

# THE WAY ШЛЯХ

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ENGLISH VERSION

## Despite the Covid-19 Pandemic, South Anthracite Deanery Continues Ukrainian Seminary Day Tradition with Prayers for Vocations

### Ukrainian Seminary Day Divine Liturgy Celebrated and Livestreamed

Seven Ukrainian Catholic priests gathered in St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shenandoah, PA on Sunday, July 26, 2020 to celebrate a Divine Liturgy to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated religious life. Due to the pandemic, a private Divine Liturgy was celebrated by priests in the South Anthracite Deanery and livestreamed on Facebook.



**Photo (l to r): Very Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, Rev. Mark Fesniak, Very Rev. Mykola Ivanov, Monsignor Myron Grabowsky, Very Rev. Archpriest Michael Hutsko, and Rev. Petro Zvarych (Photo by Rev. D. George Worschak)**

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## Despite the Covid-19 Pandemic, South Anthracite Deanery Continues Ukrainian Seminary Day Tradition with Prayers for Vocations



**Very Rev. Mykola Ivanov offers the homily (Photo: Jacqueline Dormer)**

**Shenandoah, Pa.**— This year, Sunday, July 26, 2020 was to be a milestone day for the annual Pa. South Anthracite Deanery Ukrainian Seminary Day. Since 1985 until 2019, this annual celebration of faith, spiritual and Ukrainian cultural heritage has raised \$987,600 for the support of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary which is located adjacent to the campus of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Everyone was looking to

surpass the million dollar mark with what would have been the 86th annual event.

However, with the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting safe distancing guidelines, the South Anthracite Deaneery clergy were confronted with the dilemma—how to continue the tradition this year without jeopardizing the health and safety of the faithful.

The clergy under the leadership of Very

Reverend Mykola Ivanov, protopresbyter of the South Anthracite Deanery, decided that this year, Sunday, July 26 would be a day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life since the festival could not be held at Primrose.

Father Ivanov explained that as we pray for vocations, we are returning to the beginning of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States.

“We decided to celebrate Divine Liturgy in St. Michael’s Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shenandoah, Pa., the first Eastern Catholic church founded in the United States.,” he said

“Even at the beginning, when our ancestors founded the celebration, it was a day of prayer,” Ivanov said. “There were services where they prayed. That was the idea. Later on, we were adding food

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# Despite the Covid-19 Pandemic, South Anthracite Deanery Continues Ukrainian Seminary Day Tradition with Prayers for Vocations

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and it became bigger and bigger with music, dancing and cultural exhibits. However, in the very beginning, it was a day of prayer.”

Because of health precautions and attendance limitations, the Divine Liturgy was closed to the public, but it was livestreamed over Facebook on church social media pages throughout the Philadelphia Archeparchy.

The Very Rev. Mykola Ivanov was the main celebrant and homilist. Other priests who concelebrated were the Rev. George Worschak, the Very Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, the Very Rev. Archpriest Michael Hutsko, Monsignor Myron Grabowsky, the Rev. Petro Zvarych and the Rev. Mark Fesniak, with the Rev. Deacon Paul M. Spotts assisting. Choir members of the Protection of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church in McAdoo sang the liturgical responses.

“We are grateful for this beautiful day that God sent to us and be here in

this holy church,” Ivanov said in his homily. “We are here in this church to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.”

Since 1933, when then Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky was the inspirational leader for the first Ukrainian Day for the establishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in the United States, generations of faithful gathered every year on the last Sunday in July in Lakewood Park, Barnesville, Pa. until 1983 to pray for vocations and support the seminary.

After Lakewood Park closed in 1983, without a home, there was no Ukrainian Day in 1984.

Very Reverend George Dubitsky, dean and Very Reverend Frank Patrylak, vice- dean, in response to an appeal from Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk in 1985, and with the support of the clergy, faithful and South Anthracite Deanery Holy Name Societies, relocated the annual event to St. Nicholas Grove, Primrose, just outside

of Minersville, Pa. On Sunday, July 28, 1985 Ukrainian Seminary Day, with a new format, was once again a reality in Schuylkill County in the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania.

This year despite the

covid-19 pandemic, the tradition continued.

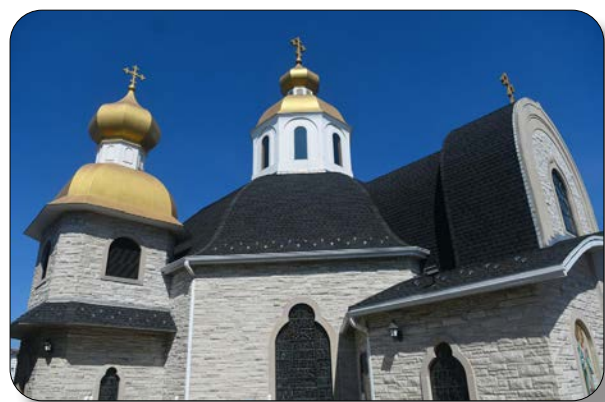
The South Anthracite Deanery still hopes to exceed the \$1 million mark this year by relying on the generous contributions of benefactors.

Anyone who wants to donate to the seminary may do so by mailing donations of any size to:

South Anthracite Deanery  
Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church,  
303 N. Shamokin St.  
Shamokin, PA, 17972-5460.

Checks should be made payable to Ukrainian Seminary Day.

The deanery is comprised of 12 churches in the Pennsylvania counties of Schuylkill (Frackville, Maizeville, McAdoo, Middleport, Minersville, Saint Clair and Shenandoah), Luzerne (Hazleton), Northumberland (Marion Heights, Mount Carmel and Shamokin) and Columbia (Centralia).



**Shenandoah, PA**  
**(Photo: Jacqueline Dormer)**

**“Whatsoever you did for the least of my brethren, you did for me.”**

**by Very Rev. Archpriest Michael Hutsko**



**“Soup and Sandwich” Ministry Helpers in Mt. Carmel, PA**

**(Pictured: MaryAnn Horoshak, Tania Ladika, Abbie Timmins, Gerri Zvoncheck, Toni Shedeski, JoAnne Mudry, Myhaihla Sternick, Abbie Boehmer, Diane Molesevich, Dakota Boehmer, Chris Bogner, Charles Smit)**

**Mt. Carmel, Pa.--** As the Great Fast of 2017 approached, the pastor and parishioners of Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Mt. Carmel and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Centralia, heard these words of Our Lord and prayerfully allowed them to enter their hearts and to transform their lives.

Very soon a meeting was held with interested faithful of both parishes, under the direction of Fr. Michael Hutsko their pastor. The sole topic of the meeting was the question “can we establish a ministry to the

poor, the lonely and the elderly; and, how can we do it.”

Ideas and thoughts flowed freely among all in attendance. Everyone mentally took stock of our facilities, considered the number of volunteers needed and looked at the number of activities already scheduled of in the parishes.

A consensus formed that we could provide a simple soup and sandwich meal twice monthly on Wednesdays. As a way of involving the everyone from both parish communities as

well as to provide some extra funds to purchase food, it was decided a “loose-change” collection would be taken in each parish on the last weekend of the month with all money collected ear-marked for the new social ministry.

The volunteers, comprised of faithful men and women from both parishes, immediately set forth to make the plan a reality. A start day was set and word was spread throughout the Mt. Carmel area informing those interested in receiving a free soup and sandwich meal would be

warmly welcomed.

From March of that year, 1917, every second Wednesday became known as “Soup and Sandwich” Wednesday. During that time, our social hall became a gathering place for dozens of the “least of the brethren” where they were nurtured both in body, soul and mind. Our volunteers not only prepared and served the meals, they also joined in conversation with our “guests” allowing a community of disciples to form and be nurtured.

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**“Whatever you did for the least of my brethren, you did for me.”**

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As the months went by new ideas and offerings arose. Blankets were donated and distributed, coats and hats were provided to all in need, everyday toiletries were provided and small take-home bags of food were added in order to make-up for another meal they may not have.

This “Soup and Sandwich” ministry thrived in this manner for almost four years. Then, Covid-19 struck bringing with it tremendous changes in everyone’s life. No longer could we welcome our guests into the social hall. Interested parties met again and asked what could we do? How can we respond to this new challenge? The decision was clear and immediate. People lost their jobs; families were struggling to survive; fear gripped the lives of so many. In the Mt. Carmel area suddenly everyone was poor or lonely or in need.

The decision was made to immediately expand the menu to make it a full dinner--soup, entrée, dessert and a drink. Since we could no longer use the hall, all meals would be packaged for



**Pictured: Toni Shedleski, Mykaihl Sternick, Diane Molesevich**

take-out and distributed from the hall vestibule. The response from the community was overwhelming. In the early weeks we served approximately 75 dinners each Wednesday. As word spread and the need increased, we began preparing and distributing 125 meals per week. In the last six weeks our numbers have increased to 150 hot meals per week!

Taking notice to the fact that many people had

no transportation to come to our location, the decision was made to find a second, more convenient location. After some discussion and scouting the town for prospective locations, we approached the Mt. Carmel Library about using the covered entrance to their facility to distribute meals. The Directors response was overwhelmingly positive. Since June of this year, we are now distributing meals from both our parish social hall as well

as in front of the library which is more centrally located in the community.

Several wonderful and blessed things have happened as this humble ministry grew.

In addition to the “loose change” of our parishioners, we are receiving regular and very generous donations from businesses and individuals in the

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# “Whatever you did for the least of my brethren, you did for me.”

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borough who see and appreciate the value of what our small parishes are accomplishing, for which we are most grateful. Additionally, funds are being provided by Thrivent Lutheran Services, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Church and the Directors of the Mt. Carmel Public Library. Also, relationships have been established with several national food purveyors that have local warehouses, who are able to provide some food and material supplies for this ministry

Our parishes and our parishioners have worked very hard and have sacrificed much time and talent to create and grow this outreach to God’s children. We started with very little except a desire to respond in a concrete way to the Gospel. God has blessed us immensely and has multiplied our meager gifts in order to meet the needs of the “least of the brethren”. We have learned all things are possible when done with the heart of a disciple. We experience the goodness of God and see the image of



## *Ss Peter & Paul Church Wednesday Weekly Dinner*

★ *Free For All*

*11:30 AM- until all meals are distributed*

*Carry-out Meals may be picked up at the following locations:*

- *131 North Beech Street, Mt Carmel Church hall*
- *30 South Oak Street MC Public Library*

**Questions: 570.339.0650**

Jesus Christ in the faces of those who come seeking nourishment on Wednesdays. Our lives have indeed been enriched and blessed in countless ways by their presence to us.

In a sense by responding to the Gospel message with action, we fulfill the Scripture as written in the First Epistle of John, “Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth.” (1 Jn. 3:18)

## Assumption Catholic School, Perth Amboy NJ Now Enrolling

Come and see what we're all about!

We are now accepting applications for limited spaces for our in-person program.

We are a Catholic elementary school educating children of all faiths from pre-K (age 4) through 8th grade. AdvancED accredited, the school provides a Christ-centered, Catholic environment to a diverse population of students.

• STREAM focused Curriculum. • Pre-K through 8th grade Chromebook and iPad technology integrated with Google Classroom. • Smartboards, Technology-Media Center, and Science Lab all enhance our academic programs. • After School Extra Curricular Activity Opportunities: Track, Bowling, Basketball Club, Drama, Coding Club, Musical Groups, Student Council and many others. • Before Care and After Care are available.



FREE 21st Century Afterschool programs.

Tours are available for prospective students and their parents.

For more information or to schedule an appointment visit us at 380 Meredith St, Perth Amboy, NJ, call 732-826-8721 or go to the school's website [www.assumptioncatholicschool.net](http://www.assumptioncatholicschool.net)

We speak English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Ukrainian. Visit us and learn why so many of our graduates were accepted to the high school of their choice!



## Archbishop Borys Gudziak visits parishes in South Jersey

Archbishop Borys Gudziak celebrated Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Millville, NJ on July 11th and St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Cherry Hill, NJ on July 12th.



Photo above: Cherry Hill, NJ

Photo at left: Millville, NJ

## Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate To Hold Virtual Pilgrimage

Fr. Daniel Troyan offered the homily during the Divine Liturgy on August 3, 2020 at the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Sloatsburg, NY. Due to the pandemic, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate are livestreaming the Holy Dormition/Assumption Novena and their 66th



Annual Holy Dormition Pilgrimage. Fr. Daniel Troyan spoke about how a novena comes from the Latin for "nine". It is prayer repeated for nine days or weeks or years. He also spoke of how people turn to the Gospel in times of tragedy to find peace. He also stressed how we should always listen to the word of God.

**Find out more about the Assumption Novena and Pilgrimage to be held virtually on August 8th and 9th on the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate website at <https://ssmi-us.org/>**





*Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate*

*“Here I am Lord” - Part IV*



**Sr. Michele Yakymovitch, SSMI** - My story begins in New York State where I grew up in Rochester belonging to the St. Josaphat parish family, the oldest of five children (one brother three sisters). We were all fortunate to attend St. Josaphat School taught by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate.

My mother was a “stay at home mom” and my father came from a generation of bakers. We were American Ukrainians in a simple family, and according to my mother did not need sleep overs, since we had each other and that was enough! Growing up was in our “one and only” home with a one floor home, seven people to one bathroom, with the experience of bunkbeds. It was the faith of a mother that sustained her family throughout a lifetime.

My father’s dream for me, his firstborn, was to be a court stenographer. So off to St. Joseph’s Business High School in downtown Rochester I went. A totally new world opened up, being taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (Latin rite) and Redemptorist Fathers. I still can sing the songs we sang from attending daily Mass. I excelled in the business subjects and learned to ski.

Whether it was twelve years of Catholic education or business skills or both combined, I quickly found a job upon graduation. I worked for the local branch of Rochester’s government office, Medicare/Medicaid. Truly an eye opener following a protected, loving environment! Even back in the 70’s it was not a perfect world. I believe it was then that I began to seriously think of a better fuller life. I wanted to change the world with a totally committed spirit. I enjoyed life up to this point without any inclination of wanting to join some religious community. I had the experience of knowing and being with the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate (Eastern rite) and the School Sisters of Notre Dame. I even went as far as to spend a weekend or two at their motherhouse in Connecticut. I was still not ready to commit to anyone or anything. Completing a year of working for the government I decided it was time to step away. It was only when I told my mother what I wanted to do, did my mind change. I was set to go off to the School Sisters of Notre Dame. My mother tearfully said, if I must go could I not go to our own, the Sisters Servants. My mother was a very wise woman. Her choice had and still has made all the difference for me 49 years later.

My life among the Sisters Servants has given me so many opportunities that I would never have imagined. My business skills from home were used when I taught at our Villa Academy until its closing. I enjoyed teaching grade school but those years ended too soon, maybe because I enjoyed it too much. I spent three years in St. Louis with the Jesuits completing religious studies and studies in Formation. Did that give me the background I needed for leadership within the community? Possibly, for it opened up new avenues of seeing the world, culture and diversity of church. Leadership in community has given me the opportunity to visit our provinces throughout the world as well as the few visits to Ukraine the roots of our community but also the roots of my family. Those are all lasting cherished memories. I always wanted to change the world for a better place. Some instances that has happened, and in most cases I have had to change myself in order to change what was around me. I can only strive daily to remember it is by the Grace of God that I go and live out my favorite passage of Micah... to love tenderly, act justly and walk humbly with God!



**Sr. Longina Gawrylow** - I am the daughter of Mary and Alex and grew up in Belfield, ND. I come from a large family that lived on a traditional farm – growing wheat and other crops, plus raising livestock. While growing-up, I enjoyed music, singing, dancing and caring for the sick. My desire to become a nurse began at the age of eight, when I helped care for my dying grandmother — my Mom’s mother. Before entering religious life, I worked as a nurse-aide at Saint Joseph’s Hospital, which the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross owned. These Sisters encouraged me to enter their order, but I didn’t want to give-up my Byzantine Rite with its rich traditions.

However, when I met the SSMI’s, I knew then that I wanted to be like them. I felt a strong calling, but my battle was in giving-up a marriage that was planned for the coming Fall. While I did a lot of praying over this matter, the Sisters Servants were praying everyday with their children for a very special intention, without knowing that this intention was for me. After a lot of praying and discernment, I chose to give my life to Jesus as part of SSMI.

I have enjoyed my 78 years of community life at a variety of missions in the US and Canada, serving as a: registered RN nurse; CCD teacher; sacristan at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, PA, and altar boy moderator.

**Sr. Evelyn Stock** - I was born on May 31, 1930 to loving parents, Theodore and Mary. I was baptized and confirmed five days after birth at Holy Trinity Church in St. Clair, PA. My parents instilled and molded in me and my siblings (John, Michael, Peter, Helen, Thomas, and Theodore) the fear of God, and also, the love of God, as well as the traditions of our Ukrainian heritage. They labored for the church and continued to render their services whenever needed.



My mother prayed that one day a son and daughter would be called to the priesthood and religious Life. Her prayers were answered when my brother John became a priest, and later a bishop for the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, and I became a sister.

I entered the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Sloatsburg, NY on August 15, 1946 and continued to Ancaster, Ontario for my novitiate. My first vows were made in 1949 with my final vows in 1955. I completed high school at Sacred Heart Academy in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Canada and went on to complete my Masters in the United States.

I’ve had the opportunity to visit Rome, France, Spain, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland – all breathtaking countries. I taught in elementary schools and served as principal. I will be celebrating my 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in Religious Life as a Sister Servant next year. I thank God for the gift of my vocation and all the people that have touched my life while in ministry.

**Are you being called to be a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate?**  
**Phone: 845-753-2840 E-mail: [srkath25@gmail.com](mailto:srkath25@gmail.com)**  
**website: [ssmi-us.org](http://ssmi-us.org)**



**Sister Barbara Stefaniak, SSMI** – *“One thing, I ask of the Lord; this I seek: To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.” Ps. 27:4*

Unknown to me, these words would take on meaning as a young age. I recall playing “nun” with a cloth on my head as a veil, moving quickly to see it fly. I also played priest, with my baby doll’s blanket safety pinned on as a phelon and a long sock filled with crayons and anything that would jingle, as I incensed my altar, which was my baby doll’s table.

The fascination with Church would have had no meaning if my loving parents, Nicholas and Anna did not instill this love of God and Church into their three children: Nicholas, Mary Katherine and I. We were fortunate to have the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate missioned at our Parish, SS. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ambridge, PA. As a Sodalist, I participated in the various church processions and Marian devotions. We helped the Sisters clean the vigils in Church, decorating the side Altars and dusting the Sanctuary.

Home life was a close knit family, where we learned our prayers, faith in God, love of the Blessed Mother and the traditions of the Church. My parents kept us active involving us in sports, games, piano lessons, etc. Amid all these experiences, the call to Religious Life was still alive in me. Towards my senior year in high school, I thought “What would happen if I wanted to take on a different life style?” I began to inquire about studying to be a lab technician. As I received responses, I noticed uneasiness overcoming me. As time went on, I knew that the only peace of soul I could receive was to enter the Covent.

On November 4, 1957, my parents and I boarded a train heading for Ontario, Canada. On November 5, 1957, I was driven to the Novitiate in Ancaster, Canada where I was received into the Community. Spiritual growth, love of family, relatives, Community members and friends helped me to grow deeper in love with God. A deeper love of our Blessed Mother also attributed to my spiritual growth.

One does not know what God will ask of us. Religious Life has taken me to different ministries in the Community: elementary school teaching, nursing home administration and Community finances. All in all, our Community’s motto: “Glory to God, Honor to Mary, Peace to us” continues to have deep meaning in my life.



**Sister Juliette Chicorli** – I was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. Our family belonged to Transfiguration of our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church. I experienced God’s call early in life and acted upon it as I entered the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate at the age of 17. My ministry during my 78 years of Religious Life had been in teaching primary grades throughout many of the parishes in the US such as Philadelphia, Shamokin, Minersville and Ambridge, Pennsylvania; Buffalo and Rochester, New York; Elizabeth and Passaic, New Jersey; and Ansonia Connecticut. I also enjoyed caring for the elderly at our St. Joseph’s Adult Care Home. “My religious life has been most interesting, and very rewarding with blessings a hundredfold daily!

## Setting St. Mary's back on a solid foundation

Work is presently being done on the exterior of the church building at St. Mary's (Patronage) parish in McAdoo, PA. Masonry (pointing, caulking) is being done and the repair of the Bell Tower will follow.



**May this exterior sign of renewal be a reflection of an interior, spiritual renewal.**

### PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

**DURING THIS UNPRECEDENTED TIME, EVERYONE IS ENDURING HARDSHIPS.**



**PARISHES, WITH NO WEEKLY COLLECTIONS AND CANCELLED FUNDRAISERS, ARE ALSO EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS AND HAVE A DESPERATE NEED OF FUNDS TO PAY THEIR REGULAR BILLS AND MEET THEIR PARISH EXPENSES.**

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH BY MAILING YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH UNTIL PUBLIC LITURGICAL SERVICES RESUME.**



# KIDS of THE WAY ШЛЯХ

Official Publication of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

## Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church: Christ Our Pascha



Did you ever think about what it takes to be with God in heaven for all eternity? The thing required is that we become the "likeness" of God, which means that we resemble him. We call this "divinization."

Read paragraph 123 in our Catechism. We will see that St. John of Damascus believes that this "likeness" is a likeness to God in virtue. So, virtue is pretty important.

But how do we do this? We do this by prayer, the receiving the Holy Mysteries, and by developing some very important virtues.

A virtue is a morally good habit. A habit is a good action that one develops by practicing that action. The action then becomes easier as time goes by—kind of like making your bed in the morning, or brushing your teeth after each meal.

The virtues we are going to learn about today are called theological virtues because they a gift of God. They are not something we can go out and find all by ourselves. They are not just natural virtues, such as justice and fortitude. We can read all about them in our Catechism beginning on page 267.

The three theological virtues are faith, hope and love. Sometimes you might hear, faith, hope and charity. Charity means the same thing as love. Just like when you give money to a charity, what you are really doing is showing your love for God and for your neighbor. **Charity = Love.**

**Faith** is a virtue. It is first given to us in our Baptism and strengthened by Chrismation. It is

the virtue by which we believe all God has told us because he loves us, wants us to be like him through **divinization or theosis**, which is the spiritual process by which we become more and more like God. God is totally trustworthy which means that all he reveals to us is true. Faith is the basis of all our moral actions because it lives in the very core of the human person. If we truly believe what God has told us, we will act like we believe it.

**Hope** is a virtue which comes from Faith and is a belief that God will fulfill his promises. If you believe that Jesus was crucified and really rose from the dead, you should believe that God will do everything He can, with your co-operation, to bring you into heaven. After all that was the whole purpose of his coming in the first place. This should encourage us to live a good life, so that we will be with Him forever in heaven.

**Love** is the most important virtue, coming from Faith and Baptism. Love is what our Christian life is all about. Without it, all we do is like nothing. God *is* love. God commands us to love both Him and our neighbor. At the Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples, "Love one another as I have loved you." And how exactly did God love us? The next day he was crucified for the salvation of all. He commands us to love even our enemies. That means showing love even to people who may be mean to us. Since God is love, love makes us more like God.

So faith is the foundation, we believe everything God has told us, hope gives the trust that God is powerful enough to fulfill His promise to bring us to heaven, and love is the way to get there. We need to pray that God will help strengthen these virtues in us so that we may become the person Christ died for you to become.

Written by Dr. William R. Luckey

# DORMITION Story

**Do you know how certain older members of the family tend to tell the same stories over and over again?** Usually, these stories are about some even in their lives that really made an impression on them and may have changed the way they live. They want to tell you all about it because they want you to remember it too and benefit from the same lessons they learned from it.

There was a man named Dionysius the Areopagite who lived at the time of the Apostles who wrote down a lot of things about that time period. Having witnessed the event himself, he wrote about the Dormition, or "falling asleep" of the Mother of Jesus. There was also a venerable Bishop named Meliton of Sardis who lived then too and wrote about what he knew of the event. These primary sources are the basis of our belief that after her death, the mortal body of the Mother of Jesus wasn't left upon the Earth to be buried, but was transported into heaven. Here is what they tell us about that event. After the Holy Spirit had descended upon the apostles and the Mother of God at Pentecost, they all lived together as a family for about ten years. The apostles would often listen to her stories and learn from her, and they grew to love her as their own mother. One by one, they each left to begin their missionary work, bringing the Gospel to people all over the world who didn't know about Christ and His kingdom, and soon only John the Theologian and Mary were the only ones left.

It wasn't long after the Resurrection that the persecution of Christians began under King Herod and John realized that, as the mother of Jesus, the Theotokos was in danger so he took her away to Ephesus to protect her in the year 43 AD.

She was so sad to have left her home and all the sites which brought back memories of life with her Son. She often liked to visit Jerusalem in secret to pray at the site of the Resurrection and once, while she was there in prayer, the angel Gabriel appeared to her and told her that the time had come when she would soon be reunited with her Son in heaven.

When she heard the news she was so eager to go that she quickly took to her bed in Jerusalem and awaited her transition into eternal life! While she was lying there in prayer her thoughts turned to St. John the Theologian who was back home in Ephesus. What would he think when she failed to return home? Oh, how she wished he could be there with her! She began to pray to her son about it when suddenly, and much to their surprise, he appeared before her! How could that be? What a mystery! But for God, all things are possible and Jesus so loves his mother that whatever she asks, he will do for her! So then she began to pray about all of her other priest-sons, the apostles who had gone to preach all over the world, and one-by-one, they each began to appear before her as she lay there in her bed! St. Paul was there too and St. Dionysius the Areopagite who later wrote about it for us so we could read his account and believe. They all were amazed at what had just happened to them and began to praise God. What a wonderful gift! Each apostle and friend had the opportunity to speak with Mary and express their love and their last farewell. She prayed with each one in turn that their preaching may be successful and that the whole world might come to know and love God as Jesus had wished.

This vigil lasted until 9 o'clock in the morning when everyone present saw Christ descend from a brilliant cloud that appeared above the bed with a multitude of angels and departed souls of patriarchs and prophets! As he drew near to collect the soul of His mother, she prayed the same words she said when his soul descended to her for the first time at the Annunciation,

*"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."*



The Theotokos then appeared as if she had fallen asleep as her soul was taken up to heaven by her Son. At that moment, the angels began to sing joyfully as they did when she said YES to God at the Annunciation...

*"Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee, blessed art Thou among women! For lo, the Queen, God's Maiden comes, lift up the gates, and with the Ever-Existing One, take up the Mother of Light; for through Her salvation has come to all the human race. It is impossible to gaze upon Her, and it is impossible to render Her due honor"*



When the soul of their mother had departed, the apostles and all who were present with them had noticed the overwhelming fragrance of flowers had filled the air around the body of the Theotokos. They had begun, as was their custom, to prepare the body for burial and carried it on a stretcher to the tomb near the garden of Gethsemane. The people sang sorrowfully and carried incense and candles as they accompanied the body of Mary. They were somewhat afraid because of the ongoing persecution of Christians. They knew that there were many who would upset the procession if they realized that the body was that of the mother of Jesus, but they were comforted when they noticed a circular cloud that had accompanied them, crowning the casket, and that the sound of angelic choirs had joined them in the singing of the funeral hymns.

Suddenly, there were soldiers approaching to arrest them. They froze in amazement when they realized that although they could see the soldiers, the startled soldiers could not see them! They took a few more steps when a man they knew, a Jewish priest named Anthonios ran toward them with the intention of pushing the casket to the ground! Before they knew what to do, an angel of the Lord appeared to defend the body of the Theotokos by cutting off the arms of the man with an invisible sword! At once, Anthonios repented and was healed. He later converted and became a great supporter of the Church.

Finally, the procession had reached the burial place and the body of the Mother of God had been placed into the tomb unharmed. There it remained for several days when Thomas arrived. Once again, he had missed all of the activity. He was heartbroken at the thought of never being able to see his mother again and had begged the others to open the tomb so that he could pay his last respects. When they did, they were met with a great surprise. The body of the Theotokos was not there, but in its place were bouquets of beautifully fragrant flowers! This is why we gather fresh flowers and bring them to church to be blessed on the feast of the Dormition. Everyone rejoiced when they realized that her body, like that of her Son, was assumed bodily into heaven.

Later that evening, when the apostles and friends had all gathered together for dinner, they began to recount the events of the day. As they were eating, the Theotokos appeared among them! They were delighted and overwhelmed at her appearance and offered her their hospitality and some of their bread. Many monasteries today still carry on the tradition of setting aside a portion of their bread for her. She told them she loved them all and that she would always be among them. Remember this when you bring your flowers to Church to be blessed on the feast of the Dormition. Our mother, the Theotokos, is with us always!



# I SPY IN MY LITTLE "I"CON

## THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

**This is the icon of the Dormition, or Falling Asleep, of the Mother of God.**

Notice first, that the body of the Theotokos is lying with her arms crossed in death on her funeral bed. The Apostles are surrounding her and a funeral candle lit before the bed, at the forefront of the icon.

**See the baby in swaddling clothes?**

It isn't really a baby, but the innocent soul of the Theotokos dressed in white to depict her purity. Christ has collected her soul and is carrying her back to heaven to be with Him there. Doesn't their posture remind you of how she is often shown to carry her Son in some other icons?

Christ is dressed in golden garments and surrounded by a blue, egg-shaped mandorla to symbolize that, although he isn't visible to those depicted in the icon, He is present, visiting from heaven in a mystical way. See the red angel above his head? We know it is an angel from the choir known as Seraphim because they are said to have six wings, two covering their faces, two covering their feet, and two with which to fly!

**Do you count six wings?**



06 Byzi Kids // AUG 2020



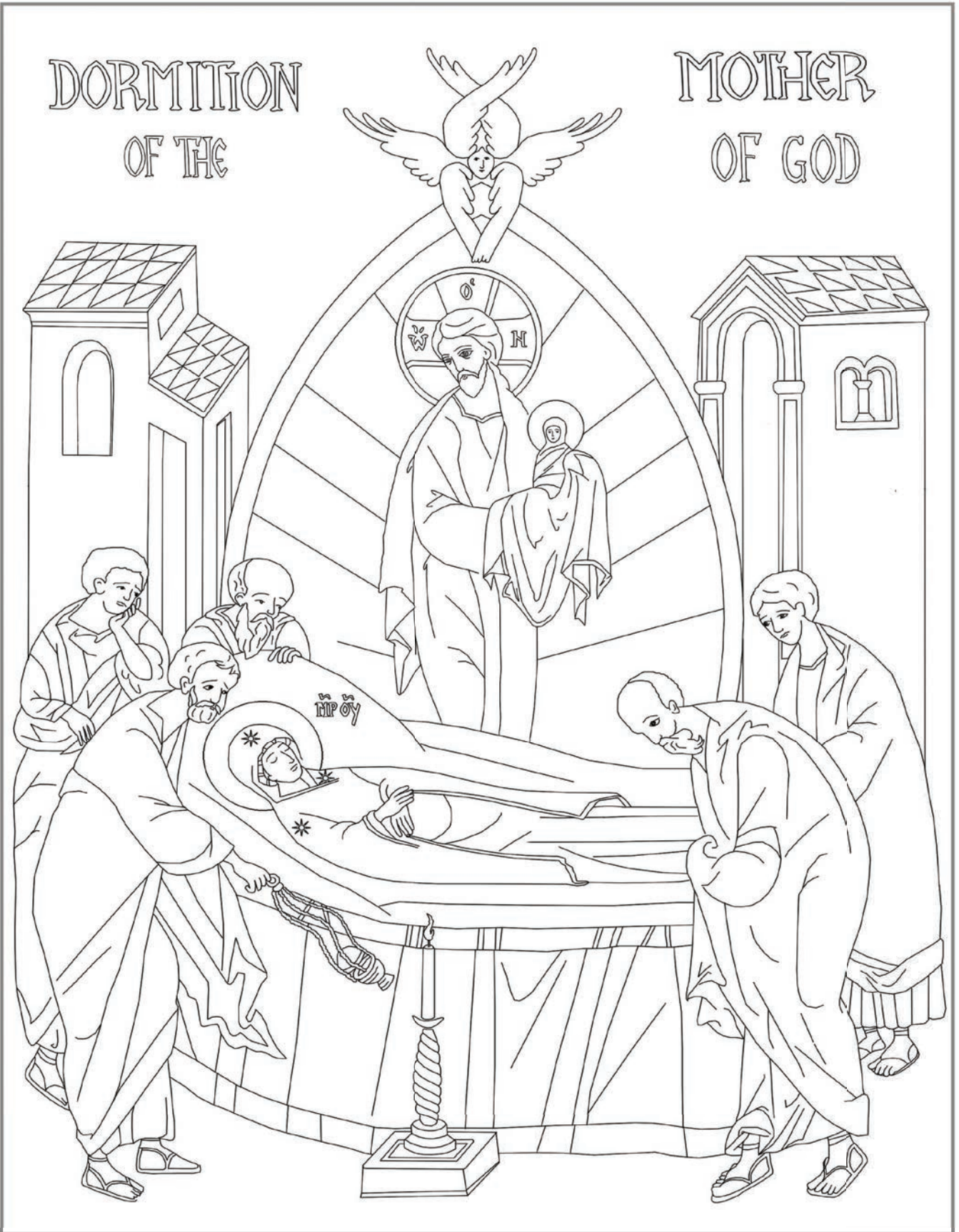
DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD  
BY FR. VLADIMIR LYSAK

Each of the mourners was said to have appeared mystically at her deathbed before her final departure into eternal life. St. Peter is on the left, at the head of the body, incensing it.

St. Paul is on the right, mourning at her feet. There are bishops present among them. You can tell it is a bishop by the white omophorion on his shoulders. Perhaps one of them is St. Dionysius the Areopagite! Or St. James! Or St. Timothy! There are also several of the holy women standing with them. They all look so sad to have lost her earthly company.

-Written by Lynne Wardach





DORMITION  
OF THE

MOTHER  
OF GOD

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ARTWORK BY JULIE LUCKEY © 2019

WWW.BYZIMOM.COM 07

## Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ (August 6, 19)

The Transfiguration of Our Lord is described in chapter 17 of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. Jesus took Peter, James and John up a high mountain. They were there by themselves. Jesus then is transfigured before their eyes. Our Lord's face shined like the sun. His clothes had become white as bright light.

Then Moses and Elijah appeared and they had begun to converse with Jesus. Peter tells the Lord: "It is good for us to be here with You." (17:4) Peter offers to build three tents: one for the Lord, one for Moses and one for Elijah. From the heavens then could be heard a voice: "This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased, listen to Him." (17:6) Having heard this, the disciples fell prostrate and were startled – very much afraid. But Jesus then approaches them, saying: "Arise, do not be afraid." (17:7) When the disciples raised their eyes, they had seen Jesus alone.



The Icon of the Transfiguration depicts Jesus as the Light of the World: Christ is surrounded by the glorious light of His divinity. He is clothed in the same garments as in the icon of the Resurrection. In the Icon of the Transfiguration is depicted Moses and Elijah, as well as the three apostles: Peter, James and John.

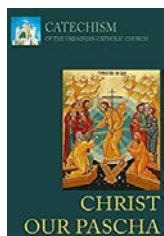
To the left of Jesus is Moses representing the Law of the Old Testament. Moses is holding the Ten Commandments. To the right of Jesus is the Holy Prophet Elijah. St. John Chrysostom explains that Moses and Elijah are there to represent the Law and the Prophets. Moses represents the dead, while Elijah, having been carried up to heaven in a golden chariot, represents the living. Jesus now reigns in Heaven in glory and will one day return to judge the living and the dead. In the lower portion of the Icon is depicted the Apostles Peter, James and John. These very same three disciples would appear in the Garden of Gethsemane with the Lord.

The Feast celebrates the divinity of Christ and the divinization of man. In the person of Christ, God had become man so that man could become liken to God Himself. The Transfiguration gives us a glimpse into the divine person of Jesus Christ and enlightens us with divine light.

In the tropar for the Feast we pray: You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, revealing as much of Your glory to Your Disciples as they could behold. Through the prayers of the Mother of God let Your everlasting light shine also upon us sinners. O Giver of Light, glory be to You."

**Rev. D. George Worschak, Assistant Editor**

### Catechism



In icons of the Transfiguration, Resurrection, Ascension, and Fearful Judgment, as well as icons of the Christ-Child with the Mother of God, the vestments of Christ are depicted in gold or white, signifying the divine nature and the glorified human nature of Christ.

Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church: Christ Our Pascha, #593.



*The grave and death could not hold the Mother of God, who is sleepless in her intercessions and an unchanging hope in her meditations. For as the Mother of Life she was transferred to life by Him Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.*

## FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD (August 15, 28)

Our Ukrainian Catholic Church solemnly celebrates the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God. "Dormitio" in Latin means "sleep" or "the act of sleeping."

Mary, the Mother of God, died without suffering. Her death was peaceful and painless. There was nothing to prevent Mary from entering into Heaven at the moment of Her death. Sin prevents us from entering. However, Mary was free from sin even from the moment of Her conception in the womb of Her mother, Anna. Once we are purged of all sin, then we can enter into the Heavenly Kingdom. For nothing defiled can enter into the eternal Kingdom of God.

In our prayer services for the deceased, we pray that the servant of God who has fallen asleep we forgiven his or her every sin, both knowingly and unknowingly, willingly and unwillingly. Once purged of all sin,

the person can then be deemed worthy of entry into the place of Light, where all the saints and just repose. There is no more pain nor sorrow nor sighing. Heaven is a place of peace and tranquility. When compared to the earthly stay, Heaven is definitely the better place – something we long for. Nonetheless, we are to make the most of these times, our earthly stay. We are to prepare ourselves by making good and proper moral choices and decisions. We are to do works of kindness, the corporal and spiritual acts of mercy and compassion to our neighbor in need.

Mary, the Mother of God, Who is now in Heaven can intercede for us before Her Son, Our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Mary is ever ready to come to our aid. She is our spiritual mother Who dearly cares for each and every one of us. She seeks the salvation of our souls. She calls the sinner to conversion and

repentance and to make reparation for the sin of even others, much like Jesus Christ, Her Son and Our Lord.

Mary's entire earthly was faithful and selfless service to God. In giving birth to Christ the Savior, so She helped fulfill the Promise of God to one day send a Messiah, Savior, into the world to save humankind from sin and to fulfill what the Prophets of the Old Testament foretold.

St. John of Damascus says: "It was fitting that the One who kept Her virginity at the Birth of Christ should keep Her body incorruptible after Her death. It was fitting that the One who carried the Creator in Her arms as a Child should be in the heavenly chambers. It was fitting that the One who saw Her Son on the cross and whose heart was pierced by the sword of pains, which She did not suffer at the Nativity,



looked at Him as He sat with the Father. It was fitting that the Mother of God should possess that which belongs to her Son, and that all creation should venerate Her as the Mother of God . "

As Mary was the perfect disciple of the Lord, let us be true followers of Christ having the Spirit of Love and Truth as our daily guide. Let us be willing to suffer and die, if need be for the Holy Faith, knowing that the Lord God, Who knows and sees all, shall one day reward all His faithful, reliable and industrious servants with an Eternity of Happiness with Him in Heaven.

**Rev. D. George Worschak, Assistant Editor**



Newsletter of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

# Journeying with Josaphata

66th Annual Holy Dormition/Assumption Pilgrimage 2020  
A Virtual Experience due to the Covid -19 Pandemic



Dear Pilgrims,

Due to the pandemic, our 66th Annual Holy Dormition/Assumption Pilgrimage will be a very different experience for you, our pilgrims, as well as for our Sisters and Clergy. Although physically separated from one another, we will remain “united” under the Omophor of the Mother of God, who we honor each year at this time. The holy grounds of Sloatsburg will be barren of pilgrims standing in lines for Confession, for the Healing of the Sick, for the spiritual nourishment of the Holy Eucharist, as well as standing in line for pyrohy and holubchi. However, the Sisters Servants hope to fill that “pilgrimage void” by coming into your homes through live-streaming the Divine Liturgies and other services throughout the Pilgrimage week.

The theme of this year’s Pilgrimage is “**Mother of Tenderness, be our Strength.**” If there was ever a time in our country and our world when we need the tenderness and strength of Our Lord and the Theotokos to help us respect, care for and support each other, it is **NOW**, during these challenging times!

Listed in this *Special Issue*, are the schedule of Pilgrimage services and the access links to them. We have also provided you with a form so that you may request a Divine Liturgy and/or light a candle for your special intentions. The request forms will also be available on-line on our website: [www.ssmi-us.org](http://www.ssmi-us.org).

Sister Kathleen Hutsko, SSMI Provincial Superior

## 66th Annual Holy Dormition/ Assumption Pilgrimage

Our Annual Holy Dormition/ Assumption Novena will be prayed from Aug. 1-9 according to the following schedule:



## 66 Річна Успенська Проща

Наша щорічна перед Успенська Дев'ятниця за ваші намірення буде відправлена з 1-9 серпня наступним розкладом:

### Aug. 1-7

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am at St Mary’s Chapel

### Saturday, August 8th

3:00 pm Divine Liturgy - Rev. James Hayer,  
Byzantine Eparchy of Passaic  
Blessing of Water

6:30 pm Panahyda followed by  
Moleben to the Mother of God  
Bishop Kurt Burnette, Eparch of Passaic

### Sunday, August 9th

9:00 am Akathist - Fr. Bohdan Tymchyshyn,  
Rector of St. Basil’s Seminary

10:00 Pontifical Divine Liturgy - Bishop Paul Chomnycky,  
OSBM, Eparch of Stamford, CT  
choir: Seminarians from Stamford, CT  
Blessing of Flowers,  
Blessing of the Sick

1:30 Stations of the Cross — Basilian Fathers

3:00 pm — Moleben to Mother of God — Fr. Andriy Dudkevych,  
St. Nicholas Parish, Passaic, NJ

### ACCESS LINKS:

To access the links for the Pilgrimage celebrations and novenas, you will need to go to our website: [www.ssmi-us.org](http://www.ssmi-us.org) and the links will be posted on the HOME page beginning August 1st.

### 1-7 серпня

Божественна Літургія в 9:00 ранку в каплиці св. Марії

### 8 серпня (субота)

3:00 pm Божественна Літургія — о. Джеймс Гаер,  
Візантійської Епархії Пассейку  
Чин Водосвяття

6:30 pm Панахида  
Молебен до Пресвятої Богородиці  
Преосвященний Владика Керт Бернетт,  
Епарх Пассейку

### 9 серпня (неділя)

9:00 Акафіст до Богородиці — о. Богдан Тимчишин,  
ректор духовної семінарії св. Василя Великого в Стемфорді

10:00 Архирейська Божественна Літургія -  
Преосвященний Владика Павло Хомницький, ЧСВВ, Епарх  
Стемфордський  
Співає Хор Семинаристів Стемфордських  
Благословення квітів  
Благословення хворих

1:30 Хресна Дорога - оо. Василяни

3:00 Молебен до Богородиці - о. Андрій Дудкевич,  
Парафія св. Миколая, Пассейк, НДЖ

### ПОСИЛАННЯ НА ДОСТУП НА ОН-ЛАЙН:

Для доступу до посилання на Дев'ятницю та Прощу, вам потрібно буде зайти на наш веб-сайт: [www.ssmi-us.org](http://www.ssmi-us.org), а посилання будуть розміщені на ГОЛОВНІ сторінці, починаючи з 1 серпня.

\*\*\*You do not need to watch the streamed services live, the links will give you access to the services at any time. Вам не потрібно дивитись служби в прямому ефірі, посилання дають вам доступ до послуг у будь-який час.\*\*\*



**The League of Ukrainian Catholics of America** together with **Mothers in Prayer**

present a virtual conference for the UGCC faithful on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 2020:

# Transforming Calamity into Unity, Dignity and Healing



◦ **Opening Prayer and Introduction:**

V. Rev. Archpriest Father Marijan Procyk, National Spiritual Director, League of Ukrainian Catholics of America

Sophia Shchur, RN, CDCES. National Board President League of Ukrainian Catholics of America

Lesya Muraszczuk, DDS. Regional Coordinator Mothers in Prayer of North America

◦ **Keynote Address**

Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak,  
Archeparchy of Philadelphia

◦ **A Time to Heal**

Bishop Paul Chomnycky,  
Eparchy of Stamford

◦ **Christian Models of Unity in Times of Adversity**

Bishop Bohdan Danylo,  
Eparchy of St. Josaphat, Parma

◦ **Spiritual Dignity in Times of Chaos**

Bishop Benedict Aleksiychuk,  
Eparchy of Chicago

◦ **Discernment and Transformation Post Pandemia**

Bishop Andriy Rabiy,  
Archeparchy of Philadelphia

◦ **Panachyda**

For deceased members of the LUC, MIP, Clergy and Sisters

## On-Line Program

**Online registration opens September 1 at [stamforddio.org](http://stamforddio.org)**

As we, the faithful of the UGCC, shifted from Vision 2020 into focusing on the study of immigration, migration, settlements on unity of our Church, little did we expect to be catapulted into the biggest test of unity in recent times. Both the League of Ukrainian Catholics and Mothers in Prayer had to defer much anticipated spiritual events. We are taking this as an opportunity to unite, transform and heal with Christian dignity.

We are grateful to our beloved UGCC Archbishops and Bishops for embracing this opportunity to spiritually support and strengthening us through this on-line conference.

On behalf of the LUC and MIP we cordially invite you to join us.

Sophia & Lesya



# UKRAINIAN FOLK FESTIVALS

Celebrating the 29th AND 30th Anniversaries of Ukraine's Independence

**Sunday, June 20, 2021** (Postponed from Sunday, Aug 23, 2020)



Ukrainian American Sport Center, Horsham, PA

**Sunday, Aug 22, 2021**

UASC Tryzub has Postponed its 29th Ukrainian Independence Day Festival from Sunday August 23, 2020 to Father's Day, June 20, 2021; the 30th Annual Festival will Follow on August 22, 2021

In order to safeguard the precious health and safety of its members, member families and volunteers, the communities that it serves, and the general public, Ukrainian American Sport Center – "Tryzub" has postponed this year's Ukrainian Independence Day Festival – the 29th annual, from Sunday, August 23, to Father's Day, Sunday, June 20 of next year, 2021. In addition to celebrating Ukraine's independence, the rescheduled festival promises also to celebrate freedom from the constraints and restrictions, with which the Coronavirus Pandemic has ensnared the community.

Note also that Tryzub's 30th Annual Festival celebrating Ukraine's Independence will still take place on its originally scheduled date of Sunday, August 22, 2021.

Although Tryzub anticipates that each of the two festivals in the year 2021 will proceed, according to the times, schedule and content that have become a tradition at Tryzub, legal constraints and concerns for health and safety may still (1) alter the ultimate date, content, program and/or format of one or both of them; (2) require special measures and procedures and/or (3) otherwise affect either or both festivals.

Also, Tryzub will make efforts to schedule some smaller, legally permissible and properly regulated for safety community gatherings and will announce same, as the summer progresses.

The readers are encouraged to visit Tryzub's website, [www.tryzub.org](http://www.tryzub.org), frequently for updates and additional information and clarifications. Or, you can email the Sport Center at [info@tryzub.org](mailto:info@tryzub.org). It is located at Lower State and County Line Rds., in Horsham, PA.



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## Olyphant, PA parish to hold outdoor Furniture Sale

The 3rd Annual Furniture Sale at St. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA is being held outside this year on August 7 and 8th.

Pictured are Jenne Cucura, Very Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor, and Lauren Telep discussing the logistics of moving the sale outside to the back of St. Cyril's Church and Rectory, 135 River Street, Olyphant, PA.



89<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE MOTHER OF GOD  
Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great

“Communion and Unity in the Life of  
the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church  
during the Pandemic”



This year’s Pilgrimage will be held in a condensed format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be no morning Liturgy or Confession. Instead, Confession and a Moleben will be offered in the afternoon according to the schedule below. Other precautions that will be taken include the following:

- Masks will be required.
- Bottled water will be provided.
- No food will be served.

Live stream available on  YouTube

Sunday, October 4, 2020

- 1:00 – 3:30 PM** Confession and Opportunities for Individual Prayer  
(Socially Distanced)
- 3:30 – 4:30 PM** Moleben to the Mother of God  
(Homilist: Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak)

**Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great**  
710 Fox Chase Road (215) 379-3998  
Jenkintown, PA www.StBasils.com



## Help Wanted at Basilian Motherhouse

### Housekeeping Position Available

St. Basil Motherhouse  
710 Fox Chase Road  
Jenkintown, PA 19046  
Please contact Sr. Dolores  
215-379-3998  
Extension 13



### Health Care Position Available

St. Basil Motherhouse  
710 Fox Chase Rd  
Jenkintown, PA 19046  
Monday – Friday  
3pm – 11pm  
Contact: Sister Miriam Claire  
Telephone: 215-379-3998 ext. 522



## Summer Divine Liturgy in Lewes, DE

Rev. Volodymyr Klanichka pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church will celebrate Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. Jude the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Lewes, DE at 5:30 PM on Sunday, August 30, 2020.

For more information, please call at 302-762-5511.

St. Jude The Apostle Roman Catholic Church is located at 152 Tulip Drive, Lewes, DE 19958.



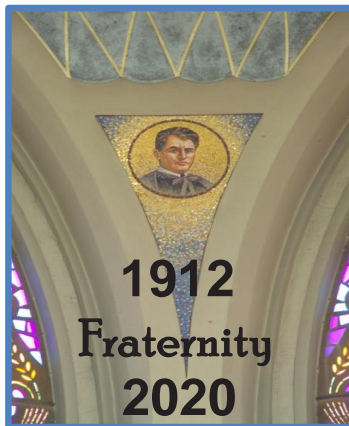
*The Annual  
A Call to Prayer  
Marian Pilgrimage  
Scheduled for Sunday,  
August 30, 2020  
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Ukrainian Catholic Church  
Centralia, Pennsylvania  
Has Been Canceled*

## The Providence Association Of the Ukrainian Catholics in America

1-877-857-2284 (ext. 211)

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## Pope Francis welcomes Ukraine ceasefire agreement

July 26, 2020

Pope Francis expresses satisfaction for a ceasefire signed this week that aims to pave the way to peace in eastern Ukraine and calls for an effective disarmament and mine clearance process.

By Linda Bordoni

Pope Francis on Sunday upheld a ceasefire agreement reached by the so-called Contact Group for settlement of the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine.

"I understand that a new ceasefire concerning the Donbass area was recently decided in

Minsk by members of the Tripartite Contact Group," he said during the Sunday Angelus.

The agreement aims to bring harmonization and the approval of additional measures of control over a current ceasefire in the ongoing conflict between the Donetsk People's Republic and the Ukrainian Armed Forces. It was reached in the Belorussian capital, Minsk, on Wednesday, and is due to come into force starting Monday, July 27.

The Pope thanked the parties for "this sign of goodwill aimed at bringing much-desired

peace to that tormented region."

"I pray that what has been agreed will finally be put into practice, including an effective disarmament and mine clearance process," he said. He then noted that "Only in this way will it be possible to rebuild confidence and lay the foundations for (a) reconciliation that is so necessary and so long awaited by the people."

Since the autumn of 2014, the Contact Group for settlement in eastern Ukraine has declared over 20 ceasefires in Donbass. Members of the Group declared an

indefinite ceasefire in Donbass starting in July 2019, however ceasefire violations have persisted.

Violence in eastern Ukraine between Russian-backed separatist forces and the Ukrainian military has killed more than 10,000 people, injured nearly 24,000 and displaced 1.5 million since April 2014.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-07/pope-francis-ukraine-ceasefire-agreement-donbass-region.html>

## Covid-19: Vatican launches #sendyourhug campaign to support elderly

July 27, 2020

The Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life picks up Pope Francis's invitation for young people to show closeness to the elderly who are experiencing loneliness due to Covid-19 lockdowns.

By Devin Watkins

Pope Francis on Sunday

invited young people around the world to perform "gestures of tenderness" toward the elderly, as many are forced into isolation to observe Covid-19 health guidelines.

The Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life quickly answered that call and launched "The elderly are

your grandparents" campaign.

### Kindness for the elderly

In a communique released on Monday, the Dicastery invited young people "to do something that shows kindness and affection for older people who may feel lonely."

"The pandemic has hit the elderly particularly hard and it has disconnected the already weak links between generations," reads the statement. "However, respecting social distancing rules does not mean accepting a destiny of loneliness and abandonment."

(continued on next page)



# Covid-19: Vatican launches #sendyourhug campaign to support elderly

(continued from previous page)

## Alleviating loneliness

The Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life recalled examples of people contacting the elderly by phone and internet, with some even performing serenades to the residents of retirement homes.

“Young people,” says the communique, “have been doing this to help alleviate the loneliness being felt by many people who are obliged

by the pandemic to stay at home or remain confined in residential care facilities.”

## Send a hug

Since health regulations remain in place in many areas to protect the elderly, the Dicastery urges young Catholics to send a hug to the older people of their parish or neighborhood who may be experiencing loneliness.

They can do so by phone, video call, or by sending an image.

“Wherever possible - or whenever the health emergency will allow it - we invite young people to make the embrace even more concrete by visiting elderly in person.”

## Share on social media

Young people are encouraged to share

their outreach efforts on social media by including #sendyourhug in the post.

The best posts will be shared on the social media accounts of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life @laityfamilylife.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-07/coronavirus-laity-family-life-campaign-closeness-to-elderly.html>



## Pope Francis in solidarity with the people of Ukraine

July 28, 2020

Almost 1 million people have personally felt the Pope's "deep affection and solidarity" through the "Pope for Ukraine" project launched in June 2016.

By Gabriella Ceraso and Sr Bernadette Mary Reis, fsp

Prayer and charity: these are the two arms Pope Francis has repeatedly extended from the beginning of his Pontificate to the "dear Ukrainian people", especially to those afflicted by a 6-year war on the eastern border of the nation. On numerous occasions, Pope Francis has brought them to the world's attention. The last time was at the end of last Sunday's Angelus prayer. In that appeal, Pope Francis begged that a ceasefire implemented on Monday be respected so the Ukrainian people can enjoy a long-awaited peace.

His appeal comes just as the "Pope for Ukraine" project draws to a close. Pope Francis launched the "Pope for Ukraine" project in June 2016. The Dicastery for Promoting Integral



Human Development has been supervising it. Just two years after the project launched, 16 million euros had been collected from all of Europe's dioceses in addition to a personal donation from Pope Francis.

### 1 million people aided

As of November 2018, thanks to the Pope's project, almost 1 million people had been helped: heaters had been installed in family homes, children suffering from PTSD received services and cardiological exams at the "Kramatorsk City Hospital", poverty-stricken people and the homeless could take refuge in a social centre created at a Church

in Kharkiv and single mothers had been given a home in Korotych.

Through this project, "Pope Francis wished to show deep affection and solidarity with all Ukrainian people, and with those who suffer as a result of the protracted dramatic conditions caused by the war, without any distinction on the basis of religion, confession or ethnicity". Thus, the project leaves behind a luminous trail of ecumenical cooperation and charity that will continue to aid people due to the concrete things that have been done.

### Project completed

In an interview with Vatican News, Bishop

Eduard Kava, Auxiliary Bishop of Leopoldis spoke with Gabriella Ceraso about the Pope's benevolence to Ukraine and its people.

To date, Bishop Kava said that all the projects initiated through the "Pope for Ukraine" project have been completed. The only work that remains is that of "supplying machinery for a hospital dedicated to children". It is the children, he said, who have paid the highest price in a conflict that continues to fester.

Reconstruction has also been one of the project's goals. Bishop Kava says that "we have also done

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## Pope Francis in solidarity with the people of Ukraine

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a lot in the reconstruction of houses to give people a semblance of normality." He says that the situation "is not as tragic as it was 4-5 years ago. But it is clear that, for example, families with many children and elderly people who receive small pensions still need help the Church's help."

### A sign of ecumenism

The "Pope for Ukraine" project had been implemented through the collaboration of the Apostolic Nunciature to Ukraine, and Technical Committees located in Zaporizhia and Kyiv,

as well as charitable organizations under the auspices of both the Roman Catholic and Greek-Catholic churches, and other Christian and international organizations. It has been "a beautiful sign of ecumenism", remarks Bishop Kava, who describes how the work "was done truly together."

"In this project, we all worked together.... We collaborated with the Protestants and with many international organizations. This was a sign of good ecumenism for us. You could say

that this initiative of the Holy See was the only one where we all really worked together to help the population."

### The project endures

Francis's words, appeals and gestures of tenderness concretized through the "Pope for Ukraine" project are of "great help", Bishop Kava emphasizes. Furthermore, "the whole process of solidarity" it initiated and the completed individual projects will continue to serve everyone.

"Even if the Pope's

project ends, the Church will in fact continue to give its help and stay close to the people, either through Caritas or through our parishes or through our volunteer organizations. There is not a lot of money but we are present and close."

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-07/pope-francis-ukraine-pope-for-ukraine-project-interview.html>

## His Beatitude Sviatoslav speaks about how the Seventh Day should be given to God

July 28, 2020

To celebrate a holy day means to give it to God and neighbor. Six days a week a man reserves for himself, because he "eats the fruit of the labor of his hands." The seventh day should be given to God as a sign that we do not live only from the work of our own hands but also because God sustains us. This was stated by His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Father and

Head of the UGCC, in a comment for the UGCC Information Department.

According to him, the seven-day period of our work and rest is a legacy of Judeo-Christian culture. The commandment to celebrate a holy day responds to human needs for it helps to restore our strength. Therefore we must thank God for the gift of the weekdays and of the holy day. That

is why it is so important on the Lord's day to refrain from hard work and dedicate it to our Creator. However, it is important to remember some rules to do it right.

"The seventh day which we sacrifice to God shows our correct understanding of the basic foundations of life. It shows us the eternal source on which our well-being, health, our present and future

depend," the Head of the UGCC is convinced.

"Christians, while celebrating the holy day, must attend the Divine Liturgy. When a person does not do this consciously and voluntarily, then he sins. In this way, he distorts the meaning of this day and experiences it incorrectly," he said.

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## His Beatitude Sviatoslav speaks about how the Seventh Day should be given to God

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"When a person cannot participate in the Divine Liturgy due to certain obstacles, for example there is no church where he lives, or during a pandemic, when there are strict quarantine restrictions, it is necessary to celebrate the holy day as much as the circumstances allow," adds the Head of the Church.

In his view, modern culture gives us various opportunities to do so including online broadcasts. It is important not to fall out

of the spiritual rhythm.

In addition, personal prayer is one of the elements of devotion to God. That is why it is important to pray on this day, to read the Holy Scriptures, to meditate, to communicate with God. That is, to direct time and personal attention to your Creator.

On the one hand, His Beatitude Sviatoslav warns people against the temptation to work hard on Sunday, and on the other hand, he says that good deeds should

be done on a holy day as well.

"Therefore, when you visit your parents only on Sunday and see that they need help that requires hard work, then listen to your conscience and help them. However, in order not to be reproached by your conscience, it is better to find an opportunity to visit your parents on Saturday, Monday, or another weekday," he says.

May your conscience be a good voice of

God in order to help you organize the holy day correctly and fill it with deeds of love and mercy," the Primate of the UGCC wished in conclusion.

The UGCC Department for Information

[http://news.ugcc.ua/en/news/to\\_celebrate\\_a\\_holy\\_day\\_means\\_to\\_give\\_it\\_to\\_god\\_and\\_neighbor\\_the\\_head\\_of\\_the\\_ugcc\\_about\\_sunday\\_90407.html](http://news.ugcc.ua/en/news/to_celebrate_a_holy_day_means_to_give_it_to_god_and_neighbor_the_head_of_the_ugcc_about_sunday_90407.html)

## When the quarantine restrictions are lifted, the dispensation that exempted us from going to church will be revoked said His Beatitude Sviatoslav

July 25, 2020

Even during quarantine, we understand that participating in the Liturgy online is a temporary solution. We may spend some time praying online, but it is wrong to completely refuse to go to church. This position of the Church was expressed by His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Father and Head of the Ukrainian

Greek Catholic Church, in a commentary for the UGCC Information Department.

"I hope that the state authorities will one day declare victory over the coronavirus and lift all quarantine restrictions. Then it will be the time to resume the public celebration of Divine

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## When the quarantine restrictions are lifted, the dispensation that exempted us from going to church will be revoked said His Beatitude Sviatoslav

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Liturgy," His Beatitude Sviatoslav added.

The Head of the Church explained that God's commandment to celebrate the holy day exists even during lockdown and no one can cancel it. For us, Christians, observing a holy day means attending the Liturgy, and neither secular nor church authorities can remove this by their order. But since there are now objective, insurmountable obstacles to visiting

worship services, the Church, as a good mother, meets her children and gives certain dispensations (exemptions) so we may celebrate the holy day not in the temple but at home.

"The gift of the Eucharist gives rise to a church commandment that obliges us to participate in the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Since there is an exemption from this obligation during the quarantine, we do not need to confess

missing Sunday service," explained His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

At the same time, the Archbishop emphasized that a person who participates in prayer online should not be like an outsider watching this broadcast as a spectator, but an active participant, as if he were in church.

"When the quarantine restrictions are lifted, the dispensation from the obligation to participate in the Liturgy will be

revoked," the Head of the Church said.

The UGCC Department for Information

[http://news.ugcc.ua/en/news/when\\_the\\_quarantine\\_restrictions\\_are\\_lifted\\_the\\_dispensation\\_that\\_exempted\\_us\\_from\\_going\\_to\\_church\\_will\\_be\\_revoked\\_the\\_head\\_of\\_the\\_ugcc\\_90386.html](http://news.ugcc.ua/en/news/when_the_quarantine_restrictions_are_lifted_the_dispensation_that_exempted_us_from_going_to_church_will_be_revoked_the_head_of_the_ugcc_90386.html)

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