



WELCOME TO THE GOD-LOVING & 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

March 22, 2020

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 22nd – 3rd Sunday of Great Lent / Holy Cross

Tone 7 / Epistle: Heb. 4:14-5:6; Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:10

Weekday Scripture Readings:

Mon, Mar. 23: Vespers: Gen . 8:21-9:7; Prov . 11:19-12:6

Tue., Mar. 24: Vespers: Gen . 9:8-17; Prov . 12:8-22

Wed., Mar. 25: Vespers: Gen . 9:18-10:1; Prov . 12:23-13:9

Thurs., Mar. 26: Vespers: Gen . 10:32-11:9; Prov . 13:20-14:6

Fri., Mar. 27: Vespers: Gen . 12:1-7; Prov . 14:15-26

Sat., Mar. 28: Epistle: Heb . 6:9-12; Gospel: Mark 7:31-3

Sunday, March 29th – 4th Sunday of Great Lent / St . John Climacus (of the Ladder

Tone 8 / Epistle: Heb . 6:13-20; Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Remember: even when you are absent, expenses continue.

PARISH NEWS

--COVID19 update 3/19/2020

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The news and directives regarding COVID19 is changing at a very fast pace and we aim to keep our parishioners informed as quickly as we can.

The latest directive is coming from His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who has directed that ALL Churches under his Omophor immediately cease services until at least the end of March.

Fr. Borislav has been in touch with his Dean and he has instructed him to serve the Sunday Divine Liturgy with a Deacon behind closed doors. So for this reason we are now asking all of our parishioners and visitors to **PLEASE PRAY FROM HOME**. The church doors will be temporarily close to parishioners and the public until we receive a directive instructing us to re-open. As sad as we are to announce this, this is for the safety of all of our parishioners, visiting families and the surrounding communities.

Fr. Borislav and Fr. Vasyl will be recording and uploading the services to our YouTube channel. We will share this link with everyone once they are posted.

We will also continue to publish the weekly bulletin with the daily readings. Please click [here](#) to view the archive of all of our weekly bulletins.

Fr. Borislav has reached out to many of our elders and encourages you to do the same!

Some of our elder parishioners are unable to receive our updates because they do not have internet access. If you know anyone who does not have access **PLEASE REACH OUT TO THEM** to see how they are doing, if they need assistance, and update them on what is happening.

In the meantime please keep all of your fellow parishioners, the clergy, and all our visitors in your prayers... pray for their health,

their well being and that we may all be reunited again in worship of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at St. Michael's very soon!

--SUGGESTIONS FROM FATHER BORISLAV....

1--Check in on elderly or sickly relatives.

2--Check in on elderly neighbors as well (and someone that lives alone especially.)

3--We destroy our immunity when we stress out. Instead of spending your time in worry and stress read the Psalms or say a prayer.

4--Read the scriptures.

5--Take a sip of Holy Water everyday as well. (Note that holy water “replenishes itself” by adding regular water into it before all the holy water is drunk).

6--Practice the Jesus prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

--WEEKLY COLLECTION

We need the help of EVERY parishioner and those faithful inclined to assist!

Although we cannot meet as a Community in person, we are still a Community in Spirit!

Even though the services are temporarily closed to parishioners because of the threat of COVID19, we still function as a Parish (and unfortunately we still need to pay our bills!)

As we ask during the summer months when people are traveling and not attending services as frequently, **we need you to continue making your weekly offerings to your Church!**

Your weekly envelopes or outright donations can be sent by:

Mail:

St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church

74 Harris Avenue

Woonsocket RI 02895

PayPal:

Donations can be made through our PayPal link on our website. Please be advised that PayPal does take a small fee out of your donation (about 3%) and adjust accordingly.

<http://stmichaeluoc.org/donate/>

Online Banking

Most banks have a “Bill Pay” function in your online banking accounts where you can set up automatic payments to St. Michaels. Many parishioners are already using this method. Once set up the bank will continue to mail a check to the church on your behalf.

As we have had to postpone a few of our major fundraisers this Spring, **your assistance is needed MORE THAN EVER!**

We appreciate your contributions during these trying times!

If you have special prayer intentions attached to your offering, please email Fr. Boris or Fr. Vasyl directly to let them know so they can commemorate your loved ones during the services.

borislavkroner@gmail.com

hierodeaconvasyl@gmail.com

--WE EXTEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS: to Donna Eichorn (Mar. 19), Steven Hreczuck (Mar. 22), may God grant you all Many, Happy Years. Многая літа.

--PLEASE CONSIDER OUR SCRIP PROGRAM for gift cards and it's an excellent way for the church to benefit from your gift card purchases!! Remember, they can be used for everyday purchases. They can also be used to buy gifts for others. Also, you can get in touch with Val and she can send you an invitation to do your Scrip orders online. It's very simple. If Val should not be available on any of these days, please give your orders to Fr. Vasyl and he'll pass them on to Val. Any questions, please see or email Val Sternadore (valiaws@yahoo.com).

During Great Lent, we are encouraged 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.

MESSAGE OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW REGARDING
COVID-19

March 19, 2020

Brother hierarchs and beloved children in the Lord,

From the Phanar, from the heart of the Queen of Cities, from the City of the Great Church and of Haghia Sophia, we are communicating with each and every one of you – women, men, and children – because of the unprecedented conditions and tribulation that we are facing as a human race as a result of the global threat posed by the pandemic of the new coronavirus, called Covid-19.

The voice of the Church, of the Mother Church, cannot be silent in such times. Our words, then, take the form we have learned through the ages: through the liturgy and through instruction, with encouragement and consolation.

We sincerely thank all those who struggle with self-sacrifice, even neglecting themselves and their families, including:

- Medical and nursing professionals at the front lines, beside our brothers and sisters who are suffering,
- Researchers and scientists searching for proper medication and vaccination to deliver us from this virus, but also
- All those actively working hard to address this pandemic.

Your contribution is invaluable. It is an offering to all of society. It is a sacrifice that deserves every honor and gratitude. All of us thank you and applaud you, not only from the windows of our homes, but everywhere and at all times. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you.

In this struggle, our appointed states, governments and appropriate health authorities have the primary responsibility for planning, confronting and overcoming this crisis. We might describe them as Commanders on the battlefield against an invisible, but now well-known, enemy. An enemy that has turned against humanity.

The burden of the responsibility, that they bear on their shoulders, by necessity demands the cooperation of us all. Now is the time of personal and social responsibility.

Therefore, our dear children, we entreat you as your spiritual father to respond faithfully and patiently to all the difficult but necessary measures proposed by our health authorities and nations. Everything is being done for our protection, for our common good, in order to contain the spread of this virus. Our liberation from this distress depends entirely on our own cooperation.

Perhaps some of you have felt that these drastic measures undermine or harm our faith.

However, that which is at stake is not our faith – it is the faithful.

It is not Christ – it is our Christians.

It is not the divine-man – but human beings.

Our faith is firmly established in the roots of our culture. Our faith is a living faith, and there is no exceptional circumstance that can limit or suppress it. What must be limited and suppressed in these extraordinary circumstances are gatherings and large congregations of people. Let us remain in our homes. Let us be careful and protect those around us. And there, from our homes, strengthened by the power of our spiritual unity, let each and every one of us pray for all humankind.

We will pass through this period like a journey through the desert to reach the Promised Land, where science, by the grace of God, will overcome this virus.

We are certain that, through our prayers as well, science will indeed prevail. So it is good for us to remain united in spirit, as we continue the struggle of repentance and holiness.

We see our neighbors suffering from the consequences of the virus, while others have already fallen and departed from among us. Our Church hopes and prays for the healing of the sick, for the souls of the departed, and for courage and strength to the families of the afflicted.

This trial, too, shall pass. The clouds will clear, and the Sun of Righteousness will eliminate the deadly effect of the virus. But our lives will have changed forever. This trial is an opportunity for us to change for the better. In the direction of establishing love and solidarity.

Beloved children in the Lord, may the blessing of the Lord, through the intercessions of the All-Holy Mother of God, accompany us in our journey, transform our voluntary isolation into genuine communion, and become our prayer and destination to appreciate the meaning of this, so that we may return to that which is true, to that which is pleasing to God!

Have courage! And may God be with us!

**URGENT DIRECTIVE CONCERNING LITURGICAL
SERVICES IN ALL PARISHES OF THE
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA
AND DIASPORA**

March 16, 2020

TO: ALL CLERGY AND FAITHFUL OF THE UOC OF USA AND DIASPORA

RE: CONCERNING ALL LITURGICAL SERVICES AND OTHER
PRECAUTIONS IN ALL PARISHES DURING THE PANDEMIC CRISIS

Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters in our Lord:

CHRIST IS AMONG US! HE IS AND ALWAYS SHALL BE!

As your hierarchs, deeply concerned primarily about your spiritual well-being, but also greatly anxious about your physical and emotional health, we have been monitoring on a nearly 24-hour basis all the news, comments and recommendations of the scientists from the Center for Disease and Prevention Control and the National Institute of Health about the Coronavirus. When we say on a 24-hour basis, we are not exaggerating because we have been spending many sleepless nights praying for and worrying about you, while trying to decipher the constant stream of information being provided about the virus, and to determine what our best course of action should be with regards to liturgical gatherings in our parish communities. We believe that it is absolutely necessary for you, along with us, to become fully informed about the Coronavirus or COVID-19 because the simple fact is that it is considered to be perhaps the greatest threat to humankind ever. We need to act in response to the threat and this letter comes as the direct result of our mutual discernment and prayer.

Recently, we issued “Further Directives” to you, our clergy, and through the clergy to you, the faithful, concerning the necessity of the cleanliness and sanitization of our Church buildings and all the liturgical utensils utilized during any of our worship services. We especially concentrated on the responsibilities of the parish priests in this regard, on both personal and parochial levels. These directives remain in place. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE VERY RAPIDLY FORTHCOMING INFORMATION ABOUT THE PANDEMIC AND A MORE POWERFUL WARNINGS AGAINST PHYSICAL PROXIMITY BETWEEN PEOPLE, WE MUST NOW CHANGE OUR DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO YOU. WE DO SO, NOT OUT OF A SENSE OF PANIC OR FEAR, BUT RATHER FROM A LOVING CONCERN FOR YOU. THEREFORE:

1. We direct that ALL liturgical worship services in our parish communities, except for Sunday Divine Liturgy, must be suspended until further notice. We direct all our beloved and devoted clergy to celebrate Divine Liturgy every Sunday morning, without a choir, but with the participation of at least a reader or cantor. **The Eucharist MUST be offered “in behalf of all and for all” during this horrific crisis.** We will not close the doors of our parish churches in the face of our faithful

who wish to participate in the Liturgy but the restrictions of remaining at least six feet apart must be followed as per regulations set by federal, state and local governments and the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC).

However, we do direct that ALL our faithful over the age of 65 completely refrain from visiting their parish churches because they are the most vulnerable and susceptible to the pandemic virus. Further, **regarding all other faithful**, we can no longer recommend that “those who exhibit no symptoms continue to gather for services”. THE RISK OF INDIVIDUAL “SELF-DETERMINATION” OF ILLNESS OR SYMPTOMS OF THE VIRUS, A FLU OR SIMPLY A COLD – INCLUDING YOUR OWN HIERARCHS – ARE SIMPLY NOT ACCURATE IN TOO MANY INSTANCES. We have canceled all our own scheduled parish visitations throughout this pandemic crisis, so that no obligation is perceived by the faithful to be present to welcome their hierarchs.

2. We realize that many of our faithful are very concerned about not being able to regularly receive the Holy Eucharist – the Body and Blood of our Lord – in Holy Communion. We must never doubt the Compassion of our Lord, which exceeds anything we humans can comprehend, concerning such crisis circumstances as the present. We certainly will not suffer spiritually from a forced absence from community worship and the Eucharist, whatever the length of the crisis. **Please stay home and self-quarantine for your own protection and that of others.**

3. As we previously stated, our clergy, our Spiritual Fathers, must continue to be most attentive to what you see in the lives of your faithful sons and daughters. Be present to them! Be ready to visit them with the Sacraments when necessary but take all precautions when doing so in order to protect both yourself and those spiritual children. We continue to strongly urge that you do, indeed, FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE CDC GUIDELINES (www.cdc.gov), SO THAT YOU CAN EDUCATE YOUR FAITHFUL ABOUT THEM.

We are saddened at the need to issue these directives to you, dear Brothers and Sisters. It seems to be so incredibly contradictory and counter intuitive to all we are and all we have ever done in our Spiritual Guidance of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora. In decades, centuries and millennia past the speed of communication and the provision of information about such horrific dangers as the present Pandemic of Coronavirus/COVID-19 would have remained unknown until years and years after they ended. Perhaps it is a blessing gifted to us by God in the Holy Trinity to comprehend that with which we are confronted today. May we all do what we can to avoid being infected with the virus and just as important to avoid being conduits through which it is spread by close contact with others. We are social beings and we need each other, but those needs must these days be satisfied through impersonal contact by telephone, video-conferencing and other safe means. We cannot in good conscience recommend heavy reliance upon the most prominent versions of social media because of some pretty indecent, inaccurate and deceiving things we have seen there. However, we are aware of some possibilities of our parishes live-streaming services there. Please refer to your parish or neighboring parishes to determine which are doing so.

Throughout all this time of threat, illness, concern and anxiety let us remain faithful witnesses of God’s LOVE and COMPASSION for us. Let us in all circumstances pray for His embrace of all humanity. Let us beseech the Mother of God for her

protection and that she will intercede with her Son and our God beseeching His healing touch on all our lives. Let us contemplate the two new and greatest commandments of all: *“The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”* (Mark 12:30-31)

Loving God and loving our neighbor are one and the same. We are not instructed to “love our neighbor as yourself” in terms of what we see in the mirror or whatever self-concept we have. We are called to love our neighbor as also being created “in the image of God”, reflecting that image to the world just as we must do every second of our lives. If we love our neighbor, then ours is to protect our neighbor during the times of threat such as today. That means we must refrain from the physical contact through which a virus can be transmitted.

We fervently pray for you all every day of our lives, our dear clergy and faithful – witnesses to God. Please pray for our continued understanding of what it is that we must do to help ensure your safety and that of the world’s. May the Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. “The Father is our Hope, the Son is our Refuge and the Holy Spirit is our Protection.” We embrace you in the certainty of all this...

+ ANTONY

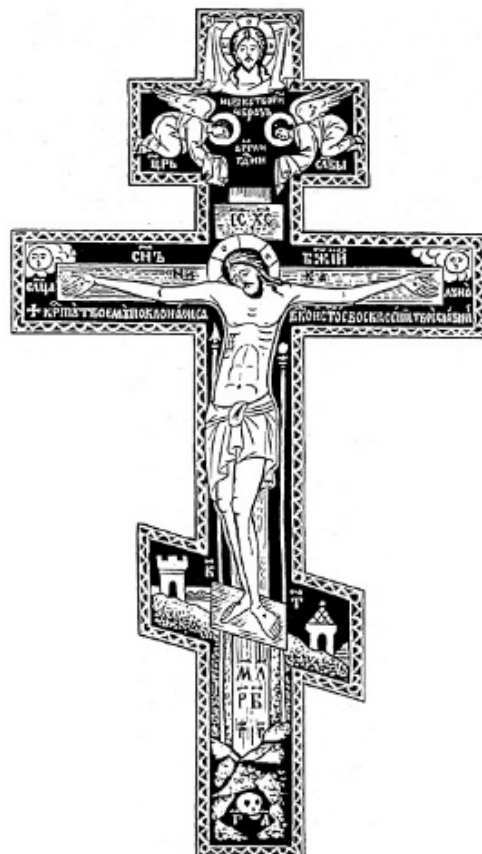
By the Grace of God, Metropolitan

+ DANIEL

By the Grace of God, Archbishop

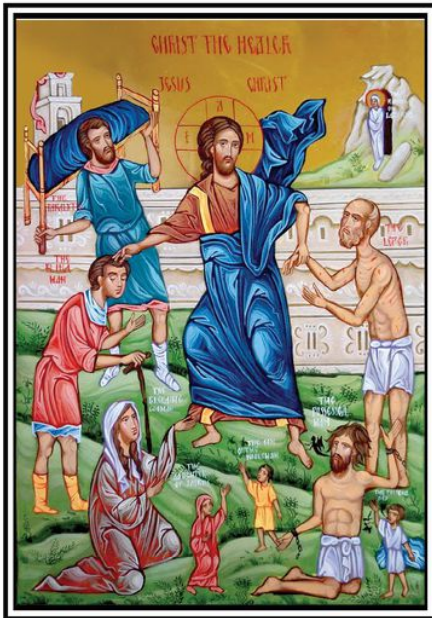
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By the Grace of God, Archbishop





PRAYER IN TIME OF CORONAVIRUS



O Lord Jesus Christ, in Your loving care, You traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks.

O Master and Lord, our Savior, Healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare.

For You are a Merciful and Loving God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.



UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA
УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА США