспектами для успішного завершення цієї подорожі та задля

повноти Радості, Миру і Любові ПАСХИ. Чим саме є це приготування? Впродовж п'яти тижнів перед Великим Постом саме Євангельські читання чітко допомагають нам його зрозуміти.

Розпочинаємо ми з історії про Закхея (Луки 19:1-10), котрий був збирачем податків/зłodієм, але маючи велике бажання бути з Христом, попри глузування людей, виліз на дерево, щоб зустрітися віч-на-віч з нашим Господом, Який звернувся безпосередньо до Закхея, наголошуючи що знає Його, та сказав що Йому потрібно бути в його домі. Незважаючи на критику людей, що Господь увійде до дому грішника, Закхей заявив, що він загладить провину перед усіма, кого він скривдив, і віддасть половину свого майна бідним. Тоді Господь сказав, що *«сьогодні на дім цей спасіння прийшло ... бо Син Людський прийшов, щоб знайти та спасти, що загинуло»*.

Повчання про Митаря (також збирача податків) та Фарисея (Луки 18:10-14) – релігійного лідера – зображує Фарисея, котрий стояв перед Святим Вівтарем, проголошуючи свою «праведність» та дотримання Закону, а також свою величність у порівнянні з Митарем. Митар, у той час, просто стояв біля задньої частини храму, низько схиливши голову, б'ючи себе в груди, благав: *«Боже, помилуй мене грішного»* -єдиний через своє щире смирення повернувся до свого дому «виправданим».

Далі ми чули повчання про Блудного Сина (Луки 15:11-32), котрий вимагав свій спадок від батька, та отримавши його і швидко розтративши все на чужині, опинився на полі серед свиней. Та нарешті, він «схаменувся» та повернувся до свого батька, сказавши: *«Прогрішився я, отче, против неба та супроти тебе, і недостойний вже зватися сином твоїм... прийми ж мене, як одного зі своїх наймитів...»*.

Страшний Суд (Матвія 25:31-46) є наступним повчанням, котре подає нам Сам Господь, не залишаючи місця для будь-якого **непорозуміння**. Вибір, який ми робимо стосовно УСІХ наших ближніх та ВСЬОГО людства визначить, чи будемо ми ягнятами, чи козлами. Якою була наша відповідь на дві Великі Заповіді: *«Люби Господа Бога свого всім серцем своїм, і всією душею своєю, і всією своєю думкою. Це найбільша й найперша заповідь. А друга подібна до неї: Люби свого ближнього, як самого себе. На двох оцих заповідях увесь Закон і Пророки стоять»*. (Матвія 22:37-40)

Останнє повчання зі Святого Письма стосується прощення, дотримання посту та збирання скарбів на Небі. (Матвія 6:14-21). Кожного разу, коли ми молимося «Господню молитву», ми просимо «прощення наших гріхів, які ми прощаємо винуватцям нашим». Це не пусті слова, а сердечне прохання, кожного з нас як особистості. Якщо ми не можемо пробачити... ми теж не будемо прощені. Те, як ми дотримуємося посту є між нами та Богом, а те, як постять інші, абсолютно не повинно стосуватися нас. Прощення і щирий піст дають нам можливість збиратискарби на Небі, - там, де ми сподіваємося опинитися після Страшного Суду.

Почувши та засвоївши усі ці повчання, ми готові розпочати Великий Піст і прийти до сповіді, яка повинна виникнути з глибини серця і душі, а не розуму, який легко піддається всім спокусам світу, відводячи нас від Христа, а не наближаючи до Нього. Протягом цього Великого Посту

намагайтеся зустрітися віч-на-віч з Христом, Котрий добре знає вас з моменту вашого Хрещення та Миропомазання. Прагніть загладити провини перед тими, кого ви образили; шукайте прощення у тих, кого ви скривдили та простіть тим, хто образив вас, наближайтеся до Бога зі смиренням, не виправдовуючи причини для поганої поведінки та гріховності; «схаменіться», визнавши те, що ви змарнували Божі дари дані вам – ваші таланти, вашу здатність любити, вашу здатність ділитися собою та своїми скарбами. Шукайте шляхи, якими ви можете служити - своєму ближньому, бездомним, нагим, спраглим, хворим, ув'язненим (фізично, розумово або емоційно) та шукайте способи бути корисними тим, кому раніше не послужили.

Входячи у Час Великого Посту, ми, ваші архієреї, наступники святих апостолів, смиренно благаємо у вас прощення за усе, чим образили вас, не будучи з вами, ввели вас в оману або якимсь чином заплутали вас у духовному житті чи спричинили якийсь біль. Ми обіцяємо прагнути до вдосконалення в майбутньому під Благодаттю та Проводом Святого Духа. У свою чергу, ми з глибини наших сердець, розумів і душ прощаємо вам як духовні, так і світські провини. Ми беззастережно любимо вас усіх і запевняємо вас у наших щоденних молитвах за вас, благаючи ваших молитов і за нас.

Зрештою – оскільки наближається річниця з початку повномасштабного вторгнення в Україну, ми просимо, щоб ви протягом усього цього Великого посту і Пасхи присвятили свої молитви, піст і надію на благополуччя наших братів і сестер, які страждають через черговий геноцид. Це невинуватене вторгнення в Україну спричинене всепоглинаючою ненавистю в головах і душах тих, хто хоче викоринити Україну та її етнічноособливість як народу. Моліться щиро, щоб припинилися страждання через навмисне вбивство мирних жителів та знищення цивільної інфраструктури. Продовжуйте й надалі ревно молитися за упокій душ усіх, хто загинув під час агресивного божевілля. Нехай наш Люблячий Господь почує наші прохання і покладе край цьому жахуназавжди.

У Всеосяжній Радості, Мирі та Любові нашого Господа,

+ АНТОНІЙ

З Благодаті Божої, Митрополит

+ ЄРЕМІЯ

З Благодаті Божої, Архієпископ

+ ДАНИІЛ

З Благодаті Божої, Архієпископ

GREAT LENT

ST GREGORY
THE DIALOGIST



HAIL THE
POWERS
OF
HEAVEN
SERVE
WITH
US

ST BASIL
THE GREAT



PAUL
CARRIAGE
REJOICES
IN SOUL
O
FULL OF
GRACE!



RETURN AGAIN

TO PARADISE



ST ROMANOS
THE MELPESIST



HAIL,
O
BRIDE
WITH-
OUT
BRIDE-
GROOM!

ST ANDREW
OF CRETE



MY
SOUL,
ARISE!
WHY
ARE
YOU
SLEEP-
ING?



PRAYER FOR THE PEACE AND WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

O Lord of Hosts,

God of mercy and justice, we come before You with hearts full of grief and hope as we mark the third anniversary of the unjustified aggression against Ukraine. We lift up to You the pain of millions - those who suffer, those who mourn, and those who fight for freedom and peace.

O Compassionate Lord, You who are the source of all consolation, hear the cries of Your people in Ukraine. Comfort the mothers and fathers who have lost their children, the children who have been torn from their families, and all those who have been displaced from their ancestral homes. Be their refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.

Lord, grant wisdom and courage to the leaders of Ukraine and to all who work to rebuild this land, that their efforts may be guided by Your love and truth. Inspire the worldwide community to act with compassion and resolve, working tirelessly to end the suffering and restore dignity to the lives of millions.

Disarm the hands of those who sow violence and transform their hearts to seek justice and love. We pray for the soldiers who defend their homeland with courage and selflessness, echoing the words of Your Son: "*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends*" (John 15:13). Grant them protection, strength, and peace in their hearts.

We beseech the Birth-Giver of God, who has always extended Her protection to the faithful - to spread Her holy mantle over Ukraine and her people. Intercede before Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, that peace may reign once more in this land of faith and courage.

For You are the God of peace, love, and mercy, and to You we offer glory, together with Your only-begotten Son, and Your most Holy, Good, and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.





МОЛИТВА ЗА МИР І ДОБРОБУТ НАРОДУ УКРАЇНИ

Господи Сил,

Боже милосердя і справедливості, припадаємо до Тебе з серцем, сповненим скорботи і надії, у третю річницю невинувинуваної агресії проти України. Підносимо до Тебе біль мільйонів - тих, хто страждає, тих, хто сумує, і тих, хто бореться за свободу і мир.

Милосердний Господи, Ти, що є джерелом усякої втіхи, вислухай благання Твого народу в Україні. Утіш матерів і батьків, які втратили своїх дітей. Дітей, які були відірвані від своїх родин, і всіх тих, хто був змушений покинути рідні домівки. Будь для них притулком і силою, справжньою допомогою в часі біди.

Господи, даруй мудрість і відвагу лідерам України та всім, хто працює над відбудовою цієї землі, щоб їхні зусилля спрямовувалися Твоєю любов'ю і правдою. Надихни світову спільноту діяти зі співчуттям і рішучістю, невтомно працюючи, щоб покласти край стражданню і повернути гідність у життя мільйонів людей.

Обеззброй руки тих, хто сіє насильство, і переміни їхні серця, щоб вони шукали справедливості та любові. Ми молимося за воїнів, які мужньо і самовіддано захищають свою Батьківщину, повторюючи слова Твого Сина: *“Ніхто більшої любові не має над ту, як хто свою душу поклав би за друзів своїх”* (Ів. 15:13). Подай їм захист, силу та мир у серці.

Богородицю, котра невтомно захищає вірних, благаємо, щоб розпростерла Свій святий покров над Україною та її народом. Заступися перед Твоїм Сином, Господом нашим Ісусом Христом, щоб на цій землі віри і відваги знову запанував мир.

Бо Ти є Бог миру, любові і милосердя, і Тобі славу возсилаємо з Єдинородним Твоїм Сином і Пресвятим, і Благим, і Животворящим Твоїм Духом, нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні.

Амінь.





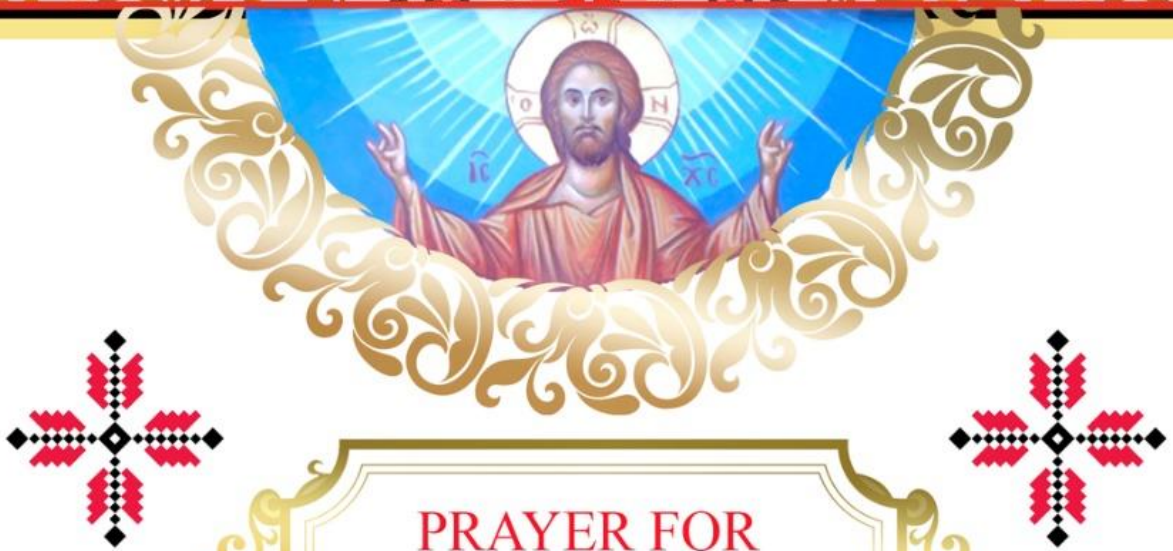
МОЛИТВА ЗА УКРАЇНУ

ГОСПОДИ, БОЖЕ НАШ,
ВЕЛИКИЙ І ВСЕСИЛЬНИЙ, МИ ГРІШНІ ДІТИ ТВОЇ, ЗВЕРТАЄМОСЯ ДО ТЕБЕ У
ПОКОРІ СЕРДЕЦЬ НАШИХ І НИЗЬКО СХИЛЯЄМО ГОЛОВИ НАШІ ПЕРЕД
ТОБОЮ. БЛАГАЄМО ТЕБЕ ЗА БЕЗМЕЖНЕ МИЛОСЕРДЯ ТА ЩЕДРІ
БЛАГОСЛОВЕННЯ ДЛЯ НАРОДУ – ЛЮДЕЙ – УКРАЇНИ, У ЦІ ДНІ ВЕЛИКОЇ
НЕБЕЗПЕКИ ДЛЯ ЇХ МИРНОГО ЖИТТЯ І ДОБРОБУТУ.

О ГОСПОДИ, НАШИМ БРАТАМ І СЕСТРАМ, ЗНОВУ ЗАГРОЖУЮТЬ АГРЕСОРИ,
ЯКІ БАЧАТЬ У НИХ ЛИШЕ ПРОСТУ ПЕРЕШКОДУ, ЩО ПЕРЕГОРОДЖУЄ ШЛЯХ
ДО ПОВНОГО ПАНУВАННЯ НАД ДОРОГОЦІННОЮ ЗЕМЛЕЮ ТА РЕСУРСАМИ
УКРАЇНИ. ЗМІЦНИ ЛЮДЕЙ, У ЧАСІ ЦІЄЇ ВЕЛИКОЇ НЕБЕЗПЕКИ, ЯКІ
ЗВЕРТАЮТЬСЯ ДО ТЕБЕ У БЕЗМІРНО ГЛИБОКІЙ ВІРІ, ДОВІРІ ТА ЛЮБОВІ, ЯКІ
ВОНИ ПЛЕКАЛИ ДО ТЕБЕ УСЕ СВОЄ ЖИТТЯ. ЗІШЛИ ГОСПОДИ, СВОЇХ
НЕБЕСНИХ АНГЕЛІВ, ЯКИМИ КЕРУЄ ПОКРОВИТЕЛЬ МІСТА КИЄВА
АРХІСТРАТИГ МИХАЇЛ, ЩОБ ВИКОРИНИТИ БАЖАННЯ АГРЕСОРА ЗНИЩИТИ
НАШ НАРОД.

ДАРУЙ ГОСПОДИ, ЄДНІСТЬ РОЗУМУ, СЕРЦЯ І ДУШІ ВСІМ ДЕРЖАВНИМ
ЛІДЕРАМ І ТИМ, КОМУ ВОНИ СЛУЖАТЬ. ОБ'ЄДНАЙ ЇХ УСІХ В ОДНУ ВЕЛИКУ
ХРИСТІАНСЬКУ РОДИНУ, ЩОБ ВОНИ РАЗОМ, ЯК БРАТИ І СЕСТРИ,
ПРОСЛАВЛЯЛИ ТВОЄ ВЕЛИЧНЕ ІМ'Я – БОГА В СВЯТІЙ ТРОЙЦІ – ОТЦЯ,
СИНА І СВЯТОГО ДУХА, НІНІ І ПОВСЯКЧАС, І НА ВІКИ ВІЧНІ.

АМІНЬ.



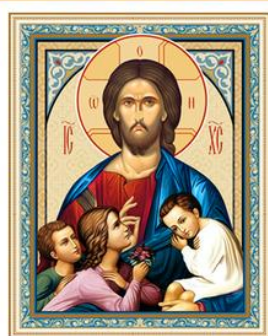
PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

LORD OUR GOD,
GREAT AND ALMIGHTY, WE YOUR SINFUL CHILDREN TURN TO YOU WITH
HUMILITY IN OUR HEARTS AND BOW OUR HEADS LOW BEFORE YOU. WE
BESEECH YOUR LOVING KINDNESS AND ABUNDANT BLESSINGS UPON THE
NATION – THE PEOPLE – OF UKRAINE DURING THESE DAYS OF GREAT DANGER
TO THEIR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING.

OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, LORD, ARE ONCE AGAIN THREATENED BY
AGGRESSORS WHO SEE THEM ONLY AS SIMPLE OBSTACLES BLOCKING THE
PATH TO THE COMPLETE DOMINATION OF THE PRECIOUS LAND AND
RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY OF UKRAINE. STRENGTHEN THE PEOPLE AS
THEY FACE THIS GREAT DANGER, TURNING TO YOU IN THE IMMEASURABLY
DEEP FAITH, TRUST AND LOVE THEY HAVE PLACED IN YOU ALL THEIR LIVES.
SEND YOUR HEAVENLY LEGIONS, O LORD, COMMANDED BY THE PATRON OF
KYIV, ARCHANGEL MICHAEL, TO CRUSH THE DESIRES OF THE AGGRESSOR
WHOSE DESIRE IS TO ERADICATE YOUR PEOPLE.

GRANT UNITY OF MIND, HEART AND SOUL, O LORD TO ALL LEADERS IN PUBLIC
SERVICE WITH THOSE THEY SERVE. UNITE THEM ALL INTO ONE, GREAT
CHRISTIAN FAMILY, SO THAT TOGETHER, AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THEY
MAY GLORIFY YOUR MAJESTIC NAME – GOD IN THE HOLY TRINITY – FATHER,
SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, NOW AND EVER AND UNTO THE AGES OF AGES.

AMEN.



PRAYER FOR CHILDREN OF UKRAINE KIDNAPPED BY RUSSIAN FEDERATION INVADERS

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

We come before You in sincere prayer, O God Almighty and with heavy hearts, we lift up the innocent children of Ukraine who have been kidnapped into the Russian Federation, taken forcefully from their homes and families during this, yet another invasion and genocide of our beloved homeland. Lord, You are the protector of the weak and the guardian of the vulnerable. We ask for Your divine intervention in and for their lives. Put an end to the soviet style "re-education policies" to turn them against their families and their native Ukraine.

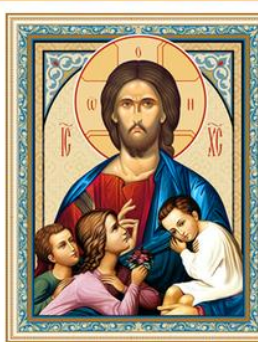
Surround these children with the Resurrection Love and Peace that emanate from your Empty Tomb. Comfort them in their fear and confusion, granting them the strength to endure these present trials and the knowledge that their families yearn for them and the nations of the world are struggling to free them. Lord, we pray for their safety and that these struggles will conclude in their swift return to their families and homeland.

Touch the hearts of even those who have stolen them, O Lord, that they may be moved by compassion and conscience to act with justice and mercy. Soften their hearts of these kidnapers, guiding them towards actions that will bring these children back to their homes, lest they be equated to those who slaughtered the innocents in Bethlehem after the Incarnation of Christ our Lord.

We also pray fervently for the families left behind who, without question, are enduring unimaginable pain and anguish. Grant them hope and courage that they may feel Your Loving Presence in this time of suffering and assurance that Your Holy Spirit is with their children eternally.

In Your infinite mercy and power, Lord, bring about a resolution to this invasion. Restore peace and justice to independent Ukraine, which will once again rise from the ashes like the proverbial Phoenix, and soar amongst the free nations of the world. We trust in Your mighty power and unfailing love, believing that You hear our prayers and are with us always.

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



МОЛИТВА ЗА ДІТЕЙ УКРАЇНИ ВИКРАДЕНИХ ЗАГАРБНИКАМИ РОСІЙСЬКОЇ ФЕДЕРАЦІЇ

В Ім'я Отця, і Сина, і Святого Духа. Амінь.

Ми постаємо перед Тобою, о Всемогутній Боже, з обтяженим серцем, підносячи наші молитви за невинних дітей України, які були викрадені до Російської Федерації, насильно забрані з їхніх домівок і сімей у час цього чергового вторгнення та геноциду нашої улюбленої Батьківщини. Господи, Ти є захисником немічних і охоронцем вразливих. Ми просимо Твого божественного втручання та заступництва за їхнє життя. Господи, могутністю Твою, зупини радянську «політику перевиховання», налаштовуючи дітей проти їх сімей та рідної України.

Огорни цих дітей Любов'ю та Миром Воскресіння, які виходять із Твого Порожнього Гробу. Подай утішення їм серед страху та збентеження, даруючи їм сили витримати ці нинішні випробування та подай їм розуміння того, що їхні сім'ї прагнуть повернути їх, а нації по всьому світу намагаються їх звільнити. Господи, ми молимося за їхню безпеку і щоб ці випробування завершилися їхнім швидким поверненням до своїх родин на свою Батьківщину.

Доторкнись, Господи, навіть до сердець тих, хто їх викрав, спонукаючи їх до співчуття і сумління діяти справедливо й милосердно. Пом'якши серця цих викрадачів, скеровуючи їх до дій, які повернуть цих дітей до їхніх домівок, щоб не прирівняти їх до тих, хто вбивав невинних дітей у Вифлеємі після Втілення Христа, нашого Господа. Ми також палко молимося за родини, які залишилися без своїх дітей та, без сумніву, терплять невимовний біль і страждання. Дай їм надію та відвагу, щоб вони могли відчутти Твою люблячу присутність у цей час страждань і впевненість у тому, що Твій Святий Дух вічно перебуває з їхніми дітьми.

У Твоєму безмежному милосерді та силі, Господи, поклади кінець цьому вторгненню. Поверни мир і справедливість у незалежну Україну, яка знову повстане з попелу, як прославлений Фенікс, і злетить серед вільних націй світу. Покладаємось на Твою могутню силу та незмінну любов, вірячи, що Ти чуєш наші молитви та завжди перебуваєш з нами.

В Ім'я Отця і Сина і Святого Духа. Амінь.



UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA - УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА США
MARCH CELEBRATIONS - В БЕРЕЗЕНІ СВЯТКУЄМО

2 Cheesefare Sunday, of Forgiveness
 Неділя Сиропусна, прощена

29 Memorial Saturday
 Субота поминальна

3 Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT LENT
 Покаянний канон прп. Андрія Критського
ПОЧАТОК ВЕЛИКОГО ПОСТУ

30 4th Sunday of the Great Lent - Venerable John Listvychnyk
 Неділя 4-тя Великого посту - Іоана
 Ліствичника

9 1st Sunday of the Great Lent: Triumph of Orthodoxy
 Неділя 1-ша Великого посту: Торжество
 Православ'я

“Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honour your patience.”

15 Memorial Saturday
 Поминальна Субота

16 Second Sunday of the Great Lent - St. Gregory Palamas the Archbishop of Thessalonica
 Неділя 2-га Великого посту - Свт. Григорія
 Палами, архиєп. Фессалонітського

“A discerning man, when he eats grapes, takes only the ripe ones and leaves the sour. Thus also the discerning mind carefully marks the virtues which he sees in any person. A mindless man seeks out the vices and failings ... Even if you see someone sin with your own eyes, do not judge; for often even your eyes are deceived.”

23 3rd Sunday of the Great Lent. ADORATION OF CROSS
 Неділя 3-тя Великого посту.
 ХРЕСТОПОКЛОННА

(John Climacus, of the Ladder)