

## Dormition of The Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church

1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8

Pastor's office / residence Tel.: (250) 860-7295

Church Office Manager: Mrs. Oksana Udalova: [dormitionofficemanager@gmail.com](mailto:dormitionofficemanager@gmail.com)

Church parish office / cultural centre-hall and kitchen Tel: (250) 763-7447 Church Office open: Monday-Friday: from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Facebook page: *DormitionKelowna Parish*: <https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>

*Saint Josaphat Vernon*: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551660554811>

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster: [www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca)



## Успення Пресвятої Богородиці Українська Католицька Церква

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts / о. Павло Миць

Parish web-site: <http://kelowna.nweparchy.ca/>

Cellphone: (250) 801-9077



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast-Lent / 2-<sup>ра</sup> Неділя Великого Посту *Saint Gregory of Palamas / святого отця Григорія Палами* February / Лютого 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 A.D.

*"If God comes to support us, to show that as long as we are with Him, as long as we know our dignity, which God reveals to us, being ready to defend it, valuing this our dignity more than money, positions or other circumstances – we cannot be defeated!"*

– His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk teaches and strongly reminds us all today

**Christian Greetings:** *Glory to Jesus Christ! – Glory to Him Forever!*

*Slava Isusu Chrystu! – Slava na Viky! Слава Ісусу Христусу! – Слава на Віку!*

*Christ is among us! – He is and will be!!*

**THE VIBRANT PARISH - A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST:** Through the Word, the Holy Mysteries & Prayer, Serving One's Neighbour, Leadership, Fostering & Serving Unity and Missionary Spirit. – Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US BY PRAYING TO THE ALMIGHTY GOD AT THE CHURCH AND ON-LINE!**

Welcome, pray, greet, and wish you and all your dear ones to be guided by the Holy Spirit, blessed with joy, peace, good health, unity, and Christian love and respect today and always!

Your pastor has thoughtfully prepared this church weekly letter/bulletin for you to pray read, spiritual growth and as Christians with conscious, constant awareness of The Divine Creator to evangelize daily and by responsibly and honestly sharing with all people the Good News/Gospel of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ in the World today!

### Daily Liturgical and Sacramental Services celebrated during week:

**Bible readings for 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the Great Fast/Lent:** Mon.: Genesis 6:9-22; Proverbs 8:1-22 & Isaiah 8:13-9:6

Tue.: Genesis 7:1-5; Proverbs 8:32-9:10 & Isaiah 9:8-10:4 Wed.: Genesis 7:6-9; Proverbs 9:12-18 & Isaiah 10:12-20

Thurs.: Genesis 7:11-8:3; Proverbs 10:1-22 & Isaiah 11:10-12:2 Fri.: Genesis 8:4-21; Proverbs 10:31-11:12 & Isaiah 13:2-13

**SUNDAY on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m.** Rosary: (Eng./Ukr.) (Church Services in Kelowna, BC)

**9:00 a.m.** Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends  
Panakhyda /Remembrance service for all people who have died during war in Ukraine

**1:00 p.m.** Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all our parishioners, relatives and friends (Eng./Ukr.)

Panakhyda /Remembrance service for all people who have died during war in Ukraine

Mon., Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> at **9:00 a.m.** Moleben to Suffering Lord Jesus Christ

(Church services in Kelowna, BC)

**6:30 p.m. - 6:55 p.m.** Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession

**7:00 p.m.** Rosary: for Peace in Ukraine / Вервиця: за Мир в Україні

Tue., Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at **9:30 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: for Peace in Ukraine / за Мир в Україні

Wed., Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> at **9:30 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts: for Peace in Ukraine / за Мир в Україні

Fri., March 1<sup>st</sup> at **9:00 a.m.** Sorokousty/Memorial Service for deceased parishioners and family members

**6:30 p.m. - 6:55 p.m.** Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession

**7:00 p.m.** Stations of the Cross / Хресна Дорога

**Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:40 p.m.** Lectio Divina / Bible Studies: (Bible Studies, Confession, Church

Services at Holy Resurrection of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Parish (361 Wade Avenue West) in Penticton, BC)

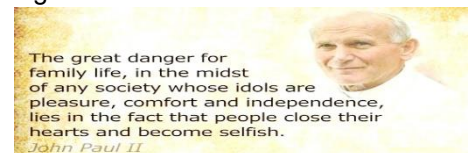
**4:00 p.m.** The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends (Eng./Ukr.)

**SUNDAY on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:15 a.m.** Rosary: (Eng./Ukr.) (Church Services in Kelowna, BC)

**9:00 a.m.** Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends

**1:00 p.m.** Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all our parishioners, relatives and friends (Eng./Ukr.)

(Church Services at Saint Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church (2210 - 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue) in Vernon, BC)



**Please contact Fr. Pavlo if you want to have the Divine Liturgies celebrated in your special intentions, such as: In Thanksgiving for Favours Received, the Infirm, General Intentions, Repose of the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, Students, Workers, etc. In case of emergency phone (250) 299-7249. If you would like to come to Confession, meet with the parish priest individually at the church or parish office, receive spiritual care and support via telephone or internet, want him to bless your home with annual traditional and pastoral blessings visiting you, your relatives or friends at their home, hospital or care homes, call or email the pastor in advance to arrange time and a day.**

## Sunday liturgical propers in English language:

Tone 6<sup>th</sup>, pages 101-103

*For the Sundays of Great Fast-Lent the Typicon prescribes the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great*

**Epistle: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews** (*Hebrews 1:10-2:3*)



Brothers and Sisters, Scripture says: "Lord, of old you established the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; all of them will grow old like a garment. You will roll them up like a cloak, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end." To which of the angels has God ever said, "Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool?" Are they not all ministering spirits, sent to serve those who are to inherit salvation? In view of this, we must attend all the more to what we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels stood unchanged, and all transgression and disobedience received its due punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore a salvation as great as ours? Announced first by the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who had heard him.

**Gospel: (Mark 2:1-12)**

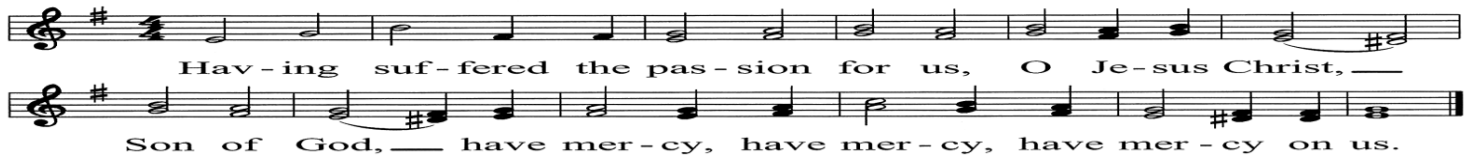
At that time, Jesus came back to Capernaum after a lapse of several days and word got around that he was at home. At that they began to gather in great numbers. There was no longer any room for them, even around the door.

While he was delivering God's word to them, some people arrived bringing a paralyzed man to him. The four who carried him were unable to bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they began to open up the roof over the spot where Jesus was. When they had made a hole, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves: "Why does the man talk in that way? He commits blasphemy! Who can forgive sins except God alone?"

Jesus was immediately aware of their reasoning, though they kept it to themselves, and he said to them: "Why do you harbour these thoughts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk again?' That you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (he said to the paralyzed man), "I command you: Stand up! Pick up your mat and go home." The man stood and picked up his mat and went outside in the sight of everyone. They were awestruck; all gave praise to God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

*Instead of "It is truly...":* In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angelic ranks and all the human race. Sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, virgins' pride and boast, from whom God is made flesh and became a little Child; and He who is our God before the ages, He made your womb a throne, and He made it wider than all the heavens. In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

### Having Suffered



### Недільні літургійні частини Українською мовою:

Глас 6, сторінки 100-102

**Апостол: До Євреїв Послання Святого Апостола Павла читання:** (Євр. 1, 10-2, 3)



Браття і сестри, Святе Писання говорить: «Ти, Господи, напочатку заснував землю і небеса – діло рук твоїх. Вони загинуть, ти ж перебуваєш; усі, мов одежа, постаріються. Ти їх, неначе одєжину, згорнеш і, немов одєжа, вони зміняться. Ти ж – той самий, і літа твої не скінчаться.» До кого з ангелів він коли мовив: «Сідай праворуч мене, доки не покладу твоїх ворогів підніжком під твої ноги?» Хіба ж не всі вони служебні духи, що їх посилають до послуг тим, які мають успадкувати спасіння? Тому ми мусимо вважати дуже пильно на те, що почули, щоб, бува, нас не знесло з дороги. Бо коли слово, оголошене ангелами, було таке зобов'язуюче, що всякий його переступ і непослух приймав справедливую кару, то як утєчемо ми, коли занедбаємо таке велике спасіння? Воно, спочатку проповідане Господом, було підтверджене нам тими, що його чули.

**Євангеліє: (Мр. 2, 1-12)**

У той час коли прийшов Ісус до Капернауму, чутка пішла, що він у домі. І там зібралося стільки народу, що не було більш місця, навіть перед дверима; а він промовляв до них словом. І от прийшли до нього, несучи розслабленого; несли його четверо. А що із-за народу не могли донести до нього, розкрили стелю над місцем, де він був, й отвором спустили ліжко, на якому лежав розслаблений. Ісус, уздрівши їхню віру, до розслабленого й каже: "Сину, відпускаються тобі твої гріхи." А були й деякі книжники, що сиділи там та міркували собі: "І як може цей так говорити? Він богохульствує! Хто може прощати гріхи, крім одного лише Бога?" Ісус же, вмить збагнувши духом, що вони таке собі думають, до них і каже: "Чого таке ось намислюєте у ваших серцях? Що легше – сказати розслабленому: Відпускаються тобі гріхи, а чи сказати: Встань, візьми твоє ліжко й ходи? Та щоб ви знали, що Син Чоловічий має владу на землі гріхи відпускати, – мовить до розслабленого: Кажу тобі: Встань, візьми твоє ліжко і йди до свого дому." Устав той – і зараз же, взявши ліжко, вийшов на очу всіх; тож чудувалися всі, хвалили Бога й мовляли: "Ніколи ми такого не бачили!"

**Замість "Достойно..." співаємо:** Тобою радується, Благодатная, всяка твар, ангельський собор і чоловічеський рід, освящений храме і раю словесний, дівственна похвало, що із неї Бог воплотився і младенцем став – перед віками сущий Бог наш. Лоно бо твоє престолом сотворив і утробу твою просторішою небес учинив. Тобою радується, Благодатная, всяка твар, слава тобі.





**THANK YOU VERY MUCH! ЩИРО ВАМ ДЯКУЄМО!**

**Gratitude to all our parishioners, guests, visitors and all Christian people of the good will** who by their kindness share time, talents and treasures, help to clean inside and outside our church building, and to every person who knowingly or unknowingly for the other people thoughtfully make donations, organized, participate at our parish community Christian ministry, volunteered by helping our parish community and via our Christian church in various ways helping people, supporting people of Ukraine at the time of war, and projects inside and as Christian missionaries praying and reaching outside our parish to very challenging and unpeaceful World today by keeping and sharing their Christian love, respect and unity in Christ by looking after and graciously supporting our Christian, Catholic Church communities in Okanagan Valley!

**DONATIONS!** Amid war in Ukraine and Covid-19 Pandemic causing many difficulties and challenging times we continue to rely on your Christian care, understanding, support and generosity! **Please continue to support our parish financially by e-transfer to [dormitiontransfer2023@gmail.com](mailto:dormitiontransfer2023@gmail.com) or mailing a cheque payable to Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church** 1091 Coronation Ave., Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8 Thank you for your support and care at this uneasy time for us all! **"Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us!"** (A Prayer from the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom)



**HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE PEOPLE IN UKRAINE:** The people of Ukraine need your help. As we mark the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the war in Ukraine, millions of the country's inhabitants are in dire straits. Constant bombardment, frigid temperatures, fluctuating power, lack of food, shelter and other basic necessities. As part of your Lenten sacrifice, kindly consider making a donation towards providing emergency services and humanitarian and pastoral support to Ukrainians by offering care, medical supplies, food, clothing and shelter to displaced persons, the elderly and the sick, as well as educational programs and support to local priests. For example, for only \$25, an emergency food package can provide much needed relief. \$100 can buy four packages. Each package will feed 2 persons for 1 week. Donations may be made through your local parish, the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster, or directly to Catholic Near East Welfare Association -

Canada ([cnewa.ca](http://cnewa.ca)). For information on how your donation is making a difference, see Catholic Near East Welfare Association's 2022 Campaign Report: Ukraine Emergency Relief. May God bless you and your family for your generosity.

Help Ukraine! Please pray! Stay informed! Donate. <https://cnewa.org/ca/campaigns/ukraine/>  
[https://www.catholicregister.org/item/34002-caritas-prepared-should-tanks-roll?mc\\_cid=839560d5dd&mc\\_eid=995513d2e2](https://www.catholicregister.org/item/34002-caritas-prepared-should-tanks-roll?mc_cid=839560d5dd&mc_eid=995513d2e2)



**GREETINGS!**

**ЩИРО ВАМ БІТАЄМО!**

**May the Almighty God bless** in good health, peace, love, joy and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to Mr. Nick Lalach on his birthday (Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>), Mrs. Beverly Strom on her birthday (Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>), Mr. Bill Chernetsky on his birthday (Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>), Carlie Dudych on her birthday (Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>), Mrs. Alexandra Vedress on her birthday (Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>), Mark Khaynas on his birthday (Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>), Raelene Lalach on her birthday (Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>), Anastasia Telyaga on her birthday (Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>), Mr. Andriy Dankanych on his birthday (Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>), Mr. Dominic and Mrs. Shelley Verhelst on their wedding anniversary (Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>), Mrs. Tatiana Kalynych on her birthday (March 1<sup>st</sup>), and to all the faithful Christians celebrating their birthdays, heavenly patron's name-days, wedding anniversaries, Family Weekend and any other special anniversaries and celebrations this week Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita / Many Blessed Years of Life!

**NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **LIVE STREAMING of church services from Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church** in Kelowna, B.C.: Please join our Christian prayerful community at <https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>  
 You can also view 24 / 7 many inspiring videos, articles, pictures, etc. are regularly published by the pastor. Please visit our parish Facebook page: *DormitionKelowna Parish*: <https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>

- Please visit and pray via our Cathedral Facebook page for live-stream videos of the liturgical services at The Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in New Westminster, BC: <https://www.facebook.com/holyeucharistcathedral/>

Please, be assured that Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts, as your spiritual father-pastor, is gratefully praying to The Almighty God, loving, thinking and spiritually carrying for all of you daily! Please pray for one another and especially for those who are ill, suffering be being affected by disasters, war in Ukraine! Let us always be co-responsible to ensure that we are all well.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:** Lucy D., Janet F., Volodymyr P., Ivan L., Ray Saranchuk and Family, Cameron V., Rose Ostowich, Keyton A., Shelley M., Fanny Kim, Danny M., Jordan M. Torin S., Sabre S., Keyton M., Dylan M., Bernard M., Darrin M., Kit C., Shirley C., George Dashkewych, Kay Initski, Kalyna Kociuba, William Shuya, Peter Huska and Family, Roma Nowakowski, Barbara and Vincent Pasternak, The Hillman Family, Joseph Stetch, Rosa Maria Santos, Anita N., Ron and Verna Shoemaker, Jonas and Anne, Alyssa and Adam, Teresa Huculak, Mark and Asia, Karen Feniuk, Volodymyr Melnyk, Shelley Zemliak, Ron Horon, Adeline Sorochnik, Aretta Manion and The Family,

**DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?**

*In the words of Pope Francis*

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



Daniella-Daryna Tomashevskaya and The Family, Shane Bettin, Patricia Sawadsky, Michael Shykula, Robert Emery, Anne Dressler, Lorraine Pasemko, Rose Gaba, Bill Boitson, Walter Achtymichuk, Mary Harasymyshyn, Veronica Chernesky, Helen Hut, Leah Chernesky, for peace in the World, for all people defending Ukraine and all refugees at the time of war, Dmyterko Families, Fr. Yuriy Vyshnevskyy and The Family, Fr. Pavlo Myts and The Family, and all members of our Christian parochial family and those who are not able to join actively in our community, your families, relatives, friends and neighbours; governments and armed forces, especially the shut-in or those in the hospitals, traveling, working or studying, nursing and senior homes, seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer; your spiritual fathers, those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; widows and widowers, orphans, homeless, those who love us and those who hate, use & hurt us; and all people who have asked us pray for them. Please, also in your kindness keep praying those daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Remember to ask for special blessings to all Christian families and yourselves! **REMINDER** for families of individuals, who are admitted to hospital. If you or a family member is admitted to hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call our parish rectory office to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation.

**SPIRIT OF CHRISTIAN AWARENESS:** *Dear parishioners, if our brother or sister in Christ, who usually sits next to you, is not in the Church today, please phone him / her and ask how he / she is doing. Let him or her know that our parish community misses his or her at the church very much and prays for them daily!* We also pray for the people of Ukraine, that with the help of the Holy Spirit, they may obtain social peace, political harmony and economic stability: Lord, hear us and have mercy.

**Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion:** You are a member of the Catholic Church (faithful of the Orthodox churches are very welcome to receive Holy Communion); 2) You have participated in the Sacrament of Confession at least during the Easter or Christmas seasons this past year if not more frequently; 3) You attend Divine Services regularly; 4) Your lifestyle is consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church; 5) You have kept the Liturgical fast – no food at least one hour prior to the Divine Liturgy (water and medicine does not break the fast). 6) You have been in church from the beginning of the service, or at least heard the Gospel. 7) To the best of your ability, you are in the state of Grace. *If for any of these or other reasons you cannot receive Holy Communion, you are very welcome to come for a blessing. Please indicate to the priest that you would like to receive his blessing.*

**Pastoral and Sacramental Ministry:** **Baptisms:** by appointment. **Marriages:** six months' notice should be given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made. **Reconciliation:** by appointment. **Holy Communion:** for the sick, by appointment, any time. **Holy Unction** (Anointing of the Sick): Those anticipating surgery, hospitalization or treatments and who would like to receive anointing (by appointment, any time). **Funerals and Memorials:** by appointment.

### Discover Canada's 2<sup>nd</sup> National Martyr's Shrine



The Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine is located at St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church at 250 Jefferson Avenue in Winnipeg Manitoba.

Come and experience this prayerful, peaceful atmosphere of holiness before the precious Holy Relics of Blessed Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky. You can also tour

the Museum and visit the Gift Shop to learn more about this modern day martyr and how he was such a great witness to the truth of the Gospel.

**Open:** Tuesday to Friday – 10 am to 5pm

Saturday – 10 am to 1 pm

Sunday – after 10 a.m. Liturgy

Also every Wednesday:

1:30 pm Praying for Ukraine

7 p.m. Devotional Service

For more information:

Visit the website: [bvmartyrshrine.com](http://bvmartyrshrine.com)

Call 204-338-7321 Email: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com)



### The Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine is praying the rosary for Ukraine every Wednesday at 1:30 pm (CDT),

at Saint Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church. We are inviting all Catholic churches to join us in prayer. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. Pray for Ukraine. Slava Ukraini! YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFDrZoGsYeJG1lqgdZyYMA>

The Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine is located in Winnipeg. We invite those that might be traveling this summer to plan a spiritual pilgrimage to spend time before the Holy Relics of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky!

The Redemptorist TV team: [www.redemptorist.tv](http://www.redemptorist.tv)

### YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPECT OF OTHERS:

After each Divine Liturgy and every church service, please, keep silence in the House of the Lord as some of the faithful are still praying at the church as well. In consideration of other Christians at the church-house of prayer to the Lord Our Almighty and Omnipresent God, please do not leave any items in the pews. Always love, pray and be respectful toward other people! Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church building safe and clean. Thank you very much for your understanding, help and care! ***Please always remember that we come together to the church to glorify Lord Our God and spiritually grow as a Christian community and church as house of prayer helps us during our temporal life journey.***

We also pray for our newly-ordained father and bishop (Kyr) Michael, that he may preach the gospel with boldness as a faithful shepherd, laboring for the sanctification of the Church and faithful in this eparchy: we pray You Lord, hear us and have mercy.

Молимося також за нашого нововисвяченого отця і єпископа Кир Михайла, щоб він з відвагою міг проповідувати євангеліє як вірний пастир, що працює для освячення Церкви і вірних цієї єпархії: молимося Тобі Господи, вислухай і помилуй

**Petition for the Sanctity of Human Life:** We also pray for an end to euthanasia and assisted suicide in Canada; that the Lord God grant us courage to seek out and visit the sick and lonely; that healthcare workers may have fortitude in upholding the moral law; and that He grant hope to those in despair, humility to those who insist on control, and a renewed sense of dignity to those who have lost sight of their inherent worth; Lord, hear us and have mercy!



**Petition for the victory of the Ukrainian armed forces:** We also pray for the people of Ukraine, that they may be granted peace, freedom, and unity; for strength, protection, and divine assistance for the Ukrainian armed forces; and that Russian invaders would be converted and turn away from all war and violence; we pray you, Lord, hear us and have mercy!

**Petition for peace throughout the world:** We also pray for the people of Israel and Palestine, that they may be delivered from this violent conflict; for divine assistance and mercy for the injured and all hostages, for those who mourn, and for all who have been driven from their homes; that those who pursue revenge and violence may forsake hatred and terror; and that those who labour for peace may be strengthened; we pray you, Lord, hear us and have mercy.

Молимося також за народи Ізраїлю і Палестини, щоб вони змогли подолати цей жорстокий конфлікт; за божественну опіку над пораненими і полоненими; за тих, хто оплакує померлих і за тих, хто втратив домівки; щоб ті, хто слідує шляхом помсти і насильства зреклися ненависті і терору; і щоб ті, хто трудиться заради миру були скріплені на силах, молимося Тобі Господи, вислухай і помилуй. підтримку, відвагу і наполегливість, молимося Тобі Господи, вислухай і помилуй.

**FAITHFUL GIVING ...** Please, remember that we never take a day off or a vacation from God, or from our obligation to attend Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days. When traveling, working, participating in different sport's tournaments, activities or studying, please, make sure you check out the service schedule for the area churches at our eparchial website: [www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca) and attend the Divine Liturgy. Remember as well, that while parishioners may be away and on vacation, the parish-church is not. Expenses continue as they do throughout the year. Please, remain consistent in your gifts to parish. Your weekly Sunday offering is important to our financial well-being. If you are away, we appreciate it when you forward your "make-up" donations. The financial stability of the parish counts on regular Sunday contributions. One day every one of us will end his or her earthly journey. Every day we are all getting closer to that moment. No person will be able after physical death to use his or her earthly temporal treasures anymore. Always remember that, continue to be honest, loving, carrying, supportive, positive and generous! God bless all you! Be aware and remember that your help is always appreciated, and we still need more parishioners to volunteer! Thank you for your support and care at this uneasy time for us all. "Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us!" (A Prayer from the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom)

**Bequests and Wills:** Leaving a bequest is a process of giving a donation through your will. It is simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization through your last will and testament. It can be as small or as large a donation as you wish. It is important that you talk to your lawyer about the process. In your kindness, please remember Resurrection of Jesus Christ Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Penticton, BC and Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kelowna, BC in your bequests and wills. If anyone wishes to make such a bequest in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church at 1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8 or to Resurrection of Jesus Christ Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Penticton, BC, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_% of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the church/parish and it's needs and pastoral ministry.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED AND ALWAYS TRULY APPRECIATED, BE A STEWARD OF GOD'S VARIED GIFTS AND GRACES THE HEAVENLY CREATOR GRACIOUSLY ENTRUSTED TO YOU:** Have you ever wondered what more can you do to help our Christian parish-church? Here are some suggestions: Steward of property security; Steward of grounds cleaning; Steward of cleaning church; Steward of church linen; Steward of outreach; Steward of caring; Steward of prayer (a lady and a gentlemen faithful leaders volunteering and forming Christian brothers and sisters prayerful groups at our parish; Steward of service. Quite often, our homebound or senior members, once active in their younger years, want to find purpose in their senior years. It's not only about doing but about "BEING" present to others! Please, feel very welcome to participate in our church choir singing, reading of the Epistles and others inspiring Bible texts, holding the candles during the Gospels readings, church singing, projects, welcoming and reaching toward other people, maintenance, receiving donations for We Help Ukraine church projects, welcoming visitors, etc. If you can help out, please, let us know. Please, contact Mrs. Lydia Gudz or Fr. Pavlo for more information. You will be amazed how "BEING" can make a difference at our spiritual, parish life! **Every Christian parishioner is personally responsible before God for our spiritual home-parish church!** **NOTE: If you wish to place your message or announcement into our weekly parish bulletin, please send it by email to the office at [dormitionofficemanager@gmail.com](mailto:dormitionofficemanager@gmail.com) by no later than 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday.** If you wish to help or have any questions, suggestions, ideas about our Christian community life, please, contact our parish executive council chairperson Mrs. Lydia Gudz. Email: [dormitionofficemanager@gmail.com](mailto:dormitionofficemanager@gmail.com) or phone: (250) 763-7447

**We do pray and sincerely welcome and help Ukrainian refugees coming to Kelowna, BC!** Молимося, вітаємо й допоможемо Вам! Please contact our parish We Help Ukraine committee at The Dormition of The Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church. Our parish WE Help Ukraine committee volunteers has thoughtfully searched for, bought, organized and prepared a special gifts for new Ukrainian families recently arrived and warmly welcomed at our Christian community.



**Catechetical online resources in English and Ukrainian languages:**



- Royal Doors with daily readings and reflections, UGCC - Catechism online, articles, etc.: <https://www.royaldoors.net/>
- Formed: Christian movies, TV shows, prayers, etc.: <https://watch.formed.org/browse>
- Dynamic Catholic. Beautiful resource for the whole family with Catechism for children, marriage, enrichment programs, etc.: <https://dynamiccatholic.com>

• Живе ТВ.: <https://zhyve.tv> Дивен Світ.: <https://dyvensvit.org> Камехизм УГКЦ.: <http://catechismugcc.org/>

**SUNDAY CATECHISM SCHOOL:** "And they were bringing to Him also the infants, in order that He may be touching them; but after the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, Let alone the little children to come to Me, and cease hindering them; for of such is the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:14)  
We welcome all children to our Dormition of the Mother of God Parish Catechism program.

The children will learn about their Christian orthodox faith in the Catholic Church, sacred scripture, feast days, icons, tradition, singing, religious practices and customs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.


Ukrainian - speaking volunteers are needed for children, ages 4 to 6. These children come with so much enthusiasm and joy' but they do need more supervision and attention. If we can have several people volunteer, they can take turns helping. Your help would be appreciated very much!! Materials will be provided for the children.

While the hall is undergoing renovations, we will have a short catechism lesson (10 to 15 minutes) in the Church and sometimes in the choir loft. We will learn about the icons in the Church, other symbols of our faith, and some carols and songs. Hopefully renovations will be complete by Willow (Palm or Kvitna) Sunday and the children will be ready to help bring in the willows into the Church!

Поки зал ремонтується, ми матимемо короткий урок катехизи (10-15 хвилин) у Церкві та іколи на хорі. Дізнаємося про ікони в Церкві, про інші символи нашої віри, про деякі колядки та пісні. Сподіваємося, ремонт завершиться до Вербної (Вербної) неділі, і діти будуть готові допомогти принести верби до Церкви! All children are welcome!

Запрошуються усі діти! If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to call our parish catechism teacher, Mrs. Marilyn Daulat 250- 801-7538 or pastor Fr. Pavlo Myts.

Діти дізнаються про свою християнську православну віру в Католицькій Церкві, Святе Письмо, свята, ікони, традиції, співи, релігійні обряди та звичаї Української Католицької Церкви. Для дітей віком від 4 до 6 років потрібні україномовні волонтери. Ці діти приходять із великим ентузіазмом і радістю, але вони потребують більше нагляду та уваги. Якщо ми матимемо декілька людей волонтерів, вони можуть по черзі допомагати. Будемо дуже вдячні за вашу допомогу!! Дітям будуть надані необхідні матеріали. Крім того, зазвичай для старших дітей накривають інший стіл для будь-якої активності чи спілкування, які вони бажають. Якщо у вас є запитання чи пропозиції, будь ласка, не соромтеся зателефонувати нашій парафіяльній вчительці катехизму пані Мерилін Даулат 250-801-7538 або пастору о.Павлові Миць

 **JOIN OUR CHURCH CHOIR:** Do you enjoy singing? Please consider joining our Dormition Parish Choir and remember that we are looking for new members! Contact Mrs. Lesia Achtymichuk for more information and details.




**Rachel's Corner:** "God, you are my God, I pine for you; my heart thirsts for you, my body longs for you, as a land parched, dreary and waterless." - Psalm 63:1

Come on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat and discover the oasis of His love and mercy which will satisfy all your longings and thirst in a way nothing else possibly can. Come join us on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat.

Come on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat and let Him show you. [info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com](mailto:info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com)

f Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna 250-762-2273 Confidentiality assured.

 **If you have our parish hall or parking rental inquiry, please contact directly our Church Office Manager Mrs. Oksana Udalova:** [dormitionofficemanager@gmail.com](mailto:dormitionofficemanager@gmail.com) Cell phone: (250) 801-9077 Church parish office / cultural centre-hall and kitchen Tel: (250) 763-7447 Church Office open: Monday-Friday: from 12:30 am to 4:30 pm.

 **Traditional and Very Delicious Ukrainian Food is for sale at our parish:** If you need more information or to place your order, please contact email directly to our church kitchen at [dormitionkitchen@gmail.com](mailto:dormitionkitchen@gmail.com) Tel: (250) 763-7447 FOOD SALES is also available at Earthly Creation Floral, 2630 Pandosy Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 1V6 open 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

## Free One Year On-Line Membership

Enjoy the benefits of being a Knights of Columbus Member.

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**Knights of  
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After joining online, please check your inbox for confirmation.

## **Knights of Columbus Лицарі Колумба - Free 1 Year On-Line Membership.**

You can enjoy the benefits of being a Knights of Columbus member including Accidental Death Benefit, access to Faith Formation e-books and videos, and receiving the famous monthly Columbia Magazine. Go to: [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus) Promo Code: BLESSEDMCGIVNEY Enter the name of our Parish in the applicable field. After joining, please check your INBOX for confirmation. For more information, please contact Adrian Kopystynski at [adk.bckofc@gmail.com](mailto:adk.bckofc@gmail.com)



**VIBRANT PARISH PRAYER:** O Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, as you once gathered lost sheep that they might hear Your voice and be your flock, so also today graciously look down from heaven upon our parish community, and send down on it your Holy Spirit, that it might be a place to receive the joy of Your Good News. Strengthen us with your presence, and always gather us together in prayer. Grant us the spirit of serving others, so that in our parish all might encounter You, the merciful God. Bless our spiritual leaders with Your wisdom, and inspire us to generously give of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of Your Kingdom. Unite us in peace and harmony, as befits Your community of love. Instill in us a missionary spirit, and let our parish community shine with the light of the Gospel, with prayer and good works, inviting all to share in the divine life, so that Your Name, O Saviour, may be praised, together with Your eternal Father, and Your most-holy, good and life-giving Spirit. Amen.



**МОЛИТВА ЖИВОЇ ПАРАФІЇ:** Господи Ісусе Христе, Пастирю Добрий, як колись Ти пригорнув заблуканих овець, щоб вони пізнали Твій голос і були Твоїм стадом, так і сьогодні глянь ласкаво з небесних висот на нашу парафію та зішли на неї Твого Святого Духа, щоб вона була місцем пізнання радості Доброї Новини. Скріплюй нас Твоєю присутністю та єдай нас кожноразно в молитві. Даруй нам духа служіння ближньому, щоб у нашій парафії кожний міг зустріти Тебе, милостивого Бога. Благослови наш духовний провід Твоєю мудрістю і дай, щоб ніхто з нас не шкодував ні часу, ні талантів, ні матеріальних дібр для розбудови Твого царства. Єдай нас у мирі та згоді, щоб ми були Твоєю спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світлом євангельського слова, молитви і добрих діл, що кличе кожного до участі в Божественному житті, щоб славилось, Спасе, Твоє Ім'я з безначальним Твоїм Отцем та пресвятим, благим і животворящим Твоїм Духом нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.

 **AGM 2024 A.D.** at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday of Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> at Saint Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church (2210 - 40<sup>th</sup> Ave.) in Vernon, BC

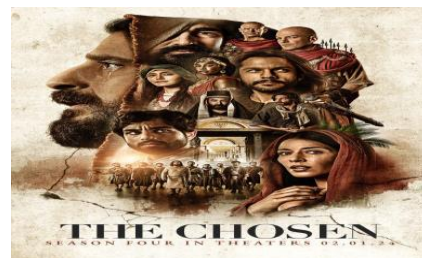




### THE CHOSEN:

Season 4  
Episodes 4 - 6  
Now showing

Kelowna Grand 10  
110 - 948 McCurdy Road  
250-491-4178



#### URGENT: Apartment needed for Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>

\$700-\$1,300 one or two bedroom,  
basement is okay, private bath.

Ukrainian Canadian gentleman, 59, employed p/t. Need a stable rental. After eight quiet years in West Kelowna, the owners are developing. Reliable, no pets, no music, peaceful, keep a lovely home, low maintenance. Ideally, a location not too far from our church, anywhere from Lake Country to Peachland. Thank you for your kindness.



Greg Krasichynsky, (250) 808-6675 cell.  
krasichynsky@gmail.com

#### URGENT – Accommodations Needed!

Housing required for Catholic family;  
husband, wife and four young children,  
needed for **MARCH 1st**.

Please contact the ICC Parish Office  
if you can help, 250-762-3910.

## ДЕСЯТЬ ЗАПОВІДЕЙ ДУХОВНОЇ РІВНОВАГИ

- 1. Завжди думай тільки про хороше!**  
Людина уподібнюється до своїх думок.
- 2. Вмій дякувати!**  
Вдячне серце ніколи нічого не потребуватиме.
- 3. Не возвеличуйся у власних очах!**  
Зарозумілість спотворює сприйняття дійсності.
- 4. Не лякайся труднощів на життєвому шляху!**  
Страх паралізує волю і пригнічує дух.
- 5. Черпай користь з власних невдач!**  
Навіть негативний досвід може збагатити твоє життя.
- 6. Не зупиняйся на досягнутому!**  
В житті немає меж досконалості.
- 7. Радій життю!**  
Продовжуй життя собі і тим, хто тебе оточує!
- 8. Володій багатством і ділись ним!**  
Не дозволяй багатству володіти тобою.
- 9. Піклуйся про щастя інших!**  
І відчувай себе також щасливим.
- 10. Довір усі сфери життя Богу!**  
І твоє життя буде наповнене глибоким змістом та досконалою гармонією.

## Wounded Yet Rediscovering Itself: Head of Ukraine Church Describes Country 2 Years On

UGCC Source February 23, 2024 A.D. / Aleteia:

<https://ugcc.ua/en/data/wounded-yet-rediscovering-itself-head-of-ukraine-church-describes-country-2-years-on-930/>

Ukrainian World Congress Stand with Ukraine:

<https://standwithukraineworld.ukrainianworldcongress.org/?fbclid=IwAR0RFKghxp8IjDo1dN2FP2uksUMDFIqKaWV4b37163bUYcRpK653NYLpoQs>

*Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, in exclusive interview with Aleteia, sees his nation rediscovering its Christian heritage. "Wounded yet rediscovering itself: Head of Ukraine Church describes country 2 years on."*

Ukraine is a wounded nation, but one that is rediscovering itself because of an existential threat, said the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in an interview with Aleteia.

After 10 years of defending its territory against Russia, including two years of a full-scale invasion that has led to the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since the Second World War, Ukrainians are tired — but determined to survive as an independent state, said His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, who presides over the largest Eastern Catholic Church in communion with Rome.

War, as well, seems to be leading to a deepening of the faith for some. Many Ukrainians are rediscovering that we are Christian as a nation, and to believe in God means to have a special vitality which gives us a special resilience in this situation.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav, who is the major archbishop of Kyiv-Halych, spoke about how Ukrainians have a spiritual treasure in being able to contemplate the life-giving Word of God and receive the sacraments of the Church in the midst of extreme hardship.

In a 45-minute discussion, His Beatitude claimed that Russian President Vladimir Putin, who launched the invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, does not believe in the existence of a Ukrainian state, a fact that Sviatoslav characterized as delusional. This stance, the patriarch said, is what is blocking the possibility of serious negotiations that would lead to an end of the war.

His Beatitude also spoke of his own "woundedness" and what it means to be a priest and bishop ministering to those who are traumatized by war. He also speculated on the need for forgiveness as part of the healing process that Ukrainians must go through. He detailed his vision of how such forgiveness might come about.

He also revealed that he will be visiting Washington, DC, and New York in early March.

The major archbishop spoke via Zoom from his office in Kyiv on February 15. A recording of the interview can be found here and at the end of this article. Following is a transcript, which has been edited for clarity.

Fewer Ukrainians

— *Your Beatitude, what does Ukraine look like now, compared to two years ago?*

Well, Ukraine is a wounded country. We have some territory occupied by Russians. Ukraine is a country with strife, trying to first of all liberate the occupied territories, trying to bring new hope to the people, trying to overcome the pain of those wounds which were received.

But also many cities and villages in Ukraine were destroyed, especially in the southern and the eastern part of Ukraine. Six million Ukrainians left Ukraine — basically women and children. The majority of them are staying in Europe and neighboring countries but there are fewer Ukrainians today than two years ago. It is even difficult to calculate how many people live today in our country, but there are more or less around 30 million Ukrainians living today in Ukraine.

— *How do you see the defense of Ukraine going? How is your level of confidence? Do you feel that Ukraine will win in the end, because there's been so much talk about the delay in military aid from the West and the fact that the Ukrainian military is having such a hard time with shortages of ammunition. How has your attitude changed since the beginning of the major invasion?*

Well, in the beginning, we were really shocked because of this invasion. Nobody was prepared. Today, we are tired but we are not discouraged. We are wounded, but we will prevail because we have no choice. For us it is a matter of existence. And unanimously, the people of Ukraine do understand that there is no way we can build our future, how we can survive as a nation without defending ourselves. This is the most important feeling.

Of course, the pain of the wounds caused by war are growing. We do need worldwide support in order to be able to prevail. But the resilience of Ukrainian people is amazing. In those two years, we rediscovered ourselves a lot. We found how many, many heroes we do have as a nation. And those soldiers who died because of the freedom and liberty of our country, so many people who gave up not only their lives, but all their belongings. That is something very, very new and powerful. We remember in Western Ukraine those outstanding efforts for freedom and independence. But the rest of Ukraine, especially central Ukraine, northern Ukraine, eastern Ukraine, southern Ukraine, for many centuries considered Russians to be our brethren, our neighbors.

But today, this new society was born, a new nation with consciousness that we are an independent country, an independent nation, that we are different. We are rediscovering the millennium of our statehood. We are rediscovering the importance of speaking Ukrainian, the importance of preserving our cultural identity. Many Ukrainians are rediscovering that we are Christian as a nation, and to believe in God means to have a special vitality which gives us a special resilience in this situation.

So there's this new manifestation of the Ukrainian spirit which is happening right now among us.

Today, we are tired but we are not discouraged. We are wounded, but we will prevail because we have no choice





— *In what ways have the events of the past two years affected you, your personal life, your spiritual life? You have spoken a lot about the need to heal the wounds of war. Do you yourself feel wounded in any way from this experience? How are you, personally, and how do you take care of yourself?*

Well, I am wounded. Anytime Russian missiles fly over my house, my first reaction is over-activity. I'm getting very active, because the intensity of my life has increased a lot. I never had an easy life as the head of the Church, even before the Russian invasion, but when the war started, my activity increased maybe 10 times. I'm always trying to give up myself for my people — being with them, especially in those dangerous situations.

I remember those first months of the war when we practically were surrounded here in Kyiv. I'm trying to inspire my people, but my question always was, "Lord, where are you in these circumstances?" I was trying to find signs of God's presence among us, to inspire myself by finding him, and then as a bishop, as a believer, to show the way to God — present among us — to the others. That is what my life looks like today.

Also, I'm moving. I'm visiting. It is not enough to sit in your house and to pray. No, you have to be a very flexible and very dynamic person. You have to be everywhere, because people are expecting you to visit. And I can witness how important is the very presence of the priests and of the bishops among the suffering people. I would call this the sacrament of presence. Even if you can not do too much, you cannot even explain why it's happening right now for those people, even if you have empty hands, it is important to be there, to be present. And this encounter reveals something which we do bring inside of our hearts.

It is interesting that on the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, when St. Simeon says to the Virgin Mary, "The sword will pierce your heart, so the deepest thoughts of many hearts could be revealed," if you experience pain, the very deep intentions of your heart are enlightened. When there is a war, sudden danger, all kinds of masks fall off. Many people reveal the authentic face, the authentic personal identity, the hidden intentions of his heart. I can testify that it's happening.

Another thing which I really experienced: the power of the Word, because living in the midst of a culture of noise — too much information hitting you every day — we have missed the feeling of the importance, the power of a word. A word is not a simple vehicle of a message and information. A word is not a simple noise which helps me to communicate. A word is a power.

In the holy scriptures, we discover that the Word is the creative power of God. With His Word, God created the world. But the Word is also something which makes us humans similar to God the Creator. It is why very often we find in different books of the Bible, the expression that the Word is something which creates a new situation. [The Gospel and the Letter of St. James say] that at the end of human history, we have to give an answer, we have to respond to each word that went out from our mouth. Because if I'm cursing, even if I close my mouth, the curse is an evil power which will destroy again, will continue to destroy, a curse as a destruction — and a blessing, as the power of good which heals, which elevates the Spirit, brings hope.

And if you are a preacher, if you bring the Word of God, you can witness to how this power works out. And in the midst of war, what does it mean to be a bishop? First of all, to be a messenger, a bearer of God's Word, a Word of the Gospel. I am witnessing the outstanding power of God's Word, which heals, creates new situations, enlightens new perspectives, helps people to find God's presence in their life, to increase their resilience, to inspire them.

But also, to be a bishop means to bring God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, and to celebrate the sacraments. Without the sacrament of Eucharist and without the sacrament of penance, we would not survive. And there is some sort of conversion in Ukraine, asking for the meaning of our suffering, which we can rediscover by hearing God's Word — holy scripture, the Holy Gospel — but also there is a conversion among so many people because they are seeking the sacraments of the Church. So many baptisms of people who never went to church. So many confessions — very touching confessions — which really converted the life of the people.

And also, we are trying to foster a new way of pastoral care. Maybe in the West, the biggest enemy of the Christian heart and soul is comfort, luxury, pleasure and how to withstand this consumerist culture. That is a big challenge. But in Ukraine, we are facing a different challenge. We are living in the midst of adversities, pain, tragedy, constant danger of death. There is pastoral service in the midst of grief and sorrow, pastoral care of people who are suffering, who are crying. It is not an easy kind of pastoral care, because very often you can say nothing. You can only be present, cry with those people and share their pain.

That pain affects you, because by sharing, you are bringing in your heart their pain. And you have to be careful what you will do with this, too much pain in your heart. This pain in a certain way contaminates you. And you have to pray.

This is how we are rediscovering in the midst of the pastoral way to accompany the sorrow, the importance of prayer, because prayer is not a symbol, a ritual, is not a simple ceremony. A prayer is a power which goes through your heart. Prayer is communion with God. Prayer is something which transforms you and the reality around you.

And we are witnessing how people are praying when bombs are falling on them. It's interesting because many different psychologists also are trying to study such a situation, how people can live and overcome grief and sorrow. And many people would say, "Okay, it is normal that during the shelling of Russian missiles, people will be hiding in the bunkers, in the underground shelters, and they will be afraid." But in the midst of this fear, it depends what the people are doing. If they are simply trembling, that fear can destroy them, worse than even the Russian missile, because a missile can go away and hit another city. But your fear can destroy yourself.

But if in the midst of this fear, you are singing, especially if you are praying, you will be able to transform your fear into a special energy which will give you a possibility to survive.

Maybe what I'm telling you is my personal experience — of the wounded person who's trying to overcome his own fear, to find God in the midst of the pain, adversity, grief and sorrow. But that is our spiritual treasure that we are gathering, collecting right now as a people of faith.

And I can testify that hope comes only as a consequence of our faith. Only those who believe in God have hope. Hope is not a simple illusion or expectation. Hope is not a simple sentiment. Hope is a theological virtue which comes out from faith. And hope grows and can be fulfilled in the third important Christian virtue, which is love. Hope always brings us to love. And love is the biggest power which can transform and heal your wounds. Perhaps if you will only collect the pain and wounds and the other things in your heart with no transformation of this energy into the good deeds of love, charity, solidarity, this energy will blow up inside of you. But if you will transform this psychological trauma into positive activity, helping the others, you will help yourself

I would call this the sacrament of presence. Even if you can not do too much, you cannot even explain why it's happening right now for those people, even if you have empty hands, it is important to be there, to be present "I've learned a lot about reconciliation"

— *A moment ago you spoke about the sacrament of penance, which involves reconciliation. It's often said that forgiveness is a vital part of healing and you have stressed this need for healing the wounds of war so much. There are so many people in Ukraine who have something to forgive: innocent people have been killed, homes destroyed, women raped — all kinds of atrocities throughout the war. Do you see forgiveness coming into play eventually in the healing process, as, God willing, the war ends, people will need to deal with these hurts and offenses. What might that forgiveness look like?*

Well, I've learned a lot about reconciliation amidst this experience. First of all, I myself and the people of Ukraine understood that reconciliation first of all comes from your personal reconciliation with God. And forgiveness can be only shared. So I forgive you not because I'm so brave, I'm so good. No, I forgive you because I was forgiven before. So in order to be able to forgive, you have to experience forgiveness. It is why the Apostle Paul considered himself to be a messenger of reconciliation. And he started with a call to be reconciled with God. That is his message that he was bringing as the first and very fundamental one to those to whom he was preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ: Beloved, please be reconciled with God.

So this is the vertical dimension of the reconciliation: If I'm reconciled, I can forgive. Not in the opposite way.

The second, very important truth about reconciliation and forgiveness is that we have to realize that the reconciliation which we are talking about right now, especially in the midst of war, is not the reconciliation of our ideas, of our way of thinking. We are not reconciled when we think in the same way; we do not simply coordinate our way of understanding the reality. It's not reconciliation, because we can sign a peace agreement; we can more or less reconcile our ideas about how we will live in the future. But that will be the simple reconciliation of our mental categories. The reconciliation and forgiveness we are talking about is the reconciliation of the hearts, reconciliation of the human persons, the re-establishment and healing of human relationships. That is not an easy process. You can agree on some principles. Perhaps I can agree, Okay, my father passed away; he's not right now beside me. But to accept this and to accept that there is no way to re-establish with him my personal relationship today as it was before, we have to go through this process of acceptance.

So the reconciliation between the people as a healing of our relationships is connected to overcoming the war trauma, which probably will mark us for decades in the future. And talking about the reconciliation and forgiveness between nations, it's a long, long process of healing. The process of opening a dialogue of truth, the process of a rejection of a certain way of human behavior, it is why we have to investigate war crimes. And we are as two nations, Russians and Ukrainians, which will be neighbors for the future, because this is our geographical environment which God wants us to live, even in the future. So we have to reject a special, very, very specific... wrong way to establish the relationships between our nations. We have to process and condemn such a special way of behavior. Then we have to give justice to the victims. We have to repair the damage we have done to each other. Only after that, we can speak about the agreement of our ideas, how we will cooperate in the future. And only then, as a fruit of healing, the restoration, can we speak about an authentic forgiveness.

So, that is a process of healing of human hearts. We cannot push it. But we have to pray, we have to work hard. And I think that the very notion of forgiveness and reconciliation is something deeply and authentically Christian. We as Christians cannot miss this important message of the Apostle Paul to be a people of peace and reconciliation with God and with our neighbors.

— *Yesterday, you spoke at a press conference sponsored by Aid to the Church in Need. And you answered a question about the recent interview that Tucker Carlson conducted with Vladimir Putin. You said that you actually hadn't seen the interview and that you didn't really have the time for it. You said you would rather spend time listening to people affected by the war rather than listening to "such a crazy man."*

But I'd like to hear your views on some of the positions that Putin expressed, since Tucker Carlson has a significant following and influence in the US. And there is a sizable percentage of voters who are opposed to further funding of Ukraine and who are sympathetic with Putin. Some commentators I read said that Putin expressed views in this interview that he has expressed many times in the past, so I'm sure you're familiar with his arguments. For example, could you respond to the following three points that he made, and I'll take them one by one.

First of all, he said certain lands in eastern and southern Ukraine were historically Russian lands and Russia has a right to reclaim them. Well, first of all, in these two years of the deadly war we developed our own way to protect ourselves, our hearts and minds against Russian propaganda, because that propaganda destroys you. And it is how we will have to take a special distance from any message or any interview which will go from the main creator of this propaganda — Mr. Putin. And that is simply how we protect our integrity, because war in Ukraine started not with tanks, missiles and bullets, but war started with a lie — a lie and distortion not only of the history but even the present time, the distortion of the future.

So of course, the first point of the Russian propaganda is to deny the very existence of the Ukrainian nation. So why won't they have any kind of dialogue with the Ukrainian state as a subject of international law? Because they deny the existence of the Ukrainian nation. For them, Ukraine is territory, not a people, not a state, not a certain community with a historical background. For them, it's a territory. So it is why talking about Ukraine, he started to talk about the territory. But in the same way, China can claim the territory of



Russia. In the same way, Ukraine can claim that the northern part of the territory of today's Russia was the kingdom of Kyiv — Kyivan Rus', which in that century was present in the specific territory.

So to use distorted historical arguments, to say that we have a right to eliminate a people who live today in this territory is a crime.

— *And you mentioned yesterday in the press conference that in places like Bucha, outside of Kyiv, when the Russians first invaded two years ago, they had lists of people who were artists and writers who were promoting the idea of a Ukrainian nation. And they were targets to try to eliminate any sense of a Ukrainian nation.*

Yes, you know, this is not the moment to present the authentic version of the past that we as Ukrainians view as our history, but what he was saying about the historical territories as Russian pretensions in Ukraine is a simple lie.

— *Secondly, Putin argued that the United States and the West should stop supporting Ukraine militarily and enter into negotiations with Russia over ending the conflict.*

Yeah, because for Russia ending the conflict means total destruction of Ukraine. The goal of this invasion was denazification and demilitarization, which means ethnic cleansing: Ukrainian territory without Ukrainian people, without a Ukrainian state, without those who will be able to defend their lives. So it is why he wants that Ukrainians will be either exiled or killed — simply disappear as a nation. So they will be able to end the war: existential war, total war, genocidal war, neo-colonial war.

Of course, in this way they confess that right now they cannot achieve their goals because Ukrainians are resisting, because Ukrainians receive worldwide support and solidarity. So he was conveying a message not only to the USA and to allies of Ukraine, but he was conveying a message to Ukrainians: "Give up. I am bigger than you. Be afraid. I'll come and kill you." That is simple blackmail. And it is a pity to say, but right now, as I said previously, dialogue is not possible, not because Ukraine exists, not because the West supports Ukraine. But dialogue does not exist because Putin is not accepting the objective reality. If he and his political group accept the existence of the Ukrainian state, this dialogue, which can stop the senseless war, can start immediately. So in the beginning of the war, President Zelensky constantly was trying to foster dialogue with Mr. Putin, just to stop the senseless killing of people. But what we heard from the Russian side: "You have no right to exist, so you are not a subject of our dialogue."

So the Ukrainian government, the representatives of President Zelensky understood that at this point the only thing we can do is defend ourselves. That is what Ukraine is trying to do right now, not because of the support and existence of Ukraine, which is an obstacle to start the negotiation, but the denial of the subjectivity and existence of the nation which counts millions of people. That is an authentic cause of this senseless confrontation.

— *One last point. Some people have made the argument that if Russia prevails in Ukraine it will only feed Putin's appetite for more land. In the interview, Putin claimed that he has no interest in invading Poland or the Baltic region.*

Putin is bad in building some strategy, but he is good at fostering some tactical movements. So his first desire is to reestablish the Soviet Union. He gave precise orders to his people almost 20 years ago to move in that direction.

So his first goal is to reconquer, reestablish the Soviet Union. So not Poland, not the other Western countries, but Baltic countries will be the main target of Russia. But the reestablishment of the empire will only be the first step, then becoming that nostalgic, utopian empire of Great Russia again. They will try to impose their geopolitical interests on the rest of the world. So in his mind the image of the international relationships and the world order is the same which was created in the meeting of Yalta after the Second World War. They publicly declared that NATO has to go away from the Eastern countries, because that is the sphere of their interest, the so-called countries of the Warsaw Pact in the past.

So Putin wants to divide the world as it was in the time of the Cold War. The first step is to reestablish this Soviet Union and the second to reestablish Russia as a new Soviet Union, which we will be the world power imposing this geopolitical interest on the rest of the world.

So that is the Russian version of a very famous slogan in the USA: We will make Russia great again.

— *One last question, Your Beatitude. You recently visited Canada. It was the first time you've been in North America since before this major invasion two years ago. Except for visits to the Vatican and other parts of Europe, the war has kept you pretty close to home. Will you be visiting any other parts of North America in the near future? What are your plans for international travel?*

Well, if it's the will of God, probably I'll be visiting the USA in the beginning of March, because we have a session of the Permanent Synod of our bishops already called and prepared in Washington, DC, and we will conclude our session of the Permanent Synod in New York. That will be the nearest future. And then we will see.

— *What are some of the concerns of the Permanent Synod right now? What issues are they taking up?*

The Permanent Synod is a very special synodal instrument which helps the head of the Church to govern. This is the way of governance of the Eastern Catholic Church according to the Code of Canon Law for the Eastern Catholic Churches.

The main concern is the adequate pastoral response to the challenge of war. There are three priorities that we define as our pastoral priority for the next five years:

First, journey and accompaniment to the internally displaced persons and to the war refugees. We have to find where they are and we have to journey with them to protect them, to pay to them an adequate pastoral care.

The second, the healing of the wounds of the war with special training, special programs, special cooperation with psychologists, therapists, those who are providing rehabilitation to those who need it, and so on.

And the third one is family: the pastoral care for the Ukrainian family in the midst of war, because family as the sacramental union of man and woman is a very wounded institution in today's circumstances. And we understand that the family is at the heart and future of Ukrainian society. And again, the pastoral care for the family is among our priorities right now.



**Patriarch Josyf Cardinal Slipyj teaches and reminds all:**  
 “Today faith in God, in Christ – is the most important thing. How many people lose their faith, become careless, do not even realize, that a human person without faith becomes an animal.” (vol. XII, page 2)

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