LENTEN PRAYER OF ST. EPHREM THE SYRIAN

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. (prostration)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. (prostration)

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen. (prostration)

ПОКАЯННА МОЛИТВА ПРЕПОДОБНОГО ЄФРЕМА СИРІЙСЬКОГО

Господи і Владико життя мого! Духа лінивства, недбайливості, властолюб’я і пустомовства віджени від мене. (Доземний поклін)

Духа чистоти, покори, терпеливості й любові Даруй мені, слузі твоєму. (Доземний поклін)

Так, Господи, Царю! Дай мені бачити гріхи мої і не осуджувати брата мого, бо ти благословений на віки вічні. Амінь. (Доземний поклін)
To the Plenitude of the Church

May the Grace and Peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you together with our Prayer, Blessing and Forgiveness.

With the grace of God, the giver of all gifts, we have once again arrived at Holy and Great Lent, the arena of ascetical struggle, in order to purify ourselves with the Lord’s assistance through prayer, fasting and humility, as well as to prepare ourselves for a spiritual experience of the venerable Passion and the celebration of the splendid Resurrection of Christ the Savior.

In a world of manifold confusion, the ascetic experience of Orthodoxy constitutes an invaluable spiritual asset, an inexhaustible source of divine knowledge and human wisdom. The blessed phenomenon of ascesis, whose spirit pervades our entire way of life – for “asceticism is Christianity in its entirety” – is not the privilege of the few or chosen, but an “ecclesial event,” a communal good, a shared blessing and the common vocation for all faithful without exception. The ascetical struggles, of course, are not an end in themselves; the principle that “ascesis exists for the sake of ascesis” is not valid. The purpose of ascesis is the transcendence of one’s own will and the “mind of the flesh,” the transferal of the center of life from individual desire and the “right,” toward love that “does not seek its own,” in accordance with the scriptural passage: “Let no one seek his own good, but the good of the other.” (1 Cor. 10.24)

Such is the spirit that prevails throughout the long historical journey of Orthodoxy. In the New Miterikon, we encounter an excellent description of this ethos to renounce “our own” in the name of love: “Some hermits from Scetis once approached Amma Sarah, who offered them a container with basic provisions. The elders set aside the good food and consumed the bad. The righteous Sarah said to them: ‘You are truly monks from Scetis’”[1].

This sensitivity and sacrificial use of freedom is foreign to the spirit of our age, which identifies freedom with individual assertions and claims for rights. Contemporary “autonomous” man would never have consumed the bad food, but only the good, convinced that in this way he expresses – while authentically and responsibly employing – individual freedom.

This is where the supreme value of the Orthodox concept of human freedom lies. It is a freedom that does not demand but shares, does not insist but sacrifices. The Orthodox believer knows that autonomy and self-sufficiency do not liberate humanity from the shackles of the ego, of self-realization and self-justification. The freedom “for which Christ has set us free” (Gal. 5.1) mobilizes our creative capacity and is fulfilled as rejection of self-enclosure, as unconditional love and communion of life.

The Orthodox ascetical ethos does not know division and dualism; it does not reject life, but rather transforms it. The dualistic vision and denial of the world is not a Christian concept. Genuine asceticism is luminous and charitable. It is a characteristic of Orthodox self-consciousness that the period of fasting is permeated by the joy of the Cross and the Resurrection. Moreover, the ascetic struggle of Orthodox Christians – much like our spirituality and liturgical life in general – communicates the fragrance and radiance of the Resurrection. The Cross is found at the heart of Orthodox piety, but it is not the final point of reference in the life of the Church. Instead, the essence of Orthodox spiritual life is the ineffable joy of the Resurrection, toward which the Cross constitutes the way. Accordingly, during the period of Great Lent, the quintessence of experience for Orthodox Christians is always the yearning for the “common resurrection.”

Pray, then, precious brothers and sisters in the Lord, that we may be deemed worthy, with the grace and support from above, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, as first among the saints, and of all the saints, that we may run the race of Holy and Great Lent in a way that is fitting and joyous before Christ, joyfully exercising, in obedience to the rule of church tradition, the “common struggle” of fasting that extinguishes the passions, constantly praying, helping the suffering and needful, forgiving one another and “giving thanks for all things” (Thess. 5.18), in order that we might venerate with a devout heart the “Holy, Saving and Awesome Passion” as well as the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory, power and thanksgiving to the endless ages. Amen.

Holy and Great Lent 2019
+ Bartholomew of Constantinople

Fervent supplicant for all before God
To the God-beloved Pastors, Monastics, and all Faithful Children of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the Diaspora and Ukraine,

Beloved in the Lord: **CHRIST IS AMONG US!**

The Holy and Sacred Season of Great Lent is upon us! Each year, the Church offers us the Lenten season as a time of repentance and renewal. As for us, Orthodox Christians, the contemplation on this beautiful season of the Church year is a cause for much of spiritual joy!

There is real confusion in today's world about the meaning of joy. Like happiness, joy is often seen as something that we can physically buy. We may be able to buy something that brings temporary pleasure: but we cannot buy joy. They must not be confused. Joy is a free gift from God.

This surreal and joyful season of Great Lent is an opportunity to be graced afresh by contemplating the presence of Christ in our lives. All our efforts to evangelize in our new millennium here in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in North America, Western Europe, Australia, South America and throughout Diaspora would be fruitless unless we ourselves have first contemplated on the presence of Christ in our relationship with the world around us. It is the presence of the One who has suffered, died and risen from the dead out of love for us. To be so loved by the God of love in the midst of all our sinfulness and human limitations, indeed, is a joyful experience. This is surely the starting point for the Lenten season and the key point in our reflection upon our path to salvation. It is all summarized in one word: conversion.

It resonates with a deep yearning and recognition within us. As we make our first prostrations, we are reminded of our own sinfulness. Throughout the next 40 days we are called to repent and believe the Good News: God loves us. He sent His Beloved Son to suffer and die for us. He has risen from the dead and shares his new life with us. This is the heart of the Gospel. Lent refocuses our attention on this message of salvation, this good news through our ability to recognize and consider our identity as children of God.

Searching for our identity is part of life. We identify our “self” as a family member, spouse, sibling, clergymen, carpenter, farmer, doctor, entertainer or clerk. We also identify ourselves as Orthodox Christians, or as members of a parish. Identity involves discovering who we are as persons and what our role is by answering these questions: who am I, and why am I here? Growth in the awareness of our Christian identity is a lifelong process that shifts as we change. It is rooted in our Baptism, where
we are transformed into our true identity as sons and daughters of the God. Holy Apostle Paul in his Letter to the Ephesians (“You should put away the old self of your former way of life . . . and put on the new self, created in God’s way in righteousness and holiness of truth” (Eph 4:22, 24), challenges us to put away our former life and put on a new self. In other words, he tells us to turn from sinful ways and take on our new life in Christ. In so doing, we become one with Christ, where we find our true identity. We accept this challenge during the Great Lent, as we journey with Christ through life’s difficulties to eternal life.

In the Church’s Tradition the season of Great and Holy Lent has always been accompanied by the Lenten efforts of prayer, fasting and acts of charity. We know that parishes will be providing many extra opportunities for prayer over the days of Lenten journey. We call upon you to greater attendance at liturgical services of the season. We hope that the participation in the Holy Mystery of Repentance over this time will be a real priority in your lives and in all parishes. We hope that the prayers of the Church will offer people an invitation to be touched, healed, forgiven, comforted and strengthened by our Lord. Also, at home we recommend a closer attention to times of prayer and fasting and moments of genuine devotion in family life.

Secondly, our journey through Lent and preparation to more fitting celebration of Pascha – the Resurrection of our Lord - includes “willing service to our neighbor”. All Christian true conversion starts in the heart but never stays there. True spiritual conversion always seeks out acts of charity to give practical help to our neighbor in need. This is a vital aspect of who we are as children of God.

We also encourage practical gestures of prayerful compassion to children. In this Lenten period, we must remember that our children are so often victims of human selfishness in today’s world and deserve special attention. During this Lent, perhaps we could find ways in our neighborhoods to share something of the importance of Christ Jesus to those who do not believe in Him. Such efforts can start so simply: with a kind word and gentle smile in His Name.

As we embark upon this Lenten journey, it is the time to renew ourselves as Orthodox Christians. Upon baptism we assumed the obligation of sharing the Good News of Christ with others, of defending the Holy Orthodox faith from persecution and of living a Christ-centered life of love for others. This six-week journey entails striving for humility and contrition before God in our repentance, seeking mutual forgiveness from others and contemplating our renewal in our prayers. Let us open our hearts to let in that, which is eternal, that which is Truth and not be blinded by the temporal world around us. Where there is light there is hope. Through His life and suffering for our salvation, we gain renewed hope in the light of Christ’s glorious victory over death and in eternal life.

May our All-Merciful and Almighty Lord assist us on our journey through this Great Fast with humility and reverence so that we may be worthy to greet the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

With Hierarchical Blessings,

† YURIJ, Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
† ANTONY, Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and in the Diaspora
† JEREMIAH, Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Brazil and South America
† DANIEL, Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Western Europe
† ILARION, Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
† ANDRIY, Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
Боголюбивим Пастирям, Чернецтву та всім Вірним Дітям Української Православної Церкви в Діаспорі та Україні,

У люблені в Господі: ХРИСТОС ПОСЕРЕД НАС!

Ну ось і настав час Священного та Великого Посту для усіх нас. Кожного року Церква надає нам Великопосний період як час покаяння і відновлення. Для нас, православних християн, роздумування над цим чудовим періодом церковного року є причиною великої духовної радості!

У сучасному світі існує хибне розуміння значення радості. Як і щастя, радістю часто вважають щось таке, що ми можемо купити фізично. Ми можемо купити те, що приносить нам тимчасове задоволення: але ми не можемо купити відчуття радості. Тому не слід їх плутати. Адже радість - це безкоштовний Божий дар.

Цей піднесений та радісний час Великого Посту є неоціненною можливістю для нас знову примiritися з Христом, роздумуючи над Його присутністю в нашому житті. У теперішній час усі наші зусилля пов’язані з євангелізацією в Українській Православній Церкві на теренах Північної Америки, Західної Європи, Австралії, Південної Америки та усієї Діаспори були б безрезультатними, якщо б ми самі спочатку не роздумували про присутність Христа у наших відносинах з навколишнім світом. Це присутність Того, Хто страждав, помер і воскрес через Свою любов до нас. Для людини, бути на стільки огорнутою Божою любов’ю, попри всю її людську гріховність та всю людську немічність, є справді радісним досвідом. Цей радісний досвід є початком Великого Посту, але водночас є і ключовим моментом у наших роздумах про наш шлях до спасіння. Все це узагальнено одним словом: преображенням.

Це перетворення відбувається і стає можливим тільки через глибоке прагнення і визнання у середині нас. Роблячи наші перші поклони, ми пригадуємо собі про нашу власну гріховність. Протягом наступних 40 днів ми покликані до покаяння та до вірі в Благу Вістку: що Бог любить нас. Він послав Свого Улюбленого Сина, щоб терпіти і померти за нас. Він воскрес із мертвих і ділиться з нами своїм новим життям. Все це є центром Євангелія. Піст знову і знову звертає нашу увагу на цю вістку про спасіння, цю добру новину через нашу здатність вбачати в собі Божих дітей.

Віднайти та зрозуміти ким ми є – це частина нашого життя. Кожен з нас ідентифікує себе як член сім’ї, як чоловік чи дружина, брат чи сестра, священнослужитель чи столяр, фермер, лікар чи артист. Ми також ідентифікуюмо себе як православні християни, чи як парафіяни. Ідентичність дає зрозуміти, ким ми є, як особи, і якою є наша роль, відповідаючи на такі питання як: хто я і чому я тут? Вдосконалення розуміння нашої християнської ідентичності – це процес, що постійно змінюється разом з нашою власною зміною. Її корінь же лежить в нашему Хрещенні,
де ми зодягаємось в нашу справжню ідентичність будучи синами і доньками Божими. Святий Апостол Павло у своєму посланні до Ефесян («Відкинути колишній спосіб життя старої людини … і одягнутися в нову людину, створену за Богом, в праведності і святості істини.» (Еф. 4:22, 24), змушує нас відкинути наше колишнє життя і здійснитися в нового себе. Іншими словами, він наставляє нас відкинути гріховні шляхи, преобразувати своє життя в нове життя у Христі. Ми відчуваємо на собі цей виклик переміни під час Великого Посту, подорожуючи з Христом через повсякденні труднощі до життя вічного.

Згідно Церковної Традиції, час Великого і Святого Посту завжди супроводжується молитвою, постом і ділами милосердя. Ми знаємо, що в час Великого Посту в наших храмах буде багато додаткової можливості усім нам для молитви. Ми закликаємо вас до частішого відвідування літургійних богослужінь в час цього періоду. Ми сподіваємося, що участь у Святому Таїнстві Покаяння впродовж цього часу стане справжнім приоритетом як у вашому житті, так і в житті всіх парафій. Ми маємо надію, що молитви всієї Церкви прикличуть людей до здійснення, прощання, заспокоєння і зміцнення нашим Господом. Крім того, ми радимо вам вдома приділяти більше уваги молитві, посту і також справжній відданості й присвяті в сімейному житті.

По-друге, час Великого Посту як підготовка до належнішого святкування Пасхи - Воскресіння нашого Господя - включає в собі «добровільне служіння нашому ближньому». Все правдиве Християнське навернення починається в сердці, але ніколи там не залишається. Справжня духовна трансформація завжди супроводжується ділами милосердя, подаючи руку допомоги кожному, хто є в потребі. Це важливий аспект того, ким ми є, як Божі діти.

Ми також заохочуємо вас до молитовних вчинків милосердя для дітей. У цей великопоновий період нам необхідно пам’ятати, що наші діти в сучасному світі часто стають жертвами людського егоізму і заслуговують особливої уваги. Під час цього Великого Посту, знайдімо шляхи і можливості підходу до тих, хто, можливо, не вірить в Ісуса Христа. Щоб саме з ними будуть конструйовані решткові з цією Євангельською радістю. Це можна зробити дуже просто: добрим словом та здійсненням екстенсивних зусиль, щоб люди були змусені запитати зауважения про те, яким способом вони можуть сприяти запровадженню християнської ідеї в своє життя.

Розпочинаючи нашу подорож Великого Посту, для нас настає час для відновлення себе як Православних Християн. Разом із Хрещенням ми взяли на себе відповідальність ділитися Добрім словом Христа з іншими, захищати Святу Православну віру від переслідувань і жерттв, а також заспокоювати людей, які, можливо, не вірять в Ісуса Христа. Щоб саме з ними будуть конструйовані решткові з цією Євангельською радістю. Це можна зробити дуже просто: добрим словом та здійсненням екстенсивних зусиль, щоб люди були змусені запитати зауважения про те, яким способом вони можуть сприяти запровадженню християнської ідеї в своє життя.

Щоб саме з ними будуть конструйовані решткові з цією Євангельською радістю. Це можна зробити дуже просто: добрим словом та здійсненням екстенсивних зусиль, щоб люди були змусені запитати зауважения про те, яким способом вони можуть сприяти запровадженню християнської ідеї в своє життя.

Нехай наш Всемилостивий і Всемогутній Господь допоможе прожити нам цей час Великого Посту зі смиренням і щирим каянням, щоб достойно возвеличити славне Воскресіння Господа нашего і Спасителя Ісуса Христа!

З Архіпастирським Благословенням,

† ЮРІЙ, Митрополит, Українська Православна Церква Канади
† АНТОНІЙ, Митрополит, Українська Православна Церква США і в Діаспорі
† ЄРЕМІЯ, Архієпископ, Українська Православна Церква Бразилії та Північної Америки
† ДАНИІЛ, Архієпископ, Українська Православна Церква США та Заходньої Європи
† ІЛАРІОН, Єпископ, Українська Православна Церква Канади
† АНДРІЙ, Єпископ, Українська Православна Церква Канади
READING THE PSALMS THROUGH GREAT LENT

“When the Holy Spirit saw that the human race was guided only with difficulty toward virtue, and that, because of our inclination toward pleasure, we were neglectful of an upright life, what did He do? The delight of melody He mingled with the doctrines so that by the pleasantness and softness of the sound heard we might receive without perceiving it the benefit of the words, just as wise physicians who, when giving the fastidious rather bitter drugs to drink, frequently smear the cup with honey. Therefore, He devised for us these harmonious melodies of the Psalms, that they who are children in age, or even those who are youthful in disposition, might to all appearances chant but, in reality, become trained in soul. For never has any one of the many indifferent persons gone away easily holding in mind either an apostolic or prophetic message but they do chant the words of the Psalms, even in the home, and they spread them about in the market place, and if, perchance, someone becomes exceedingly wrathful, when he begins to be soothed by a Psalm, he departs with the wrath of his soul immediately lulled to sleep by means of the melody.”

- St. Basil the Great (Homily X, 1; On Psalm 1.)

The psalter is divided into 20 kathismata. Kathisma means sitting, since the people normally sit during the reading of the psalms. Each kathisma is divided into three stases, from stasis, to stand, because each stasis ends with Glory to the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, at which everyone stands. The reading of the kathismata are so arranged that the entire psalter is read through in the course of Great Lent.

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

Psalm 34:17
Dost thou fast? Give me proof of it by thy works!

Is it said by what kind of works?
   If thou seest a poor man, take pity on him!
   If thou seest in enemy, be reconciled to him!
   If thou seest a friend gaining honor, envy him not!
   If thou seest a handsome woman, pass her by!

For let not the mouth only fast, but also the eye, and the ear, and the feet, and the hands, and all the members of our bodies.

Let the hands fast, by being pure from rapine and avarice.

Let the feet fast, by ceasing from running to the unlawful spectacles.

Let the eyes fast, being taught never to fix themselves rudely upon handsome countenances, or to busy themselves with strange beauties.

For looking is the food of the eyes, but if this be such as is unlawful or forbidden, it mars the fast; and upsets the whole safety of the soul; but if it be lawful and safe, it adorns fasting. For it would be among things the most absurd to abstain from lawful food because of the fast, but with the eyes to touch even what is forbidden. Dost thou not eat flesh? Feed not upon lasciviousness by means of the eyes.

Let the ear fast also. The fasting of the ear consists in refusing to receive evil speakings and calumnies. “Thou shalt not receive a false report,” it says.

Let the mouth too fast from disgraceful speeches and railing. For what doth it profit if we abstain from birds and fishes; and yet bite and devour our brethren? The evil speaker eateth the flesh of his brother, and biteth the body of his neighbor.

Because of this Paul utters the fearful saying, “If ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.” Gal. v. 15. Thou hast not fixed thy teeth in the flesh, but thou hast fixed the slander in the soul, and inflicted the wound of evil suspicion; thou hast harmed, in a thousand ways, thyself and him, and many others, for in slandering a neighbor thou hast made him who listens to the slander worse.

St John Chrysostom, Letters; Homilies on the Statutes, Homily III
Journeying together through GREAT LENT

ROAD TO PASCHA

Today is the joyful forefeast of the time of abstinence, the bright threshold of the Fast. Therefore, brethren, together let us run the race with confident hope and with great eagerness.

— Ode I, First Canon of Cheesefare Monday

FIFTH WEEK
Focus on God

SPEND TIME GETTING TO KNOW GOD
Attend Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday
Read the prescribed readings:
Monday: Proverbs 14:27-15:4
Tuesday: Proverbs 15:7-19
Wednesday: Proverbs 15:20-16:9
Thursday: Proverbs 16:17-17:17
Friday: Proverbs 17:17-18:5
APRIL 21 - Palm Sunday

APRIL 20 - Lazarus Saturday

APRIL 14 - St. Mary of Egypt

FOURTH WEEK
Focus on Family

SPEND TIME GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FAMILY

THIRD WEEK

HOLY WEEK
Focus on Christ’s Passion

REMAIN SILENT
Spend the week in silence, thought and prayer
Attend Holy Week Services
Wednesday: Holy Unction
Thursday: Mystical Supper & Washing of feet (Reading of 12 Passion Gospels)
Friday: Crucifixion and burial of Christ (Vespers)
Saturday: Harrowing of Hades
Sunday: The Resurrection of Christ!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

“Do not imagine that the monk alone stands in need of these lessons from Scripture. Of all others, the children just about to enter into the world specially need them”
+ St. John Climacus
**THIRD WEEK**
Focus on Sacrifice and Charity

**DONATE**
Each day this week purchase a tasty food item to donate to the hungry
Each day take one item from your closet and donate it to those in need
Turn off the television all week - sacrifices are not easy
Put aside a tenth of this week's paycheck, and donate it
Offer to help at church
Offer to help a neighbor
Donate books
Donate a pair of nice shoes
**GO ONE DAY WITHOUT COMPLAINING**
**TRY AGAIN** - to go all day without complaining
Sacrifices are not meant to be easy

**SECOND WEEK**
Focus on Prayer
Be disciplined with your Prayer Routine
Memorize the Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem

**PRAY**
O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.
But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.
Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.

**FIRST WEEK**
Focus on Self-Improvement
You are a living icon of Christ
**Do not GOSSIP**
If anyone comes up to gossip, do not participate. This is harder than you think.

**MARCH 31**
Veneration of the Holy Cross
**APRIL 7**
St. John of the Ladder

Let not one think, my fellow Christian, that only priests and monks need to pray without ceasing...
- St. Gregory of Palamas

**MARCH 17**
Sunday of Orthodoxy
**MARCH 24**
St. Gregory Palamas

While it is good to avoid places of temptation, it is better to seek places of inspiration. While it is good to avoid individuals, who may lead you to sin, it is better to seek out individuals who will lead you to virtue. While it is good to shun those things which tend to control us, it is better to seek self-control over things which have no power over us unless we give them that power.

**UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA**
STATEMENT ON THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America affirms the sanctity of life based on the firm conviction that life begins at the moment of conception. The Assembly remains steadfast in its conviction that any interference in the development of life is a serious issue, and therefore it regularly participates in a variety of relevant events and also releases pertinent statements on the topic.

While recognizing that there are rare but serious medical instances where mother and child may require extraordinary actions, the Assembly of Bishops is deeply concerned that the taking of innocent life through abortion has become an acceptable cultural norm. This phenomenon – increasingly prevalent throughout contemporary societies – was exacerbated by a recent law of the New York State Senate (Bill S.240). The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America categorically denounces these adverse developments that allow for abortion, under certain unjustifiable circumstances, even within the third trimester of existence.

The Assembly of Bishops further reminds the faithful that Christ is a beacon of hope in this challenging world. Accordingly, the Church is always prepared and willing to support women who are considering abortion to find alternative avenues to alleviate any burden, physical and spiritual. The Church is ever a mother – loving, understanding, nurturing, praying, and protecting all human life.

Those that profess themselves to be Christ's are known not only by what they say, but by what they practice.

"For the tree is known by its fruit."

~The Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians~
His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, in his final capacity of the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarch to Ukraine, traveled to Constantinople, (Istanbul) Turkey, where he took part in the formal procedures of signing and granting Tomos of Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine on January 5-6, 2019.

Present at the historic and religious events were clergy and faithful from Ukraine, representing over 45 million Ukrainian throughout the world.

His Excellency President Petro Poroshenko took part in the ceremony of signing the Tomos of Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Istanbul. The solemn ceremony took place in the Patriarchal Church of St. George.

After the ceremony, the Head of Ukrainian State appealed to the attendees: “Your All-Holiness, Your Beatitude, Your Eminence, Ladies and Gentlemen. Dear Ukrainians who are watching us today in Ukraine and around the world, who have been waiting for this event for thousands of years. Thank God! For without God’s will this event would have been impossible”.

“I am grateful to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his faith. Your All-Holiness, these applause are heard all over the world,” Petro Poroshenko said.

The President thanked Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his faith and love for Ukraine, for his prayer for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, for the courage that His All-Holiness has demonstrated throughout his life, but especially after the Great Monday - the first day after Easter in 2018, when the public process of granting autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine started.

“I want to thank the Holy Synod, the Ecumenical Patriarchate Council. I want to thank every hierarch who signed the appeal to the Ecumenical Patriarch to provide autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine,” the President said.

The Head of State expressed gratitude to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and Chairman of the Parliament Andriy Parubiy, to every deputy who voted for the support of the President’s appeal to the Ecumenical Patriarch on the provision of autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

“And most importantly - I want to thank millions of Ukrainians around the world who responded to the call to pray - pray for the Church to come true. Due to your prayers it became possible,” Petro Poroshenko emphasized.

He also noted that he was grateful to the generations of Ukrainians who had dreamed about that for either 1030 years, or 332 years, or 100 years. “At last, God has bestowed the Orthodox Church of Ukraine upon us,” Petro Poroshenko emphasized.

The President joined the words of gratitude to the patriarchal exarchs, noting that their efforts in this matter cannot be overestimated.

Upon completion of the ceremony of signing the Tomos, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew appealed to Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine Epifaniy:

Your Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and all Ukraine,
Your Excellency Mr. Petro Poroshenko, President of the Ukraine,
Most Reverend and Right Reverend brothers in Christ,
Dearly beloved people of Ukraine,
Devout congregation,
“Behold, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth, the time for singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.” (Song of Songs 2.11–12)

We feel that these lyrics of the wise Solomon describe today’s feast and celebration when the Holy Great Church of Christ in Constantinople is elevating the Holy Metropolis of Kyiv and all Ukraine to an Autocephalous Church. Indeed, “the winter is past” for schisms and divisions. “The rain is over and gone” for ecclesiastical isolation. The flower of unity “appears on the earth” and “the time has come” for the glorious Holy Metropolis of Kyiv to acquire its ecclesiastical independence, being included in the body of the local and most holy Orthodox Autocephalous Churches, through the addition of the honorable name of Your Beatitude to the records of the Orthodox Canonical Diptychs.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

It is known that the Ecumenical Patriarchate founded the Holy Metropolis of Kyiv after previously demonstrating its concern for the illumination and baptism of the glorious and Christ-loving Kyivan people. In the unfolding of the centuries throughout its history, the Church of Constantinople always proved an affectionate Mother, sacrificially caring about the challenges that arose periodically, protecting and preserving this sacred eparchy like the apple of its eye from temptations to change faith, Orthodox doctrine and ecclesial mindset. And whenever historical circumstances so imposed, through our ever-memorable predecessor Dionysios IV, the Ecumenical Patriarchate permitted the ordination of the Metropolitan of Kyiv by the presiding Patriarch of Moscow, albeit never conceding its canonical jurisdiction to the Russian Patriarchate. After all, the inviolable condition of commemorating the name of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Sacred Services and the Divine Liturgy demonstrates the perpetual canonical dependence of the Metropolis of Kyiv from its Mother Church of Constantinople. However, as witnessed by archival sources and events, both past and more recent, not even the Kyivan people ever accepted that it constitutes part of the Church of Moscow, actually on occasion raising vehement objection to this. Already from the year 1325, when the see of the Metropolis of Kyiv finally was transferred permanently to Moscow, the faithful people of Kyiv desired its ecclesiastical independence—a desire that with the passing of centuries was rendered “a powerful and unbearable desire of the soul.” This is also why the historical first Constitution of Ukraine, composed in the year of the Lord 1710, envisioned that “the Orthodox Church in Ukraine should remain under the most holy Apostolic Throne of Constantinople.”

Along with all this irrefutable and unwavering historical evidence, we have of course taken into consideration the periodical requests for the bestowal of autocephaly both on the part of the Hierarchy and on the part of the State. Moreover, we have deemed especially significant the requests of Your Beatitude, representing the Hierarchs, clergy and pious people of the recently convened Unification Synod (Sobor), as well as of His Excellency Mr. Petro Poroshenko, President of the Ukrainian Republic. Thus, having come together in the Holy Spirit, we reached the synodal decision to grant the ecclesiastical status of autocephaly to the blessed land of Ukraine.

Your Beatitude,

Today, a new page opens in the history of Ukraine. The Church of Constantinople, which in similar manner bestowed the ecclesiastical status of autocephaly to all the newly-founded local Churches, today likewise presents to Your hands, through
the grace of Christ who appeared on earth, the Tomos of Autocephaly for Your Church. The all-merciful God has reserved this sublime honor to You, “God has chosen you, entrusted you, not by human election . . . Do not blaspheme or shame the election of God,” as St. John Chrysostom asserts.

Today, officially and canonically, you become the fifteenth Church in the blessed choir of Autocephalous Churches. We entreat and exhort You to strive for unity and peace, first and foremost on a local level with Your brother Hierarchs in Ukraine; and not only with them, but also with those brother Hierarchs who still remain under the omophorion of His Beatitude our brother Patriarch of Moscow, in order that, through Your inspired presence and prudent administrative service, you may help them understand that Ukraine deserves a united church body. Create the presuppositions for reconciliation. Work only on the basis of ecclesiological criteria. Administer with love, humility and self-sacrifice. The future belongs to You.

Finally, never forget this benevolence of the Mother Church, which commenced from the time of the baptism of Your pious people and is today sealed with the bestowal of ecclesiastical administrative independence. The history of the Orthodox Church is a history of redemption and salvation. Aware of this, our Holy Great Church of Christ is today acting without any self-interest, but only for the unity of the Ukrainian people and the salvation of its faithful. Therefore, follow this way of redemption and salvation; and regard the Tomos of Autocephaly, which You receive today, not as a symbol of power but as a testimony of love and sacrificial mind, so that You may offer salvation and Christ to Your flock in Ukraine. Make good use of the privileges contained in this Tomos, treating them as elements of crucified love and not as premises for the establishment of an authoritarian Church.
As for us, from this venerable Orthodox Center, we shall affectionately follow Your steps and always extend a supportive hand, whenever You so desire. We also look forward to our positive and excellent collaboration, for the glory of God and the salvation of our faithful.

Be strong and be well, then, Your Beatitude and dear brother; and serve as First Hierarch for the sake of righteousness, truth and meekness. May the grace of Christ who appeared on earth be with You and with our Holy Churches. Amen.

In turn, Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine Epifaniy thanked Patriarch Bartholomew for signing the Tomos, noting that the Orthodox Church of Ukraine was waiting for its granting with impatience and excitement.

“I would also like to express our gratitude to the President of Ukraine and all those who worked with him and under his leadership to help us accomplish the dream of generations of Ukrainian Orthodox hierarchs and believers to have an Autocephalous Orthodox Church. Your name, Mr. President, will remain forever in the history of the Ukrainian people and the church next to the names of our princes Volodymyr the Great, Yaroslav the Wise, Kostiantyn Ostrozky and Hetman Ivan Mazepa,” he said.

Later in the day, the President of Ukraine, speaking on behalf of the nation of Ukraine, stated:

A great historic event, in which the Lord was with us, with Ukrainians, has just finished. And we, Ukrainians, were with the Lord. The Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine has finally received the Tomos from the Ecumenical Patriarch, from the Mother Church.

The Lord saw and commended the persistent struggle of the Ukrainian people for their independence. He heard our prayers. He gave us proper reparation for our work and facilitated that His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Synod of the Constantinople Mother Church said the long-awaited “yes” to the independent Church of Ukraine. Today's event in the history of our country will remain in line with St. Vladimir's baptism and the proclamation of Ukraine's independence. The Orthodox world will remember the day when the Church of Ukraine possessing equal rights joined the family of sister churches.

Our country has covered a long path to this day. And no wonder that yesterday His All-Holiness recalled in his speech Olga - our first Christian Princess and Equal of the Apostles Prince Vladimir-Baptist. And long before them, the holy Apostle Andrew stood on the mountains of Kyiv and “his eyes saw Ukraine, and the mouth - blessed. And he planted the seed of faith in us”. This, by the way, is a quotation from the decisions of our Orthodox Council of 1621.

For over a thousand years, Kyiv's Christian tradition has been respected and multiplied. Today, our Orthodox Church is ready for independent existence. The Ukrainian people thank God and what has happened is a true miracle, which we owe to the Creator's will.

We rejoice that the Ecumenical Patriarch, as the spiritual leader of hundreds of millions of Orthodox people, as a global figure heard our voice and our requests. And the tireless work of His All-Holiness on the spiritual field will forever remain in the history of the church and in the history of nations, especially the Orthodox.

And the Tomos for us is actually another act of proclaiming Ukraine's independence. It will complete the assertion of the independence of the Ukrainian state, strengthen religious freedom, interconfessional peace. It will strengthen the rights and freedoms of citizens, especially those who were outside the communion with the Ecumenical Orthodoxy and who were unjustly called non-canonical.

His All-Holiness these days especially emphasizes the importance of restoring the communication of millions and millions of Ukrainian believers with the fullness of the world Orthodoxy. In addition, for Ukrainians, our own Church is a guarantee of our spiritual freedom. This is the key to social harmony.

And as President, I guarantee on behalf of the state that Ukraine will respect the religious choices and freedom of religion of every citizen.

I congratulate all those who care about the rise of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine. And I thank everyone who tirelessly worked on its emergence, created unity and restored justice!

St. Sophia, the wisdom of God was with us and we fulfilled our duty to the past and to the next generations.

Glory to God! Glory to Ukraine!

“Behold, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth, the time for singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.”

(Song of Songs 2.11-12)
5 січня 2019 р., вранці, у патріаршому храмі святого Георгія Переможця на Фанарі в Константинополі відбувся молебень за участі Предстоятеля Православної Церкви України Блаженнішого Митрополита Київського і всієї України Епіфанія, великої кількості духовенства обох Церков, Президента України Петра Порошенка, Голови Верховної ради України Андрія Парубія, та вищих посадових осіб України, а також безлічі вірян. Загалом на церемонію підписання томосу приїхало чимало священиків і віруючих з усього світу.

Після спільної молитви відбулася перша зустріч очільника Константинопольського Патріархату Його Всесвятості Варфоломія з Предстоятелем Української Православної Церкви Блаженнішого Митрополита Епіфанія, на якій сторони тепло поспілкувалися і подякували Богу за Його благодіяння.

Після цього в урочистій обстанові в патріаршому храмі святого Георгія в Стамбулі Вселенський Патріарх Варфоломій підписав томос для Православної Церкви України, таким чином схвалюючи рішення про надання автокефалії Українській Церкві. Перед підписанням текст документа був зачитаний грецькою мовою.

Після підписання до усіх присутніх в храмі звернувся Його Всевятості Патріарх Варфоломій, Його Блаженство Митрополит Епіфаній та Президент України Петро Порошенко. Зокрема Константинопольський Патріарх Варфоломій заявив, що Вселенський патріархат завжди буде на боці Православної Церкви України. За його словами, Константинополь працюватиме над зростанням новоствореної Православної Церкви і допомагатиме досягти усіляки труднощі задля блага Української Церкви і держави.

На завершення цієї визначної події у Тронній залі для почесних гостей відбулося прийняття Вселенського Патріарха, де також до усіх присутніх зі словами вітань звернулися Митрополит Епіфаній, а також Його Всевятості Патріарх Варфоломій.

Ввечері, під час урочистого прийому, який організував Глава Української держави Петро Порошенко, священнослужителі отримали державні нагороди з рук Президента. Після виступів Вселенського Патріарха Варфоломія, Блаженнішого Митрополита Епіфанія та Президента Петра Порошенка відбувся традиційний обмін подарунками.

Джерело: Православна Церква України
17 December 2018
Holy Great-Martyr Barbara

His Beatitude Epiphaniy
Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine
Orthodox Church of Ukraine

Your Beatitude: CHRIST IS AMONG US!

The day of December 15, 2018 in the life of the Holy Orthodox Church of Ukraine will always be treasured in history as the day when the faithful of the Church, with the blessing of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, were blessed with the establishment of a Pomisna-Local Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the election of the Primate-Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine in the person of Your Beatitude. We look forward to your service to the Gospel and Body of Christ in God-loving Ukraine, which will be guided by the Holy Spirit and lead to the final ecclesiastic unity in the Holy Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

“This is a day the Lord has made!” It is the day that the hierarchs, clergy and faithful of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA have prayed and worked for throughout our 100 year history. Metropolitan John (Theodorovych), our first primate and the only hierarch who survived martyrdom of all the other hierarchs of the first formation of Ukrainian autocephaly (1921) served our Holy Church and the cause of Autocephaly for 50 years. Our second Primate-Metropolitan Mstyslav, from the second formation of autocephaly (1942) served our Holy Church for 43 years. He later became the first Patriarch of Ukraine in the third formation of autocephaly (1990) and never wavered in the struggle for an independent Pomisna Church of Ukraine. Our third Primate-Metropolitan Constantine strove continually throughout his 40 years of service – 20 as Metropolitan – to our Holy Church for the recognition of Autocephaly for Ukraine. We, as the present hierarchs of the UOC of the USA have worked diligently over the past 24 years ensuring that the question of Autocephaly for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Ukraine would never fade away. Our clergy and faithful have never weakened in their faith that this day would come. “We rejoice and are glad” (Ps. 117:24) in this day and thank God for your election your Beatitude, to the Primacy of the fully autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Glory to God for all things!

We all must realize, however, that this is a time in the history of Ukraine and the world that requires gentle healing, firm leadership and great love. Our prayer for you, Your Beatitude, is that you will continue to be graced by God with the gentle healing faith exhibited by the saints of all Rus-Ukraine, that you will be given the strength to exercise firm leadership in the example of the
Holy Fathers of the Church and that you will be enabled to unconditionally open yourself in service to the bishops, priests and faithful who are entrusted to your paternal spiritual care. Our Lord will certainly assist you in carrying this heavy burden-responsibility and the powerful prayers of your spiritual children will sustain you always.

In behalf of the clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, we express to you our most sincere greetings as you begin this certainly difficult, but spiritually and fundamentally important, mission in the life of the Church. We enthusiastically look forward to our common work with you in brotherly love, peace, and harmony as we seek to fulfill God’s Holy Will for all Ukrainian Orthodox Christians.

Dear Brother in Christ and co-celebrant in Christ’s Vineyard, we pray in the depth of our hearts and souls that the joyful Light of the Bethlehem Star will always lead you to Christ our Lord in all your blessed service in His Name seeking the salvation of souls. We know that alone, human desire is insufficient to fulfill this service to which you have been called. As we have seen throughout the history of mankind, we cannot rely upon the wisdom of mankind as our source of strength. May your real strength come from the Wisdom of God in the Holy Trinity, for He is Good, Compassionate, Merciful, Just and loves us beyond our ability to fully comprehend.

With prayers in Christ our Lord,

+Antony, Metropolitan
+Daniel, Archbishop

“We rejoice and are glad”

(Ps. 117:24)
Блаженнішому Епіфанію
Митрополиту Київському та Всієї України
Православної Церкви України

Ваше Блаженство: ХРИСТОС ПОСЕРЕД НАС!

День 15 грудня 2018 року в житті Святої Православної Церкви України завжди буде заповітний в історії, як день, коли вірні Церкви з благословення Його Всесвятості Вселенського Патріарха Варфоломія I та Священного Синоду Константинопольського Патріархату стали свідками утворення Помісної Української Православної Церкви та обрання Предстоятеля-Митрополита Київського і всієї України в особі Вашого Блаженства. Ми в очікуванні Вашого служіння Євангелію та Тілу Христовому у Боголюбивій Україні, яка буде керуватися Святим Духом і призведе до остаточної церковної єдності у Святій Православній Церкві України.

“Цей день, що його створив Господь!” Цей день, за котрий ієрархи, духовенство та вірні нашої Української Православної Церкви США молилися і працювали протягом нашої 100-літньої історії. Митрополит Іоанн (Теодорович), наш перший Предстоятель та один із ієрархів, який пережив і не був знищений, як всі інші ієрархи від першого утворення Української Автокефалії (1921 р.), служив нашій Святій Церкві і прагнув Автокефалії протягом 50 років. На нашій пам’яті Митрополит Мстислав, від другого становлення Автокефалії (1942 р.), служив нашій Святій Церкві протягом 43 років. Пізніше він став першим патріархом України у третьому утворенні автокефалії (1990 р.) і ніколи не зупинявся у боротьбі за незалежну Помісну Церкву України. Наши третій Предстоятель-Митрополит Константин постійно боровся за свої 40 років служіння – 20 років, як Митрополит - нашої Святої Церкви за визнання Автокефалії в Україні. Ми, нинішні ієрархи УПЦ США, старанно працювали протягом останніх 24 років, щоб патріарх прагнув Автокефалії для Української Православної Церкви у Іstanbul ніколи не зникло. Наше духовенство та вірні ніколи не похитнулися у своїй вірі, що цей день настане. “Ми радіємо і тішимося” (Пс 117: 24) в цей день і дякуємо Богу за обрання Вашого Блаженства, як Предстоятеля повністю Автокефальної Української Православної Церкви. Слава Богу за все!

Ми всі повинні усвідомити, що це час в історії України та світі, який вимагає благого зцілення, твердого лідерства та великої любові. Наша молитва за Вас, Ваше Блаженство, що ви будете і надалі уладотворювати Небесною Імовірною вірної, яка виявлялася святою всієї Руської-України, що Ви будете наділені силою і проявитимете міцне лідерство на прикладі Святих Отців Церкви і що ви зможете беззастережно відкрити себе для служіння спискам, священикам та вірним, які досягли довіри Вам на батьківське духовне піклування. Наши Господь, безсумнівно, допомагатиме Вам виконувати цю нелегку відповідальність, а посилени молитви наших духовних дітей будуть підтримувати вас завжди.

Від імені духовенства та вірних Української Православної Церкви США ми висловлюємо вам найщиріші вітання, у початок важливої, духовної та фундаментальної місії в житті Церкви. Ми з ентузіазмом чекаємо на нашу спільну роботу з вами у братській любові, мирі та гармонії, у прагненні виконувати Божу Святу Волю для всіх Українських Православних Християн.

Дорогий брате в Христі та співслужителю у Винограднику Христовому, ми молимося в глибині наших сердець і душ, що радісне Світло Вифлеємської зірки завжди буде приводити Вас до Христа, нашего Господа, у всій Вашій благословеній службі в Його Ім'я, прагнути спасти душу. Ми знаємо, що едине людське бажання є недостатньим для виконання цього служіння, на яке Вас покликано. Ми як бачимо протягом всієї історії людства, не можемо покладатися на нездатність безуспішної людської сили. Нехай ваша справжня сила походить з Премудрості Божої у Трійці, бо Він Добрий, Щедрий, Милосердний, Справедливий і любить нас понад нашу можливість це збагнути. з молитвами у Христі,

+Антоній, Митрополит
+Даниїл, Архієпископ
HIERARCHS OF THE UOC OF THE USA ATTEND INSTALLATION SERVICE OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE-EXARCH OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE IN KYIV

While in Ukraine, the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA took part in a Vespers service for the feast day of Venerable Maximus the Confessor and the 36th Sunday after Pentecost, at the Stavropegial St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Church in Kyiv, Ukraine on Saturday, February 2, 2019.

At the conclusion of the liturgical service, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel, Special Representative of the Ecumenical Patriarch for the Enthronement of the newly-elected Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine, presided over the introduction and installation service of the Patriarchal Exarch in Ukraine – Archimandrite Michael (Anischenko).

The monastics from the holy mount Athos: Abbot Alexios of Xenophontos with brothers as well as the priests from Vatopedi monastery participated in the liturgical service and presented Archimandrite Michael for the installation service.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel offered their greetings to the newly appointed representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Kyiv, wishing him the zeal of Holy Apostle Andrew, who according to the historic records visited the ancient hills of Kyiv and prophesied the great glory of the city of Kyiv and the entire Ukrainian land. Moreover, the hierarchs of the UOC of the USA expressed their willingness and desire to develop closer pastoral ministerial ties with the Representation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Ukraine.

Among other representatives of ecclesiastical bodies and government officials were His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy - Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada as well as Very Rev. Fr. Taras Udod - Chair of the Presidium of the Consistory of the UOCC.
While on the official visit to Ukraine, the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA took part in the Divine Liturgy and the Rite of Enthronement of the newly elected Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine His Beatitude Epiphaniy.

Along with over 60 hierarchs of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel concelebrated with His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphany and the Special Representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France. Among other hierarchs were His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy of the Ukrainian Orthodox of Canada and His Eminence Metropolitan Amphilochous – Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Greece. Both Metropolitan Antony and Metropolitan Yuriy, on behalf of the Ukrainian Orthodox Churches of the USA and Canada took part in the Enthronement service and presented the Metropolitan of Kyiv with panagias.

During the three-hour event in the gold-decked 11th-century St. Sophia Cathedral, Metropolitan Epiphaniy became head of the church, having been elected by the Unification Council of the Church on December 15th, 2018.

The monastics from the Holy Mount Athos: Abbot Alexios of Xenophontos with brothers as well as priests from Vatopedi monastery participated in the Divine Liturgy and the Enthronement service, assisting His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel with the presentation of an archpastoral staff – a gift from His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch.

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, together with his wife Maryna, took part in the liturgy and enthronement of Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. “In the last two months, we have been meeting in these thousand-year-old walls of St. Sophia of Kyiv unprecedentedly often. And every event that brings us together here is truly historic,” Petro Poroshenko said.

The Head of State reminded that on December 15, 2018, the Unity Council was held, where the autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine arose, and Bishop Epiphaniy was elected its Primate. On January 7, Metropolitan Epiphaniy conducted the first Nativity of our Lord (Christmas) liturgy after the Church had received the Tomos of autocephaly.

“And today, we are present at the event, which is both continuation and completion of the previous ones. The enthronement of Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine Epiphaniy means that the Church and the Orthodox Ukrainian people received a new leader,” the Head of Ukrainian State emphasized.

“Great hopes of many people are put on you now, Your Beatitude. I believe that they will be justified, that you will lead the Orthodox community along the path of goodness, love, faith and mercy,” Petro Poroshenko noted.
The President congratulated the Metropolitan on the enthronement and on his birthday, which the hierarch celebrates today. “I am very glad and thank God that today I have this opportunity to congratulate you. And it is very important that today there is a reason for additional greetings. On behalf of myself, Maryna, family and all present, I congratulate you, Your Beatitude, on the 40th anniversary. I am very happy that our church has such a young primate. I wish you strength and wisdom, understanding and support. May God bless all your deeds,” Petro Poroshenko said.

The President expressed sincere gratitude to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his love, for supporting the Ukrainian people’s aspiration to have an autocephalous church. “His faith in Ukraine, faith in the Ukrainian people, love for Ukrainians and Ukraine, wisdom and courage gave us strength and determination,” Petro Poroshenko said.

The Head of State expressed sincere gratitude to Metropolitan Emmanuel and the Exarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate who were present at the event “for the great role in our common work on the unification of the Ukrainian Orthodoxy and the recognition of the autocephaly of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church”.

Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine Epifaniy, in turn, thanked President Poroshenko for his efforts that helped create the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and receive the Tomos of autocephaly.

“Thank you, Mr. President, for the enormous work that you personally and your employees, other branches and authorities have made for the request of the Ukrainian church about the Tomos to be met, for the preconditions for the church unification to be created,” he said.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel offered their greetings to the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, wishing him the zeal of the saintly Metropolitans of Kyiv, who offered themselves selflessly in the service of the Ukrainian people, while making numerous attempts, at times even sacrificing their lives, in order to achieve the Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.
On Wednesday, February 6, 2019, the feast of Venerable Ksenia of Rome (Oksana), the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA held a meeting with His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphany of Kyiv and All Ukraine, the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

Welcoming His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel, His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphany expressed his gratitude to the hierarchs of the UOC of the USA for their participation in the enthronement services and the support offered in the process of formation of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

Responding to the welcoming remarks, Metropolitan Antony once again congratulated the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine on his election to the office of the Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine.

“We prayerfully look forward to your service to the Gospel and Body of Christ in God-loving Ukraine, which will be guided by the Holy Spirit and lead to the final ecclesiastic unity in the Holy Orthodox Church of Ukraine,” – stated Metropolitan Antony.

“This is a day the Lord has made!” It is the day that we, the hierarchs, clergy and faithful of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA have prayed and worked for throughout our 100 year history. Metropolitan John (Theodorovych), our first primate and the only hierarch who survived martyrdom of all the other hierarchs of the first formation of Ukrainian autocephaly (1921) served our Holy Church and the cause of Autocephaly for 50 years. Our second Primate-Metropolitan Mstyslav, from the second formation of autocephaly (1942) served our Holy Church for 43 years. He later became the first Patriarch of Ukraine in the third formation of autocephaly (1990) and never wavered in the struggle for an independent Pomsna Church of Ukraine. Our third Primate-Metropolitan Constantine strove continually throughout his 40 years of service – 20 as Metropolitan – to our Holy Church for the recognition of Autocephaly for Ukraine. We, as the present hierarchs of the UOC of the USA have worked diligently over the past 24 years ensuring that the question of Autocephaly for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Ukraine would never fade away. Our clergy and faithful have never weakened in their faith that this day would come. “We rejoice and are glad” (Ps. 117:24) in this day and thank God for your election your Beatitude, to the Primacy of the fully autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church.”

Expressing his gratitude, Metropolitan Epiphany discussed with the hierarchs of the UOC of the USA the outcome of the most recent Holy Synod meting of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and the appointment and formation of the Synodal departments.

As a token of prayerful respect, Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel presented Metropolitan Epiphany with a triple set of liturgical panagias and a cross; while the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine presented the hierarchs of the UOC of the USA with hierarchical panagias that were issued in honor of the formal election.
and Enthronement of the Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine.

Being in a building of the Kyiv Theological Academy, the hierarchs of the UOC of the USA toured the academic facility of the Church and met with the professors and students of the Academy.

Earlier in the week, the hierarchs of the UOC of the USA held a joint meeting with Metropolitan Epiphany and Metropolitan Yuriy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Ukraine, Archimandrite Michael (Anischenko). During the meeting, the participants discussed the steps for joint cooperation in order to further the ministry of the Gospel of Christ to the flock of Orthodox Christians in Ukraine and throughout the world.

5 лютого 2019 р. відбулася зустріч ієрархів Української Православної Церкви США та Української Православної Церкви Канади з Предстоятелем Православної Церкви України Митрополитом Київським і всієї України Епіфанієм та Езархомом Вселенського Патріархату архімандритом Михаїлом (Аніщенком).

Зокрема у зустрічі взяли участь: Предстоятель УПЦ Канади митрополит Юрій, Предстоятель УПЦ США митрополит Антоній, архієпископ Памфілійський УПЦ США Даниїл і прот. Тарас Удод – голова Президії Консисторії УПЦ Канади.

ІЄРАРХИ УПЦ США ТА УПЦ КАНАДИ ПРОВЕЛИ ЗУСТРІЧ ІЗ МИТРОПОЛИТОМ ЕПІФАНІЄМ

Архіпастирі обговорили поточну церковну ситуацію в Україні, накреслили плани на подальший її розвиток у правильному руслі, а також підняли низку важливих питань щодо врегулювання і вдосконалення міжцерковних відносин між Українськими Церквами по всьому світу.

Також владики поділилися своїми враженнями від неподавнього урочистого богослужіння у Святій Софії Київській у день інтронізації Митрополита Київського.

Photos by Andriy Sydor
President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko met with bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA - the Ruling Hierarch of the UOC in the United States Metropolitan Antony and the Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the UOC of the USA Archbishop Daniel.

The Head of State expressed gratitude for the spiritual and moral support of the process of granting autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and personally thanked Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel for their support and assistance in the process of establishing an independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The Head of State also thanked the Ecumenical Patriarch for his efforts in providing the Tomos to Ukraine.

“Life has shown that this decision required a great faith in our Lord, a great love for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people demonstrated by His All-Holiness. And we can say that it required courage, which many in Russia did not expect,” the President said.

In turn, Metropolitan Antony emphasized the crucial role of President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko in gaining the independence of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

“The entire process was carried out by the Holy Spirit. We believed but did not expect it to happen so soon. Thank God, you have led this process since last April starting from the visit to Constantinople,” Metropolitan Antony noted and thanked Petro Poroshenko for his great work.

“This is an incredible and the most important event in the history of the Ukrainian nation. It seemed that it was impossible. You spoke as the great leader of the nation and entered the history of mankind as the man who brought the Tomos to Ukraine. We have been waiting for such a leadership for many years, much more than you,” Metropolitan Antony said, speaking about the role of the President in obtaining the independence of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Metropolitan Antony stressed the importance of preserving stability in Ukraine. “We are only at the beginning of a very complicated process. And if people can follow you, your views and your patience, they will pass this complicated process,” he said.
ІЄРАРХИ УПЦ США ЗУСТРИЛИСЯ З ПРЕЗИДЕНТОМ УКРАЇНИ

Президент України Петро Порошенко провів зустріч з епископами Української Православної Церкви США - першоієрархом УПЦ США Митрополитом Антонієм та керуючим Західною єпархією УПЦ США Архієпископом Даниїлом.

Глава держави висловив слова подяки американцям українського походження за духовну та моральну підтримку процесу надання автокефалії Православній Церкві України та особисто подякував Митрополиту Антонію та Архієпископу Даниїлу за їх підтримку і допомогу в процесі творення незалежної православної української церкви. Глава держави також подякував Вселенському Патріарху за його зусилля в наданні автокефалії Українській православній церкві.

В свою чергу Митрополит Антоній наголосив на визначальній ролі Президента України Петра Порошенка в здобутті незалежності Української православної церкви.

Всього цей процес був проведений Святим Духом. Ми вірили, але не сподівалися, що це так скоро відбудеться. Але Слава Богу, що Ви стояли і брали першість в цьому процесі від кінця минулого року з візиту до Царгороду, - сказав Митрополит Антоній та подякував Петру Порошенкові за його велику роботу.

«Це є неймовірна і найважливіша подія в історії української нації. Здавалося, що це було неможливи. Ви говорили як великий лідер нації і увійшли в історію людства, як людина, яка принесла Україні Томос. Ми чекали на таке лідерство дуже багато років, набагато більше ніж Ви», - додав Митрополит Антоній, говорячи про роль Президента в отриманні незалежності української православної церкви.

Митрополит Ієрапольський Антоній наголосив на важливості збереження стабільності в Україні. «Ми лише на початку дуже складного процесу. І якщо люди зможуть йти за Вами, за Вашими поглядами і Вашим терпінням, вони пройдуть цей складний процес», - сказав священнослужитель.

Photos: Administration of the President of Ukraine
On January 5, 2019, millions watched the ceremony taking place in the Patriarchal Church of St. George, in Constantinople, as His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew signed the Tomos granting autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

As the faithful rejoiced, dignitaries and guests gathered for a banquet to honor Patriarch Bartholomew and Metropolitan Epiphanius I, the new Metropolitan of Ukraine, and to celebrate the historic event. In addition to His All Holiness, the banquet was attended by numerous clergy and various dignitaries including the Speaker of Ukraine’s Parliament, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Ministers of Culture, the Ministers of Defense, and the First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine.

During the banquet the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, honored four individuals who played pivotal roles in garnering Ukraine her own local canonical Church, by presenting them the “Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise” award.

Eis polla eti Despota!
Ми пройшли всі випробування і створили незалежну Православну Церкву України - Президент України вручив державні нагороди

Президент України Петро Порошенко у Стамбулі під час офіційного прийняття з нагоди підписання Томосу про автокефалію Православної Церкви України Вселенським Патріархом Варфоломієм вручив державні нагороди.

Голова держави наголосив, що кілька годин тому відбулась важлива подія, на яку українці чекали століттями. «Подія, яка відновила історичну справедливість і яка належить до високопомітних подій нашої української історії і історії світового православ'я. Наші єдність, сила і віра, а також мудрість Його Всесвятості Вселенського Патріарха Варфоломія провели нас крізь всі випробування і негаразди, крізь всі пастки і підступні наміри недругів», - наголосив Петро Порошенко.

Президент подякував Господу та Вселенському Патріарху Варфоломіо. «Диво на наших очах відбувається завдяки вашій непохитній та правдивій позиції, вашій мудрості і мудрості Константинопольської Церкви-Матері, її турботи про колись нею і охрещений український народ», - підкреслив Глава держави.

Окроме Глава держави подякував Президенту Туреччини, з яким він зустрівся поблизу Вселенського Патріарха Варфоломія, за гостинність турецьким партнерам.

Петро Порошенко також подякував архієреям, які молять за українську церкву та Митрополиту Епіфанію за надзвичайне важливе рішення об’єднати і вести вперед українську церкву та віру. «В українських храмах і Церкві мають молитися за Україну, за український народ і нашу Матір-Церкву. Народження автокефальної православної церкви стало спільним святом для всіх українців, для кого є єдністю свобода України і її державна самостійність», - наголосив він. Президент вкотре підкреслив, що незалежна церква є ще однією гарантією державної незалежності, відновлення територіальної цілісності і сувереніту. Петро Порошенко подякував, що повну такої церкви з велиkim ентузіазмом привітали і лідери кримськотатарського народу.
Clergy and Parishioners from the five states that surround the Metropolitan New York area battled the snowy day of February 20th, 2019 in order to join the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in the solemn Memorial Service, commemorating the sacrifices of the HEAVENLY HUNDRED – the young men and women that in February 2014 lost their lives on Maydan in Kyiv.

The Memorial Service and program were made even more solemn, as the local Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic community learned that the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, who was in the US during a working visit, would take part in the memorial service for the deceased Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred.

Prior to the beginning of the Memorial Service, Metropolitan Antony addressed the congregation in attendance, stating: “As we mark the fifth anniversary of the still incomprehensible murder of over 100 Ukrainian citizens on the Maidan in Kyiv – simply because they stood for the freedom of choice in their nation without control or manipulation from other nations – we your hierarchs state without any reservation that by all human calculations, Ukraine should not even exist today having suffered cataclysm after cataclysm throughout her history during which so many millions of people perished and millions more who were never born because those who perished were unable to give them life. How can a nation continue to exist and endure if its population cannot grow through
the birth of successive generations? It is by the Grace of God that Ukraine exists. Once again, we encourage you all to pray fervently for Ukraine, especially to the Mother of God who has always extended her veil of protection over her people.

We awaken each morning over the past years asking ourselves: how can this be happening to Ukraine again? How is it that a nation already independent for twenty-four years cannot be accepted as such by her neighbors? How can those neighbors still claim to have “rights” to any part of Ukraine that have no moral, legal or logical foundation? What is important to remember at this first anniversary of the Maidan murders as we commemorate these fallen heroes is that they were not simply following the example of earlier martyrs for truth in Ukrainian history. They were standing firm for truth and human dignity in response to the circumstances of today – standing against those who would sell Ukraine’s independence once again to foreign invaders.

None of them expected or wanted to die. None of them expected that their very deaths would be the catalyst for abrupt change in the life of their nation – with a corrupt “president” fleeing from the knowledge that his corruption was about to be revealed, abandoning any possible claim to his presidency or legitimacy before the world community. But their very deaths were the last straw that changed the life of the nation instantly. Their deaths forced a corrupt government to realize that its days were over and that it could no longer squander the wealth of the nation – of the people. Their deaths resulted in a new government leadership placing very surprised members of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) in authority and finally in the election of a new President and Rada, which leads the nation today. Their deaths provoked a self-examination of the membership of the former ruling party, finally bringing on the realization that they were on the wrong side of “truth”.

What the world needs to comprehend is that, which the people of Ukraine have known for generations: “Heroes do not die!” (“Heroyi ne vmirayut!”) They live on in the collective memory of the nation and give rise to future heroes who will continue to stand firm in “truth”. We ask all of you, our faithful spiritual children, to remember that such heroism is never wasted or useless. It reaches not only the minds of the nation’s population but the minds of the world – in particular the czars, the commandants, “unidentified” invaders and even the presidents who refuse to accept the new world reality and want to recreate empires. They speak to proclaim: “we will not die!” No longer will you be free to murder millions of us through starvation, by freezing us during long cold winters or dropping your abundance of destructive bombs. Beneath all the attempts to wipe the Ukrainian nation out of existence and off the world map, the Ukrainian self-identity has survived and always resulted in the rebirth of a stronger nation. “Heroes do not die!”

Following the Ecumenical Memorial service, the responses to which were chanted by the choir of St. Andrew Memorial Church, Metropolitan Antony formally welcomed the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko to the Spiritual Center of the UOC of the USA.

The Head of Ukrainian State remarked that the days from February 18 to February 21 had entered the history of Ukraine forever, when five years ago, pursuant to the criminal order of the
former authorities, fire was opened at the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred.

“What did our heroes give life for? The Revolution of Dignity began in November 2013 because of a very simple reason - Ukraine no longer wanted to live under the Soviet or Russian yoke. The Ukrainian people sought to return to the European family of nations. And it united us. Why were we winning all these 5 years? Because the nation was united,” the President said.

The President remarked that representatives of the whole Ukraine were among the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred. “What did the heroes, who gave their lives, strive for? They loved Ukraine very much, they loved Ukrainians very much. And that is why it is so important for us to always remember this, to pray, to value the great responsibility they put upon us with their death. So that we do not waste time. So that we never allow to destroy our unity. So that we know where we are going and win on this path,” Petro Poroshenko said.

The President stressed that Ukrainians had undergone tremendous challenges - revolution, aggression against Ukraine and annexation of Crimea. “This very date (February 20, 2014 - ed.) was scratched on Russian medals distributed to the Russians and collaborators in honor of the Crimean occupation,” the Head of State added.

The President emphasized that over the past 5 years Ukraine had been established, because genuine independence had been gained not only in 1991, but also in 2014. In addition, we managed to build a spiritual foundation by obtaining autocephaly for the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

“I want us today to pray for the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred and pay tribute to those who gave their lives for freedom and independence of Ukraine. Ukrainians are such a nation that can never live without freedom,” the President said. He also thanked Ukrainian soldiers, who are now defending the Ukrainian land at the front, rebuffing the Russian aggressor, as well as Ukrainians of the United States for a joint prayer and daily prayers for Ukraine.

In response, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony called for prayer for Ukraine. “The world should know that the generations of Ukrainians remember that Heroes do not die ... They continue to live in the memory of the nation and be an example for future heroes who make history,” he said. Metropolitan urged everyone to remember this heroism.

“These fallen heroes appeal to all of us - nobody can torment us with hunger or other terror anymore. Despite all the attempts to wipe Ukrainians off the map, Ukrainian self-identity has been preserved in the hearts and minds of the Ukrainian people. It has always been an impetus for the revival of the nation. Heroes do not die!” Metropolitan Antony noted. He thanked the President of Ukraine for his efforts to protect and develop Ukraine. “When five years after the tragedy on Maidan, aggression and suffering, I visit Ukraine, I see many positive changes under your leadership. Thank you for your leadership,” the Metropolitan emphasized.

President Petro Poroshenko noted the important role of the Ukrainian community in strengthening the international support of Ukraine.

The Head of State stressed that Ukraine finally had its independent
church. He thanked Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, leaders of Ukrainian churches, Patriarchal Exarchs (Archbishop Daniel of the UOC of the USA and Bishop Iarion of the UOCC) due to the efforts of which this historic event came true.

According to Petro Poroshenko, today Ukraine is united. “Despite all Putin’s attempts to split us, undermine stability from inside, destabilize, spread lies, sow hatred in the hearts of Ukrainians ... That is why Ukrainians are strong now, that’s why the whole world supports us,” he added.

The President noted that he had begun the day with a meeting with the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations and had the honor of speaking on behalf of Ukraine at the debate on the situation in the occupied territories.

“The UN hall, the invader is called the invader, the aggressor is called the aggressor, the seized territories are called the territories occupied by the aggressor. This is the result of a global solidarity with Ukraine,” he said.

At the same time, Petro Poroshenko stated we should not assume that we have already gained victory. “We have a lot of work ahead. And we need to keep that unity. For these children. These are young Ukrainians. I emphasize that these children love Ukraine, and when they grow up Ukraine will be a member of the European Union, a member of NATO”.

He especially noted the importance of meeting with the Ukrainian community of the United States. “I want to thank everyone for a joint prayer. I want to thank for these five years of unity of Ukrainians in the world. I want to thank for a strong willingness to continue working,” the President added.

The Head of State stressed: “Why was it possible? Thanks to the Ukrainian community. For no one can stop Ukrainians who are defending their land, defending their faith, defending their own state, defending their people”.

He stressed the necessity of hard work for making our country better. “I am convinced that we will definitely win, because the truth is with Ukraine. God is with Ukraine. And the Lord hears our prayers, despite the fact that he gives us very difficult trials. But finally, after hundreds of years of trials, the Lord sends us victory. We stopped the Russian aggressor, we created a Ukrainian church, we entered the world Orthodoxy. We are building and changing our state,” Petro Poroshenko emphasized.

Following the formal address, the entire community, under the leadership of the hierarchs, chanted the most spiritually sobering MEMORY ETERNAL – remembering by name every person of the HEAVENLY HUNDRED that offered their lives in the service of Ukraine.

Once the Memorial Service concluded, President Poroshenko paid a short visit to the crypt underneath the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial church, where the remains of Patriarch Mstyslav (Skrypnyk) of blessed memory found their final rest. The student choir of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary chanted the responses to a short Memorial Lytia in the crypt of the Ukrainian Orthodox hierarch of both the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

Coming outside, into a snowy stormy weather, the President of Ukraine was treated to a profound welcome by the numerous parishioners and visitors to the Spiritual Center of the UOC of the USA. With a prayerful greeting “Glory to Jesus Christ!” and joyful “Glory to Ukraine-Slava Ukraini!” the community embraced the leader of the Ukrainian State, wishing him success in navigating through the task of rebuilding the nation, as the ongoing invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation continues to impose danger to the Eastern part of Ukraine and Crimean Peninsula.

Departing the spiritual center – Metropolia of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, President Poroshenko personally reached out to the people in attendance and asked them to pray for the nation and the people of Ukraine – the ancestral home of many Ukrainian-Americans.

Photos by Seminarian Yaroslav Bilohan
As the world-wide community in general and the Ukrainian-American community in particular marked the 5th anniversary of the slaughter of the innocent victims of the “Heavenly Hundred” on Kyiv’s Maydan in February of 2014, the spiritual center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in South Bound Brook, NJ became a place of a profound prayerful reflection about the tragedy and the need for the community to engage itself in the promotion of the sacredness of life and its protection.

Pokrova Sisterhood Social Hall of the Metropolia Center became a place of a solemn reflection, as those in attendance viewed the images of the lost men and women of the Heavenly Hundred. The event was organized by the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in cooperation with the Ukrainian History and Education Center, benefitting the Pirogov First Volunteer Mobile Hospital (PFVMH), which is the largest nongovernmental project involving civil health professionals in the provision of medical assistance in the zone of Joint Forces Operation (formerly “Anti-Terrorist Operation”), which is carried out in certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts – in cities and villages as well as in the field and at checkpoints on the contact line.

Introducing Gennadiy Hruzenko, the acting president of the PFVMH, Vladyka Daniel offered the sentiments of gratitude of everyone in attendance for the important charitable work done in providing care for the wounded soldiers and their families.

Archbishop stated that during its operation in the ATO/JFO zone, the PFVMH has provided timely and skilled medical care to over 56,000 patients. The hospital has been stationed in 49 locations of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts – in cities and villages as well as in the field and at checkpoints on the contact line.

Mr. Hruzenko stated that in the fall of 2015, the PFVMH extended its activities to peaceful regions of Ukraine and performed unprecedented cardio screening in the Khmelnytsky region, which covered 22,433 persons in 565 localities.
We believe that our experience in combining the volunteer movement’s enthusiasm and flexibility with the state’s systemic and strategic approaches is turning the PFVMH into a unique project that is laying the foundations of future accessible and highly effective mobile medicine in Ukraine.

Nov. 30, 2013 – Voluntary mobile teams formed to provide first aid to wounded participants in the Revolution of Dignity.

January–February 2014 – Underground hospitals established by activists treated over 150 participants in the Revolution of Dignity, including those with ballistic traumas.

March 2014 – Working out combat medical aid skills at the Sniper firing ground near Kyiv within the Ukrainian Reserve Army initiative.

March–November 2014 – Developing the Pirogov First Volunteer Mobile Hospital (PFVMH) project.”

Following the introductory remarks and presentations, Archbishop Daniel introduced iconographer Oleksandr Klymenko, who opened the exhibit of iconography, titled “Buy and Icon – Save a Life!”

Exhibitions of the icons on ammo boxes, brought from the combat zone, have already been held at the European Parliament, Parliaments of Ukraine and Lithuania, St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv, Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, and the Lithuanian Embassy in Ukraine. The icons have been displayed in The Hague, Antwerp, Berlin, Frankfurt am Main, Munich, Hanover, Leipzig, Bonn, Cologne, Warsaw, Vienna, Lublin, Prague, Rome, Milan, and Catania on Sicily, Los Angeles, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto as well as the Ukrainian cities of Lviv, Lutsk, Mariupol, Dnipro, Peremysl, Kamyanske, and Pokrovsk. Exhibitions of the icons on ammo boxes were also part of the 25th Economic Forum in Krynica, Poland, and the 8th Kyiv Security Forum, and were held in the University of Alberta in Canada, the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv and the Superior Institute of Religious Sciences of St. Thomas Aquinas in Kyiv.

Vladyka Daniel shared with everyone in attendance that the main idea of the project is the transformation of death (symbolized by ammo boxes) into life (traditionally symbolized by icons in Ukrainian culture). What is important, this victory of life over death happens not only on the figurative and symbolic level but also in reality…

In profound silence, some 200 people walked through the isles of icons and portraits of the heroes of the Heavenly Hundred, while opening their hearts and offering donations for the icons in the exhibit, thus proving care and assistance to the Pirogov First Volunteer Mobile Hospital, wounded soldiers and their families.

As everyone prepared to depart, a reflection was offered about the Ukrainian soldier, who died in a line of duty, leaving his child behind, who is in a major need of medical assistance.

If anyone desires to help or to purchase an icon, please contact the Consistory of the UOC of the USA via e-mail ConssitoryOPR@aol.com

Photos by Seminarian Yaroslav Bilohan
Over $15,000 has been raised for the needs of the Pirogov First Volunteer Mobile Hospital from the sale of Icons on Ammo Boxes during exhibitions in the parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. The local parish exhibits were held under the “Buy and Icon – Save a Life” joint project of the PFVMH and artists Sofia Atlantova and Oleksandr Klymenko. The amount seems to be not final since several potential buyers are still considering a purchase of icons.

The exhibitions were originally held at several US based academic institutions: Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA; University Bloomington, Valparaiso University, Indiana, etc.

With the blessing of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, several parishes of the Church hosted the exhibit in order to raise awareness and to collect financial assistance for the wounded soldiers and their families of the ongoing war in eastern Ukraine.

The Metropolia Center of the UOC of the USA hosted a major exhibit of icons, dedicating the entire event to the memory of the lost heroes of Ukrainian Maydan of 2014 – The Heavenly Hundred. The event was organized by the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in cooperation with the Ukrainian History and Education Center, benefiting the Pirogov First Volunteer Mobile Hospital (PFVMH), which is the largest nongovernmental project involving civil health professionals in the provision of medical assistance in the zone of Joint Forces Operation (formerly “Anti-Terrorist Operation”), which is carried out in certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts – in cities and villages as well as in the field and at checkpoints on the contact line.

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Mr. Druzenko stated that in the fall of 2015, the PFVMH extended its activities to peaceful regions of Ukraine and performed unprecedented cardio screening in the Khmelnytsky region, which covered 22,433 persons in 565 localities.

Among other parishes of the UOC of the USA that hosted the exhibit, were Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Palos Park, IL; St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, OH; St. Andrew the First-Called Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in the Washington, DC suburb of Silver Spring, MD.

According to Oleksandr Klymenko, the exhibitions generated quite an interest and have become the project’s most successful so far. Both Americans of Ukrainian origin and those in no way related to Ukraine came to see the icons. This allowed the organizers and the artists to tell the truth about the war in Ukraine to many people beyond the seas.

“There is no doubt now that the PFVMH will not only financially survive until the Day of Medical Worker in June, repair its worn vehicle fleet, and ‘re-shoe’ it with summer tires but will also be able to implement a few important short-term projects in Eastern Ukraine,” Gennady Druzenko commented.

“Buy an Icon - Save a Life” is an art project of Kyivan artists Sofia Atlantova and Oleksandr Klymenko aimed at supporting the PFVMH in employing civilian medics to provide medical care to both militants and civilians in the Anti-Terrorist Operation / Joint Forces Operation zone in Eastern Ukraine. Earlier, exhibitions of icons on ammo boxes, brought from the combat zone, were held in Antwerp, Berlin, Bonn, Brussels, Catania (on Sicily), Cologne, Edmonton, Frankfurt am Main, The Hague, Hanover, Krynica-Zdroj (in Poland), Leipzig, Los Angeles, Lublin, Milan, Munich, Prague, Rome, Toronto, Vienna, Vilnius, Warsaw, and Winnipeg, as well as many Ukrainian cities.

The exhibit remains in the United States of America for the exhibition and charitable sale. This exhibit-sale is set to benefit the Charitable Foundation “Pirogov First Volunteer Mobile Hospital” which exists in cooperation with the Health Ministry of Ukraine, the Defense Ministry of Ukraine and the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine with support from the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine.

The Metropolia Center of the UOC of the USA and will be displayed at the Consistory building of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (135 Davidson Ave; Somerset, NJ 08873) on March 4, 2019.

Photos by Seminarian Yaroslav Bilohan
ARCHBISHOP DANIEL BEGINS ARCHPASTORAL VISIT TO ST. ANTHONY OF THE DESERT MISSION IN LAS CRUSES, NM

Having battled the snowy conditions of the Northern New Jersey, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, accompanied by the seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary Subdeacon Ihor Protsak and Yaroslav Bilohan, with a slight delay arrived to El Paso, TX International airport and later in the day to Las Cruces, NM – the town that embraced the mission of St. Anthony of the Desert – a community of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

Archpastor’s arrival was scheduled way in advance, so the community might pray together and have enough time for social meetings with their bishop prior to the beginning of the Lenten journey.

Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 – the Memorial Saturday on the ecclesiastical calendar, was truly designated to be a day for prayer and meeting with the Archpastor, as the community prepares for an uplifting spiritual journey on Meatfare Sunday when two spiritual children of the mission will be ordained to the service in the life of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA: seminarian Aaron Nathaniel Halloway – to be tonsured and set aside as Subdeacon and Subdeacon Clinton Kifolo ordained to Deaconate.

On Saturday evening, following Vespers service that was served by the pastor of the mission – Very Rev. Fr. Gabriel Rochelle, Archbishop Daniel offered a short reflection on the spiritual response to a number of social and moral issues of the society in which the Church ministers: the immigration reform, ongoing war in Eastern Ukraine, the most recent decisions in the State of NY that terminates and authorizes further the slaughter on the unborn children – just a few themes that are prevalent in the present day society.

In his concluding remarks, Vladyka Daniel reflected upon the topic of the Meatfare Sunday Gospel narrative, concluding with a reflection about the meaning of the Memorial Saturday of the ecclesiastical calendar.
“...Our Church calendar provides many occasions when we are asked to face up to the fact of death. Great and Holy Friday is one such occasion. So is Pascha/Easter. Sunday is another. Every Sunday is a “little Pascha/Easter” celebrating Christ’s victory over death. On our Church calendar, every year there are special Memorial Saturdays or “Saturdays of the Souls” which provide another opportunity for us to face up to death, i.e., the two Saturdays preceding Great Lent and the Saturday before Pentecost. On these Saturdays the Divine Liturgy is celebrated and special prayers are offered for our deceased loved ones. We pray for the dead especially on Saturdays since it was on the Sabbath day that Christ lay dead in the tomb, “resting from all His works and trampling down death by death.” Thus, in the New Testament, Saturday becomes the proper day for remembering the dead and offering prayers for them.

When Orthodox Christians pray for departed loved ones, they focus not only on them but also on Christ in Whom they died: “Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:1). “I am the resurrection and the life,” He said, “he who believes in me though he were dead yet shall he live; and he who lives and believes in me shall have life everlasting.”

Memorial prayer services which affirm the reality of physical death and also the reality of resurrection into life eternal play a vital role in healing of grief for the Orthodox Christian.

Today we remember all pious and Orthodox Christians who have fallen asleep in the Lord, and recall the dread Day of Judgment. May Christ our God be merciful to them, and to us. Memory Eternal...” concluded Vladyka Daniel.

With the children holding in their hands a loaf of Memorial Bread, the congregation, holding candles in their hands, as symbols of their own call to holiness and light, chanted the memorial hymn “Memory Eternal!”

The evening concluded with a dinner, prepared and offered by Subdeacon Clinton Kifolo, once again providing an opportunity for the parishioners and their spiritual father to spent time in conversation and reflection.

Addressing everyone in attendance, Archbishop Daniel presented a reflection of the historic decision of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople to grant Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, thus validating the appeal of millions of Ukrainian Orthodox Christians for the need to pray in their native tongue, to worship according to the ecclesiastical regulations and various traditions of the multi-cultural Ukrainian society.

A number of faithful of the mission community asked questions about the spiritual and physical care that the UOC of the USA provides for the orphans, wounded soldiers and their families in Ukraine. Once again, Vladyka Daniel provided thorough answers, offering practical charitable examples of the spiritual and charitable generosity of the UOC of the USA through the ministry of St. Andrews’ Society, various chapters of the UOL and parish communities of the Church.

The visit of Vladyka Daniel shall continue through Monday, while many opportunities for prayer and discussions will be offered throughout the weekend of the Archpastoral visit.

Photos by Seminarian Yaroslav Bilohan
ARCHBISHOP DANIEL ORDAINS NEW SUBDEACON AND DEACON IN NEW MEXICO: ‘NOT TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE’

The sacred day of Meatfare Sunday welcomed everyone to St. Anthony of the Desert Mission – a community of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, with the temperatures in low 80s.

About 100 faithful of the local Las Cruces, NM mission family gathered in their temporary space (which is graciously offered by St. Andrew Episcopal community of Las Cruces, NM) for the Eucharistic Divine Liturgy served by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel – the spiritual father of the Western Eparchy of the UOC of the USA.

Entering the worship space of the mission, Vladyka Daniel was greeted by the pastor of the congregation - Very Rev. Fr. Gabriel Rochelle, bearing the cross and by Reader Blake Davenport, chairman of the parish council, who presented His Eminence with the traditional bread and salt.

Before the liturgy, a seminarian of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary of the UOC of the USA Aaron Nathaniel Holloway was tonsured Reader and set aside as Subdeacon for the parish. Vladyka Daniel shared with Subdeacon Aaron Nathaniel thoughts on the ministry of the subdeacon and charged him to study the Scriptures and the prayers of the church in continual preparation as a reader and subdeacon.

St. Anthony has been blessed with numerous Subdeacons and Readers, and one deacon of blessed memory, Deacon David Mascarenas. One previous subdeacon is now Fr. Theophan Mackey of St. Job of Pochaiv parish in Los Alamos NM. Subdeacon Vladimir Michael Laven continues to serve the parish, and Deacon Ted Brinegar now serves as Deacon in OCA. However, this year’s archpastoral visit of Vladyka Daniel also brought an opportunity for the parishioners to witness the ordination to Deaconate of Subdeacon Clinton Dean Joseph Kifolo.

In his sermon Vladyka Daniel stated: “… Christ is telling us in the Gospel Narrative for the Meatfare Sunday, that in order to repent, we must extend our love to our neighbor. This parable of the Last judgment is about love. Christian love is to see Christ in another person, whoever he or she is, and whom God, in His eternal and mysterious plan, has decided to introduce into my life, be it only for a few moments, not as an occasion for a “good deed” or an exercise of charitable deed, but as the beginning of an eternal companionship in God Himself.

The parable of the Last Judgment is about Christian love. Not all of us are called to work for “humanity,” yet each one of us has received the gift and the grace of Christ’s love.
We know that all persons ultimately need this personal love—the recognition in them of their unique soul in which the beauty of the whole creation is reflected in a unique way. We also know that people are in prison and are sick and thirsty and hungry because that personal love has been denied them. And, finally, we know that however narrow and limited the framework of our personal existence, each one of us has been made responsible for a tiny part of the Kingdom of God, made responsible by that very gift of Christ's love. Thus, on whether or not we have accepted this responsibility, on whether we have loved or refused to love, we will be judged…

Assisted by Very Rev. Fr. Gabriel Rochelle, Rev. Fr. Thephan Mackey and Deacon Theodore Brinegar, Archbishop Daniel was formally presented with a candidate for the Holy Deaconate of the Church – Subdeacon Clinton Kifolo. In the prayerful bowing in front of the bishop, veneration of his hand the sacred altar, the candidate for the ordination knelt in front of the altar of the mission community, as the archbishop recited the prayer of ordination.

Suddenly, raised from a posture of prayerful submission, the newly-ordained deacon was embraced by the powerful AXIOS! WORTHY! – the exclamation of the Christian community, recognizing the call to service and his desire to serve as he is set aside to care for the needs of the mission community along with Fr. Gabriel. In his short instructions to the newly-ordained Deacon Clinton, Vladyka Daniel stated “…I would ask you from this day forward, remember two important responsibilities: One, that you are entrusted with the Holy Gospel. You don’t own this book; you are a trustee like all the rest of us, to share this great news about Jesus Christ. Every time you read the Gospel at Liturgy, think of this day and how this task is entrusted to you… Second, you are now particular servants of the Eucharist, a role that belongs to the deacon, who stands by the priest and presents the chalice of the Precious Body and Blood of the Savior…” Archbishop Daniel concluded.

As the Divine Liturgy came to conclusion, Archbishop Daniel blessed an icon of St. John the Baptist – the labor of the mission’s iconographer Sara Harper, who was also commissioned by Vladyka Daniel to work on the icon dedicated to the Birth-Giver of God, the Nurturer of the Unborn children.

Once the Liturgy concluded, Archbishop Daniel presented Centennial Medals to the parishioners of the mission community that have worked tirelessly for the spiritual and physical welfare of the community: Pani-matka Susan Steinhaus, Verlaine Elizabeth Davies, Subdeacon Vladimir Michael Laven and Very Rev. Fr. Gabriel Rochelle, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

Following the Divine Liturgy, a festive potluck offered the eighty some people who gathered different foods to savor and the opportunity to once again socialize with each other and approach the bishop with the requests for prayers and blessings.

At about 5am on Monday morning, Archbishop Daniel and seminarians Subdeacon Ihor Protsak and Yaroslav Bilohan departed Las Cruces, NM for the Spiritual Center – Metropolia of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in South Bound Brook, NJ.

Photos by Seminarian Yaroslav Bilohan
Find the 5 Differences
GREAT LENT

Word Search

GREAT
LENT
ALMS
CHARITY
PRAYER
DESERT
FORTY
MEAT
MILK
GREGORY
PALAMAS
ORTHODOXY
ICON
LADDER
CROSS
EGYPT
CHRIST
JESUS
LOVE
IT IS GREAT LENT, AND I WILL SHOW GOD HOW MUCH I LOVE HIM

In addition to following the directions my parents have given me for Great Lent, I promise to:

☐ Go to sleep on time without complaining
☐ Help wash the dishes
☐ Clean my room
☐ Not drink any soda pop
☐ ___________________________________________________
☐ ___________________________________________________
☐ ___________________________________________________
☐ ___________________________________________________
☐ ___________________________________________________

During Great Lent I will pray my Evening Prayers before going to bed, and in addition to my family, I will pray that the Lord helps:

Pray for the child at school that everyone picks on

Pray for child that always picks on you

Pray for person you saw on TV that is having a hard time

Pray for a sick friend, etc.

Lord, bless....

My bishops – Metropolitan Antony, and Archbishop Daniel

Father (name of your priest)_______________________and his family

___________________________________________________

___________________________________________________

___________________________________________________

___________________________________________________

___________________________________________________

Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий
Дякую за мою родину,
За сонце, за місяць,
За Америку, та Україну.

Поможи мені Боже
Бути доброю дитиною,
Слухати батьків,
Бути чемною, та мудрою.

My bishops – Metropolitan Antony, and Archbishop Daniel

Father (name of your priest)_______________________and his family

___________________________________________________

___________________________________________________

___________________________________________________

___________________________________________________

___________________________________________________
MARCH


MARCH
Burlack, Evelyn (Graham) of Murrysville, PA on February 14, 2019 at the age of 88 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. Robert Popichak of Holy Ghost Parish, Suckville, PA.

Iwanenko, Vera of Blasdell, NY on January 26, 2019 at the age of 67 years, officiating clergy Fr. Yuriy Kasyanov of Holy Trinity Parish, Como Park Blvd.

Miner, Larry Andrew of Hamilton, NJ on February 18, 2019 at the age of 61 years, officiating clergy Fr. Zinovi Zharsky of Holy Trinity Parish, Trenton, NJ.

Zukowski, Alexander of Buffalo, NY on February 15, 2019 at the age of 59 years, officiating clergy Fr. Yuriy Kasyanov of Holy Trinity Parish, Como Park Blvd.

As salt is needed for all kinds of food, so humility is needed for all kinds of virtues.
- St. Isaac the Syrian
May God grant to them many happy and blessed years!

V. Rev. George Bazylevsky  March 8, 2003
Rev. Vasyl Shak               March 12, 2016
Rev. Bohdan Marusczak        March 15, 1998
Rev. Walter Hvostik          March 19, 1995
V. Rev. Gregory Czumak        March 24, 2001
V. Rev. Michael Kochis        March 27, 1995
V. Rev. Mykola Krywonos       March 28, 1981
Dn. Clinton Kifolo           March 3, 2019
MARCH
19th 1954 - PROTOPRIEST IVAN LECHICKYJ
31st 1965 - MITRED PROTOPRIEST VOLODYMYR SOKOLOWSKY
6th 1968 - PROTOPRIEST VOLODYMYR PYLYPEC
5th 1970 - PROTOPRIEST MICHAEL MOSTENSKY
5th 1970 - PROTOPRIEST PETRO OPARENKO
14th 1970 - MITRED PROTOPRIEST LEONID DOLYNSKYJ
15th 1970 - MITRED PROTOPRIEST EVHEN KOROLYSHYN
18th 1982 - PROTOPRESBYTER WILLIAM OLYNYK
23rd 1986 - DEACON PETER WESILOWSKY
25th 1989 - PROTOPRESBYTER OREST KULICK
8th 1993 - PROTOPRIEST ANATOLIJ BULAWKA
14th 1993 - PRIEST DR. MYKOLA STÉPANENKO
4th 1996 - PRIEST WILLIAM WOJCIECHOWSKI
31st 2004 - PROTOPRESBYTER WILLIAM CZEKALUK
13th 2008 - MITRED PROTOPRIEST IVAN MIRONKO
2nd 2009 - PROTOPRESBYTER MICHAEL PETLAK
1st 2010 - PROTODEACON VOLODYMYR POLISCHUK

MEMORY ETERNAL!  ВІЧНА ПАМ’ЯТЬ!
Journey in to the desert with other Orthodox faithful by participating in a Lenten Retreat.

Become spiritually transformed through fasting, Lenten services, and spiritually edifying sessions.

GOD IS CALLING
...will you answer?

MAKING SPACE FOR GRACE IN EVERY MOMENT
Saturday, March 23, 2019
Tampa, Florida
Contact: Daria Pishko Komichak
firetreat@uolnj.org

DON'T JUST GO TO CHURCH, BE THE CHURCH
Saturday, March 30, 2019
Villa Maria, Pennsylvania
Contact Information:
ohlwpalenentrretreat@gmail.com
(412)-565-9441

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME
Saturday, April 6, 2019
Troy, New York
Contact: fr.vasyldovgan@gmail.com
or corrsecretary@uolofusa.org

FOCUSING ON THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT
Saturday, April 13, 2019
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Contact: Oleh or Natalie Bilinsky
nsuffer@aol.com (610) 892-7315
PAN-ORTHOODOX LENTEN RETREAT 2019

HOSTED BY THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE AND
HOLY PROTECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH, DOVER, FLORIDA

“MAKING SPACE FOR GRACE IN EVERY MOMENT”
“But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.” (Ephesians 4:7)

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019

EARLY REGISTRATION (BY FEBRUARY 28): $45 PER PERSON
$20=STUDENT RATE 21 YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER
REGISTRATION: $55 PER PERSON; $25 STUDENT RATE

LOCATION: YBOR CITY CAMPUS OF
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING
1320 E. PALM AVENUE
TAMPA, FL 33605

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: DARIA PISHKO KOMICHA
E-MAIL: FLRETDRET@UOLNJ.ORG
2019 UOL Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat
Senior/Junior Retreat Program and Activities
(Ohio/Western, Pennsylvania)
8:15 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday, March 30, 2019

Don’t just go to Church,
Be the Church

Why Here, Why Now, Why Me
Looking from the Inside Out, Looking from the Outside In
It’s only a matter of time, Living a Life that Matters

Registration Fees:
Adults $35.00 • Adults (Ages 19 to 25) $20.00
Youth (Ages 10 to 15) Free

8:15 AM – 5:00 PM: Registration, Continental Breakfast, Morning
Prayers, Lecture/Discussion, Lunch, Vespers, Pizza and Refreshments, Departure

Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center
2067 Evergreen Road • P.O. Box 424 • Villa Maria, PA 16155 • Phone: 724-964-8886
Overnight accommodations available at Villa Maria (Single Room w/Bath $55.00; Double Room w/Communal Bathroom $25.00 per/person Double Occupancy) for long-distance travelers and others. Rates are subject to change.

For more information or to request a registration form, call or text 412-565-9441 or send an email to: ohiowpalentenretreat@gmail.com

“It is not he who begins well who is perfect. It is he who ends well who is approved in God’s sight.”
— St. Basil the Great —
How can we be of service to others?

Please join us:

APRIL 6, 2019, SATURDAY

For a Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox League, Troy NY, Father Vasyl Dovgan Spiritual Advisor

St Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church

376 Third Street, Troy NY

9:30am to 4:00pm

$25.00 per person includes light breakfast, catered lunch, several guest speakers. More details to follow.

To register send a check payable: UOL of USA to: Patricia Walton, 3 W. Circular Court, Saratoga Springs NY 12866

Questions: send an email to: fr.vasyldovgan@gmail.com or coresecretary@uolofusa.org
Lenten Retreat

Focusing on the Ladder of Divine Ascent and our spiritual journey one step at a time

April 13, 2019

Speakers:
His Eminence
Metropolitan Gregory
Fr. Anthony Perkins

Retreat registration:
Adults $45 (late fee $10)
Adolescents $20 (late fee $10)
Children (under 12) $7

Registration includes all meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

For more information contact:
Oleh or Natalie Bilynsky at
nsufler@aol.com call – 610-892-7315

St. Francis Center for Renewal
395 Bridle Path Road
Bethlehem, PA
Praying Our Way Together
Through Great Lent 2019

Eph. 6:17-18 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to the end with all perseverance…”

Come join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ on a Lenten journey as we pray and read the Psalter each day for 20 days!

What: Reading the Psalter
When: March 18, 2019 – April 12, 2019, five days a week, Monday - Friday, at any convenient time
Where: In the comfort of your home or wherever you may be with your device.
Why: To heighten your Lenten journey by reading the Prayer Book of the Church!

If you would like to journey with us, please email your name, address, phone number, parish name, and parish address to Janice Meschisen at Bridesong150@gmail.com and more information will be sent to you.

Please respond by March 13, 2019
Sponsored by the UOL
Archangel Icons

2019 Icon Workshops

An intense six day course where the student will create an icon using acrylic techniques.

Learn basic color mixing, and painting techniques.

Be instructed in the history and theology of the icon.

Receive personal instruction and demonstration for each stage of painting.

June 10 - 15, 2019
July 22-27, 2019
August 12-17, 2019
Archangel Studios, Carnegie, PA

For complete info and registration: kapeluck@verizon.net
With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, the spiritual father of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, the clergy of Chicago Deanery of the Church will gather at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago, IL for the annual spiritual retreat/Deanery meeting with Vladyka Daniel presiding on March 22, 2019.

Beginning with the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, the clergy of the Deanery will have the opportunity to pray with their bishop as well as to discuss the pastoral issues pertaining to the numerous parishes and missions of the UOC of the USA in the Mid-Western and Central USA as well as the new pastoral challenges and ministerial opportunities that have arises following the granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

Taking into consideration Vladyka Daniel's role in the establishment of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and the need for historical and pastoral witness of Ukrainian Orthodox Christians throughout the world, the clergy and lay representatives of the parishes shall reflect upon the role of the Church in modern society, truly reflecting the mission of the Church as it is defined by the Canon Law of the Holy Orthodox Church.

The clergy that will represent the parishes of the UOC of the USA and participate in the meeting of the Chicago Deanery of the UOC of the USA:

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel – Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the UOC of the USA

Very Rev. Fr. Bohdan Kalynuyk – Dean of the Chicago Deanery and pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Bensenville, IL
Very Rev. Fr. Ivan Lymar – pastor of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Chicago, IL
Very Rev. Fr. Raymond Sundland – pastor of Holy Archangel Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Pro-Cathedral, Hammond, IN
Very Rev. Fr. Vasyl Sendeha – pastor of Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Palos Park, IL
Rev. Fr. Walter Hvostik – pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Milwaukee, WI
Rev. Fr. Silouan Rolando – pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Goshen, IN
Rev. Fr. Gregory Jensen - pastor of the Mission community in Madison, WI
Protodeacon Andriy Fronchak – St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Chicago, IL
Deacon James Stickel – Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Goshen IN
Very Rev. Fr. Andriy Shelvakh and Rev. Fr. Mykola Dilendorf (leave of absence) – clergy of the Chicago Deanery of the UOC of the USA.
UOL ABC BOOKS

The ABC’s of My Church.....

“Anne Learns About Holy Communion” and

“Andrew’s First Holy Confession”

A must have for EVERY Parish and Parent!!

◊ Beautifully illustrated

◊ Educational books

◊ Ideal for children ages 4-8

The story will capture a child’s interest while the pictures will enhance the understanding of the Sacraments of Holy Communion or Holy Confession.

Order Form

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________# Anne Receives Holy Communion

________ Total number of books

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Shipping Cost + $ 3.00

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3 W. Circular Ct

Saratoga Springs NY 12866
COME AND SHARE IN THE LIGHT, GRACE AND GOSPEL OF THE RISEN LORD WITH OTHERS!

SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY

SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY

MAY THE SOULS OF OUR BELOVED FIND REST AMONG THE SAINTS AND THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

MAY 4 & 5, 2019

ST. THOMAS WEEKEND PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE

BRIGHT SATURDAY – May 4, 2019

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy St. Andrew Memorial Church

3:00 PM Picnic at St. Sophia Seminary

6:00 PM Vespers and Confessions - Seminary Chapel

BRIGHT SUNDAY – May 5, 2019

9:30 AM Eucharistic Liturgy, celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, pastors of local and distant parish communities.

11:30 AM Memorial Service in front of St. Andrew Memorial Church, commemorating the departed servants of God, His Holiness Patriarch Mykola, Metropolitan John, Metropolitan Constantine, and all departed hierarchs, clergy and faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., along with the victims of Stalin’s genocidal famine of 1932-33, the victims of the Chornobyl disaster; those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom and independence of Ukraine and the U.S.A., as well as our fallen soldiers throughout the world, especially the fallen heroes of the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity – the Heavenly Hundred.

PARKING REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

As directed by the Consistory, all parking on Memorial Church and Cemetery grounds is strictly prohibited on Saturday, 14 April and Sunday, 15 April. Parking is permitted only on the Consistory grounds located at 135 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, N.J. Round trip transportation of pilgrims to the Memorial Church and Cemetery will be provided.

Cultural exhibits and all commerce will take place on Saturday, 14 April 2018 from Noon to 6 PM and Sunday, 15 April from Noon to 6 PM in the main auditorium of the Cultural Center. Permits for sales must be obtained from the Consistory. No business will be transacted during the Liturgy and Panakhida. Any individuals conducting unauthorized sales will be removed from the property.

The Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A, the clergy and the Office of Youth Ministry encourage children and youth of our Holy Metropolis to enrich their lives by participating with their parents and family members in the various liturgical services, especially the Holy Mystery of Confession and the Holy Eucharist during this year’s Holy Pilgrimage. Youth activities scheduled for Sunday, 15 April 2018 will emphasize a relationship based on our relationship to Christ.

All other Panakhida (Memorial Services) are permitted only after the conclusion of the general Panakhida.

PLEASE NOTE: MEMORIAL SERVICES ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING BRIGHT WEEK – MONDAY TO FRIDAY (17-22 APRIL 2017). THESE DAYS ARE RESERVED FOR GRAVE CLEANING AND CEMETERY PREPARATION FOR ST. THOMAS SUNDAY.
ФОМИНА ПРОВІДНА НЕДІЛЯ

НЕХАЙ ДУШІ НАШИХ УЛЮБЛЄНИХ ЗІ СВЯТИМИ СПОЧИВАЮТЬ, А ПАМ’ЯТІТЬ ПРО НІХ БУДЕ З РОДУ В РІДІ!

ФОМИНА ПРОВІДНА НЕДІЛЯ

РОЗКЛАД ПОДІЙ

СВЯТА СУБОТА - 4 ТРАВНЯ, 2019
Українська церква та церкви, та події для молоді під час обіду
10:00 год. ночі — Літургія в Церкві-Пам’ятнику св. Андрія
3:00 год. ночі — Пікнік при семінарії Святої Софії
6:00 год. ночі — Вечірня і славія в каплиці семінарії

НЕДІЛЯ - 5 ТРАВНЯ, 2019
Українська церква та церкви, та події для молоді під час обіду
9:30 год. ночі — Божественна Літургія, очолена Високопреосвященішим Митрополитом Антонієм та Архієпископом Данилом у співслужжні місцевого та приїжджого духовенства.
11:30 год. ночі — Після Літургії відбувається Панахида перед Церквою-Пам’ятнику св. Андрія за спокій душ обруча Божих: сво. п. Патріарка Митропола, Митрополит Анона, Митрополит Константина та всіх спочивших спісіпів, священиків і вірних церкви, а також за спокій душ жертв Геншеру - Голодомору 1932-33 р.р., Чернобильської трагедії, всіх тих, що життя свої покійли в боротьбі за волю й незалежність Україну і США, та всіх загиблих воїнів, особливо за души героїв що полягли під час Українського Майдану Гідності — Небесної Сотні.

УВАГА! на протязі світлої тижня від підніжжя до п’ятниці увічнено проведення панахиди на цвинтарі не дозволено. Ці дні зарезервовані на впорядкування могил до проводів.

ЗАГАЛЬНІ ПРАВИЛА

Консисторія повідомляє, що паркування авт в суботу 4 травня та неділю травня 2018 року буде тільки на площі Консисторії при 135 Davidson Ave, Somerset, NJ. Для транспортування важких громадян можна паркуватися на площі і Церкву Пам’ятником цвинтарі вдосконалено спеціальну авт (Constistory vans). Паркування авт біля Церкви Пам’ятника і на цвинтарі твердо заборонене.

Виставки і продаж різноманітних товарів відбуваються в суботу і неділю від 12 год. до 16 год. в першу суботу залі Центру, а в другу залі Консисторії. Готуйте документи. Собівартість відомої з населення гір та у місті та у місті 135 Davidson Ave, Somerset, NJ. Для транспортування важких громадян можна паркуватися на площі і Церкву Пам’ятником цвинтарі вдосконалено спеціальну авт (Constistory vans). Паркування авт біля Церкви Пам’ятника і на цвинтарі твердо заборонене.

Собор Епископів УПЦ США, духовенство та Відділ Праці з Молоддю закликає дітей і молодь нашої Митрополії збагатити цього року своє життя участью, разом з членами своєї родини, у різних Богослужіннях, особливо в Свайствах св. Спирид і св. Причасть. Молоддю завжди, заплановані на неділю, підкресліть стосунки базовані на наших стосунках з Христом.

Приватні Панахида можна служити тільки після закінчення загальної Панахиди.
MISSION TRIP

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA

MISSION TRIP

BEING THE FACE OF CHRIST

AUGUST 5-17
2019

JOIN US IN SERVING OUR ORPHANAGES IN ZNAMYANKA, UKRAINE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER ONLINE:
UOCYOUTH.ORG

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
MARCH 15
$2,700
JOIN THE TEAM!
Available positions for:
ALL AGES (14+)
AVAILABILITIES (WEEKLY, WEEKENDS)
INTERESTS (PROGRAM, FACILITIES, KITCHEN)
PAID + VOLUNTEER
Apply at uocyouth.org

WORK WEEKENDS
March 8-10 + April 5-7
May 17-19 + June 7-9

RENT ALL SAINTS CAMP FOR
YOUR EVENT OR RETREAT!

2019 PROGRAMS

ST. NICHOLAS PROGRAM
June 14-17 (All Ages)

DIOCESAN CHURCH SCHOOL CAMP
June 23-July 6 (Ages 9-13)

TEENAGE CONFERENCE
July 7-20 (Ages 13-18)

MOMMY/DADDY + ME CAMP
July 27-31 (Ages 4-8 + Parent/s)

CLERGY FAMILY RETREAT
August 19-23 (All Ages)

FAMILY FEST
Aug. 30-Sep. 2 (All Ages)

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
Camping Ministry

All Saints Camp

Summer Camp

uocyouth.org/uoccp
allsaaintscamp.org
uocyouth@aol.com
josho@allsaaintscamp.org
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Get involved in the life of your Church!
The success of all Church sponsored events depends upon your active participation!

PRAYING OUR WAY THROUGH LENT
March 18 – April 12
Janice Meschisen
Bridesong150@gmail.com

MOMMY & ME/DADDY & ME CAMP
July 28 – August 1
All Saints Camp
Emlenton, PA

ST. NICHOLAS PROGRAM CAMP
June 14 – 17
All Saints Camp
Emlenton, PA

COLLEGE SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO UKRAINE
Aug 5 – 17
Registration due by March 15

DIOCESAN CHURCH SCHOOL CAMP
June 23 – July 6
All Saints Camp
Emlenton, PA

72nd UOL CONVENTION
August 1-4, 2019
All Saints Camp
Emlenton, PA

TEENAGE CONFERENCE CAMP
July 7 – 20
All Saints Camp
Emlenton, PA

22nd REGULAR SOBOR
October 17-19, 2019
Metropolia Center
South Bound Brook, NJ