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SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

ENGLISH VERSION

Word from the Metropolitan

September is a new beginning. Here I refer not to the new school year. Indeed, these days in a special way we pray for all students and faculty who again step warily into a bizarre academic adventure. Most of us shift gears after the Labor Day weekend. Vacations are over, we return to work. But there is something else that marks our time as Ukrainian Catholics. On September 1, based on ancient tradition, Churches of the Byzantine rite begin a new liturgical year. Together we initiate a new sacred journey through the mysteries of God's relationship with humanity.

A week into the year, on September 8 we celebrate the birth of the Mother of God and progress through the next



12 months embracing different feasts that mark our salvation, culminating with the Dormition of the Mother of God on August 15.

Diverse ways of telling time and marking the

calendar have been developed in different civilizations. No matter what calendar we follow, the passage of time is an important process for all people. Time is a great gift. It is wonderful when we have time for each

other. With this in mind, I would like to offer a short regular reflection in our archeparchial newspaper, *The Way*, to communicate with you, dear readers, our clergy,

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Word from the Metropolitan

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religious, and members of our parishes and communities.

Foremost for us is to have time for God. To pray, to read the Scriptures, to listen to God's tender voice. This cannot be done instantly or in a condensed manner. It requires both patience and rhythm, day in, day out.

Only in this world and this life does the clock tick. In the spiritual realm of divine eternity, we will no longer be pressed by or for time. Freedom from the imperatives of

urgency, haste, age, and growing old will be one of the great blessings in the fullness of the Kingdom.

While we enjoy the modality of existence in this world it is important to celebrate the time that we are given. We have a rich calendar of Christian feasts that reveal God's Kingdom here and now. Every week we are given a Sunday, the rest we are called to every seventh day. The liturgical year helps us celebrate God's entering our world, our body, effecting our salvation.

God participates in and conquers our death allowing us to live with the Lord in eternity. During this year of celebration, we have our own special dates and occasions.

Time is a blessing. "He made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down", says the psalmist (Ps 104,19). Spiritual wholeness is fostered when we appreciate the God-given cycle of day and night, spring-summer-fall-and winter—all carriers of life, all intricately designed and offered to us by the Lord.

Let us use our time well. May it be filled with real, life-giving relationships. May our days be blessed by God's presence in our work, study and leisure. Let our time be filled with the peace of Jesus' gaze. Before going to sleep take a moment to look into God's face to feel the warmth of His Presence, to recognize the gifts of the day and embrace the rest of the coming night.

Blessed be our year in the Lord!

+ Borys Gudziak

CLERGY ASSIGNMENTS

Metropolitan Borys announces the following assignments beginning September 1, 2020:

Msgr. Peter Waslo is reassigned as Judge of the Metropolitan Tribunal

Very Rev. Mykola Ivanov is appointed Judicial Vicar of the Metropolitan Tribunal

Msgr. Peter Waslo is relieved as Protopresbyter (Dean) of the Philadelphia Protopresbyterate (Deanery)

Very Rev. Volodymyr Klanichka is appointed Protopresbyter (Dean) of the Philadelphia Protopresbyterate (Deanery)

Msgr. Peter Waslo is relieved of the position of Coordinator of the Safe Environment Office

Msgr. Peter Waslo is relieved as Pastor of Holy Myrrh-Bearers Church in Swarthmore, PA

Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan is appointed Pastor of Holy Myrrh-Bearers Church in Swarthmore, PA

Msgr. Peter Waslo remains as Chancellor of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia

The Chancery and Cathedral Staff celebrates Ukrainian Independence Day



On August 24, 2020, a Moleben to the Mother of God was celebrated by Bishop Andriy Rabyi and Very Rev. Roman Pitula at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia, PA. Afterwards the Chancery and Cathedral Staff, as well as representatives of the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God took a group photo with Archbishop Borys Gudziak and Bishop Andriy Rabyi. Following the Moleben, a Flag Raising Ceremony was held where Yuri Pitula, the younger son of the Cathedral Rector Very Rev. Roman Pitula, led the raising of the Ukrainian Flag in the Cathedral parking lot. The faithful sang the Ukrainian National Anthem as the flag was raised.



Watch a video from the Moleben at <https://youtu.be/TBTwOKQkkWY>

Watch a video from the Flag Raising Ceremony at <https://youtu.be/-xpO8--g8yg>



Flag Raising Ceremony is held in Hillside, NJ

In commemoration of Ukraine's 29th anniversary of Independence, Father Vasyl Vladyka of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hillside, NJ led the group in prayer at the Town Hall in Union Township, NJ on Sunday, August 23, 2020. Many parishioners were present and the children assisted with the raising of the Ukrainian Flag.

Father Vasyl Vladyka



<https://www.facebook.com/ImmaculateConceptionUkrainianCatholicHillsideNJ>



Flag Raising Ceremony is held in Passaic, NJ



On August 23, 2020 the parishioners of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic, Passaic, NJ with their pastor, Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, celebrated the Day of the National Flag of Ukraine with the raising of the Ukrainian Flag by representatives of Ukrainian Youth Organizations.

<https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasukrainiancatholic>

Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti and Bishop-emeritus John Bura among those awarded the “Order of Merit, III Degree” Medal

August 24, 2020

At the celebrations on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine, President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky conferred Medals to several recipients. Among those receiving the Order of Merit, III Degree is Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti and Bishop-emeritus John Bura.

Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti was named Apostolic Nuncio in Ukraine in November 2015 and Bishop John Bura was appointed Ambassador of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Washington, DC in December 2014.

Bishop-emeritus John Bura received the medal for significant personal contribution to

strengthening Ukraine's international prestige, development of interstate cooperation, and fruitful public activity!

The Order of Merit of the I, II, III degrees is a state award of Ukraine for distinguishing outstanding services of citizens in economic, scientific, socio-cultural, military, state, public and other sectors of public activity.

The Order of Merit III degree is awarded to employees of embassies of foreign States in Ukraine, well-known state, political, public figures, artists, scientists, businessmen and others. The badge of the Order of Merit III degree is made of nickel silver and has the form of a cross with rounded ends, superimposed on a medallion with the image



Bishop-emeritus John Bura

of a plant ornament. The sides of the cross are covered with crimson enamel. In the middle of the cross, there is an image of the Small State Emblem of Ukraine - Trident in a wreath of oak and laurel branches on a blue background. The

wreath, the Trident, and the arms of the cross are gilded. The medallion is made of oxidized silver.

Adapted from the article on https://risu.ua/en/archbishop-claudio-gugerotti-was-awarded-the-order-of-merit-iii-degree_n111404

The full list of recipients for this Order of Merit, III Degree medal:

Нагородити орденом “За заслуги” III ступеня

БАЙРАКТАРА Халука – генерального директора компанії “Baykar Defense”, Турецька Республіка

БУРУ Івана – єпископа-помічника Філадельфійської архієпархії Української греко-католицької церкви, Сполучені Штати Америки



Photo: Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti
(<https://www.president.gov.ua>)

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Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti and Bishop-emeritus John Bura among those awarded the "Order of Merit, III Degree" Medal

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ҐУДЖЕРОТТИ Клаудіо – Апостольського Нунція Святого Престолу (Ватикану) в Україні

КАЛИНА Ібрагіма – головного радника Президента Турецької Республіки

КОЦЕВУ Олену Іванівну – голову Спілки українських організацій в Болгарії "Мати Україна", Республіка Болгарія

КОШАРНУ Олену – віце-президента Світового конгресу Українців (СКУ), голову Комітету з підтримки економічного розвитку України та інвестицій, Канада

КУРАІ Такаші – Надзвичайного і Повноважного Посла Японії в Україні

ПЕТРЕЦЬКОГО Миколу Мирослава – депутата Парламенту Румунії, голову Союзу українців Румунії

ФАМ Нят Вионга – голову правління корпорації "Вінгруп", Соціалістична Республіка В'єтнам

ФЕЛЬДГУЗЕН Анку – Надзвичайного і Повноважного Посла Федеративної Республіки

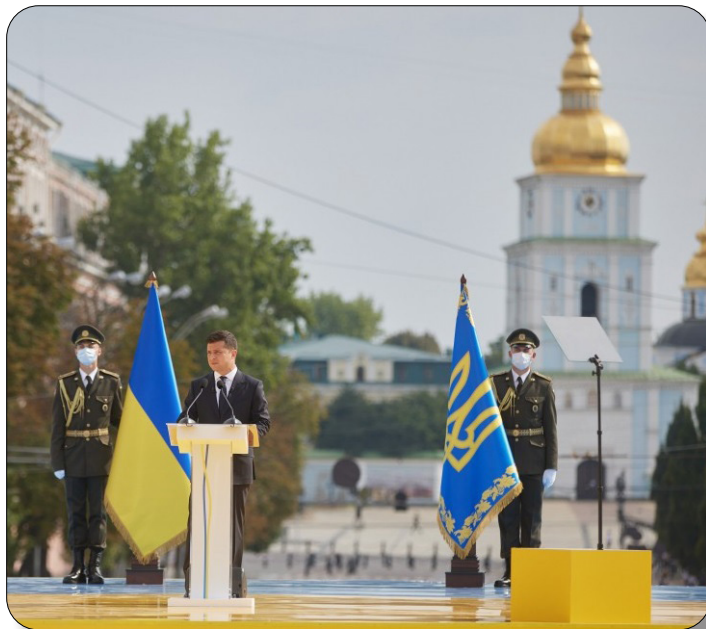


Photo: President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky (<https://www.president.gov.ua>)

Німеччина в Україні

ЛА ЧЕЧІЛІА Давіде – Надзвичайного і Повноважного Посла Італійської Республіки в Україні

<https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/3412020-34825>

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.

Archbishop Makes Pastoral Visits to Bridgeport and Lansdale



On Saturday evening August 8th Archbishop Borys visited SS. Peter & Paul parish in Bridgeport, PA.

On Saturday, August 8th, Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak of Philadelphia visited the parish in Bridgeport, in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Archbishop Borys celebrated the Sunday Divine Liturgy with Msgr. Ronald Popivchak, the pastor of SS. Peter & Paul parish in Bridgeport, for many years. In his sermon, Metropolitan had centered his talk on

the words of the Gospel according to St. Luke: "Whatsoever house you enter, remain there, (Luke 9:4) The Archbishop noted how difficult it is in the present moment, how they survive. "Sometimes we recall how things were in the past. We sometimes dream about the future, i.e. to write a book. How I'll wait until I'm age 80. Archbishop remarked: "But I can sit right now and begin to

write this book today."

In conclusion Archbishop Borys thanked the faithful for their common prayer as well as their support for their pastor. As a sign of gratitude for his dedicated service, the Archbishop gave Fr. Ronald a copy of the Archbishop's album-book: "Persecuted for the Truth", which is about the life of the catacomb Ukrainian Greek Catholic

Church.

The Metropolitan also noted how last year at the beginning of his pastoral service as Archbishop of Philadelphia, he had made a short visit to this parish. Archbishop Borys told those in attendance: "Moreso today, I have my first opportunity to pray together with you."

The Metropolitan blessed the parishioners who were celebrating their birthday and also blessed all those in attendance with holy water and spoke with the faithful. Due to the restrictions during the pandemic, a common lunch or dinner was not permitted. And the conversation was done in accord with the quarantine regulations.



Bridgeport, PA

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Archbishop Makes Pastoral Visits to Bridgeport and Lansdale

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Archbishop Borys during his visit to Lansdale noted: "If we forgive others, it becomes easier for us."

On Sunday, August 16th, Archbishop Borys celebrated the Sunday Divine Liturgy at the Presentation of Our Lord Parish in Lansdale, PA. The pastor Fr. Vasyl Bunik concelebrated with the Archbishop. Fr. Vasyl is also the pastor of St. Anne's in Warrington, PA.

Addressing the faithful, Archbishop Borys made a few points. First, the importance of forgiveness. In the prayer "Our Father," which we daily pray several times a day, word "forgiveness" is mentioned. If we forgive others, it becomes easier for ourselves. How many of us are hurt because we are unable to forgive someone in our family with whom we are related, and thereby carry this burden of

malice. Also, the Metropolitan spoke of the Feast of the Dormition of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary and its importance for the faithful. Archbishop Borys shared his thoughts with the faithful: "Yesterday we celebrated the Dormition of the Mother of God, This Feast Day brings us hope, of which we greatly are in need. However thanks to this virtue we may face death without fear. Hope is connected to the Resurrection, which we celebrate every Sunday. In the Dormition we can see how the Mother of God falls asleep, dying with hope and with confidence."

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy Archbishop Borys blessed flowers

as is customary on the Feast of the Dormition. After taking the traditional group photo, the Archbishop

had the opportunity to converse with the parishioners, following the prescriptions of the coronavirus regulations.



Archbishop Borys Gudziak and Fr. Wasyl Bunik in Lansdale

Metropolitan Borys Gudziak visits Warrington, PA

Metropolitan Borys Gudziak celebrated the Divine Liturgy at St. Anne's, Warrington, PA on August 23, 2020. The pastor of the parish is Fr. Vasyl Bunik.



Metropolitan Borys Gudziak visits the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great

On Saturday, August 22, Metropolitan Borys Gudziak and Deacon Volodymyr Radko visited the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great in Fox Chase Manor (Jenkintown, PA). The sisters were celebrating the 65th Jubilees of Sr. Clement, Sr. Carla, Sr. Dolores and the 60th Jubilees of Sr. Mary Cecilia, Sr. Rita and Sr. Dorothy Ann. Mnohaya Lita to all the Jubilarians!



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Metropolitan Borys Gudziak visits the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great

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A Combined 375 Years of Dedicated Service

Since 1911, the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great have had a strong and influential presence in the Ukrainian American community. This presence began as service to immigrants who fled poverty, persecution, and war,

hoping to build a better life for themselves and their families. It continued through successive waves of immigration and assimilation due to the Sisters' selfless devotion and tireless efforts.

The Sisters adjusted their monastic way of life upon arriving in the United States to better serve those most in need.

Rather than remaining primarily cloistered, they established and staffed schools and orphanages. They nurtured the youth left in their charge, educated them, and formed them in the faith.

A recent gathering marked significant anniversaries within the Order, though in a more subdued fashion

due to the pandemic. The event was held on August 22, 2020 at the Motherhouse in Fox Chase, honoring those celebrating their 60th and 65th anniversaries as Sisters of St. Basil the Great. The Most Reverend Borys Gudziak, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archeparchy of

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Metropolitan Borys Gudziak visits the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great

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Philadelphia, was the main celebrant. He was joined by Father John Ciurpita, the Sisters' chaplain, and Deacon Volodymyr Radko. The Archbishop discussed personal experience with the Sisters of St. Basil in his homily, emphasizing their influence on him from grade school to the present. He expressed deep gratitude for all the Order has done.

Following the service, Sisters and clergy gathered in the dining room for a festive dinner. Celebrants were again feted for their long years of devoted work. Those honored for 65 years of service to the Church were Sisters Carla, Clement, and Dolores. Those honored for 60 years were Sisters Mary Cecilia, Rita, and Dorothy Ann. All six have close ties with Saint Basil Academy, a shared connection that was underscored in a speech prepared for the occasion.

In her toast Sister Monica Lesnick remarked, "They have, through the years, been such a vibrant and productive part of our Province—

in all of their work. But most importantly, we have been so enriched by their prayer lives!" The Divine Liturgy and the Divine Office form the heart of communal life for the Sisters of St. Basil. These Sisters have prayed together literally hundreds of thousands of times. One is reminded of St. Paul's words in 1 Thess 5:17, "Pray without ceasing."

Sr. Carla Hernandez was born in Honduras and attended Saint Basil Academy where she became the school's top basketball star. After entering the Order, she taught Spanish and later became principal in 1986. Sr. Carla retired from the Academy in 2012 and now helps in the Province offices.

Sr. Clement Bartholomew was born in Egypt, PA and attended Saint Basil Academy. Her ministry took her to many Ukrainian Catholic parishes, including those in Parma, OH; Chicago; and Hamtramck, MI. She also spent many years teaching at St. Basil Elementary School in Philadelphia. Sr.



Clement presently serves on the staff at Saint Basil Academy where she has worked since 1986.

Sr. Dolores Orzel was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Saint Basil Academy, where she would later serve as the school's librarian. Additionally, she was elected Province Secretary and Motherhouse Superior. Sr. Dolores currently serves on the

Motherhouse team.

Sr. Mary Cecilia Jurasinski was born in Reading, PA and attended Immaculata University before returning to her hometown to teach in the public school system. She entered the Order in 1960 and taught history at Manor College where she later served as president from 1985 to 2019.

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Metropolitan Borys Gudziak visits the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great

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Sr. Rita Stremba was born in Reading, PA. She earned a BA from Immaculata University and a MA in Theology from Villanova University. Before entering the Basilians she taught in the Reading public school system. Sr. Rita began teaching theology at Saint Basil Academy after first profession and retired just this year.

Sr. Dorothy Ann Busowski was born in Pittsburgh and earned a BA and MA from Villanova University (History and Political Science) as well as another MA in Holistic Spirituality from Chestnut

Hill College. She taught history at Saint Basil Academy where she also served as principal. Later she was elected Assistant Provincial and has served as Provincial for four five-year terms, from 1995 to 2005 and from 2010 to the present.

The Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great are a pontifical order of Eastern Catholic women. Their mission is to bring the praying, healing, and life-giving presence of Christ to all. They work in education, healthcare, and other ministries around the world.



Sisters of St. Basil the Great
710 Fox Chase Road Jenkintown, PA 19046
(215) 379-3998

FIND US ON THE WEB
www.StBasils.com

E-mail "The Way" about news and events in your parish

"The Way" would like to increase coverage of parish life by including more articles of events that occur in parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

Kindly submit articles together with a photo or two on a regular basis of events and activities happening in your parishes to: theway@ukrcap.org

Subscribe to "The Way" by e-mail!

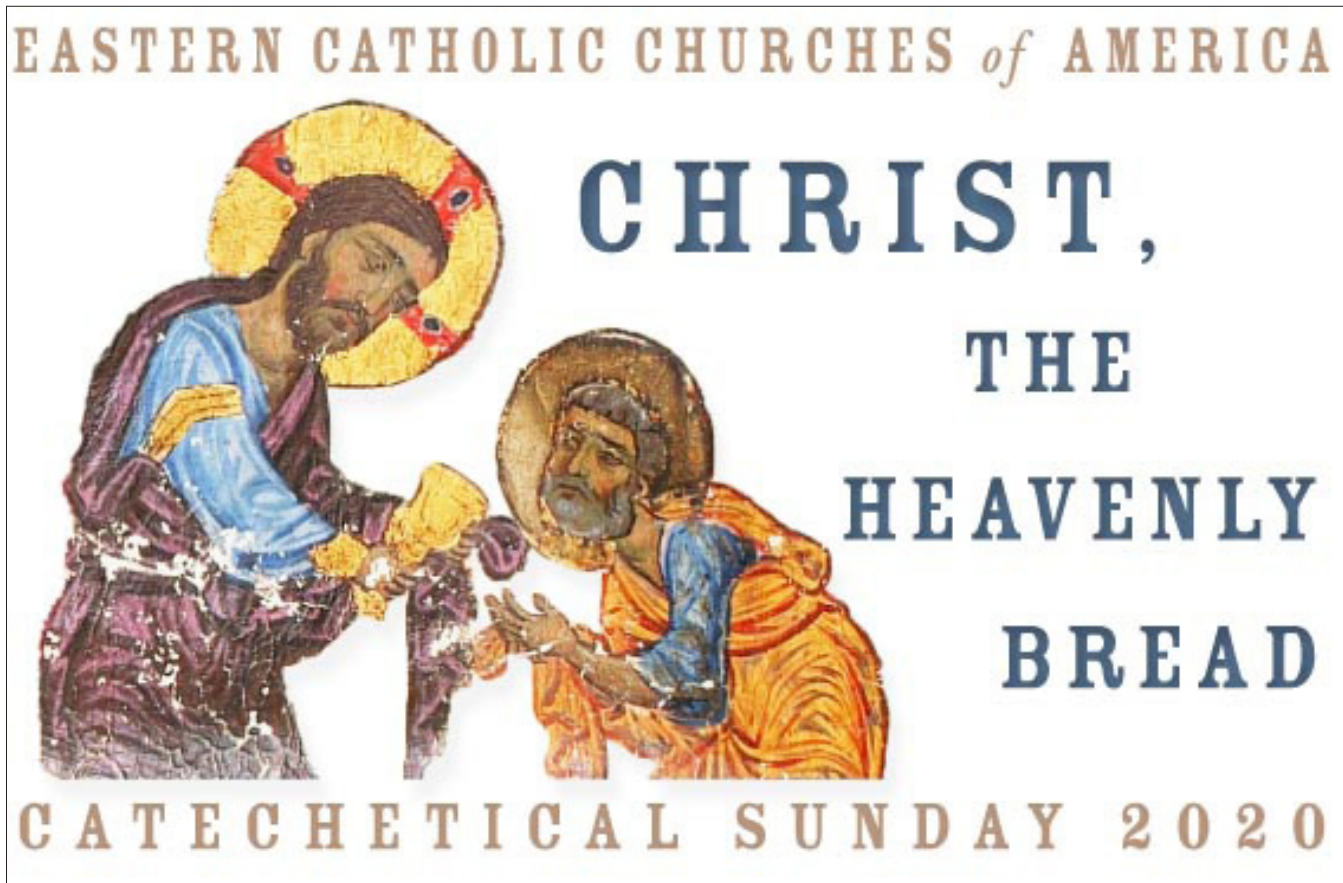
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"The Way" appreciates your support! Thank you!

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY will be held on September 20th with the theme “Christ, the Heavenly Bread” As we begin the new catechetical year 2020 let us take time to grow in our love and gratitude for the gift of the Holy Eucharist, sharing that love with those entrusted to our care. May we all faithfully navigate through this pandemic, knowing and trusting that God is With Us.



Each year the Eastern Catholic Eparchial Directors of Religious Education (ECED) prepare and distribute resource materials to our parishes for Catechetical Sunday.

Due to the pandemic, Covid-19, many parishes have adjusted their liturgical services and Eastern Christian Formation programs to assure the safety and well being of their parishioners. In some instances this has resulted in the faithful not having the opportunity to receive the Holy Eucharist as frequently as they have in the past. Now is an opportune time to reflect on this Mystery and gain a deeper appreciation of the gift that has been given to us.

In his 24 Lectures entitled, Jerusalem Catechesis, St. Clement of Alexandria reminds us. “From the very beginning of Christian history, holy men and women have reflected on Christ’s presence in the Holy Eucharist. They taught the sacred transformation that occurs in the Eucharistic Liturgy is a sign and a cause of the transformation that should occur in the lives of all those who receive this Mystery.”

September Reflection

The Tree of Life & the Holy Eucharist

By Fr. Hezekias Carnazzo



What does the Bible teach regarding the Holy Eucharist? Why is it that Jesus teaches us that we must eat his flesh and drink his blood in order to have eternal life?

In order to understand our Lord’s words in the Gospel of John, that we must “eat [his] flesh and drink [his] blood,” it is necessary that we reflect on the plan of God in the beginning, the plan of God for man as he placed him in the Garden of Eden (Jn. 6:53). What was this plan? Recall, that God planted two trees in the midst of the Garden, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the Tree of Life (cf. Gen 2:9). God instructed Adam and Eve not eat from the Tree of Knowledge, for in the day that they ate of it, God warned, they would surely die (cf. Gen 2:17), but of the Tree of Life, man could freely eat, and through eating of it, man would receive “eternal life,” that is, the life of God (cf. Gen. 2:16, 3:22).

It was God’s plan to share his own life with his creation, and in the Tree of Life, God offered to man a communication, a participation, in the fullness of divinity. It was God’s plan in the Garden of Eden for man to eat the Life of God by way of a created material tree. But Adam and Eve traded life for death and forsook the great gift of the Tree of Life. They ate from the Tree of Knowledge in disobedience to God’s command and discovered, to their misery, the curse of death. The Sacred Scriptures tell us that man was cast forth from the Garden of Eden for one reason, “lest he put forth his hand and take also from the Tree of Life, and eat, and **live forever**” (Gen 3: 22).

Saint Ephrem the Syrian explains, ‘If man had eaten from the tree of life in the state of fallen human nature, it would have made that state eternal, and man would have lived eternally in death, separated from his God.’ Thus, God in his mercy separated man from his source of salvation, the Tree of Life, because what was made good for man had, through disobedience, become his downfall. But God does not change, and thus his plan remains for mankind to share in his own eternal life, through the tree of life.

In the fullness of time, God sent his only Son to save the world and restore man to his original state. It is to be expected, therefore, that we find on the lips of the One who was sent to reverse the curse of the Fall the words of our salvation ‘eat, and you will **live forever**’ (cf. Jn 6:48-59). On the mountain of Calvary, God devised a way to replant the Tree of Life and hanging upon that tree, the tree of the cross, we behold the fruit of our salvation, the flesh of the Son of God. In the Orthodox Catholic Church, the “Tree of Life” is planted in the midst of the Garden of the Faithful and each Divine Liturgy the people of God eat from this tree for their eternal salvation.

Let us approach with fear of God, with faith and with love and come to the Giver the Life and receive the fruit of the Tree of Life and eat our salvation in the Garden of the Most High.

KIDS of THE WAY ШЛЯХ

Офіційний друкований орган Філадельфійської Архиепархії Української Католицької Церкви



Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church:

Faith
Hope
Love

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, by 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 are 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 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

Theotokos Birth Story

Let me tell you the birth story of the Theotokos.

Have you ever asked your parents to tell you about the day you were born? Children love to know the details about that special day that they came into the world! Would you like to hear the story about how the mother of Jesus, the Theotokos, was born? You won't find the story in the Gospels, but we do know some of the details about this story, as well as other stories about the early life of Mary and Jesus, because the Apostle James, who was actually a member of the family of Jesus, wrote all about it and other events in the early life of Mary and Jesus in a separate book called the Protoevangelion of James.

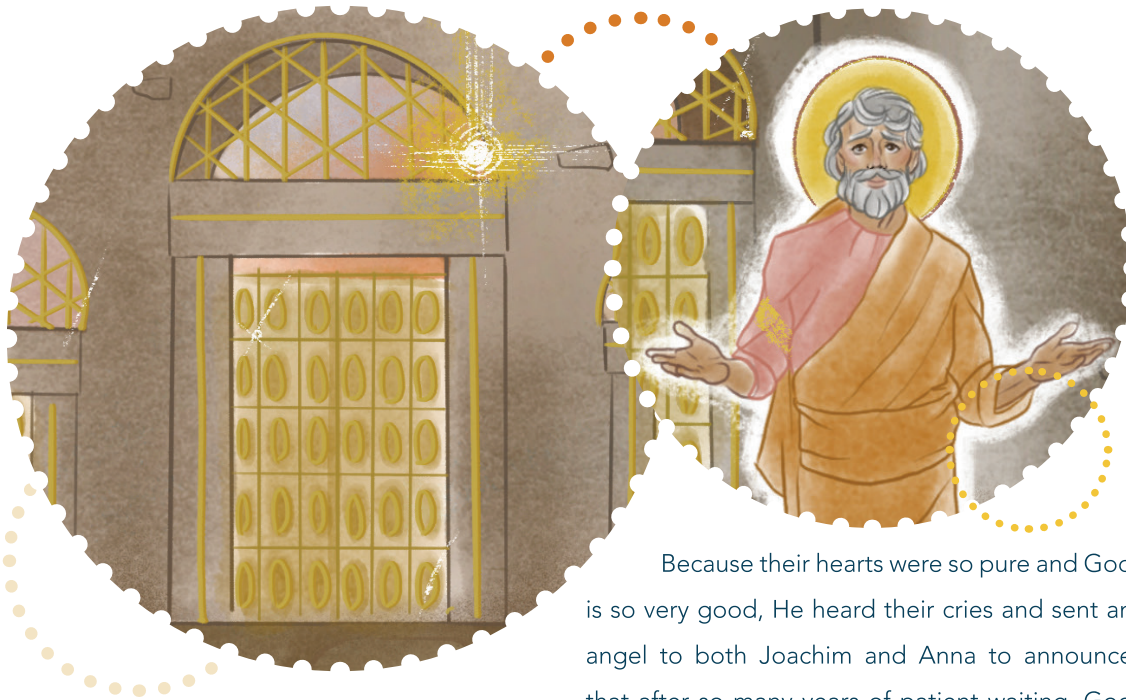
The story of Mary's birth is a wonderful story about dealing with disappointment, about hope, and about trusting in God, but it starts out in a rather sad way. Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were married for a very long time but had no children.

08 Byzi Kids //SEP 2020

They were very disappointed about it and prayed to God earnestly every day for a child. They never gave up hope, but it had been such a very long wait.



Joachim was one of the priests in the temple and when it came time for him to present the offering, the high-priest refused his gifts saying that he wasn't worthy of offering anything. Because he and his wife had no children and since children are a gift from God, he thought that they were obviously a wicked couple who had been cursed with barrenness. Joachim was heartsick to hear such a thing. He overheard the other priests, all of whom had many children, making fun of him. This made Joachim so sad and ashamed that he went out into the wilderness for a while to weep alone and think about what the high-priest had said. Was he really a wicked man? Was it his fault that Anna had never become a mother? Did he fail her? Did he somehow fail God?



This made him so upset and since he didn't want to appear this way in front of Anna and make her as sad as he was, he didn't return home. He stayed in the wilderness and prayed about it so earnestly that he didn't realize that night had fallen and so he remained there overnight. Naturally, Anna was very worried when her husband didn't return home so in the morning she went in search of him at the temple and was told about what had happened there and where he had gone. She returned home, not wanting to go after him and cause him embarrassment. She began to fast and pray like she never prayed before, begging God to help her and tell her what she should do. At the same time, her husband was in the wilderness, begging God for the very same grace.

Because their hearts were so pure and God is so very good, He heard their cries and sent an angel to both Joachim and Anna to announce that after so many years of patient waiting, God willed that they would soon become the parents of a beautiful baby girl who would be blessed more than any other woman who would ever live! The angel told them that they should meet each other at the Golden Gate of the Temple and rejoice together, and so they did. Soon afterward, Anna was found to be expecting a baby! A very special baby! The Theotokos! She would grow up to become the woman who would say YES and become the Mother of God, bringing Him into the world for our salvation! What a great reward for Joachim and Anna!

-Written by Lynne Wardach

WWW.BYZIMOM.COM 09



I SPY IN MY LITTLE "I" CON

THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

This Icon depicts the birth of The Theotokos!

The woman reclining is not Mary herself (although her attire may seem similar) but Mary's mother, St. Anna. The birth of Theotokos was a miracle because of her parent's Sts. Anna and Joachim couldn't have children.

Note the red cloth hanging between buildings as we have learned this symbol indicates that the event depicted occurred indoors.

In this Icon, we see the grand house that Mary was born into, unlike her Son, our Saviour, Jesus, who was born in a manger. Mary's father, St. Joachim, was a wealthy man, and he spared no expense in the care St. Anna and Theotokos received upon this day. Three attendants are depicted serving the new mother St. Anna with food, drink, and fan.

We see St. Joachim depicted away from the scene, looking on in joy with open arms.

He written this way to help the Icon make a comparison to the Nativity of Christ. In the Nativity of Christ, we often see St. Joseph depicted away from Theotokos and Jesus, symbolizing his internal conflict.



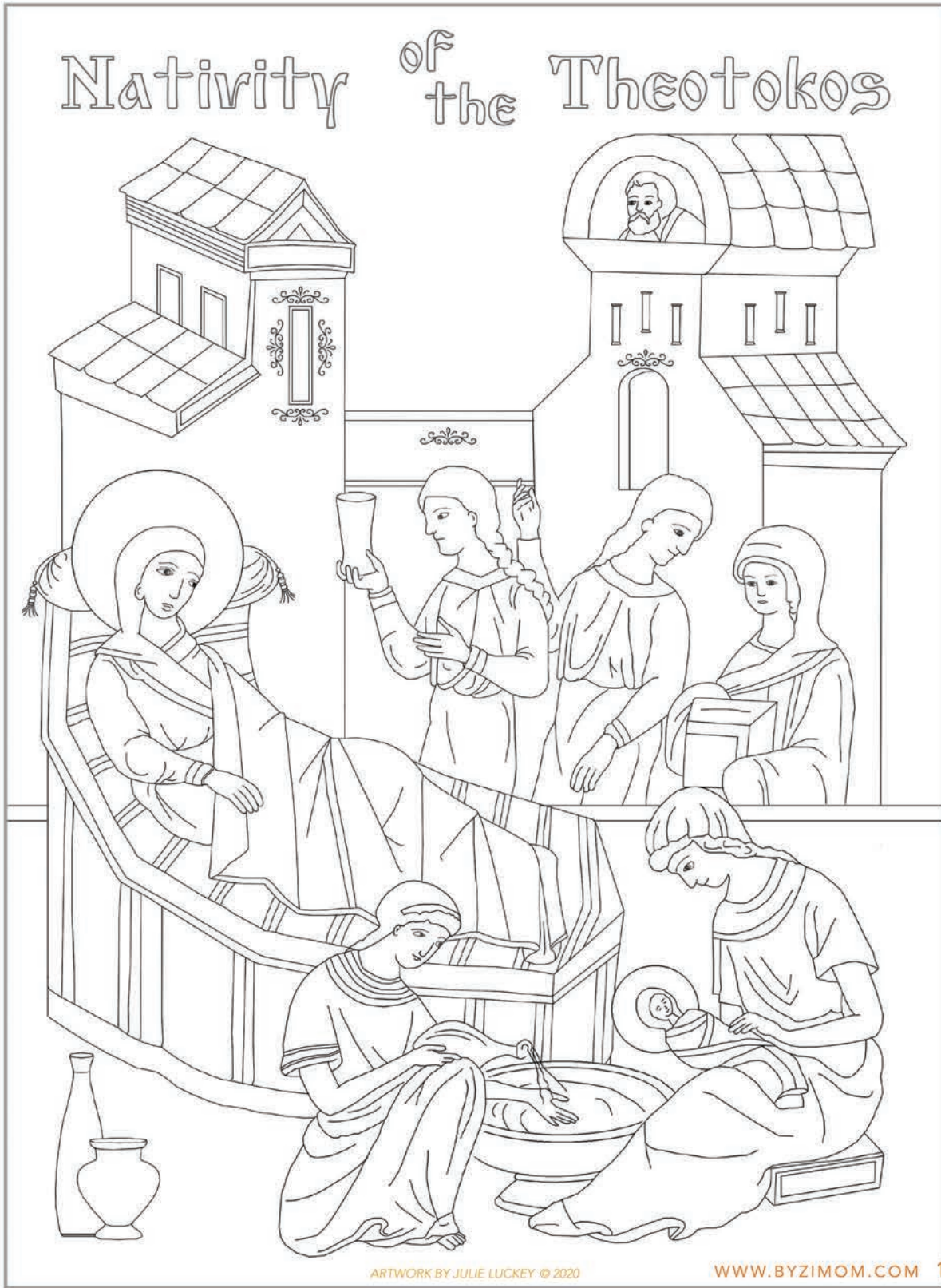
NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD BY FR. VLADIMIR LYSAK



Above the infant Mary's head, we see the acronym MP ΘΥ which stands for "Mother of God."

Notice in the corner the midwives bathing a tiny Theotokos.

It is incredible to think that this girl from a wealthy family humbled herself to give birth to Christ in a cave surrounded by animals. Let us remember her, "Yes!"



Nativity of the Mother of God (September 8th)

“Your birth, O Virgin Mother of God, heralded joy to the universe, for from You rose the Son of Justice, Christ our God. He took away the curse, He imparted the blessing, and by abolishing death He gave us everlasting life.” (Tropar)

In the church calendar, our Church celebrates the saints’ birthday into heaven – the day of their death. But there are two saints whose birthday, day of birth, beginning of one’s earthly life is also celebrated. They are Mary, the Mother of God, and St. John the Baptist. The Birth, Nativity of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, is celebrated on September 8th shortly after the beginning of

the new church year. The birth of St. John the Baptist is celebrated on June 24th. The only other earthly birth we celebrate is Christmas, the Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ.(December 25th)

The celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God dates back to the early Church. Although we cannot put an exact date the feast was first celebrated, we have early Church writers such as St. John Chrysostom, St. Proclus, St. Epiphanius, St. Augustine, and St. Roman the Melodius who make mention of the Feast.

The Hebrew

understanding of childbearing was that a child is a gift from God and a blessing. To be without a child would be a “curse” or a “punishment” from God. So the parents would without ceasing pray to God to bless them with a child. The Tropar for the Feast speak of “Heaven and earth rejoicing together.” All creation rejoices, for Anna who was barren and advanced in years gives birth to the One Who would one day give birth to the long-awaited Messiah. Mary would one day become the Mother of God (Theotokos).

God’s promise to one day send a Messiah,

a Redeemer, a Savior for all the nations was beginning to be fulfilled in the birth of Mary. St. John Damascus in his sermon for the Feast says that the Nativity of the Mother of God is a day of universal joy. The sorrow of our ancestor Eve has turned to jubilation. Mary has an integral role in salvation history. Jesus, our Lord God and Savior, would one day be born of Mary. Jesus Christ came into the world to fulfill and complete all that the Prophets of the Old Testament foretold. The death of Jesus was a death He suffered once and for all.

Fr. D. George Worschak

A Somber Remembrance of 9-11

As we near the date of September 11th, we recall sad and tragic day of September 11, 2001. Next year it will be already twenty years since that horrific and inhumane attack on our nation occurred. Terrorists had attacked the United States at several locations. They sought to create havoc within our God-loving nation. The

acts of violence were immediately condemned by the world society as a whole. May the world never condone such acts of hatred, terror, and violence.

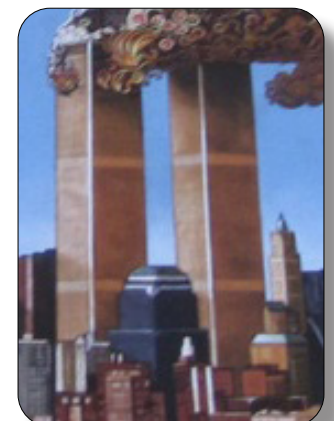
The initial reaction by Americans was to turn inwardly to one another and yes also at times to God for comfort and solace. However, as time has goes on the

resurgence of faith and worship to God Almighty has diminished.

Let us pray that our nation and indeed the whole world return in prayer and worship to God and seek His Divine Protection over us as a nation and over each of us individually.

Save Your people, O Lord God, and bless

Your inheritance and protect Your faithful by Your Cross!



FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (Sept. 14th)

"We bow before Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection" (Hymn for the Feast)

On the Gregorian calendar, we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation on September 14th and on September 27th on the Julian calendar. According to Christian tradition, the True Cross was discovered in 326 by Saint Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, during a pilgrimage she made to Jerusalem. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was then built at the site of the discovery, by order of Helena and Constantine. The church was dedicated nine years later, with a portion of the cross. One-third remained in Jerusalem, one-third was brought to Rome and deposited in the Sessorian basilica Santa Croce in Gerusalemme (Holy Cross in Jerusalem), and one-third was taken to Constantinople to make the city impregnable, to protect the city.

The date of the feast marks the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 335. The actual consecration of the church was on September 13, the cross itself was brought outside the church on September 14 so that the clergy and

faithful could pray before the True Cross, and all could come forward to venerate it.

The Cross of Christ is a symbol of victory. Jesus Christ our Lord overcame the powers of sin, death, and evil by His self-sacrificial act of Love on the cross. The Totally Innocent One takes upon Himself the sin of the world. By His Cross and Resurrection, Our Lord and Savior opens wide the doors to the Heavenly Kingdom. He conquered death by His death and granted life to the faithful ones who with God's grace lived according to the Holy Will of Our Heavenly Father.

We Christians today are called to walk in the footsteps of Our Master, to carry one's personal daily with love and patient endurance. The Cross of Christ is an act of Love: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13) And the Lord God then goes on to tell us: "You are my friends if you do what I command you." (15:14) Our Lord regards us as "friends", not slaves of a master. We all are indeed children of God. We all are brothers and sisters in Christ.

The early Christians

regarded the Cross of Christ as the glory of the angels and the defeat of the evil powers. The devil, evil one, has been rendered powerless. Many Christians in the early Church possessed a strong and deep faith in Christ. With love and patient endurance, they suffered persecution and even died for the Faith. These martyrs persevered and received their heavenly reward.

Some Emperors of ancient Rome showed a disdain for the Christian faith. Faithful Christians were sent into the arena, a lion's den. Many chose not to give up the Holy Faith in Christ, but to rather make the supreme sacrifice and die as "Martyrs," giving their "all."

In 313, Emperor Constantine the Great issued the Edict of Milan. This Holy Roman Emperor of the East, of Byzantium, granted Christians the freedom to worship God according to their faith. Empress Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, travelled to Jerusalem in 326 in search for the "True Cross of Christ."

During her search three crosses were found, one of Our Lord and the other two of the robbers crucified next to Our

Lord. Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem was able to ascertain which of the three to be the True cross of Christ. A woman, who had suffered a malady for a long time was touched by each of the crosses. Earnest prayer followed. Thus, it was discerned where the spirit of the Savior resided. The instant the true cross of Christ was brought near her, the woman was cured and made whole.

The joy of those witnessing this miracle was indeed great. The Church would soon establish a Feast Day to honor and venerate the True Cross of Christ. In celebration of this joyous Feast, the Church in the East formulated a tropar which we Ukrainian Catholics to this day sing. This song of victory, we sing not only on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, but also may be prayed each Wednesday and Friday of the week:

Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to Your faithful people against enemies, and protect Your community by Your cross.

Rev. D. George Worschak, Assistant Editor

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

present a virtual conference for the UGCC faithful on Saturday, October 10th 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

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



FALL / WINTER 2020



GOD WITH US

The Art of Catechesis in the Orthodox Tradition

Rev. David Anderson

Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21 and 28 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET

As an old saying goes, the law of prayer is the law of belief. The foundation and authority of Orthodox Catholic catechesis is and always has been the Divine Liturgy of the Church. Rooted in prayer and looking to the Lord, we discover the Orthodox Faith in the face of Christ.



CROWNED WITH GLORY

Understanding the Marriage Covenant

Rev. Stephen Freeman

Wednesday, November 11 @ 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. ET

"The love of husband and wife is the force that welds society together... Because when harmony prevails, the children are raised well, the household is kept in order, and neighbors, friends, and relatives praise the result. Great benefits, both of families and states, are produced. When it is otherwise, however, everything is thrown into confusion and turned upside-down." - St. John Chrysostom



SEVEN AGES OF THE KINGDOM

A Study of Salvation History

Rev. Daniel Dozier

Mondays, November 30, December 7 & 14 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET

The Church as God's Holy People is at the heart of His unfolding plan of salvation that is ultimately fulfilled in Christ. Join us as we explore how this plan for a universal covenant kingdom unfolds in Scripture through particular stages in the history of God's People.



PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE

A Patristic Study of Deification

Rev. Nathan Symeon Adams

Wednesdays, January 13, 20, & 27 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET

God has called his people to become partakers of His Divine Nature (2 Peter 1:4). Join us for this three-part series as we explore this process of participating in the Sacramental and moral life of Christ by which each individual and the whole Church are transformed into the mystical body of Christ.

All courses are offered as live webinars, free of charge. Live participation is highly encouraged for a full experience, including opportunities for discussion with fellow students and instructors.

For those unable to participate live, lectures are recorded and available on-demand, free of charge, in our event library, currently offering many hours of adult faith formation in the Eastern Christian tradition.

Register at EasternCatholic.org/Events

SPRING / SUMMER 2021



DYING TO SIN

The First Steps in Askesis

Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses

Mondays, February 22, March 1 and 8 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET

Are we all called to askesis, or asceticism, or is it only the calling of a select few? Join us as we learn from the great ascetics of the Church, discovering how to apply the practice of askesis in our own lives.



MORE SPACIOUS THAN THE HEAVENS

A Liturgical Study of the Annunciation

Rev. Sebastian Carnazzo

Monday, March 22 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET

Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery that was planned from all eternity: The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces this grace... The Troparion of the Annunciation



I BELIEVE

A Study of the Creed of the Church

Rev. David Anderson

Wednesdays, April 14 - June 16 @ 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. ET

Let the Creed be like a mirror for you. Look at yourself in it to see whether you really believe all that you claim to believe. And rejoice every day in your faith (Blessed Augustine). Join Fr. David Anderson as we dive deeply into the study of our saving faith.



UNITY IS NOT UNIFORMITY

Development of the Apostolic Churches

Rev. Hezekias Carnazzo

Wednesday, June 30 @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET

Why are there so many divisions in the Church when Jesus prayed that we would be one? Join us as we explore the original Biblical concept of what it means to be a Church, as well as the history of the development of the apostolic churches and the unique theological concepts that make us different.



WEEKLY CATECHETICAL RESOURCES

Join us weekly for insights from our bishops, reflections on the Biblical, literal, and historical context of the Gospel and prayer and study guides to prepare to enter more fully into the Sunday liturgy as the foundation for spiritual and moral application.

Please visit GodWithUsOnline.org/Catechetical-Resources/

89th ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great

Sunday, October 4, 2020

89th 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





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INSTITUTE LAUNCHES FALL WEBINAR SERIES ON "EASTERN CATHOLIC THEOLOGY IN ACTION"

Eastern Catholic Theology in Action

Eastern Catholic Theology in Action will have a webinar series that will be held on Thursdays, beginning September 3, 2020. The courses are free and more information is available by clicking on the link below. On Thursday, November 12 Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak will present a program entitled: Quo Vadis: The Direction of Eastern Catholic Theology, a Pastoral Perspective for the 21st Century.

<http://lumenchristi.org/news/2020/08/Eastern-Catholic-Theology-in-Action>

Series Lectures

Thursday, September 3, 7 p.m. CDT

Introduction to Liturgical Mystagogy | Daniel Galadza (University of Regensburg)

Thursday, September 10, 7 p.m. CDT

A Theology of Wonder: An Introduction to the Poetry of Ephrem the Syrian | Andrew Hayes (University of St. Thomas, Houston)

Thursday, September 17, 7 p.m. CDT

Christ the Lover of Mankind: Philanthropia, Mystery, and Martyria in Eastern Christianity | Robin Darling Young (Catholic University of America)

Thursday, September 24, 7 p.m. CDT

Eastern Churches, Latin Territories: Ecclesial Catholicity and the Notion of Diaspora | Alexander Laschuk (Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at University of St. Michael's College)

Thursday, October 1, 7.p.m. CDT

Expanding the Archive: Syriac Literature and the Study of Early Christianity Today | Erin Walsh (University of Chicago)

Thursday, November 12, 7 p.m. CDT

Quo Vadis: the Direction of Eastern Catholic Theology, a Pastoral Perspective for the 21st Century | **Archbishop Borys Gudziak** (Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA)

Presidents of the United States, France, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, as well as Pope Francis, Queen Elizabeth II and other world leaders congratulated Ukraine on the 29th Anniversary of Independence

August 23, 2020

Ukraine receives congratulations from heads of state, heads of government and spiritual leaders on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of independence.

In his congratulations to the people of Ukraine addressed to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, US President Donald Trump underscored the challenges facing Ukraine and the world this year, noting the importance of peace initiatives of the Ukrainian authorities and confrontation with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am proud the United States has provided more than \$41 million in assistance to Ukraine to combat the virus and its economic impact. This Independence Day is also an important celebration as Ukraine bravely continues to push back against ongoing Russian aggression. I applaud your efforts to bring a peaceful end to the Russia-led conflict in eastern Ukraine," the United States President

said.

Donald Trump also noted that the United States continues to unwaveringly support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity until it regains control of its entire territory, including Crimea.

"A free and independent Ukraine is driven forward by its thriving democracy. The United States strongly supports reform in Ukraine, and we stand with all Ukrainians - whether in government, business, or civil society - whose efforts advance the rule of law, foster economic growth and attract foreign investment, and accelerate Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration," the US President emphasized.

In his greetings, President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron wished the Ukrainian people prosperity and peace.

He also noted the persistence and openness of Volodymyr Zelenskyy

to achieve tangible progress in restoring peace in Donbas.

"This resolute position, which paved the way for a summit in Paris in December last year, has led to a series of release of prisoners related to the conflict, as well as to the recent measures aimed at strengthening the ceasefire regime," Emmanuel Macron emphasized.

He assured that France, together with Germany, would continue to stay close to Ukraine in search of a lasting political solution to the conflict in the east of the country, as well as to defend Ukraine's sovereignty within internationally recognized borders.

"With reference to our recent talks, I would like to wish further development of our bilateral relations and strengthening of ties of friendship and trust between our countries," the letter of the President of the French Republic to Volodymyr Zelenskyy reads.

President of the Federal Republic of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier congratulated the citizens of Ukraine on Independence Day on behalf of the German people.

"Germany will continue to effectively stand in solidarity with Ukraine in preserving its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and will tirelessly advocate for an end to the violence and suffering of Ukrainians living in the east of the country. On the Independence Day of Ukraine, I would like to emphasize: Crimea remains part of Ukraine," the letter from Frank-Walter Steinmeier reads.

Given the great challenges facing Ukraine, the German President wished Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people "great strength and courage to support each other, take the necessary steps in reforms and overcome

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Presidents of the United States, France, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, as well as Pope Francis, Queen Elizabeth II and other world leaders congratulated Ukraine on the 29th Anniversary of Independence

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the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic".

On the occasion of Independence Day, Pope Francis conveyed to the President of Ukraine and all Ukrainian citizens wishes of peace and prosperity.

"At this time, as you celebrate the country's Independence Day in the wake of the epidemic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I assure you and your citizens of my prayer and closeness, so that you build a stable and united state in a spirit of unity, solidarity and dialogue. So that every Ukrainian can live in peace, prosperity, security and fellowship. May the Lord bless you and all the people of your country," the pontiff's letter reads.

President of the Swiss Confederation Simonetta Sommaruga, who visited Donbas with Volodymyr Zelenskyy this year, also conveyed best wishes for the Independence Day to the President of Ukraine.

"Good, trusting relations between our two countries enable us to address major global challenges together. Still having very good memories of my recent visit to your country, I very much look forward to working with you to meet these challenges. I wish you and the people of Ukraine happiness, prosperity and every success for the future," Simonetta Sommaruga noted.

"It is with great pleasure that I send Your Excellency my warm congratulations on the occasion of your national holiday, together with the best wishes to the people of Ukraine at this difficult time," Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom noted.

On the anniversary of the proclamation of Ukraine's independence, President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda wished the President of Ukraine unity and peace.

Andrzej Duda expressed content that bilateral relations between Poland

and Ukraine develop in an amicable, harmonious and stable way, and that Ukraine's role as a close and important partner country of Poland is constantly growing.

"We appreciate our dialogue on both bilateral and regional issues. Poland invariably supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and remains a supporter of its interests in the European Union and NATO," the President of Poland said.

President of Hungary Janos Ader noted in his greeting that Hungary was one of the first to recognize Ukraine's independence and continues to support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Ukrainian state in the field of common European values.

"I am convinced that good neighborly relations and close cooperation between Hungary and Ukraine have no alternative. I am happy to say that this year we have finally

become closer in our relations. We still have many tasks ahead, but I am confident that through mutual respect and good intentions we will be able to find solutions to the issues that remain open," Janos Ader said in his greeting. President of Slovakia Zuzana Caputova sent a video message to the President of Ukraine congratulating him on the occasion of Independence Day. She wished the Ukrainian people strength and determination.

On the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sent a letter to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wishing him good health and happiness, and the government and the friendly Ukrainian people - sustainable progress and prosperity.

President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-

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Presidents of the United States, France, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, as well as Pope Francis, Queen Elizabeth II and other world leaders congratulated Ukraine on the 29th Anniversary of Independence

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Jomart Tokayev, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, President of Egypt Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of Peru Martín Vizcarra Cornejo and many others also congratulated Ukraine on the national holiday.

"I am very happy that Ukraine is so high on the agenda in the international arena. Tomorrow we are 29 years old. We are still so young, but already so experienced. I am sure that Ukraine has something to surprise the world. And we will do everything to make Ukraine known as a prosperous country of happy people," Volodymyr Zelensky said.

<https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/z-29-yu-richnice-yu-nezalezhnosti-ukrayinu-privitali-preziden-62937>

On Independence Day, the President of Ukraine took part in a prayer service for peace in Ukraine

August 24, 2020

On the day of the 29th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, President Volodymyr Zelensky took part in the festive prayer service "Prayer for Peace and Blessing of Ukraine".

In the courtyard of the National Reserve "Sophia of Kyiv" prayers for Ukraine were said by church leaders and leaders of religious organizations.

The spiritual leaders thanked the Lord for an independent Ukraine and asked for protection for its defenders and all those who support them, wisdom for the Ukrainian people and strength for the leaders of the state. They prayed for peace to come to the Ukrainian land.

The chamber choir performed "Our Father" and "Prayer for Ukraine".

<https://risu.ua/en/on-independence-day-the-president-took-part-in-a-prayer-service-for-peace-in-ukraine>



His Beatitude Sviatoslav on Ukraine's Independence Day: Let us love our own, cherish our own, and speak our native Ukrainian language

August 25, 2020

The Primate of the UGCC asked that this year, celebrating the Independence Day of Ukraine, we remember three words - gratitude, memory and work!

Gratitude

The Head of the Church called on this day to thank the Lord God for the gift of freedom for the Church and the people, for the gift of restoring our State, which is also a gift of God.

We also thank those who protect our lives and future at the cost of their own blood. Let us thank today our military, volunteers, all those who make possible the existence, life and development of a free and independent Ukraine.

Memory

"When we hear the

word 'memory,'" said His Beatitude Sviatoslav, "let us remember that our state is one of the oldest in Europe." There were times when our people lived on their land, but in foreign countries. Therefore, today let us remember those who fought and gave their lives for the establishment and strengthening of a free, independent Ukrainian State."

He also called on this day to remember, in particular, those who suffered for a free Ukraine during communism - dissidents, shistdesiatnyky, all those who with their intellectual, cultural work won the right to the existence of Ukrainian culture, language, art - all that we regard the wealth and the foundation of Ukrainian identity.

Work

goods in order to reflect God's love for us and for Creation during this time of trial caused by the pandemic.



<https://youtu.be/I4hhIRXsMpl>

"To celebrate this holiday well, let's work together today, let's work for an independent Ukrainian State. No matter what positions we hold, no matter who we are, let's work for Ukraine, even when we are abroad and live in other countries. Let's remember Ukraine!" - urged the spiritual leader of Ukrainians.

Today we pray, said His Beatitude Sviatoslav, that the Lord God will preserve our country, give her freedom, so that we can win the war, the epidemic, so that together we can rejoice

in our freedom and independence. Happy Independence Day to you, Ukrainian people! Almighty and Only God, preserve Ukraine for us!

The UGCC Department for Information

http://news.ugcc.ua/en/news/the_head_of_the_ugcc_on_ukraines_independence_day_let_us_love_our_own_cherish_our_own_and_speak_our_native_ukrainian_language_90631.html

Pope Francis: We are stewards called to share earth's fruits with everyone

August 26, 2020

Pope Francis focuses his weekly General Audience on the importance of equality and sharing of

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

By Francesca Merlo

Pope Francis opened his catechesis on Wednesday by inviting the faithful to "welcome

the gift of hope that comes from Christ", especially during the pandemic, in which

(continued on next page)

WAY

Pope Francis: We are stewards called to share earth's fruits with everyone

(continued from previous page)

"many risk losing hope".

The Pope explained that it is Christ who "helps us to navigate the tumultuous waters of sickness, death and injustice, which do not have the last word over our final destination."

Continuing his catechesis on Healing the World, the Holy Father focused on the universal destination of goods and the virtue of hope.

Pope Francis: We cannot go back to old ways after the pandemic

Pandemic and social inequalities

Pope Francis went on to note that many social inequalities have been "highlighted and aggravated" by the pandemic. Many children are unable to continue receiving their education while many others instead can; some people are unable to continue their work from home, but many others can; and many nations cannot issue money to deal with the emergency without harming their financial future, while others can.

"These symptoms of inequality reveal a social illness. It is a virus that comes from a sick economy...the result of unequal economic growth, which disregards fundamental human values."

"In today's world, very few rich people possess more than the rest of humanity. It is an injustice that cries out to heaven!"

Reflecting the design of Creation

This "sin of wanting to possess and dominate our brothers and sisters...nature and God Himself...is not the design of creation", said the Pope.

He reminded the faithful that God gave the earth to all of us to care for and cultivate. God invited us to dominate the earth in His name, cultivating and tending it like a garden, "everyone's garden".

This garden must be protected and preserved, continued the Pope. This cannot be interpreted in a way that allows us "to do whatever we want with the earth. The Pope stressed that it has been

given to us by God to the whole human race. Therefore, "it is our duty to make sure that its fruit reaches everyone, not just a few people."

Political authorities

Pope Francis went on to stress that, in order to ensure that what we possess "brings value to the community", political authorities have the right and the duty to "regulate the legitimate exercise of the right to ownership for the sake of the common good."

Although "property and money are instruments that can serve the mission", we easily turn them into "individual or collective" ends, said the Pope.

When this happens, he explained, essential human values are undermined. "We forget that, being created in the image and likeness of God, we are social, creative and solidary beings, with an immense capacity to love."

"With our gaze fixed on Jesus and with the certainty that His love is operative through the community of His

disciples, we must all act together in the hope of generating something different and better. Christian hope, rooted in God, is our anchor. It moves the will to share, strengthening our mission as disciples of Christ, Who shared everything with us."

Concluding his catechesis, the Pope said that, if we take care of the goods that the Creator gives us and if we share what we possess so that no one is lacking, then indeed "we can inspire hope to regenerate a more healthy and equal world."

Finally, Pope Francis invited the faithful to "think about the children", so many of whom are suffering due to this unjust economic system. Many are dying, hungry, lacking the opportunity to an education. After the crisis, he stressed, we must be better.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-08/pope-francis-general-audience-christian-hope-rooted-in-god-covid.html>

August 27, 2020

A monument to His Beatitude Lubomyr Husar will soon be erected in Vinnytsia - perhaps one of the first such monuments in the world.

A few weeks ago, His Beatitude Sviatoslav and Bishop Yosyf Milian, one of the initiators of its construction, inspected the almost finished sculpture.

http://news.ugcc.ua/en/news/the_creation_of_a_monument_to_his_beatitude_lubomyr_is_an_inner_need_to_thank_god_for_the_great_people_he_has_been_giving_to_ukraine_fr_hryhoriy_rohatsky_90653.html



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