



Dormition of the Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church
 Українська Католицька Церква
 Успення Пресвятої Богородиці



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If you need to meet with the parish priest, please, call or email in advance to arrange time and a day.

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster: www.nweparchy.ca



5th Sunday of the Great Fast/Lent, Commemoration of
Our Venerable Mother Saint Mary of Egypt - March 18th, 2018 A.D

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



On the 5th Sunday of the Great Fast, the Feast of Saint Mary of Egypt is commemorated. Many legends surround her life and conversion experience. Born around 344 AD in Alexandria, she was a rich and beautiful courtesan. She chose to lead a selfish life of sin.

Once on an excursion to Jerusalem, she had noticed throngs of pilgrims entering the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Curious to join the attractions, Mary tried to enter the Church, but was prevented by some mysterious force. Mary began to wonder if her sinful life was the cause for preventing her entrance into the Church. At that moment, she became aware of the Icon of the Mother of God which had been above the entrance of the Church. Filled with compunction of heart, she cried for her many sins.

Mary sought a life of repentance for her wicked past by entering the desert. There she lived as a hermit for nearly fifty years, willfully depriving herself of all comforts of life and exposing her beauty to the harshness of the sun.

While in the desert one day, she met Saint Zosimus. According to the custom of Palestinian monks, this priest-monk had gone out into the wilderness in the first days of Holy Week to meditate on the Passion of Christ. She asked him to bring the Holy Eucharist/Communion to her on Holy Thursday. Joy and peace overcame her upon the reception of the Eucharist. She related her life to the priest, and then arranged with Zosimus to meet again in a year so she could confess her sins and receive Communion again.

When he returned to the site in 421 A.D., she was not there, and he finally came upon her body. As happened with some other desert saints, a lion was near her body, and he helped Zosimus to bury her body, and then lay down and mourned for her.

The dramatic conversion and life-long penance of Mary is one of the most famous in Christian literature, and has been enormously popular among Christians of the Eastern rite churches. *'Once you were filled with every impurity, now through repentance you have been revealed as a bride of Christ; following the angelic life, you crushed demons with the weapon of the Cross. Therefore, O glorious Mary, you have been shown to be a bride of the kingdom.'* – Kontakion

"...Open the doors of your hearts and your homes to Christ, allow His Holy Spirit to transform you, purify and strengthen you in God's love!" - Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk *"The Vibrant Parish"*

"...Відчиніть двері своїх душ і домівок Христові, дозвольте Його Святому Духові вас перемінити, очистити і скріпити Божою любов'ю!" - Пасторський Лист Блаженнішого Святослава Шевчука *"Жива Парафія"*

Christian Greetings: Glory to Jesus Christ! – Glory to Him Forever! Slava Isusu Chrystu! – Slava na Viky! Слава Ісусу Христу! – Слава на Віку! Christ is among us! – He is and will be!



Liturgical Propers in English language:

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

Tone 8, pages 105-107

Epistle: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews (Hebrews 9:11-14)

Brethren, when Christ came as high priest of the good things which have come to be, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation. He entered, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, and achieved eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself up unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God!



Gospel (Mark 10:32-45)

At that time, Jesus took, the twelve aside once more, he began to tell them what was going to happen to him. "We are on our way up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes. They will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit at him, flog him, and finally kill him. But three days later he will rise."

Zabedee's sons, James and John, approached him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to grant our request." "What is it?" he asked. They replied, "See to it that we sit, one at your right and the other at your left, when you come into your glory." Jesus told them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I shall drink or be baptized in the same bath of pain as I?" "We can," they told him. Jesus said in response, "From the cup I drink of you shall drink; the bath I am immersed in you shall share. But as for sitting at my right or my left, that is not mine to give; it is for those to whom it has been reserved." The other ten, on hearing this, became indignant at James and John.

Jesus called them together and said to them: "You know how among the Gentiles those who seem to exercise authority lord it over them; their great ones make their importance felt. It cannot be like that with you. Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest; whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all. The Son of Man has not come to be served but to serve – to give his life in ransom for the many."

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.

Our Eparch, Bishop Ken is requesting that at the conclusion of every Divine Liturgy we say an additional prayer for Peace in Ukraine until the end of the war. **For peace in Ukraine, let us pray: Our Father ... Hail Mary ...**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.



Пре - тер - пи - вий, за нас стра - сти, І - су - се Хри - сте,
Pre - ter - pi - vyi, za nas stra - sty, I - su - se Khry - ste,



Си - ну Бо - жий, по - ми - луй, по - ми - луй, по - ми - луй нас!
Sy - nu Bo - zhyi, po - my - lui, po - my - lui, po - my - lui nas!

Having Suffered



Hav - ing suf - fered the pas - sion for us, O Je - sus Christ, —



Son of God, — have mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.



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.

• **Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion:** 1) 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.**

Літургійні частини Українською мовою:

Глас 8, стт. 104-106, Служиться літургія св. Василя Великого.

Апостол: До Євреїв Послання Святого Апостола Павла читання: (Євр. 9,11-14)

Браття і Сестри, Христос же, з'явившись як архиєрей майбутніх благ, через більший і досконаліший намет, що зроблений не людською рукою, тобто не земної будови, – і не з кров'ю козлів та телят, але з власною кров'ю, – увійшов, раз назавжди у святиню і знайшов вічне відкуплення. Бо коли кров волів і козлів та попів із телиці, як покропить нечистих, освячує, даючи їм чистоту тіла, то скільки більше кров Христа, – який Духом вічним приніс себе самого Богові непорочним, – очистить наше сумління від мертвих діл, на служіння Богові живому!



Євангеліє: (Мр. 10, 32-45)

У той час взяв Ісус дванадцятьох і почав їм говорити, що має статися з ним: “Оце йдемо в Єрусалим, і Син Чоловічий буде виданий первосвященникам та книжникам, і засудять його на смерть, і видадуть його поганам; і насміхатимуться з нього, плюватимуть на нього, бичуватимуть його й уб'ють, він же по трьох днях воскресне.” Яків же та Йоан, сини Заведея, підходять до нього та й кажуть йому: “Учителю, хочемо, щоб ти нам зробив те, чого попросим.” Він же їм відповів: “Що хочете, щоб я зробив вам?” “Зволь нам, – ті йому кажуть, – щоб ми сиділи: один праворуч, другий ліворуч від тебе у твоїй славі.” Ісус же сказав їм: “Не знаєте, чого просите. Чи можете пити чашу, яку я п'ю, і христитися хрищенням, яким я хрищуся?” Ті йому відповіли: “Можемо.” Ісус сказав їм: “Чашу, яку я п'ю, питимете, і хрищенням, яким я хрищуся, христитиметесь. Сидіти ж праворуч від мене чи ліворуч, – не моя річ вам дати, а кому приготовано.” Почули про те десятеро, тож обурились на Якова та Йоана. Тоді Ісус прикликав їх і сказав їм: “Ви знаєте, що ті, яких вважають князями народів, верховодять ними, а їхні вельможі утискають їх. Не так воно хай буде між вами, але хто з-між вас хоче стати великим, хай буде вам слугою, і хто з-між вас хоче бути першим, хай буде рабом усіх. Бо й Син Чоловічий прийшов не на те, щоб йому служити, лише щоб служити й віддати своє життя як викуп за багатьох.”

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

anniversaries; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; widows and widowers, orphans, homeless and all people who have asked us pray for them.

Please, also in your kindness keep praying daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Remember to ask for special blessings to all Christian families! **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 AWARENESS: Dear parishioners, if our brother / 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 /her know that our parish community misses him / her very much!

- On behalf of our church family, assurance of our prayers and deepest sympathy are to Mr. Gregory Bulat, his family, relatives and friends! **May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ place Mrs. Maria Baran's** (Gregory's sister's) **soul in the place where all the saints abide, and may her memory be everlasting with the Lord and our prayers! – Vichnaya Pamyat'!**

- On behalf of our church family, assurance of our prayers and deepest sympathy are to Mrs. Irene Kuczaba, her family, relatives and friends! **May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ place our sister-parishioner Mrs. Helen Kuczaba's soul in the place where all the saints abide, and may her memory be everlasting with the Lord and our prayers! – Vichnaya Pamyat'!**

- On behalf of our church family, assurance of our prayers and deepest sympathy are to Mr. Ladmer Prybysh, Mrs. Marlayne Andrijaszyn, Mrs. Eileen Wishlow, their families, relatives and friends! **May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ place our sister-parishioner Mrs. Pauline Prybysh's soul (the Last Pioneer of Our Parish) in the place where all the saints abide, and may her memory be everlasting with the Lord and our prayers! – Vichnaya Pamyat'!**



- **Traditional and Very Delicious Ukrainian Food is available for sale at our parish:** Perogies – \$ 6.00 per dozen, Cabbage Rolls – \$ 6.00 per dozen, Borshch – \$ 7.00 per a jar, Pies – \$ 9.00, Kovbasa/Sausage - \$ 8 for a ring. For more information, please contact Mrs. Alice Pelechaty at 250-763-4870.

- **CATECHISM ANNOUNCEMENT:** *"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."* (Mt. 19:14) We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of children again! Thank you, parents, volunteers and all our parishioners!

- **A SPECIAL REQUEST:** 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, please, do not forget close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or any other material in the pews. Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church building clean and neat. Thank you very much!

- **BOX FOR USED CHURCH BULLETINS** – since our Sunday bulletins contain Sacred Scripture readings & icons, they need to be disposed of properly/respectfully after use. Please do not throw them into the garbage but recycle them after shredding if possible. In order to assist with this request, we have provided a special box for used bulletins at the church entrance.

- **Mrs. Alice Pelechaty has asked to bring your home bakings to our parish hall early in the afternoon on this Friday of March 23rd. Thank you very much for your time, care and active participation at our parish fundraiser Ukrainian Easter Food Sale!**

- **Please, share to Kelowna Food Bank.** A special box is located at the entrance to the church.

- **Volunteers for Sunday coffee socials and clean-ups are needed** – please continue putting your name on the calendar posted in the church hall. If you can help out, please, let us know. Your help is truly appreciated!

BE A STEWARD: Have you ever wondered what more can you do to help our parish? 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; 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, processions, welcoming, parish cleaning, projects, etc.**

- **Easter Flowers Collection will be taken for on next Sunday, March 25th, 2018 A.D.**



- **Glasses Prescription Box for Ukraine** is placed and located at the left side by the entrance to the parish hall. Please, feel free to participate in and support this important project.

- **Pysanka/Easter Eggs Writing and Easter Bread Baking Workshop** will be held at 12:30 pm in our parish hall on Sunday, March 18th, 2018. Every person interested in learning how to write an own pysanka and bake Easter bread is very welcome to attend this wonderful, traditional workshop!

- **Rachel's Corner:** Have you ever thought about what that would feel like to be able to lay it down? To be free of the shame, regret and pain you have been living with since the day of your abortion? You are not alone. He will make a way, and He will show you how. Come join us on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat. **ARE YOU IN PRISON?** Many women and men who suffer from an abortion decision remain locked in their own internal prison afraid of anyone knowing their deep secret. Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats are a beautiful opportunity for any person who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. This retreat is a specific process designed to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God and is helpful in releasing feelings of shame, guilt, anger and grief. Come on a retreat and let the healing begin. April 6-8, 2018. **Healing after Abortion Ministry 250-762-2273**



visit: www.rachelsvineyardkelowna.com, Facebook: **Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna** Strict confidentiality assured. *Healing the pain of abortion ... one weekend at a time.*

Food Sale

**PEROGY - CABBAGE ROLLS -
PASKAS - BABKAS - BORSCHT -
BEET RELISH and much more**



Saturday, March 24, 2018
Time: 10 am - 1 pm
while supplies last

Ukrainian Catholic Parish Hall
1091 Coronation Ave. (at Gordon Dr.)
Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8

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- **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 or studying, please, make sure you check out the service schedule for the area churches at our eparchial website: www.nweparchy.ca and attend the Divine Liturgy. Please, remember as well, that while parishioners may be away and on vacation, the parish 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. Please, continue to be supportive and generous! **"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!"** (*Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*)

Home Blessing and Pastoral Annual Visitations sign up list to arrange the actual date is available at the entrance to the church and at the church hall. Please assist Fr. Pavlo in planning these visits by letting him know your most convenient time and day. Thank you and may God bless you!

- Individual tables are available for businesses to present and sell their products during our Annual Parish Easter Ukrainian Food Sale on Saturday, March 24th, 2018. You may rent a table for \$ 30 each. Please, contact our parish office in advance.



Mr. Robin Jarman (Auris Representative for Kelowna) will make a presentation of and about AURIS hearing loops system possibly installed at our parish on Sunday, March 18th, 2018. Most hearing aids today have a T coil. To take advantage of a hearing loop the T coil in the hearing aid needs to be activated by an audiologist. It takes only a few minutes to have it activated, and it should be at no cost. If your T coil has been activated, you will experience the exceptional sound quality during the Liturgy. After the service you may ask questions.



Chancery Office
Eparchy of New Westminster

To The Very Reverend and The Reverend Clergy, Religious, and Lay-Faithful of the Eparchy of New Westminster

25 February 2018

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Eparchial Lenten Collection

We have already begun our Lenten Journey towards the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, having completed the second week of the Great Fast.

Lent is a time of restoration and renewal primarily in three areas. First of all, we try to give greater attention to our prayer life. Then we might choose to “give-up” or abstain from certain types of foods or activities, either privately or together as a family. And finally, we pay greater attention to those in need, both near and far, through works of charity.

Each year our Eparchy takes a special collection for the needs of our sisters and brothers in Ukraine. These funds are collected at the parish level and then each parish forwards the collected amount to the Eparchy. In turn, we donate these funds to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) which is a Papal aid agency that focuses primarily on the needs of the Eastern Churches (our own Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak is on its board of directors). CNEWA then forwards the funds to the designated recipients, providing us with financial and activity reports on how the funds were distributed.

This year I would like to suggest for your consideration the following donation recipients:

1. **Andrew’s pence:** This is a special collection that we give to His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the head of our Church. He uses these funds to support the pastoral ministry of our clergy in areas of Eastern Ukraine and in other parts of the world where we have communities in need of assistance.
2. **Holy Resurrection Patriarchal Sobor** building fund in Kyiv: Funding is needed in order to complete interior decorations, including icons and mosaics.
3. **Operational expenses of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.** The work of the Synod is important for the life of the whole Church and of our eparchy in particular. It is where all our Bishops gather to decide on the things that truly matter in the life of our Church, exchanging ideas, developing programs, sharing resources in such areas as catechesis, liturgical texts, clergy formation, youth activities, pastoral care of migrants, etc. As each Eparchy is expected to contribute towards the Synod’s operational expenses, your donations in this area will be most helpful.
4. **Caritas Ukraine:** Caritas Ukraine is the official charitable organization of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine. Each year at Christmas time through the sale of candles to our faithful, our Eparchy participates in a collection for special youth projects in Ukraine. However, there are still many other projects that need funding. Especially in this time of occupation and military aggression, Caritas Ukraine continues to provide humanitarian aid to the many victims of war and their families.

Over the next few Sundays your parish will provide special envelopes with a place to indicate the amount you are donating to the various organizations I have listed above. **You can certainly donate at any time, but I am asking that a**

special collection be made on March 18, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, and the total funds collected in the parish for our Lenten donation to Ukraine be sent to our Chancery Offices no later than 20 April. We would like to send to CNEWA the funds to be forwarded to Ukraine by the last week of April.

Thank you for your generosity and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

With prayerful best wishes,

+Ken

Ukraine prelate on China: Dialogue 'at all costs,' but respect clandestine voice



(His Beatitude Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk at the Vatican. (Credit: Kyle Burkhart/CNA.)

[Editor's note: This is part two of a two-part interview with Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine. Part one, in which [Shevchuk discusses the current situation in Ukraine](#).]

ROME - As the Vatican appears to be on the brink of an historic deal with an officially atheistic and Communist regime in China hostile to religious faith, the leader of a Church in Ukraine that has suffered more under Communist control than any other religious body on earth says he now embraces a philosophy of "dialogue at all costs."

"We need to pursue dialogue at all costs," said Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine in a Feb. 27 *Crux* interview.

"That can seem a bit crude, but really, what alternative is there to dialogue? Only confrontation, a war of sorts," Shevchuk said.

"Today's world doesn't know how to dialogue, it only knows how to write on Facebook. Dialogue is mystery, it's a sacrament of encounter. Dialogue is something to which I've been completely converted," he said.

At the same time, Shevchuk said he deeply respects the perspective of clandestine and underground believers who've paid a price in blood for their fidelity to the faith.

"I have to say that in these situations, the clandestine church has a hard time understanding," he said. "Its suffering flesh isn't capable of running behind these initiatives. That's not only understandable, but I'd say it merits respect."

On the Vatican's relationship with Russia, Shevchuk said his major concern is with the risk of things being manipulated for political gain.

"What's the fear? It's about instrumentalization," he said. "We see a great risk that after every meeting, the other side tries to present the representative of the Catholic Church as its ally, without any discretion."

The Ukrainian prelate said the key to avoiding that danger is tight coordination between the Vatican and the Church on the ground.

"What we need is truly intense communion, not theoretical, between our church and the Apostolic See, which helps this dialogue," he said.

The following are portions of the *Crux* conversation with Shevchuk.

***Crux:* You referred to the painful history of your church, caused in part by being up against a hostile Communist regime for a long time. Do you think your experience has anything to say to the broader Church now, as the Vatican is reportedly on the brink of making a deal with China?**

Shevchuk: That's a difficult and complex question, but I'll try to break it down and respond sincerely.

First of all, I remember the clandestine church [in Ukraine] very well. I became a Christian in these clandestine groups, and I discovered my vocation watching priests who, because of their faith, were imprisoned two or three times. It was a small community, but its entire existence was based on hope in the Lord. I also remember that in that time, no one had any idea how this would end, just like with this war, unfortunately. But my family taught me that the most difficult moments, the most painful moments, open the most intimate spaces for communion with God. Where it's most difficult, God reveals himself in ways that are full, surprising, and authentic. If you truly believe, if you put your entire life in the hands of the Lord, this path isn't in vain, because God will act in surprising ways.

Obviously, this experience of faith has nothing to do with diplomacy. It's an experience that's sincere, and sometimes a little naïve. It's a faith that doesn't know how to say 'no' or 'maybe.' For such a faith, you're ready to pay a high price, because it touches something very fundamental in you. It's a faith that doesn't know how to make compromises. When you live in a society that says to you every day, 'God doesn't exist,' but you experience in your existence that God's there, between those two realities there is no compromise.

Obviously in those moments when we saw contacts between the Apostolic See and the Soviet Union, which tried to instrumentalize those contacts in order to demoralize the clandestine church, I have to say for us it was a test of faith. A schismatic group formed within the clandestine church that was called the "penitents." They refused communion with the pope for that reason. My grandmother, the mother of my father, was part of that group. When Pope John XXIII was elected after Pius XII, this group, because of his invitation to invite observers from the Orthodox Church of Moscow, declared that he wasn't a pope but an anti-pope. It was a challenge for the clandestine church. Thanks to God, for most of us our image of the pope wasn't that of a diplomat, but the Vicar of Christ. As a child, I was taught that where the pope is, there's the Catholic Church. In the clandestine church, it was an unconditional faith, a little naïve, but it gave you life and hope.

Now, having become the head of the church, I can understand better the level of international diplomacy, which is indispensable. Sometimes, in the moment, it can be the movement of the Holy Spirit - for instance, inviting our Orthodox brothers to join the journey to recover the unity of the community of Christ and so on. But for those of us in the Soviet Union at the time, we were frozen in that climate and we couldn't align that with the entire global body of the Catholic Church. After the fall of Communism, it still was difficult to absorb the entire spirit of the Second Vatican Council into our communities, because thawing out these groups of the clandestine church wasn't easy. For example, when I grew up I was taught that if you set foot in an Orthodox church, you had to go to confession. That was already an anachronism at the time, and I now see you couldn't go forward that way. But in a situation of persecution, that's how we lived.

There's something of a parallel with the situation in China. I can't put myself in a position to judge [the reported agreement], because I don't know all the details. In my view, however, dialogue has to exist. That was the core of the so-called Ostpolitik, which was criticized, including by us and my great predecessor, [Cardinal] Josyf Slipyj. As a result, I decided I need to study this famous tactic of Cardinal [Agostino] Casaroli [a senior Vatican diplomat responsible for relations with the Soviet sphere under Popes Paul VI and

John Paul II.] There are two important points to remember right now. The first is that we need to pursue dialogue at all costs. That can seem a bit crude, but really, what alternative is there to dialogue? Only confrontation, a war of sorts. Today's world doesn't know how to dialogue, it only knows how to write on Facebook. Dialogue is mystery, it's a sacrament of encounter. Dialogue is something to which I've been completely converted. Dialogue, as Pope John Paul II said, heals wounds and helps to change hearts. If that will be the case in China, I don't know, but you have to give value to dialogue.

The second principle, which also we here in Ukraine don't always understand, because the diplomacy of the Vatican has been criticized, is this: 'Always neutral, but never indifferent.' Neutrality means always remaining above the conflict, precisely for creating space for mediation and dialogue. If the Apostolic See exercises the Petrine ministry like a universal referee, it's part of the ancient tradition of the Church, all the way back to the first millennium. The pope was the last court of reference for local conflicts. To have the possibility of being a referee, it has to stay above the conflict. Evidently, this isn't easy, because all sides want to draw it onto their side. That's true of us too in Ukraine, because we've wanted to draw the Holy Father onto our side strongly, against the aggressor. But the mentality of neutrality gives you the possibility to act. However, that never means indifference. I don't believe the Holy See is indifferent to the suffering of the clandestine church [in China], but it also can't negate the possibility of pursuing whatever dialogue it can with the authorities and the Patriotic Church.

I have to say that in these situations, the clandestine church has a hard time understanding. Its suffering flesh isn't capable of running behind these initiatives. That's not only understandable, but I'd say it merits respect.

I remember that after the fall of the Soviet Union, there was a big discussion over church property. A tripartite commission was created among the Holy See, our church, and the Patriarchate of Moscow to negotiate. I remember that the head of the clandestine church walked out. 'I can't negotiate,' he said, 'the pain of my people, I simply can't.' This was a courageous step, which blocked the dialogue because the group wasn't able to go ahead. In that moment, you could see that he didn't have any other way to manifest the feelings of pain of his people, because the arguments of the powerful had begun to count for more than the suffering of the people of the clandestine church. That's why this is so difficult!

Would you apply the same lens when you see the pontificate becoming closer with Russia?

Our experience after the Declaration of Havana [referring to the Joint Declaration of Pope and Patriarch Kirill of Moscow after a meeting in Havana in February 2016] helped us to understand things better, and to make ourselves better understood. Let me explain.

Above all, these meetings, in my view, are indispensable. What alternative is there? I think that this dialogue, this opening, is a source of hope for restoring peace and resolving many conflicts, including ours in Ukraine. We're very grateful that in this dialogue, our voice has also been heard. It's not that they're negotiating behind our backs, and I'm a witness to that. Often, we've asked for mediation, since we can't resolve these problems in bilateral dialogues.

But, this dialogue also raises fears. I'm not saying that anybody should be naïve about that. What's the fear? It's about instrumentalization. We see a great risk that after every meeting, the other side tries to present the representative of the Catholic Church as its ally, without any discretion. That's a problem. That's why there's a certain fear, because we pastors and bishops in Ukraine have to explain what's happening to the people.

I said to the Holy Father, 'It's hard to explain what I don't understand myself!' He said, 'I understand perfectly.'

What we need is truly intense communion, not theoretical, between our church and the Apostolic See, which helps this dialogue. We're very happy that this is happening. It also gives us the possibility to make our voice heard, including at the international level. I remember that after the perplexity about Havana, I had to make a few tough declarations, which made everybody wonder, 'Who are these Greek Catholics? What are they thinking?' These things sort of become propaganda, a chance at promotion ... and it's free publicity!

We're truly disposed to dialogue, not for selling everyone on our position, but to explain it, to make ourselves known and understood. No one has a monopoly on interpreting the truth. We're servants of the

truth. If there's a deep, sincere, and open communion, the truth will be present and witnessed to in the best possible way.

Presented by John Allen and Claire Giangravé, March 2, 2018, EDITOR

Source: <https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2018/03/02/ukraine-prelate-china-dialogue-costs-respect-clandestine-voice/>

Pastoral and Sacramental Ministry:

Reconciliation: on Sundays and Holy Days: before Liturgies and other days, by appointment.

Holy Communion: for the sick, by appointment, any time.

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.

Funerals and Memorials: by appointment.

Holy Unction (Anointing of the Sick): Those anticipating surgery, hospitalization or treatments and who would like to receive anointing.

*** Please, contact Fr. Pavlo if you want to have the Divine Liturgies celebrated in your special (such as: In thanksgiving for favours received, the Infirm, General Intentions, the Deceased, Help of the Holy Spirit, for the Travelers, etc.) intentions.**



Liturgical celebrations during the 6th week of the Great Fast-Lent:

'How many kinds of moral and material poverty we face today as a result of denying God and putting so many idols in His place!' – teaches Pope Francis

Bible readings for 6th week of the Great Fast-Lent:

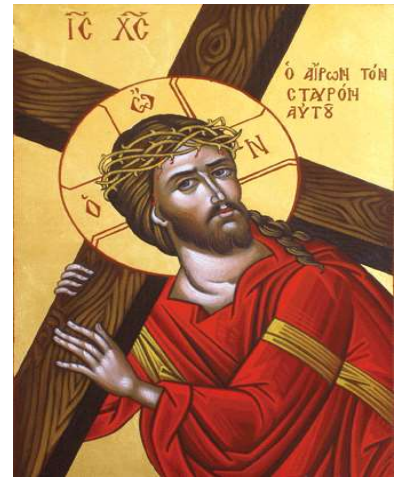
Mon.: Genesis 27:1-41; Proverbs 19:16-25; Isaiah 48:17-49:4

Tue.: Gen. 31:3-16; Prov. 21:3-21 & Is. 49:6-10

Wed.: Gen. 43:26-45:16; Prov. 21:23-22:4 & Is. 58:1-11

Thur.: Gene. 46:1-7; Prov. 23:15-24:5 & Is. 65:8-16

Fri.: Gen. 49:33-50:26; Prov. 31:8-31 & Is. 66:10-24



Mon., Mar. 19th – 6:15 p.m. Acatistos in Honour of Jesus Christ Sufferings

Tue., Mar. 20th – 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **for repose of the soul of Lidio Iacobelli**

Wed., Mar. 21st – 3:30 p.m. The Divine Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts: **for repose of the soul of Lidio Iacobelli**

Thurs., Mar. 22nd – 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **for repose of the soul of Mrs. Helen Kuczaba**

(9th Day Memorial Service requested by Mrs. Irene Kuczaba and Family)

– **7:00 p.m.** Parastas and Panakhyda: **for the repose of the**

soul of Mrs. Pauline Prybysh (requested by the Family)

Fri., Mar. 23rd – 10:00 a.m. **The Funeral Day** Divine Liturgy: **for the repose of the**

soul of Mrs. Pauline Prybysh (requested by the Family)

– **7:00 p.m.** The Way of the Cross (Eng./Ukr.)

Sat., Mar. 24th – 10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for Mrs. Rose Ostopowich**

(requested by Rev. Fr. Joseph Ostopowich).

– **11:00 a.m.** Sorokousty / Lenten Memorial Service for the deceased. (Eng./Ukr.)

– **4:00 p.m.** The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners.** (Service in Penticton, BC)

After the Liturgy blessing and distributing of willow branches and myrovania / blessing with Holy Oil

Sunday, March 25th, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners.** (in English)

After the Liturgy blessing and distributing of willow branches and myrovania / blessing with Holy Oil

– **11:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: **God's blessings for all parishioners.** (in Ukrainian)

After the Liturgy blessing and distributing of willow branches and myrovania / blessing with Holy Oil



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