

# 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

# *September 11, 2022*

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 11 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / The Beheading of the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John - FAST

Tone 4 / Epistle: 1 Cor. 16:13-24; Gospel: Mt. 21:33-42
9:00AM Divine Liturgy – Live video broadcast on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/

# Weekday Scripture Readings:

Mon., Sept. 12: Sts. Alexander, John, and Paul the New, patriarchs of Constantinople.

Epistle: 2 Cor. 12:10-19; Gospel: Mk. 4:10-23

**Tues, Sept. 13:** The Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Most Holy Theotokes

**Theotokos** 

Epistle: 2 Cor. 12:20-13:2; Gospel: Mk. 4:24-34

Wed., Sept. 14: Church New Year / St. Symeon Stylites -- FAST

Epistle: 1 Tim. 2:1-7; Gospel: Lk. 4:16-22

Thur, Sept. 15: Martyr Mamas, and his parents, Martyrs

Theodotus and Rufina

Epistle: Gal. 1:1-10, 20 – 2:5; Gospel: Mk. 5:1-20

Fri., Sept. 16: Hieromartyr Anthimus, bishop of Nicomedia – FAST

Epistle: Gal. 2:6-10; Gospel: Mk. 5:22-24, 35-6:1

Sat., Sept. 17: Hieromartyr Babylas, bishop of Antioch, with Martyrs

Urban, Prilidian, and Epolonius, and their mother Christodula

Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:1-5; Gospel: Mt. 23:1-12

10:00AM Moleben [Bible Study will resume in September]

Sunday, Sept. 18 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Prophet Zacharias and Righteous Elizabeth, parents of St. John the Forerunner.

Tone 5 / Epistle: 2 Cor. 1:21–2:4; Gospel: Mt. 22:1-14 9:00AM Divine Liturgy – Live video broadcast on our Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/">https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelUOC/</a>

Remember: even when you are absent, expenses continue

# PARISH NEWS

- -- **UOL MEETING:** Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, after the Divine Liturgy.
- **--REMEMBER**, when using the church hall to turn off all electrical and gas appliances and the lights, before leaving, as well as make sure the doors are locked. Thank You!
- --WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH OUR COFFEE HOURS: We are looking for volunteers to help with our coffee hours.

Pre-packaged/wrapped items only at least through cold and flu season.

We also need assistance with set up/clean up.

Please contact Cindy if you would like to help out and she will provide you with some guidelines. (<a href="mailto:charestr@aol.com">charestr@aol.com</a>)

# \*\*CURRENT GUIDELINES FOR COMING TO CHURCH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC\*\*

- 1--Please stop at the desk in the Narthex and greet the ushers so they can register you in (for contact tracing purposes.) You should NOT be in attendance if you have ANY symptoms of COVID-19, or are generally not feeling well (sniffles, body aches).
- 2--People who have knowingly been in contact with anyone who has been infected/diagnosed with COVID-19 should NOT enter the church and should quarantine according to State guidelines. They should not return to church until they have tested negative for COVID-19

- 3--Please use your better judgment when venerating liturgical object/icons/crosses by touch/kiss. The Sign of the Cross and a reverent bow in front of an icon is also an acceptable form of veneration.
- 4--When seated in church, we ask that you stay 3-6 feet apart as much as possible. Back and side pews will remain cordoned off, allowing the extra chairs to stay in place.

# If you have been to church and have later tested positive for COVID-19 you MUST:

- 1-Inform Father Boris OR a parish officer as soon as possible
- 2- Tell them the date you were last in church
- 3- Tell them date of your positive test

This information is VERY important for the health and safety of our (YOUR) parish family! Parishioners who attended at the same time as an infected person need to know in order to be tested and stay healthy, or be treated.

Please remember to keep an eye on your emails before coming to Church for any changes in guidance due to the pandemic. **Thank you!** 

# UPGOMING PARISH & INTER-PARISH EVENTS

- \*\*<u>Last Sunday of the month</u> 15 minutes with Father Boris, after Liturgy, beginning in September.
- \*\*<u>Last Sunday of the month</u> Growth & Outreach Committee meeting, after Liturgy. ALL ARE WELCOMED.
- \*\*Sunday, September 11th Annual Ukrainian Festival
- \*\*<u>Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup></u> Beginning of Sunday School & UOL Meeting, after the Divine Liturgy.
- \*\*<u>October 12-15, 2022</u> -- The 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Sobor for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America is scheduled for October 12-15, 2022, in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.
- \*\*Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> 110 Anniversary for St. John the Baptist Romanian Orthodox Church of Woonsocket

# UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL



#### **UKRAINIAN CUISINE & PASTRIES**

Traditional, home-made Ukrainian Foods and pastries

**MUSIC** 

FREE PARKING & ADMISSION
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT
TOURS OF OUR CHURCH
THROUGHTOUT THE DAY

#### **INFORMATION BOOTHS:**

# 1 - THE FULL PLATE KOSHER FOOD PANTRY

A program of Jewish Collaborative Services with FREE fruits & vegetables to anyone, while supplies last.

#### 2 - DORCAS INTERNATIONAL

A program of assistance & referrals for refugees & their sponsors



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 / 11AM – 3PM For information, call 401-762-3939 74 HARRIS AVE., WOONSOCKET, RI

# HAVE THE INCREASED PRICES OF FOOD MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO MAKE ENDS MEET?

# The Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry presents



# COMING TO ST. MICHAEL'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

74 Harris Avenue, Woonsocket, RI 02895

# SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

FREE, fruits and vegetables will be provided to anyone attending the Ukrainian Festival, while supplies last, regardless of religion. If you are Jewish or keep Halal, please contact us ahead of time for additional Kosher foods.

For questions or more information call 401.331.1244

## **Additional Locations:**

Temple Sinai - Cranston September 30 (12:30-2:30 pm) & October 25 (10-12:30 pm)

The Kosher Food Pantry is a program of Jewish Collaborative Services

The Pantry Pop-ups are generously supported by Grace K. and Wesley S. Alpert Charitable Foundation

Adoption Options • Case Management • JERI • Kosher Nutrition • Kesher • Lifeline RI • Shalom and Shalom II Apartments The Counseling Center • The Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry • The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence Jewish Collaborative Services • 1165 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02904 • P: 401.331.1244 • F: 401.331.5772 • JCSRI.org



☑ Info@JCSRI.org

1165 North Main Street Providence, RI 02910

**(**0) 401.331.1244

## **About JCS**

Jewish Collaborative Services (JCS) is a comprehensive, solutions-oriented social service and senior housing agency that helps individuals and families facing physical, emotional, nutritional, financial, or other challenges get the services they need to recover and thrive. JCS is deeply committed to valuing and celebrating the uniqueness of all. We strive to provide an open and welcoming setting, regardless of religious affiliation, beliefs, or background. JCS provides peace of mind by ensuring that everyone who comes to us can gain access to the resources they need.

The JCS headquarters is located at 1165 North Main Street, Providence, RI. This is where most of the clinical and social service programs are located. JCS' West Bay campus on Shalom Drive in Warwick, RI includes our enriched assisted living residence and affordable HUD housing for seniors.

## **Programs of JCS**

#### **Adoption Options**

**Adoption Options** guides families through the adoption process with a tradition of acceptance and inclusivity. We offer personalized services to assist in the journey, including home studies and post-placement services.

#### Case Management

**Case Management** is designed to provide confidential guidance to individuals and families who need assistance finding resources to support financial security, access to health care and mental health services, and the safety and wellbeing of older adults and people with disabilities

### Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI)

**JERI** provides a connection to isolated older adults throughout the State of Rhode Island through friendly visits and Jewish-themed activities. JERI also trains staff at long-term care facilities to better understand the traditions that mean so much to Jewish seniors.

#### Kesher

**Kesher** provides outreach and social service support to the Jewish community through the synagogues and is a bridge from the synagogues to the JCS programs. The Kesher team provides both immediate and long-term support for the congregation including short-term counseling.

#### Kosher Nutrition (\*\*)

**Kosher Nutrition** consists of two programs that provide kosher meals for older adults and those with disabilities. <u>The Kosher Senior Cafes</u>, located in Cranston and Providence, offer social activities as well as delicious hot meals. <u>Kosher Meals on Wheels</u> delivers meals to homebound seniors in Providence, Pawtucket, Cranston, and Warwick, RI.

#### Lifeline RI

**Lifeline RI** provides a local emergency response service with fast access to help in the event of a fall or other emergency. This service allows older adults to remain active and live safely with the On-The-Go mobile GPS button.

#### The Counseling Center

The Counseling Center provides confidential, high-quality counseling services, offering hope and help to families, adults, and older adults.

#### The Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry (\*\*)



The Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry helps reduce the strain on families in the community who are faced with financial challenges. Kosher chicken, produce, and non-perishable items are distributed to those in need, along with personal care items. People can either pick up food at the pantry, which is located at JCS headquarters, or food may be delivered if individuals are homebound or unable to visit the pantry.

## Communities of JCS

#### Shalom & Shalom II Apartments

Shalom and Shalom II Apartments are HUD subsidized apartments for older adults and people with mobility impairments that integrate strong supportive programs and tenant activities, creating an enriched service environment where residents thrive. In addition, Shalom has a meal site and a Meals on Wheels program which delivers food to the homebound in Warwick and East Greenwich.

#### The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence (Tamarisk) (19)



Tamarisk is an assisted living residence that incorporates and respects Jewish traditions while providing safety, security, and support services to all. Residents live with maximum independence, dignity, and choice. Tamarisk offers support for those with memory impairments in The Renaissance Memory Support Program, and also offers Celebrations Adult Day Services, designed to meet the specific needs of each resident by personalizing services, fostering their independence and enhancing their self-esteem.

For more information about any of the programs or communities of JCS please call JCS at 401.331.1244 or visit our website at JCSRI.org

# Volunteering within the JCS programs

Look for the hand symbol " next to programs in need of volunteers!

JCS is always looking for a helping hand in the office, stocking shelves in the pantry, visiting isolated seniors, delivering meals, leading YOUR choice of activities at Tamarisk, and more!!...

#### Interested in joining the JCS Volunteer Team?

Scan the QR to the right to email our volunteer coordinator, Dori Adler, Or reach out to her directly at Dori@jfsri.org or 401.331.1244





Adoption Options • Case Management • JERI • Kosher Nutrition • Kesher • Lifeline RI • Shalom and Shalom II Apartments The Counseling Center • The Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry • The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence

Jewish Collaborative Services • 1165 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02904 • P: 401.331.1244 • F: 401.331.5772 • JCSRI.org



Ukrainians seeking refuge in the United States have been arriving in Rhode Island via Community Sponsors. We are working to around the clock to help and support our new neighbors.

Please contact our Ukrainian Response Coordinator if you are in need of assistance: mkrishchuk@diiri.org or 401-602-0871.

#### **Humanitarian Parole**

Ukrainian individuals or non-Ukrainian individuals who last habitually resided in Ukraine, and who have been granted humanitarian parole status may be eligible for federal benefits, such as cash assistance through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), health insurance through Medicaid, and food assistance through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These individuals may also be eligible for cash assistance, medical assistance, employment preparation, job placement, English language training, and other services offered through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Click below for more details.

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees

## **Uniting for Ukraine | U.S. Sponsor Program**

The United States government recently established the Uniting for Ukraine program allowing U.S.-based individuals and organizations to sponsor a Ukrainian individual or family in the United States. For more information and to apply to sponsor a Ukrainian, please see the USCIS site: https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine. Once approved, Ukrainians, through the program will receive humanitarian parole for two years and will be eligible for Employment Authorization Documents (EADs). Note: Ukrainian parolees are not currently eligible for ORR services.

#### Important information

- The sponsor must fill out a Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support, through the online USCIS portal. The Form I-134 requires an individual to sign the form; organizations may not serve as the named supporter on a Form I-134. However, if an organization or other entity is providing financial or other services to the named individual for the purpose of facilitating support, this information should be provided as part of the evidence submitted with the Form I-134 and will be taken into account in determining the supporter's ability to support the named beneficiary.
- Individuals who can be sponsors include: U.S. citizens and nationals, lawful
  permanent residents (including lawful temporary residents and conditional
  permanent residents), nonimmigrants in lawful status (i.e., maintain the
  nonimmigrant status and have not violated any of the terms or conditions of the
  nonimmigrant status), asylees, refugees, parolees, TPS holders, and beneficiaries
  of deferred action (including DACA) or Deferred Enforced Departure.
- Beneficiaries are eligible for the process if they: Resided in Ukraine immediately prior to the Russian invasion (through Feb. 11, 2022) and were displaced as a result of the invasion; Are a Ukrainian citizen and possess a valid Ukrainian passport (or are a child included on a parent's passport); If not a Ukrainian citizen, are an immediate family member of a Ukrainian citizen beneficiary of Uniting for Ukraine with a valid passport; Have a supporter who filed a Form I-134 on their behalf that has been vetted and confirmed as sufficient by USCIS; and Clear biographic and biometric security checks; To be eligible for this process, children under the age of

18 must be traveling to the United States in the care and custody of their parent or legal guardian.

- If you already filed a Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, for humanitarian parole on behalf of a Ukrainian who is outside the United States, you may either withdraw your pending Form I-131 or leave your Form I-131 pending with USCIS. If you choose to withdraw your pending Form I-131, you will receive a fee refund. If you choose to leave your Form I-131 pending, we will retain the fee, and adjudicate it in the future. If you wish to provide support to a Ukrainian beneficiary under the Uniting for Ukraine process, you must file a new Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support, even if you already submitted a prior Form I-134, Affidavit of Support, with your pending Form I-131. On April 25, 2022, the Form I-134 was updated from the Affidavit of Support to the Declaration of Financial Support, which is being used for Uniting for Ukraine.
- EADs: After the beneficiary is paroled into the United States, they are eligible to apply for discretionary employment authorization from USCIS. To apply for discretionary employment authorization, you must submit Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, using the (c)(11) category code with the required fee or apply for a fee waiver.

## **Temporary Protected Status**

As a reminder, Ukrainians are eligible to submit an initial registration application for TPS and apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). All Ukrainians who meet eligibility requirements and who entered the U.S. before April 11 of this year can apply. The designation of TPS for Ukraine lasts until October 19, 2023. Please follow the following link to apply: https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-ukraine

You can find a breakdown of eligibility requirements, how to register for TPS and how to register for an EAD here: https://cliniclegal.org/resources/humanitarian-relief/temporary-protected-status-and-deferred-enforced-departure/april-19-0?ct=t(TIPS\_042022)



## **Ukrainian (or similar) Cuisine & Culture Locations**

#### **Rhode Island**

#### **Polonia Market**

Polish grocery store 756 Broadway Pawtucket RI 02861

# Krakow Deli Bakery & Smokehouse

Polish cuisine / food market 855 Social Street Woonsocket RI 02895

#### **European Food Market**

Eastern European cuisine / food market 102 Rolfe Square Cranston RI 02910

#### Patti's Pierogis

Polish and Ukrainian restaurant 1019 S. Main Street Fall River, MA 02724

### **Massachusetts**

(approximately one hour away)

#### **Moldova Restaurant**

Moldovan and Ukrainian restaurant 344 Watertown Street Newton, MA 02458 https://www.tastemoldova.com

#### Café Polonia

Polish café and restaurant 611 Dorchester Avenue South Boston, MA 02127 https://cafepolonia.com

#### Berezka Market

Eastern European grocery store 1215 Commonwealth Avenue Allston, MA 02134 http://www.berezkaboston.com

#### **Baza Gourmet Food & Spirits**

Eastern European grocery store 30 Tower Road Newton Upper Falls, MA 02464 https://bazaarsupermarkets.com

401.784.8602 | info@diiri.org | diiri.org | 220 Elmwood Avenue, Providence RI 02907

Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island

#### Advice for applying for Federal Benefits

Ukrainian humanitarian parolees are immediately eligible for federal benefits such as:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, often referred to as "Food Stamps")
- Cash Assistance (this could be Refugee Cash Assistance if the newly arrived person is an adult without children, or RIWorks for adults with children. RIWorks also helps prepare for and find employment)
- Medicaid (health insurance)
- Child Care Assistance

People apply for federal benefits through the Rhode Island Department of Human Services. Ukrainian arrivals have documentation that is different from other immigrant groups, and so we are urging Ukrainians and their sponsors to follow this process as they apply for federal benefits:

- Download a hard copy of the DHS-2 Application for Assistance. This can be found on this webpage: Apply for DHS Benefits | RI Department of Human Services
- Complete the application, place it in an envelope along with the necessary documents (see below), mark it:

RI Department of Human Services
249 Roosevelt Avenue
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Attention: Anita Chase; KeriAnne Paquin

and bring it to a nearby Department of Human Services Field Office (for locations, see: <u>DHS</u> <u>Offices | RI Department of Human Services</u>) or mail it using that same address.

- Be sure that the following documents are included with the application. Send copies only; never send originals. Copy front and back of documents if there is printing on both sides:
  - Immigration documents (I-94)
  - Social Security Cards if applicant has it
  - Proof of any income the applicant is receiving and/or funds being received from other agencies
  - Proof of residence; Proof of residence may be any one of the following:
    - o Letter from the person the applicant is staying with if none of the documents listed below is available
    - Rent receipt
    - Lease agreement
    - Utility bill
    - Medical bill
    - Bank statement
    - Payroll statement
    - Mortgage statement
    - o Car registration
    - Municipality tax statement
    - School record



#### 8/29/2022

To Whom it May Concern,

Sponsored Ukrainians arrive in the United States through the Uniting for Ukraine Program through the Department of Homeland Security. Per the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (effective May 21, 2022) Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees are immediately eligible for public benefits including:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Cash Assistance (Refugee Cash Assistance and/ or RIWorks)
- Medicaid
- Child Care Assistance

Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees have immigration/ entry documentation that is different from other immigrant groups that may not be typically processed through DHS. Anyone with Humanitarian Parole should have a stamp in their passport to evidence their parole into the US (DT, U4U, or UHP) and/or an I-94 record indicating entry under parole. Some may have an Employment Authorization Card (EAD) with the category C11, though EADs do not arrive immediately.

Should you have questions or concerns about eligibility, please consult Anita Chase or KeriAnne Paquin, as directed to us through Frederick Sneesby, the Rhode Island State Refugee Coordinator.

Thank you,

Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island

#### Resources for Additional Information:

https://www.uscis.gov/ukraine https://www.dhs.gov/ukraine

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees





#### **Basic Resource Guide for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees**

#### **BENEFITS**

Congress signed into law the **Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022** (effective May 21, 2022) which makes Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees eligible for public benefits (including SNAP/food stamps, medical insurance, housing, and cash assistance).

Benefits are explained via the links below:

English: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees

Ukrainian: <a href="https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees-ukr">https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees-ukr</a>

Russian: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees-rus

#### **DORCAS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Dorcas International is able to provide limited case management services for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees. There are also many community resources that can assist with a variety of needs. For referrals, please reach out to 401-784-8602 and explain that you are looking for resources for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees.

Initial arrivals are encouraged to visit Dorcas International during our **Walk-In Center** hours 10am-3pm, Monday through Thursday at 220 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907. Questions and referrals may be made as well as a brief orientation on the necessary steps to take post-arrival.

Dorcas International offers **English classes** in-person or virtually. All are welcome to register in person or at <a href="https://diiri.org/esl/">https://diiri.org/esl/</a>. Call 401-784-8602 for more information.

Everyone is eligible for **Employment Services** at Dorcas International. Individuals must be able to prove work eligibility in order to be eligible for job placement assistance. Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees need an Employment Authorization card (EAD) to prove work authorization.

Dorcas International's **Clothing Collaborative** is also available to Ukrainian Parolees in need of clothing. Appointments are necessary. Located at 645 Elmwood Avenue, Providence RI 02907. Call 401-784-8663.

**Pinpoint Translation Services** can assist with interpretation or document and records translation. Located at 645 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907. Call 401-784-8633 for more information.

Dorcas International can provide **intensive case management** for needs such as federal/state benefits registration, health, mental health, childcare, and other supports for those exhibiting long-term, high need or risk. This service will be assessed by appointment.

Dorcas International's Citizenship and Immigration Services are explained immediately below.



#### Immigration Status, Documentation and Public Benefits Eligibility

Please note that Ukrainians who have received humanitarian parolee status do not have refugee or asylee (those granted asylum in US) status upon entry to the United States.

Anyone with <u>Humanitarian Parole</u> should have a stamp in their passport to evidence their parole into the US (DT, U4U, or UHP) and/or an I-94 record indicating entry under parole. This stamp or I-94 record should be sufficient to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), in addition to an ID like a passport or birth certificate showing the person is from Ukraine.

For assistance applying for a EAD (Category: C11), please contact **Citizenship & Immigration Services** by calling 401-784-8607, to speak directly with an attorney or legal representative.

Consultations appointments are available Monday - Friday at the following times:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9am - Ipm

Tuesday & Thursday: Ipm - 5pm

The I-765 Application for Employment Authorization application form includes a check box to request a Social Security Number, so no additional application is needed for an SSN card; it comes automatically once the I-765 is approved. A Social Security Number is required to apply for Supplemental Security Income or SSI.

EADs do not arrive immediately; a parolee will need to wait for their EAD and SSN card to arrive. An EAD could take between 3-10 months due to USCIS backlogs, which have been expedited for Ukrainian parolees.

For Ukrainians who cannot obtain or are not eligible for Humanitarian Parole, there are several alternatives, two of which are specifically for Ukrainians:

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ukrainians** If you are from Ukraine, and you were already in the United States before 04/11/2022, you may be eligible for Temporary Protected Status. Please contact the Citizenship & Immigration Services at Dorcas International during consultation hours to determine if you are eligible to apply. TPS beneficiaries do not qualify for many public benefits as of 7/25/22; however, under specific circumstances may qualify for Medicaid and CHIP (unmarried children under 19) if deemed "lawfully present".

**Lautenberg Program for Ukrainians:** Certain religious groups from Ukraine who reside in one of the countries in the former Soviet Union can apply for family reunification through the Lautenberg Program at Dorcas International by requesting an appointment via email at <a href="FR@diiri.org">FR@diiri.org</a>. The religious groups are: Jews, Evangelical Christians, Ukrainian Catholics, and members of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

**Unaccompanied children** who enter the US, typically through the U.S.-Mexican border, should have been granted parolee status upon entry if they entered the U.S. on or after February 24, 2022.



#### **RESOURCES**

#### **General Community Support**

- 211 United Way | <a href="https://www.unitedwayri.org/get-help/2-1-1/">https://www.unitedwayri.org/get-help/2-1-1/</a>
   Information on resources, available low-cost housing (limited), and more
- Jewish Alliance/Dwares Jewish Community Center | 401 Elmgrove Ave, Providence, RI 02906
   401-421-4111 | Religious needs, family programs, daycare, child and youth activities, and more
- Jewish Collaborative Services | 1165 North Main Street Providence, RI 02904 | 401-331-1244
   Basic needs support, mental health individual & family counseling services, religious needs and more
- Refugee Dream Center | 747 Broad Street, Providence, RI 02907 | 401-300-0544
   Health promotion, case management, youth programs, and more
- Diocese of Providence | I Cathedral Square, Providence, RI 02903 | 401-278-4500
   Immigration services, after-school tutoring, housing assistance, English classes, and more

#### For Sponsors

- Welcome. US | https://ukraine.welcome.us/
- Nova Ukraine USA Resources for Ukrainian Refugees (English, Ukrainian, & Russian) <a href="https://www.refugees.novaukraine.org/">https://www.refugees.novaukraine.org/</a>

#### Medical

Entrants have an extended 90-day period for to be tested for tuberculous (TB), this may be completed at the RISE TB Clinic located at 14 Third St., Providence, RI 02906 | 401-793-2422 or 401-793-2430

Entrants over 65 years of age or individuals who qualify as disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) once they have a Social Security number and card assigned. There are several Social Security Administration offices in Rhode Island which can be searched for at: <a href="https://www.ssa.gov/boston/Rl.htm">https://www.ssa.gov/boston/Rl.htm</a> and the main website is <a href="https://www.ssa.gov/">https://www.ssa.gov/</a> Russian language is offered on the site as well as by phone: 800-772-1213.

Additional medical needs:

Department of Human Services (DHS) | Medicaid (health insurance) | https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebl3/StartAnonymousBrowsing.action

Hope Clinic – Clinica Esperanza: 401-347-9093 | 60 Valley St, Suite 104 Providence, RI 02909

RI Free Clinic: 401-274-6347 | 655 Broad St, Providence, RI 02907 | www.rifreeclinic.org

Thundermist: 401-615-2800 | 186 Providence St, W. Warwick, RI 02893 www.thundermisthealth.org



#### Food

SNAP (Food Stamps) | Department of Human Services (DHS) | https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now

Rhode Island Community Food Bank | 401-942-6325 | http://rifoodbank.org

Locate a food pantry location using | https://rifoodbank.org/find-food/

#### **Religious Needs**

St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church | 401-762-3939 | 74 Harris Ave, Woonsocket, RI <a href="http://stmichaeluoc.org/">http://stmichaeluoc.org/</a>

St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church | (401) 762-2733 | 394 Blackstone St, Woonsocket, RI 02895 | https://stmichaelsri.org/

Second Baptist Church (Slavic) | (401) 434-4146 | 80 Taunton Road, East Providence www.rhodeisland.church

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church | (508) 673-2353 | 327 Center St, Fall River, MA 02724

Sanctuary Church | 401-584-3855 | 15 Hayes St, Providence | https://sanctuaryri.org/

Temple Beth El | 401-331-6070 | 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, RI 02906

#### **U.S. Emergency Contacts**

Uniting for Ukraine Support Line | 407-591-3963 (Ukrainian and Russian language access)

Local Emergency Services (police/fire department/ambulance) | 911

National Human Trafficking Hotline | 888-373-7888 or text 233733

Federal Trade Commission to report immigration fraud or scams | 877-FTC-HELP

Sojourner House Helpline in Rhode Island (victims/survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking) | 401-765-3232

#### **Further Questions**

If you'd like to speak with someone at Dorcas International to access additional information, resources or referrals, please call 401-784-8602 and explain that you are looking for resources for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees.



# Ukrainians & Sponsors in Rhode Island We Can Help!

#### Assistance & Referrals

Help with federal/state benefits registration, healthcare, mental health, childcare, and other supports, and referrals to community resources for assistance with a variety of needs | By appointment only | 401.784.8602 for more information

## Citizenship & Immigration Legal Services

Meet directly with an attorney or legal representative | Consultation appointments are available | 401.784.8607 for more information & appointments

### **English Classes**

Classes held in-person or virtually | Visit <a href="https://diiri.org/esl/">https://diiri.org/esl/</a> for more information

### **Employment Services, Job Placement Assistance & Training**

Must be able to prove work eligibility | Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees need an Employment Authorization card (EAD) to prove work authorization <a href="https://www.diiri.org/what-we-do/employment/">https://www.diiri.org/what-we-do/employment/</a> for more information

**Clothing** - available through our Clothing Collaborative Services are by appointment only | 401.784.8663 for more information

#### **Translation Services**

Interpreting and document/records translation available | 401.784.8633 for more information

### More Resources Are Available

New arrivals are highly encouraged to visit Dorcas International's Walk-In Center

Walk-In Center | Open & available Monday – Thursday, 10am-3pm Location | 220 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI Call | 401.784.8602

Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island www.diiri.org | info@diiri.org | 645 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907 | 220 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907



# Citizenship and Immigration Services & Information

# Immigration Status, Documentation & Public Benefits Eligibility

**Humanitarian Parole** | Anyone with this status should have a stamp in their passport to evidence their parole into the US (DT, U4U, or UHP) and/or an I-94 record indicating entry under parole. This stamp or I-94 record should be sufficient to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), in addition to an ID like a passport or birth certificate showing the person is from Ukraine.

**I-765** Application for Employment Authorization application | This form includes a check box to request a Social Security Number, so no additional application is needed for an SSN card; it comes automatically once the I-765 is approved. A Social Security Number is required to apply for Supplemental Security Income or SSI.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ukrainians** | If you are from Ukraine, and you were already in the United States before 04/11/2022, you may be eligible for Temporary Protected Status. TPS beneficiaries do not qualify for many public benefits as of 7/25/22; however, under specific circumstances may qualify for Medicaid and CHIP (unmarried children under 19) if deemed "lawfully present."

**Lautenberg Program for Ukrainians** | Certain religious groups from Ukraine who reside in one of the countries in the former Soviet Union can apply for family reunification through the Lautenberg Program at Dorcas International by requesting an appointment via email at FR@diiri.org. The religious groups include: Jews, Evangelical Christians, Ukrainian Catholics, and members of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

**Unaccompanied Youth** | Children who enter the US, typically through the U.S.–Mexican border, should have been granted parolee status upon entry if they entered the U.S. on or after February 24, 2022.

# Information for Sponsors

Welcome. US | https://ukraine.welcome.us/ Nova Ukraine USA (English, Ukrainian, & Russian) | https://www.refugees.novaukraine.org/

#### **Tuberculosis Information**

Entrants have an extended 90-day period for to be tested for Tuberculosis (TB), this may be completed at the RISE TB Clinic located at 14 Third Street in Providence | 401.793.2422 or 401.793.2430 for more information

Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island www.diiri.org | info@diiri.org | 645 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907 | 220 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907





# **INITIAL SPONSOR SERVICE CHECKLIST**

Last Updated 05/04/22

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL (if applicable)

The United States has a rich tradition of welcoming newcomers through sponsorship. The following checklist is one resource, drawn from existing best practices and can be used by sponsors and newcomers to develop plans and track activities. Although this checklist may support anyone welcoming newcomers, some of the services listed may be specific to newcomers arriving through the Uniting for Ukraine program.

Sponsors, in addition to providing newcomers with critical financial support, will need to connect them with relevant services (such as health care and education), and support their integration by assisting them as they learn English and secure employment. The checklist below suggests activities and timelines for ensuring key services are provided for newcomers and can serve as a guide during the initial period of a newcomer's stay in the United States.

| The transfer of approaches     |   |  |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
|                                | For those sponsoring through the Uniting for Ukraine program: Complete Declaration of Financial Support (Form I-134) and other program specific requirements.   |  |  |
|                                | For those sponsoring through the Uniting for Ukraine program: Receive approval of Declaration of Financial Support (Form I-134) from Department of Homeland Security.   |  |  |
|                                | Research state, local and community based organizations that offer services to refugees and other immigrants, as well as faith and cultural institutions that may be relevant to the newcomer(s). Unsure where to start? Try connecting to 2-1-1. |  |  |
|                                | For those sponsoring through the Uniting for Ukraine program: Connect with state and city offices of immigrant affairs or local human services departments to learn what benefits are available to individuals granted humanitarian parole.       |  |  |
|                                | Secure initial and/or permanent housing on behalf of the newcomer(s).   |  |  |
|                                | Connect utilities and internet on behalf of the newcomer(s), including enrollment into plans discounted for low-income residents, where applicable.   |  |  |
|                                | Furnish the housing with recommended items, including disposable items such as diapers that a newcomer may need.  |  |  |
|                                | Stock the pantry with initial food items.   |  |  |
|                                | Gather seasonally appropriate clothing for the airport/station greeting.  |  |  |
| DAY OF ARRIVAL (if applicable) |   |  |  |
|                                | Welcome newcomer(s) at the airport or station and transport to secured housing.   |  |  |
|                                | Provide a ready-to-eat, culturally appropriate meal.  |  |  |
| _                              |   |  |  |
|                                | Provide a brief orientation to new housing, including guidance on locks, smoke detector, fire extinguisher, and 9-1-1.  |  |  |
|                                | Provide initial emergency contact information; ensure newcomer(s) have the ability to make contact (e.g., working phone and/or introductions to neighbors).   |  |  |
|                                |   |  |  |

| WEEK OF ARRIVAL           |   |  |
|---------------------------|---|--|
|                           | Ensure that newcomer(s) with acute health care requirements receive appropriate and timely medical attention, including for prescription refills. Enroll newcomers in discount pharmacy programs, as is applicable.   |  |
|                           | Provide the newcomer(s) with pocket money to support their independence. (You can talk with the newcomer(s) about the amount that feels appropriate. \$50 per newcomer is standard practice.)   |  |
|                           | Support the newcomer(s) in accessing their mailbox. As necessary, support the newcomer(s) in identifying bills, junk mail, etc.   |  |
|                           | Support the newcomer(s) in going grocery shopping. Ideally, this should include a store with affordable staples, as well as one that offers culturally specific foods.  |  |
|                           | Support the newcomer(s) in shopping for clothing, footwear, and other necessities.  |  |
|                           | Support the newcomer(s) in creating a household budget.   |  |
|                           | Discuss short and long-term employment and educational goals with newcomer(s); connect them with mentors and workforce resources.   |  |
|                           | Apply for social security card(s) and employment authorization document(s). Newcomers paroled will need to submit an <u>I-765 Application for Employment Authorization</u> .  |  |
|                           | Ensure other conditions of newcomer's status (e.g. parole), such as vaccination requirements, are met.  |  |
|                           | Support the newcomer(s) in printing form(s), such as the I-94 via the US Customs and Border Protection website.   |  |
|                           | Submit changes of address with the Department of Homeland Security and US Postal Service. Advise newcomer(s) that this will need to be done each time the newcomer(s) move(s).  |  |
|                           | As appropriate, support newcomer males ages 18 – 25 in completing selective service registration. Advise newcomer males ages 18 – 25 of the necessity of submitting changes of address forms with the Selective Service each time there is a change of address. |  |
|                           | As appropriate, support the newcomer(s) in accessing benefits and services, such as Affordable Care Act health insurance plans through federal or state exchanges or enrollment of young children into Head Start programs.                                     |  |
|                           | If appropriate, coordinate with state and/or local health care providers to provide medical services to newcomer(s) requiring medical care upon arrival.  |  |
|                           | Connect the newcomer(s) with qualified legal assistance to ascertain future immigration options.  |  |
| FIRST MONTH AFTER ARRIVAL |   |  |
|                           | Ensure newcomer(s) are connected with affordable healthcare, such as at a community health care center, and receive vaccinations and health screenings through a provider visit or an appointment at a local public health department.                          |  |
|                           | Support the newcomer(s) in selecting a primary care physician.  |  |
|                           | Support school-aged newcomer children in enrolling to school, after school and summer school programming, as is available.  |  |
|                           | Connect parents of school-aged children to school and district staff, such as family liaisons, to support their understanding of the U.S. educational system.   |  |
|                           | Support older youth's continued education by connecting with local community colleges or higher education institutions to understand options and opportunities.   |  |
|                           | Once necessary documentation has arrived, support the newcomer(s) in obtaining state IDs and/or driver's license(s). Some states have different processes for newcomers with temporary immigration statuses.  |  |
|                           | Continue to provide pocket money as appropriate until other income is received.   |  |
|                           | Support the newcomer(s) in setting up checking and savings accounts. Credit unions often have better abilities to open accounts for individuals who do not yet have Social Security Numbers than national banks.  |  |
|                           |   |  |

| FIRST MONTH AFTER ARRIVAL (con't) |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
|                                   | Ride public transit with the newcomer(s) to their points of interest (e.g., shopping, post office, library, grocery store, park, children's school, doctor's office, place of worship) and consider purchasing bus passes. |  |  |
|                                   | Support the newcomer(s) in enrolling in English language training and digital literacy classes.  |  |  |
|                                   | Connect the newcomer(s) to workforce services at <u>American Job Centers</u> or local community-based agencies where they can access resume writing assistance and career navigation services.                             |  |  |
|                                   | Support the newcomer(s) in applying to job and job training opportunities. Many job training activities do not require that the newcomer has received their Employment Authorization Document.                             |  |  |
|                                   | Continue to support the newcomer(s) in connecting to available community benefits and services (e.g., mental health services and libraries), as well as extracurricular activities.  |  |  |
|                                   | Provide orientation to the newcomer(s) regarding such things as safety, health care, and US and local community laws.  |  |  |
|                                   |  |  |  |
| SE                                | COND MONTH AFTER ARRIVAL   |  |  |
|                                   | If not yet received, follow up on social security card(s) and employment authorization document(s) with USCIS.   |  |  |
|                                   | As appropriate, support the newcomer(s) in paying their bills, managing their finances, and locating financial education resources.  |  |  |
|                                   | Continue to support the newcomer(s) in finding career training opportunities and securing employment.  |  |  |
|                                   | Continue to support the newcomer(s) with language practice.  |  |  |
|                                   | Continue to support the newcomer(s) in learning about their new community and life in the United States.   |  |  |
|                                   | Continue to support the newcomer(s) in connecting to available community benefits, services, and extracurricular activities.   |  |  |
|                                   |  |  |  |
| ONGOING SUPPORT                   |  |  |  |
|                                   | Continue to support the newcomer(s) in finding career training opportunities and securing employment.  |  |  |
|                                   | Continue to support the newcomer(s) with language practice.  |  |  |
|                                   | Continue to support the newcomer(s) in learning about their new community and life in the United States, including by fostering connections between parents and schools (as applicable).                                   |  |  |
|                                   | Continue to support the newcomer(s) in connecting to available community benefits, services, and extracurricular activities.   |  |  |
|                                   |  |  |  |
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#### CHRIST IS AMONGST US! IS AND ALWAYS SHALL BE!

According to the Constitution of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, I hereby call and bless the convocation of the REGULAR SOBOR - XXIII of our Church. The Sobor will take place at our Metropolia Center of St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle in South Bound Brook/Somerset, NJ, 13-15 October 2022. It will be preceded by a Metropolitan Council Meeting on 11 October and a Clergy Conference on 12 October.

The Theme for this Regular Sobor is Psalm 50:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

The next verse of Psalm 50 reads: "Cast me not away from Your Presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me."

The author of the Psalm, King David, was beseeching forgiveness from God for his most grievous sin. The work "create" here is the same Hebrew word that is used in Genesis 1:1 for the creation of the world thus acknowledging that the creation of a clean heart - the forgiveness of his sin and the radical cleansing he needed - could come from God alone. He needed an intervention from God to restore his heart to cleanliness and steadfastness in his faithfulness to and relationship with God. This was possible only if his desires, his thoughts, his morality were all governed by a "right spirit" within, leading him to live for God, rather than primarily for himself. He asks the Lord to permit him to remain in His Presence - fulfilling the responsibilities of his anointed position - which was meant to be guided always by the Holy Spirit.

These are very powerful words that the priest prays during the Eucharistic Prayer of Divine Liturgy as he beseeches the Lord to send His Holy Spirit down upon the "gifts" (bread and wine) "spread forth upon the Holy Table", making them the Body and Blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. He acknowledges his own sinfulness praying that it will not prohibit the Holy Spirit from acting. At the same time he seeks the blessing of the Lord to help him remain steadfast in his own faithfulness always abiding in the Presence of God.

We along with King David and all our ordained clergy must be constantly aware of the ways we separate ourselves from God through our sinfulness against Him alone and the effect of that separation on the lives of all around us. As we all prepare to participate in our Regular Sobor XXIII, let us all seek to know ourselves as honestly as did King David, realizing that we simply must approach our Lord asking: "Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me", in the realization that only He can make things right after receiving our sincere supplication. Only then can we hope not to be "cast away from His Presence" or experience the "taking away of the Holy Spirit" from us.

With this honest self-knowledge and comprehension about our relationship with God, we are able to trust that the Holy Spirit will truly be with us in our Sobor discussions and deliberations as we beseech His Presence in the opening prayer: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One".

Sobor XXIII is even more important than Sobor XXII, in that the issues we faced three years ago have become even more intense, resulting in the necessity to repeat much of what I shared with you then. We have much to consider during this Sobor. We stand at a crucial crossroads in the life and history of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. You have heard such words from all my predecessors over the first one hundred years of our ecclesiastical life, but rarely have they been spoken with such dire urgency as now, because of the circumstances of life in our Church as we enter our second century of service to God. We have weathered many storms through the decades, always counting on the provision of our Lord and we still do count on His magnificent and complete love for us. As always, however, we realize that we must make our own contribution to our welfare and stewardship of the gifts He has presented to us. We must be willing to climb up the mountain in all humility, hoping to come face to Face with God to offer our gratitude to Him and to beseech His continued mercy and generosity.

Your participation in all aspects of the Sobor is an absolute necessity. Your contribution to the strengthening of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church here in the United States of America is essential. Our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents came to build a new life in this great nation, and they centered that life on the Truth of God's Word - in far more difficult circumstances than we know today. Throughout all, they never wavered in their devotion to God and commitment to building His Church and extending His Kingdom. Let us follow their example now, living in the blessings of God - to ensure the legacy we must pass on to our own children and grandchildren!

During our Sobor we will face VERY, VERY IMPORTANT DECISIONS about our Metropolia properties, and our staffing, which may affect our future operations significantly.

The election of parish delegates, which must be accomplished, according to our Church Constitution, at a parish meeting, should be completed by the end of June so that those delegates might well prepare for the work of this Sobor. Our future depends upon representation from all our parishes. The Pre-Sobor commission has begun the task of preparing for our triennial convocation and you will receive all necessary and detailed information from them. I ask that you adhere to all deadlines set for the Sobor.

May the Holy Spirit guide all our deliberations and efforts during this Sobor, uniting us in "one mind and one heart" so that all we attempt to accomplish will be for the Glory of God and the salvation of souls.

In our Lord's All-Encompassing Love,

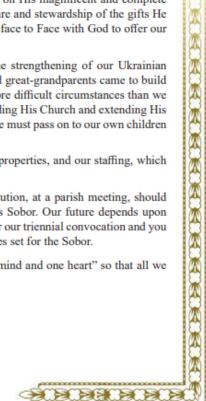
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+ ANTONY By the Grace of God, Metropolitan



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Дорогі брати та сестри у Христі, духовенство та миряни нашої Святої Української Православної Церква США:

#### ХРИСТОС ПОСЕРЕД НАС! € І БУДЕ!

Згідно Статуту нашої Святої Української Православної Церкви США, я скликаю і благословляю зібрання XXIII ЗВИЧАЙНОГО СОБОРУ нашої Церкви. Собор відбудеться у Центрі Митрополії Св. Апостола Андрія Первозванного 13-15 жовтня 2022 р. у Саут Баунд Бруці / Сомерсеті, штату Нью-Джерсі. Йому передуватиме засідання Ради Митрополії 11-го жовтня та Конференція Духовенства 12-го жовтня, 2022.

Темою цього чергового Собору є Псалом 50:10:

"Серце чисте створи в мені, Боже, і духа правди обнови в нутрі моєму."

Наступний стих Псалма 50 звучить так:

"Не відкинь мене від лиця Твого і Духа Твого Святого не відніми від мене."

Цими словами автор псалма, цар Давид, благав у Бога прощення за свій найтяжчий гріх. Слово "сотвори",  $\epsilon$  тим самим єврейським словом, яке використовується в книзі Буття 1:1 для створення світу, тим самим підтверджуючи, що створення чистого серця - прощення його гріхів і повне очищення, якого він потребував, могли прийти лише від Бога. Він потребував Господа, щоб повернути його серце до чистоти та стійкості у своїй вірності перед Богом. І це було можливим лише за умови, якщо його бажання, його думки та його моральність були скерованими "праведним духом" зсередини, котрий спрямовуватиме його жити для Бога, а не в першу чергу для самого себе. Він просить Господа дозволити йому й надалі залишатися перед Його Лицем – будучи його помазаником, виконувати покладені обов'язки, завжди керуючись Святим Духом.

Це дуже сильні слова, які священик промовляє у Євхаристійній молитві під час Божественної Літургії, коли він благає Господа зіслати Свого Святого Духа на "дари" (хліб і вино) "що на Святому Престолі", роблячи їх Тілом і Кров'ю нашого Спасителя, Ісуса Христа. Він визнає власну гріховність молячись, щоб це не стало на заваді дії Святого Духа. Водночає він шукає благословення Господа, щоб допомогти йому залишитися непохитним у власній вірі, завжди перебуваючи у Божій Присутності перед Його Лицем.

Ми, разом з царем Давидом та усім нашим духовенством, повинні постійно пам'ятати про те, як ми віддаляємо себе від Бога через нашу гріховність проти Нього та про ті наслідки, котрі приносить це віддалення на життя всіх навколо нас. Готуючись до участі у нашому XXIII Звичайному Соборі, проявімо бажання пізнати себе так само чесно, як зробив це цар Давид, де все що потрібно зробити - це звернутися до нашого Господа з проханням: "Серце чисте створи в мені, Боже, і духа праведного обнови в нутрі моєму", усвідомлюючи, що тільки Він може зцілити нас. Лише тоді ми матимемо надію, що не будемо "відкинутими від лиця Його" і що "Дух Святий не відійметься" від нас.

3 цим чесним самопізнанням і розумінням наших відносин з Богом, ми віримо, що Святий Дух справді буде посеред нас під час засідання Собору, Котрого ми благаємо зійти на нас у початковій молитві: "Царю Небесний, Утішителю, Душе Істини, що всюди єси і все наповняєх, Скарбе Добра і Життя Подателю, прийди і вселися в нас, очисти нас від усякої скверни і спаси Милосердний душі наші."

XXIII Собор є навіть важливішим за XXII Собор, тому що ті проблеми з котрими ми стикнулися ще три роки тому, залишилися невирішеними та ще більше ускладнилися, внаслідок чого виникла необхідність розглянути багато з тих питань, які я виставляв на порядок денний 3 роки тому. Нам є над чим подумати під час цього Собору. Ми стоїмо на перехресті в житті та історії нашої Святої Української Православної Церкви США. Ви вже чули ці слова від моїх попередників впродовж перших ста років нашого церковного життя, але цього разу я надаю цьому особливого значення, через обставини життя в нашій Церкві, вступаючи в наше друге століття служіння Богу. Ми пережили багато викликів впродовж усіх десятиліть, завжди розраховуючи на допомогу від нашого Господа і ми надалі розраховуємо на Його цілковиту любов до нас. Проте, як завжди, ми розуміємо що ми повинні зробити свій власний внесок у наш власний добробут, розумно розпоряджаючись дарами, які Він нам подарував. Ми мусимо хотіти вийти на вершину гори, надіючись віч-на-віч зустрітися з Богом і висловити Йому свою вдячність та продовжувати просити Його про постійну милість і щедроти.

Ваша участь в усіх аспектах Собору є абсолютно необхідна. Ваш внесок у зміцнення нашої Української Православної Церкви тут у Сполучених Штатах Америки є дуже важливий. Наші батьки, діди та прадіди прибули будувати нове життя у цій великій країні і вони зосередили його на Істині Слова Божого – у набагато складніших умовах, ніж ми живемо сьогодні. Перейшовши через усе, вони ніколи не похитнулися у своїй вірності Богу і відданості будувати Його Церкву та розширювати Його Царство. Наслідуймо їхньому прикладу, живучи в Милості Божій – для збереження спадщини, яку ми повинні передати нашим дітям

Під час Собору на нас чекають ДУЖЕ, ДУЖЕ ВАЖЛИВІ РІШЕННЯ, щодо майна Митрополії та наших працівників, які можуть суттєво вплинути на майбутню діяльність.

Вибори парафіяльних делегатів, які згідно з Церковним Статутом мають бути затверджені під час парафіїяльних зборів, необхідно провести не пізніше кінця місяця червня для того, щоб делегати мали змогу добре підготуватися до Собору. Наше майбутнє залежить від представників усіх парафій. Передсоборова комісія вже розпочала підготовку до нашого що-трьохрічного зібрання і Ви вже скоро отримаєте всю необхідну інформацію. Я прошу Вас уважно дотримуватися всіх необхідних термінів реєстрацій на Собор.

Нехай Дух Святий провадить нас під час Собору в намаганнях та обговореннях, єднаючи нас в "один розум та одне серце", щоб усе, що ми намагатимемося досягнути було на Славу Божу та для спасіння душ.

У Все-Охоплюючій Любові Господній,

1. Dujonu + АНТОНІЙ

Милістю Божою, Митрополит





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