

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Consistory Circular

Spring 2021

Office of the Consistory President

PASCHA: A Message from the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine to the Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of Ukraine and the Diaspora

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.” (Conclusion of the Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom, read during Paschal Matins at the FEAST OF FEASTS – the RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST)

Dearly beloved Sisters and Brothers in our Lord: CHRIST IS RISEN!

Our Lord and Savior has offered Himself up on the Precious and Life-Giving Cross, suffered under the torture of human hands, was buried and on this third day, He has “risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs bestowing life!” How do we express our love and gratitude to the One Who opened the gates of Heaven to us all – both the living and the dead? First and most important, we do not express that love and gratitude only during the celebration of the Resurrection FEAST. We offer them every day in prayer. We offer them in the ways we relate to one another. We offer that love and gratitude through every single, miniscule decision or choice that we make through the course of a day. We offer them through the mercy, comfort and compassion with which we embrace those who are different from us in any way.

We no longer fear death, says St. John, because our Savior has annihilated death! Ours is to take up the life that He has given us, victorious over demons and rejoicing with the angels, knowing that none of us is left behind. Basking in the Resurrection LIGHT that shines forth from the empty tomb and filled with the Grace inspired into us through all the Sacraments, we can work miracles in a world that all too often seems dark and still consumed with death. We are victorious in Christ. We CAN be the LIGHT that transforms the whole world and to all who choose that darkness.

Oh, what opportunity we have in our world’s present circumstances! We are confronted with a pandemic and the isolation associated with it, with racial strife and its horrific manifestations and with crippling and destructive political division. In all

this we have opportunity to witness to the world as did the new Christians who conquered a much darker world in the first centuries after our Lord’s Ascension to Heaven. When they came together in worship, many times in caves, the space literally throbbed with anticipation in the contemplation of the Resurrection Power that was theirs. They could barely hold themselves back until the conclusion of the worship service so that they could go back out into the world to bear witness to a God Who loved them perhaps more than they loved themselves. They had a mission and a ministry of serving others – being Christ to them – in that love – the same mission to which we are called today.

Our prayer as we celebrate the FEAST OF FEASTS, dearly beloved, is that today your hearts are throbbing because of the Resurrection Power that is also yours. Not all are called to preach to the world, but we all are inspired with the Grace that can and will enable us to utilize that Power. We all can reach into the lives of those whose lives intersect with ours. We can be peacemakers when we witness hatred in speech or in deed. We can speak the positive, perhaps changing the perspective through which the individuals involved view a situation or a heated argument. This Power given to us also enables us to be merciful, pure in heart, hungry and thirsty for righteousness, meek and unselfish.

The pathway to salvation has been provided by our Risen Lord, throughout His public ministry and especially through the days of Holy Week. Let us now follow that pathway anew as we enter into Bright Week.

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(Continued from p. 1)

PASCHA: A Message from the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine

The world needs us! Nothing is more certain in life than the promise of salvation for those of who live in sincere faith and trust in our Risen Lord. May the Grace of our Risen Lord, the Love of God the Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all as you follow the “narrow path” that leads to salvation.

INDEED HE IS RISEN!

With Archpastoral blessings,

+ YURIJ – Metropolitan
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ ANTONY – Metropolitan
*Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America and
Diaspora*

+ JEREMIAH – Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America

+ DANIEL – Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

+ ILARION – Bishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ ANDRIY – Bishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

From the Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

The quote from Joshua, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”, has continued to guide the work of the OYM in last few months.

Youth Ministry Webinars - The first of the webinar series was held in January entitled: Youth Ministry That Works - Ideas for Youth Ministry During Covid-19. Fr. John Charest, Fr. Taras Naumenko and Fr. Volodymyr and Db. Ginny Yavorskiy presented how their youth teams have been offering

Faith, Hope and Love - Home Edition! We have continued with the weekly sessions. We ask that you encourage your youth to participate as they can. We understand that the “new normal” has brought new challenges for them. However, we believe even an occasional participation in this ministry will help to refresh their spirit.

UOC Camping Ministry - Our ASC & Me - Camp at Home once a month has been delightful!

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A Note from the Assembly of Bishops...

Beloved brothers in the service of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA: Glory be to Jesus Christ during this sacred period of Holy Week!

The Hierarchs of the Assembly of Canonical Bishops are aware of the many pastoral issues we face regarding mental health among the faithful. These issues are complex and challenging and, during the pandemic, have increased significantly. It is well known among mental health professionals that many people of Faith approach their parish priest, before their physician or a therapist, with mental health struggles. The Mental Health Task Force of the Assembly of Bishops has completed a [Directory of Orthodox Mental Health Professionals](#) as a first resource to immediately meet an urgent need. We hope that you have been sharing it, listing it on your websites, and encouraging Orthodox Christian providers in your region to [apply to be listed](#).

In an effort to further understand and respond to the specific mental health needs of our clergy and faithful, we are now conducting a comprehensive anonymous survey:

- The Needs Assessment Survey can be accessed at: <https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/mental-health-task-force/mental-health-needs-assessment-survey>
- The survey is completely anonymous and takes about 15 minutes to complete
- Both clergy and the faithful age 18 and older are asked to complete the survey by June 15, 2021
- All faithful are invited to complete the survey, regardless of their experience with mental health or their level of engagement with the Church.
- Parishes are encouraged to print copies of the survey for parishioners who are not comfortable using a computer. Guidelines are provided on the aforementioned survey page.
- Data collected from the survey will be analyzed by the Task Force to create mental health related resources that reflect our Orthodox praxis and theological perspective.

In order for the work of the Task Force to successfully serve you and the faithful, I ask you to assist by the following:

1. Please participate in the anonymous survey and ask your parishioners to participate in the survey. **Please help us meet our goal of at least 50 parishioners from each parish.**
2. Please promote the survey across all communication platforms you use with your parish. For your convenience, promotional icons for social media and bulletin inserts are available at [assemblyofbishops.org/mental-health](https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/mental-health).
3. Please continue to promote in your community the Directory of Orthodox Mental Health Professionals and encourage Orthodox providers you know to join the directory: <https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/directories/mental-health/>

Saint Andrew's Society Marks 30 years of Ministry

Saint Andrew's Society has just passed its 30th Anniversary of serving the faithful in Ukraine. Established in December of 1990 by the faithful of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, the Society has as its mission to support the rebirth of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ukraine and to promote Christian ideals in charitable and humanitarian efforts. During the challenges of 2020 with the COVID pandemic, the Society has managed successfully in both raising funds and supporting our ongoing and new projects.

We have continued our assistance of elderly in Kyiv and in the Donbas Region of Ukraine, various outreach projects supporting the needy, production of sanitizers and providing supplies for Social Services of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and direct financial aid for families devastated by the floods in western Ukraine in the spring of 2020. The other major direction of our aid has been the Rev. Lewytzkyj Fund established by the family of Father V. Lewytzkyj for needy seminarians studying in the US.

In total for the year of 2020, St. Andrew's Society has providing philanthropic assistance to those in need in the sum of \$55,276. This ministry is possible only with the support of our faithful, the parishes and the chapters of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. In the planning stage, new charitable projects are being developed for the Poltava, Vinnytsa and Kmelnitsky regions.

The Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA



UOL Essay Contest

This year, the UOL Essay Contest will have questions posed in both English AND Ukrainian. Did you know that this is not just a contest for our youth? Be sure to see the question for Adults and submit an entry. See the UOL website for updates.

UOL Awards

Nominations are now open for various UOL Awards and Scholarships, to be awarded at the Annual UOL National Convention in July, including the **Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt (LSSK) Memorial Scholarships**.

See our website for a list of all awards and nomination deadlines and submission instructions.

Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund

The UOL will have an extra push this year to raise funds for Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund (MJSF) as we approach the 50th Anniversary of the repose of +Metropolitan John Theodorovich in May. *Support our Seminarians!*

***Congratulations to our Junior UOL,
celebrating 60 YEARS in 2021!***

From the Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Each month we have a mini camp experience praying together, learning together and having fun together. Please inform your youth and families of these amazing opportunities.

St. Nicholas Ministry - A committee of dedicated individuals have been working on resources for parishes, families and faithful to provide supports for our faithful with disabilities within the church. We are very close to releasing our first series of faith related social stories and picture schedules as well as a guide to ministering with our faithful with disabilities. All materials will be made available on the OYM Website

Youth Ministry Survey - The surveys were released in January 2021. The first step in this review process is an extensive survey effort to discover several key elements for moving into the future. These elements include:

- Where do our parishes currently stand with youth ministry?
- What is our youth, young adult and family involvement in parish life?
- What are the struggles of our youth, young adults and families?
- What brings our youth and young adults closer to Christ and His Church?
- What resources are needed by clergy, youth workers and parishes to better serve their faithful?

These are some of the main areas that will be covered in the surveys. The surveys have been created to gather the widest range of insight and have been tailored to each specific audience. The surveys are offered for the following groups:

1. *Pre-School/Kindergarden/Adaptive*
2. *Children ages 6-8*
3. *Children ages 9 – 12*
4. *Teenagers 13 – 18*
5. *Young Adults 18 – 29*
6. *Clergy*
7. *Parents*
8. *Youth Workers*

To gain the best picture of the needs and strengths in our youth work, we require as many faithful as possible to participate in the survey process. If an adult fits into more than one category, it would be greatly appreciated if they take the survey in each area, as the survey ARE different.

The results of the survey will be used to aid in planning the scope of work for the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry for the coming years.

The Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry is beyond grateful for the support of our Hierarchs during the creation of these new resources. We are also grateful for the truly dedicated volunteers who work for the ministry and support of the faithful of the UOC of the USA!

Consistory Circular 4

From the Consistory Office of Religious Education

The focus of the Office of Religious Education is to provide resources to all adults to be able to know and live their faith more fully, and for parents to be the primary educators of their children by being able to knowably discuss the faith with their children on a daily basis.

Adherence to the Church begins in the “little Church” of the home, with family prayer taking place at least once a day. For those who work on holy days, the homebound, hospital-bound, and those who live at a great distance, the livestreaming of services has provided an immensely needed connection to the Church. However, we also need to continuously learn our faith, which contains, as the liturgical services tell us, “unfathomable knowledge,” because God is eternal, and there is no such thing as learning all that there is to know because there is always more knowing.

Most recently, at the beginning of February, the Office of Religious Education published Fr. Harry’s 14-part video series, gauged for adults and parents, on the foundations of the faith, titled Foundations of Orthodoxy.

It published a new section on the orthodoxchristianed.org

The Office of Religious Education encourages parents during this time of pandemic to make their house into the fullness of its calling as the “little church.” This includes to start learning and educating your own children, spending time with them at least once a week discussing the faith with the above resources, or with the many other resources one can find. Facebook in particular has several Orthodox education

groups you can join that regularly give valuable things for you to discuss as a family and all learn more about your faith and make a generational connection from parent to child and sibling to sibling by doing this at least weekly, but when possible, daily, even if for only a few minutes at the dinner table or otherwise.

As aforementioned in the Consistory Circular, the Office of Religious Education encourages our parishes to find ways to reach out technologically to parents and children alike. Since “Sunday School” is not possible, perhaps a midweek evening session at least once a month would be beneficial to everyone, by skype or by zoom, with one or several of the Christian Education teachers in the parish participating. There are various resources from several Assembly of Orthodox Bishops approved organizations as well as careful educational sites created by faithful teachers in all jurisdictions throughout the Church in America and Canada.

Our Seminary is in the process of publishing a **comprehensive catechism for adults and older youth** that is compartmentalized into numerous “mini-lessons” that are each numbered, and gathered into chapters on various topics of the faith that explain how and why we believe what we believe and why we do what we do. It is divided into three volumes and is designed to be able to provide weekly lessons for an entire generation. It will be useful at home and every parish should have one, as it provides many years’ worth of timeless truths and aspects of our faith that are crucial for our time. The Office of Religious Education will announce when it is time for pre-orders once the seminary enters the final publication stages.

From the Seminary Rector - Metropolitan ANTONY

The staff of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary – YOUR seminary – has been working diligently for many years now to ensure the excellent status of the seminary among the higher education institutions of Orthodox theological education here in the United States of America. Under the capable leadership of our Academic Provost, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, a small group of dedicated individuals has accomplished three important goals toward this diligent effort: a License from the State of New Jersey as an institution of Post-Graduate Education, USA Department of Homeland Security approval as an educational institution with the right to enroll foreign students and finally, Associate Membership in the American Theology Society (ATS) as the first step in full ATS accreditation – with a completion goal of 2025. Accreditation will open the door to the Seminary and individual students to many benefits, both academic and financial.

I must state clearly here that without the complete dedication of Archbishop Daniel to these accomplishments, they would not have taken place. He has prepared many 500-page volumes of information, which must be submitted to obtain approval for these programs, and this is not a one-time effort. For each of these programs there is a renewal process and investigation every two or three years. I express my continued gratitude to him along with that of all the faithful of our entire Church.

I want to inform you all – the beloved members of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church – that not only during the past 14 months of our experience with the COVID-19 pandemic, but at all times, adequate finances for the operation of the Seminary and all its educational programs are simply not there. We need your support if we are to continue with the accreditation process and with the educational process itself. Please consider the Seminary as part of your planned giving on an annual basis. In addition, please remember the Seminary and the fact that your priest and any others who will serve in your parish are most likely graduates of the Seminary. In your estate planning, please consider the Seminary as a beneficiary of your loving kindness. If you are interested in this possibility, please feel free to contact me or Archbishop Daniel to discuss the possibilities. **WE NEED YOUR HELP...**

In behalf of our Administrative Staff, our teaching staff, our service staff and all our seminarians, I greet you as we enter Holy Week in anticipation of the FEAST OF FEASTS – PASCHA – THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD. May the Light that shines forth from the Empty Tomb fill your homes and lives and through you into the lives of those who need it most. So many are living in darkness, sometimes of their own creation, but often through no conscious fault of their own. **Be that LIGHT OF CHRIST to them and you will know the blessings of our Risen Lord always.**

Consistory Circular 5

From the Dean of Students of St. Sophia Seminary

Full-Time Student Program

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 semesters are very different from what it used to be in the past. I have to say that during the very difficult year of 2020 seminarians were extremely helpful with many projects in the seminary life. CDC rules and regulations were immediately introduced in the Seminary: cautionary signs, hand sanitizer stations and masks were put everywhere throughout the campus. We had to be very careful with everyone who was coming to the seminary from outside the “Seminary world” and restricted access to the Seminary building to only faculty, the Seminary cook, and the occasional visitors (only allowed with special permission). Because we were so careful all this time, we had only one case of COVID-19 in the Seminary at the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester and that happened because a student travelled to Ukraine at the end of the summer to visit his family.

Because of the COVID-19 lockdown and quarantine, the Seminary began live-streaming off their Facebook page the daily morning and evening prayers from the Seminary chapel. You can tune in to watch the services Monday thru Friday; 7 am for morning prayers and 9 pm for evening prayers. The students are also very helpful in the Sunday Divine Liturgy live-streaming for the UOC of USA. Especially at the beginning of the quarantine, the students live-streamed and sang the responses for all the Lenten services, Holy Week, Pascha, and Bright Week services. By doing so, they brought church to people’s homes in this time of uncertainty and spiritual hunger. During the quarantine-lockdown in Spring 2020, the Seminary switched to online classes. Classes resumed in person for the Fall 2020 semester and continued in person for Spring 2021. May 2020 did not have a graduating class and no in-person graduation was held.

The 2020-2021 Academic Year began with 8 Full-time seminarians enrolled.

In order to maintain order in the Seminary, schedules are created to ensure that everything happens on time. Schedules are created for cleaning, liturgical services, chanting, room assignments and laundry. These usually rotate monthly.

In December for the past several years, the Seminary holds the annual “Christmas at the Seminary” fundraiser to bring in donations of goods used on a daily basis (i.e. paper products, tissues, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, paper towels, etc.). This year, because of COVID-19, the annual fundraiser was not held in the traditional sense, but instead a livestreamed concert was held in that way were able to bring a spirit of Christmas to people’s homes and to raise some donations for the seminary.

In 2018, the Seminary successfully re-established the Seminary chapter of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. The chapter now runs its own successful projects, raises money, awareness to projects, and even donates towards the seminary appeals. During the Covid-19 quarantine, the chapter did not hold any meetings. They did participate in the annual “Soup-er Bowl” Sunday fundraiser raising money for Saint Andrew

Society both in January 2020 and a carryout soup luncheon in February 2021, both held at St. Andrew Memorial Church (So. Bound Brook, NJ). The Seminarians also participated in the annual UOL Convention, although it was held virtually in the summer of 2020. Usually, the Seminarians participate in the annual St. Thomas Sunday pilgrimage to the Metropolia Center and hold a Saturday afternoon picnic, but because of the quarantine in NJ, the pilgrimage did not take place in 2020. In December 2020, the Seminarians released a new CD of Christmas carols (available for purchase at the St. Andrew Bookstore online). With the last recording, it was a huge hit and sold over 1,000 copies.

Because of the quarantine and for the safety of our student body, the interactions with the outside world have been quite limited for the past year. Usually, the students participate in evening ESL classes, volunteer at rehab centers or nursing homes, visit the elderly, participate in the summer encampments at All Saints Camp, and travel with the hierarchs to various parishes. Due to the quarantine, these extra-curricular activities were practically non-existent. We anxiously await resuming them once it is safe to do so. The students did help in a local pop-up food distribution service that took place at our Ukrainian Cultural Center parking lot during the Summer 2020. This service provided food care-packages to those in need and the students helped with set up, take down, packing the care packages, and placing them in the car trunks of those who drove up.

Part-Time Student Program

The students enrolled in the Part-Time or Distance Learning programs at the Seminary usually meet once a month (Distance Learning once a semester). When attending classes in person at the Seminary, classes are held in the Seminary or at the Seminary Library at the Consistory. During their stay, the students attend services in the Chapel and eat meals together with the Full-Time student body. But, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and for the safety of Full-Time students, Part-Time students stopped coming for in person classes to the seminary.

Vocations Director

We could not have foreseen the events of 2020, the pandemic, the shutdown, the loss of life. But Saint Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary and the distance learning programs have survived.

All of our in-person meetings have been suspended for the time being. When travel restrictions are lifted, we will resume our previous monthly and end of semester meetings.

Our deaconal formation courses are well attended. There are a few candidates possibly for Fall of 2021.

Work has begun on revisions and updates to our course catalog.

Word of Saint Sophia Seminary is spreading. We have received a number of inquiries from outside of our jurisdiction.

Our flexibility and continued academic pastoral work are key in attracting students.

Consistory Circular 6

From the Consistory Office of Stewardship

As with most Church activities, the Covid-19 pandemic has limited gatherings, teaching opportunities and interpersonal interactions, so much of the energy of parishes, priests and people has been simply focused on surviving the pandemic this is actually a 'stewardship of the moment' is very different than what the church experienced in the past, be it 10 years ago or 100 years ago. This has required steadfast faithfulness, sustaining generosity and new creativity. Financially, an assessment of the entire Church (parish level) would be helpful to assess the resilience of the Church to continue in this time of economic uncertainty.

Several activities have been carried out in the past 12 months by the Director in furthering Orthodox stewardship mostly in contexts outside of the UOC of USA. These resources were developed by people who simply requested them, and can be made available to our clergy, parish leadership members and faithful by request.

Orthodox Christian Leadership Initiative – This is a Pan-Orthodox group is dedicated to developing leadership across the Orthodox churches in America. A national conference (September) and regional meetings included a two-hour module on stewardship in parishes and the 'stewardship of leadership'. This group remains available to offer assistance in a wide variety of leadership / stewardship topics.

OCMC Ghana – The clergy of Orthodox Church of Ghana received an online two-day stewardship training retreat presented by team of clergy from the United States. The concepts undergirding stewardship in Orthodoxy are universal, and it was interesting to see how these manifest themselves in a very different context from ours – the Church of Ghana. The clergy were both receptive and insightful sharing their experiences. They have their issues – but parish dues is not one of them.

UOL Online Meeting – January 2021 – This session explored the challenges of the pandemic we are experiencing in the Church, and how the Stewardship Cycle can guide us to recognize the work of the Lord in our midst and meet the challenges we face The UOL can be a sustaining force in bringing both topics and new methods of engagement to the parishes.

As we all hope for a return to 'normal', we should not neglect the opportunity presented us in the present. New skills and the utilization of technology are allowing parishes to adapt and, in some cases, grow their ministry and identity in service of Christ's Kingdom. It also offers us a chance, if we're willing to take it, to rework our understanding of how we approach the stewardship of the great gifts that God has entrusted to us as Christians and the Church.

From All Saints Camp...

2021 Summer Status

The All Saints Camp (ASC) Executive Committee is guided by pandemic protocols and resources from: The Consistory and Council of Bishops of the UOC of USA, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pennsylvania Department of Health, American Camp Association, Association of Camp Nursing, Western PA healthcare providers bi-weekly call, Consultation with rental groups, Consultation with other summer programs (Orthodox and secular).

At the time of publication, we have not made a final decision about our status for the summer of 2021. The ASC Executive Committee will communicate this decision to the faithful and rental groups during **the first week of April**.

Capital Campaign

The Campaign has eclipsed the \$125,000 mark, which is more than 10% of our goal. The sub-committee has halted parish visitations during the pandemic, but hopes to resume as soon as possible. Contact josho@allsaintscamp.org to schedule a presentation (Zoom, in-person) for your community.

How to support the ASC Capital Campaign:

- + One-time donations
- + Recurring electronic donations
- + Pledge amounts payable over five years
- + Remembering ASC during estate planning

Visit allsaintscamp.org/50 for more information and to donate
Staffing/Volunteering

In the event that ASC opens this summer, we would be hiring for a variety of positions:

- + All Ages (14+)
- + Interests (Program, Facilities, Food Service, Lifeguards)
- + Paid + Volunteer Credit

Maintenance

Despite having to cancel the monthly Work Weekends at ASC (when the majority of our larger projects are completed) we have allowed a limited number of volunteers to work on specific tasks while taking all socially-distant precautions. We are extremely grateful to Maintenance chairperson **Michael Nakonachny**, volunteers **Eric Senedak**, **Hans Harasimchuk** and **Chris Prosser** who continue to donate their talents for the benefit of ASC.

Support From the Metropolia

Engage: visit allsaintscamp.org to sign up for the mailing list and follow on social media @allsaintscamp

Promote: share social media posts, forward emails, spread the word at church functions, schedule a visit from an ASC representative

Attend and Work: TBD

Donate: allsaintscamp.org/50

Consistory Circular 7

A note from St. Andrew Cemetery

As spring begins at St. Andrew Cemetery, regular routines of cleaning the property and individual graves has started.

This last winter we had a big snow storm and pretty cold weather so the snow was not melting as soon as it usually does. If there was a funeral, our cemetery crew had to clean a lot of snow first in order to get to the graveside to dig. Sometimes it took them a whole day just to clean the snow. Also, because of a large accumulation of snow the roads were narrower than usual, we had to take some precautions with equipment used at the cemetery and individuals pulling into the cemetery grounds.

During the holiday season, we also provided a service of placing the Grave Blankets at the graveside and we had approximately 160 orders. The grave blankets stay at the graveside from Christmas until March 1, then the cemetery workers are removing them from the cemetery. It is very convenient service that we provide for people that live far away and are not able to visit the graves of their loved ones before Holidays and nowadays also due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

This Spring, there are couple of projects that we want to accomplish. First, it's the old temporary wooden Crosses that were never replaced by the upright monuments. Families are neglecting to place a monument at the gravesides of their loved ones. We are trying to reach out to them to remind about their responsibilities towards those who are buried here. Second, our cemetery crew and hired company are trimming the trees that are growing along the main road. We are also, finding the gravesides with outgrowing bushes and trees. These have to come down, because they are damaging the surrounding monuments. The upright monuments and ledgers are shifting and might get cracks. The other big damage is the moss that covers the monuments by having bushes and trees near it.

Holy and Great Pascha this year is 2nd of May. Saint Thomas weekend falls on May 8th and May 9th. Please look for additional announcements about St. Thomas weekend of our main website at uocofusa.org.

Please contact: Rev. Vasyl Shak at 732-356-0090 for the assistance and cemetery inquiries.

St. Sophia Seminary Library Offers Its Service...

The Fall Semester is quickly approaching, and the staff of the Library is ready to tackle the needs of the students throughout the school year. Borrowing privileges are free to all students of St. Sophia Seminary and clergy of the UOC of USA, which means that you have access to several thousands of books and periodicals. New students and prospective Library patrons just need to stop by during the day to sign-up.

Working from home? Not a problem, browse our online catalog (<http://www.uocofusa.org/library.html>) to see what books we already have cataloged. About every month, approximately 400 books get added to the catalog.

Ordinations & Elevations...

Subdeacon Myroslav Mykytyuk ordained DEACON at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church at the Metropolia Center of the Church on January 30, 2021 - *Axios!*

Subdeacon Mykola Zomchak ordained DEACON at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church at the Metropolia Center of the Church on March 6, 2021 - *Axios!*

Subdeacon Ihor Protsak ordained DEACON at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church at the Metropolia Center of the Church on March 13, 2021 - *Axios!*

Subdeacon John Cummings ordained DEACON at Holy Resurrection Ukrainian Orthodox Mission in Waynesville, NC on April 25, 2021 - *Axios!*

Pastoral Changes...

Very Rev. Fr. Evhen Kumka relieved from his pastoral duties of St. Michael/St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, MN as of March 14, 2021 and retired from active ministry of the Church.

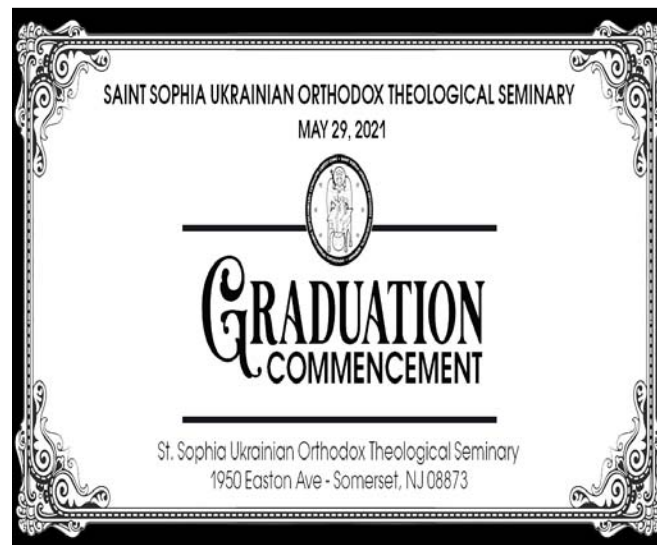
Rev. Fr. Myron Korostil relieved from his pastoral duties of the Dormition of the Birth-Giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Jones, OK as of March 8, 2021 and assigned as pastor of St. Michael/St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, MN as of March 14, 2021.

Very Rev. Fr. Stepan Bilogan relieved from his pastoral duties of Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in West Islip, NY as of January 25, 2021 and assigned as pastor of the Dormition of the Birth-Giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Jones, OK as of March 7, 2021

Received Clergy...

Very Rev. Fr. Stepan Motychak was canonically received into the Ranks of the Clergy of the UOC of the USA from the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and appointed as administrator of Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in West Islip, NY

Very Rev. Fr. Mykola Lyamar was canonically received into the Ranks of the Clergy of the UOC of the USA from the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and temporarily attached to St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago, IL



UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA

УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА США

PILGRIMAGE TO THE
HOLY LAND
&
Constantinople

JAN 25 - FEB 6
2022
25 СІЧНЯ - 6 ЛЮТОГО

WITH
ARCHBISHOP DANIEL

ПАЛОМНИЦЬКА ПОДОРОЖ НА
СВЯТУ ЗЕМЛЮ
та
Константинополь
ІЗ АРХІЄПІСКОПОМ ДАНИЇЛОМ

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