

Dormition of The Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church



Успення Пресвятої Богородиці Українська Католицька Церква

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

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



4th Sunday of The Great Fast / 4th Неділя Великого Посту March 27th, 2022 A.D.

Our Venerable Father John Climacus,
Author of "The Ladder of Divine Ascent" (c. 649 A.D.)

**"Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness,
but a lamp which guides our steps in the night and suffices for the journey!"**

– Pope Francis 1st reminds all people in the World today

**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 was, He is and He always 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!

Wishing you and all your dear ones to be guided by the Holy Spirit, blessed with joy, peace, good health, unity, and Christian love today and always! Your pastor has thoughtfully prepared this church letter/bulletin for you to pray, read, spiritual growth and as Christians to evangelizing daily by responsibly and honestly sharing with other people the Good News/Gospel of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Bible readings for 5th week of the Great Fast/Lent: Mon.: Genesis 13:12-18; Proverbs 14:27-15:4; Isaiah 37:33-38:6
Tue.: Genesis 15:1-15; Proverbs 15:7-19 & Isaiah 40:18-31 Wed.: Gen. 17:1-9; Prov. 15:20-16:9 & Is. 41:4-14
Thur.: Gen. 18:20-33; Prov. 16:17-17:17 & Isaiah 42:5-16 Fri.: Genesis 22:1-18; Proverbs 17:17-18:5 & Isaiah 45:11-17

Daily Liturgical and Sacramental Services celebrated during this week:

Sunday, March 27th at **8:15 a.m.** Rosary: (Services in Kelowna, BC)
at **9:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends* (Eng./Ukr.)
Panakhya /Remembrance service for all people who have died during war in Ukraine

Annual General Meeting of The Dormition of The Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church

Mon., March 28th at **7:00 p.m.** Stations of the Cross / Хресна Дорога

Tue., March 29th at **9:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *Rest of the soul of Mrs. Sandra Shynkaryk*
(3rd Year Memorial Service requested by The Shynkaryk Family)
at **7:00 p.m.** Akathistos to Our Suffering Lord Jesus Christ: *For peace in Ukraine*

Wed., March 30th at **9:00 p.m.** The Divine Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts: *For peace in Ukraine*
at **7:00 p.m.** Stations of the Cross / Хресна Дорога

Thurs., March 31st at **9:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *Rest of the soul of Mrs. Lilly-Anne Sitter-Shandalla*
(requested by The Shandalla Family)
at **7:00 p.m.** Akathistos to Our Suffering Lord Jesus Christ: *For peace in Ukraine*

Fri., April 1st at **9:00 a.m.** Sorokousty/Memorial Service for All Deceased
at **6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession
at **7:00 p.m.** Stations of the Cross / Хресна Дорога

Saturday, April 2nd (Bible Studies and Church Services in Penticton, BC)

The Great Fast / Lenten Mission by Rev. Fr. Sebastian Puthenpura (Confession starts at 3:30 p.m.)

at **3:40 p.m.** Lectio Divina / Bible Studies:

at **4:00 p.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all our parishioners, relatives and friends.*

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

Sunday, April 3rd (Services in Kelowna, BC)

The Great Fast / Lenten Mission by Rev. Fr. Sebastian Puthenpura (Confession starts at 8:00 a.m.)

at **8:15 a.m.** Rosary:

at **9:00 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy: *God's blessings for all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends* (Eng./Ukr.)

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

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, Rest 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 Jordan Water 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.



Liturgical propers in English language:

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

Tone 3, pages 93-95

Epistle: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews (Hebrews 6:13-20)

Brothers and Sisters, when God made his promise to Abraham, he swore by himself, having no one greater to swear by, and said, "I will indeed bless you, and multiply you." And so, after patient waiting, Abraham obtained what God had promised. Men swear by someone greater than themselves; an oath gives firmness to a promise and puts an end to all argument. God, wishing to give the heirs of his promise ever clearer evidence that his purpose would not change, guaranteed it by oath, so that, by two things that are unchangeable, in which he could not lie, we have taken refuge in him might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope which is placed before us. Like a sure and firm anchor, that hope extends beyond the veil through which Jesus, our forerunner, has entered on our behalf, being made high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel: (Mark 9:17-31)

At that time, a man in the crowd came to Jesus and said: "Teacher, I have brought my son to you because he is possessed by a mute spirit. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. Just now I asked your disciples to expel him, but they were unable to do so." He replied by saying to the crowd, "What an unbelieving lot you are! How long must I remain with you? How long can I endure you? Bring him to me." When they did so the spirit caught sight of Jesus and immediately threw the boy into convulsions. As he fell to the ground he began to roll around and foam at the mouth. Then Jesus questioned the father: "How long has this been happening to him?" "From childhood," the father replied. "Often it throws him into fire and into water. You would think it would kill him. If out of the kindness of your heart you can do anything to help us, please do!" Jesus said, "If you can? Everything is possible to a man who trusts" The boy's father immediately exclaimed, "I do believe! Help my lack of trust!" Jesus, on seeing a crowd rapidly gathering, reprimanded the unclean spirit by saying to him, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you: Get out of him and never enter him again!" Shouting, and throwing the boy into convulsions, it came out of him; the boy became like a corpse, which caused many to say, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet.



When Jesus arrived at the house his disciples began to ask him privately, "Why is it that we could not expel it?" He told them, "This kind you can drive out only by prayer."

They left that district and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not want anyone to know about it. He was teaching the disciples in this vein: "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of man who will put him to death; three days after his death he will rise."

Instead of "It is truly...": In you, Lady full of grace all creation rejoices, the world of angels and the human race. Sanctified temple, spiritual paradise, boast of virgins. God took flesh from you and became a child. He was God before the ages, He made your womb a throne and made it more encompassing than the heavens. In you, Lady full of grace all creation rejoices, glory be to you!

At the conclusion of every Divine Liturgy, we say an additional prayer for peace in Ukraine until the end of the war and for peace in the World: **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.**

Having Suffered



Літургійні частини Українською мовою:

Глас 3, сторінки 92-94; Служиться Божественна Літургія св. Василя Великого.

Апостол: До Євреїв Послання Святого Апостола Павла читання: (Євр. 6,13-20)

Браття і Сестри, коли Бог учиняв Авраамові обітницю, не маючи поклястися ніким вищим, то поклявся самим собою, кажучи: «Справді поблагословлю тебе щедро й розмножу тебе вельми. » І він, завдяки довгій терпеливості, осягнув обітницю: люди клянуться більшим від себе, і всякі їхні суперечки кінчаються клятвою на ствердження. Тому й Бог, бажаючи дати спадкоємцям обітниці якнайсильніший доказ, що його рішення непорушне, вжив клятви, щоб двома незмінними речами, в яких неможливо, щоб Бог казав неправду, ми мали сильну заохоту – ми, що прибїгли прийняти надію, призначену нам. В ньому маємо, неначе якір душі, безпечний та міцний, що входить аж до середини за завісу, куди ввійшов за нас, як предтеча, Ісус, ставши архиереєм повіки, на зразок Мелхиседека.



Свангеліс: (Мр. 9, 17-31)

У той час один чоловік прийшов до Ісуса і, кланяючись, йому сказав: "Учителю, привів я до тебе сина мого, що має німого духа, і де тільки його вхопить, кидає його об землю так, що пиниться, скрегоче зубами, дерев'яніє. Просив я учнів твоїх, щоб його вигнали, та не змогли." Він же у відповідь каже їм: "О роде невірний! Доки я буду з вами? Доки вас терпітиму? Приведіть но його до мене." І привели його до нього. Скоро дух угледів його, притьмом того затряс, і повалившись той на землю, запінившись, почав качатися. Спитав же його батька: "Скільки часу, як це йому сталося?" – "З дитинства", – відповів той. "І часто він кидає його у вогонь і в воду, щоб його погубити. Та якщо можеш, помози нам, змилосердившись над ним." Ісус же каже йому: "Щодо того – якщо можеш – то все можливо тому, хто вірує." І вмить батько хлопчини викрикнув крізь сльози: "Вірю, помози моему невірству!" Ісус же, бачивши, що збігається народ, погрозив нечистому духові, кажучи: "Німий та глухий душе! Наказую тобі: Вийди з нього й не входи більше в нього." І, закличавши та сильно його стрясаши, вийшов з нього. І наче змертвів той, тож многи казали: "Вмер він." Але Ісус, узявши його за руку, підвів його, і той устав. Коли ж увійшов у дім, то учні його питали його насамоті: "Чому ми не могли його вигнати?" Він відповів їм: "Цей рід нічим не можна вигнати, тільки молитвою та постом." Вийшовши

звідти, проходили крізь Галилею, і він не хотів, щоб будь-хто знав. Навчав бо своїх учнів і казав їм: “Син Чоловічий буде виданий у руки людям, і в’ють його, і, вбитий, по трьох днях, воскресне.”

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 суцїй 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, volunteered by helping our parish community and via our Christian church in various ways supporting Ukraine at the time of war and projects inside and as Christian missionaries 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!

DONATIONS! Amid Covid-19 outbreak causing these difficult and challenging times we continue to rely on your generosity! **Please continue to support our parish financially by e-transfer (it is a direct deposit, no security question is needed) via dormitiontransfer2020@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)

Holy Resurrection Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Penticton, BC donations:

Feb. 19th: \$ 255.00; Feb. 26th: \$ 290.00; Mar. 5th: \$ 130.00; Mar. 12th: \$ 223.00;



AID FOR UKRAINE - please donate to the “Aid for Ukraine”. All donations will be directed to regional organizations in Ukraine, who support all people in need including refugees fleeing their homes to other parts of Ukraine. The funds will be forwarded to Caritas Ukraine, a charitable organization with over 20 offices in Ukraine. They supply aid by accessing and delivering food, shelter, medical supplies and providing spiritual and psychological support for those in need. A generous family has pledged to match all donations in support of humanitarian aid in Ukraine up to \$500,000. Help us meet this goal. Make cheques payable to **Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church** 1091 Coronation Ave., Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8 with memo ‘**Aid for Ukraine**’. You can also donate cash or via e-transfer to (email dormitiontransfer2020@gmail.com address). Tax receipts will be issued by the parish for your donations via and to the parish. By putting your generous donation in cash or cheque, please remember to write your name, address, amount of your donation, memo ‘**Aid for Ukraine**’, parish registration number (if you are a registered parishioner) on a church donation

envelope located at the church vestibule. Please donate generously!

- “Aid for Ukraine” collected at the parish money will be sent to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster, then the Eparchy will be sending money to our partner Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA Ottawa), every two weeks
- CNEWA will be sending money for Caritas Ukraine

Another way to donate to Caritas Ukraine is directly through our partner Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA Ottawa) website: CNEWA Canada. Your monetary donations will be eligible for matching up to \$500,000. And it is possible for someone to donate directly to CNEWA via their website: <https://cnewa.org/ca/campaigns/ukraine/>

The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster is responding to the humanitarian crisis. Donating thru the parish is a meaningful way for the Catholic Church / parish community as a Christian parish family respond to the call to carry on the ministry entrusted by The Son of God Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to the Church. Going thru the parish can reinforce that not only individuals but the parish community united together has a responsibility to care for those at time of war and in need in Ukraine today!

EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE PEOPLE IN UKRAINE

Breaking News of Russian Federation Aggression, military attacks and causing War in Ukraine today, thousands of people are killed and wounded, millions of people saving their human lives left their homes, hiding in bomb shelters, forced to become refugees, ... All these tragic and life-threatening, dangerous daily attacks of the enemy highlight the need for an emergency humanitarian response on our part towards the purchase of food, water, basic hygiene, medicine, psychological support, shelter, evacuation, protection, and so on and on. Can you help your brothers and sisters in need as Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ asks each and everyone of you to?

Parishes are invited to take up an emergency humanitarian collection to aid the people in Ukraine. The donated funds are to be sent to the Pastoral Centre, who in turn will forward them to our partner Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA Ottawa), who are coordinating humanitarian relief efforts with Caritas Ukraine.



To stay informed on the greatest need and the developing humanitarian efforts, visit CNEWA's website (cnewa.org/ca). Individuals can also donate directly to CNEWA.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada has partnered with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association in Canada (CNEWA) to provide immediate humanitarian support for the people of Ukraine. With the threat of further invasion by Russia, the already 8-year war in Ukraine has placed several million people in desperate need for food, shelter, medical attention, and more. Will you help your brother and sister in need? 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



CONGRATULATIONS!

ЩИРО ВАС ВИТАЄМО!

May the Almighty God bless in good health and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to and to all Christians during this very important spiritual journey of the Great Fast / Lent, Anthony Kalynych on his birthday (March 29th), Mr. Eldon Hnylycia on his birthday (March 31th), Mr. Yuriy Matsychko on his birthday (March 31th), Mr. Robert McBride on his birthday (April 2nd), and all celebrating their birthdays, heavenly patron's name-days, wedding anniversaries, and any other special anniversaries this week Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita / Many Blessed Years of Life!

EVERY PERSON WHO HAVE JOINED US IN DIVINE LITURGY AT THE CHURCH AND ON-LINE TODAY.

THANK YOU FOR HONOURING THE ALMIGHTY GOD BY PRAYING AND CELEBRATING AS CHRISTIANS:

Wishing you and all your dear ones to be guided by the Holy Spirit, blessed with joy, peace and Christian love daily!

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 are happy to welcome all children to our Dormition of the Mother of God parish catechism program. Children learn more about their Christian orthodox faith in the Catholic Church, sacred scripture, feast days, icons, tradition, singing and religious practices and customs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. If you have any questions, please, do not hesitate to contact our parish catechism teacher Mrs. Marilyn Daulat or pastor Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts.



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: *DormitinionKelowna Parish*: <https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>

Your spiritual father-pastor is praying for all of you daily! Please pray for one another and especially for those who are ill, suffering or being affected by disasters, war in Ukraine! Let us always be co-responsible to ensure that we are all well.

For your attention the [new requirements by the Provincial Health Officer](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions#worship-services) from March 10th, 2022 A.D.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions#worship-services> Starting March 11, 2022 at 12:01 am, because of B.C.'s lowered hospitalization and transmission rates, these activities can return to normal:

On April 8, 2022 at 12:01 am, further restrictions will be lifted:

Proof of vaccination will no longer be required to access businesses, events and services

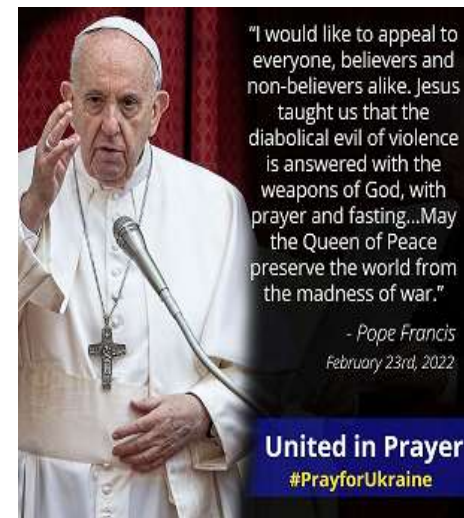
Individual businesses and event organizers can choose to continue requiring proof of vaccination for entry

Proof of vaccination is still required for federally regulated travel, like air travel

Businesses will no longer need a COVID-19 safety plan. They must follow communicable disease guidance from WorkSafeBC

Proof of vaccination will no longer be required for post-secondary student housing.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR: Lucy D., Janet F., Volodymyr P., Ivan L., Ray Saranchuk, Cameron V., Rose Ostopowich, Keyton A., Shelley M., Kathleen S., Chelsea M., Carmella M., Bernard M., Darrin M., Kit C., Shirley C., Olga Kuzyk, George Dashkewych, Kay Ilnitski, Kalyna Kociuba, William Shuya, Maria Pylypchuk, Bronie Huska, Peter Huska, Roma Nowakowski, Barbara and Vincent Pasternak, Dr. Nadia Popil, the Hillman Family, Joseph Stetch, Rosa Maria Santos, Anita N., Ron and Verna Shoemaker, Jonas and Anne, Alyssa and Adam, Mark and Asia, Karen Feniuk, Volodymyr Melnyk, Shelley Zemliak, Ron Horon, Adeline Sorochuk, relatives of The Burachok Family, Aretta Manion and The Family, Daniella-Daryna Tomashevskya and The Family, Shane Bettin, Patricia Sawadsky, Robert Emery, Karen W., Victor P., for peace in the World, for all people defending Ukraine and all refugees at the time of war, Rev. 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.

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.**

BE A STEWARD: Have you ever wondered what more can you do to help our 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; 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, etc. **VOLUNTEERS HELP IS ALWAYS NEEDED AND TRULY APPRECIATED:** to help out with weekly cleaning in the church inside and outside, security, maintenance, receiving donations for Aid to Ukraine (during the week from 8 am to 8 pm everyday), welcoming visitors, etc. If you can help out, please, let us know. Please, contact Mrs. Yvonne Crawford or Fr. Pavlo for more information. You will be amazed how "BEING" can make a difference at our spiritual, parish life! **Every 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 sent it by email to the office at dormitionkelowna@gmail.com by no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday.**

If you wish to help or have any questions, suggestions, ideas about our parish community life, please, contact our parish executive council chairperson Mrs. Yvonne Crawford. Email: Donoharmclinic@gmail.com or phone: 250-212-4899

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.



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.



МОЛИТА ЖИВОЇ ПАРАФІЇ: Господи Ісусе Христе, Пастирю Добрий, як колись Ти пригорнув заблуканих овечок, 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 Твоею присутністю та єдною нас кожнoчасно в молитві. Даруй нам духа служіння ближньому, щоб у нашій парафії кожний міг зустріти Тебе, милостивого Бога. Благослови наш духовний провід Твоею мудрістю і дай, щоб ніхто з нас не шкодував ні часу, ні талантів, ні матеріальних дiбр для розбудови Твого царства. Єдною нас у мирі та злагоді, щоб ми були Твоею спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світилом евангельського слова, молитви і добрих діл, що кличе кожного до участі в Божественному житті, щоб славилoся, Спасе, Твоє Ім'я з безначальним Твоїм Отцем та пресвятим, благим і животворящим Твоїм Духом нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.

Easter Food and Yard Sale Fundraiser from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday of April 9th, 2022 A.D. Let us all together make it successful by volunteering, donating and supporting our Dormition of The Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church, and all our parish Aid for Ukraine and Ukrainian Refugees Welcoming lifesaving initiatives and projects in Kelowna, BC

Our Dormition of The Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church is blessed with the help of thoughtful Christians-parishioners volunteering to collect donations such as medical supplies, monetary donations from Monday to Friday starting at 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Saturdays as available). Sorry, no more clothing at this time.



Annual Parish General Meeting will take place today on Sunday, March 27th, 2022 A.D. after the 9:00 am Divine Liturgy On that day there will be only one bilingual Divine Liturgy.

We are now preparing for the election of the new Parish Council for the year 2022 – 2023 A.D.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we are inviting and encouraging parishioners (especially all our wise, honest and experienced senior-parishioners) to volunteer and help Mr. Edward Kaskiw and Ms. Marie Shandalla of the Nominating Committee and suggest candidates for replacement of the present council members. Until nomination committee finalized suggestions for candidates may be placed in the Suggestion Box located in our church vestibule or personally passed to our present

Parish Council Chairperson Mrs. Yvonne Crawford or Pastor / the President of The Council Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts.

If you have been a registered active parishioner for two years, having gifts and talents to share and never been elected to a Christian honourable position as a member of our parish council never before do not wait, volunteer by stepping in. Position of an auxiliary, executive parish council officer is a blessing and wonderful opportunity to show your Christian care, honesty, unity and respect before God and our Catholic Church community, talents, knowledge, experience and care serving the best to the Almighty God in our spiritual, Christian family of the Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kelowna, BC!

Parish Constitution states saying: 'The Parish Council must be representative of the faithful of the parish and of the various parish-related organisations that exist within its boundaries. Potential members of the Parish Council should have certain basic qualifications such as a keen desire to help, as well the ability to listen, reflect, and express themselves with care.' (*Chapter III, Article 1, Sections 1 and 2*) Nominations may be made from the floor by any registered and actively present member of the parish. Each Council Member shall carry his/her duties for 1 year term and be eligible for election to the office for 2 consecutive terms, max. for 6 consecutive years.

Descriptions of responsibilities and ministry

(see by carefully and as honest Christian responsibly reading underlined at Our Parish Constitution, Chapter III, Articles 2, 3, 4, 5,)

of each officer-member of the parish council are:

Chairperson of the Parish Council is elected (maximum for 2 consecutive years) at the Annual General Meeting. He/She is responsible for drawing up the agenda; calling for, directing and charring parish council meetings; seeing that the program of activities decided upon and ratified by the pastor are implemented; is a signing officer, an ex-officio member of all parish committees. He/She prepares the chairperson's report for presentation at the AGM.

Vice-Chairperson is elected at the Annual General Meeting. He/She is presiding at the all Parish Council Meetings in the absence of the Chairperson; carrying out such duties as are assigned by the Parish Council, the Chairperson or Pastor.

Recording Secretary is elected at the Annual General Meeting. He/She is keeping the minutes of all Parish Council Meetings; together with the Pastor and the Chairperson signs the adopted minutes of the Council.

Financial Secretary is elected at the Annual General Meeting. He/She is monitoring all funds received by the parish and ensure that all such funds are deposited in the parish bank account; keeping accurate records of all income and expenditures; keeps in in order and preserves documents, records and books of parish finances. He/She is a signing officer, together with the pastor, for property approved financial transactions. He/She presents at the AGM the statements of income and expenses, as well as the balance sheet, for the calendar year as prepared by him or her or, where necessary, by an independent accounting firm.

Treasurer is elected (up to 5 consecutive years) at the Annual General Meeting. He/She is greatly helping the financial secretary to monitor all funds received by the parish and ensure that all such funds are deposited in the parish bank account; keeping accurate records of all income and expenditures (paying all invoices-bills and reimbursements); keeps in in order and preserves documents, records and books of parish finances. He/She is a signing officer, together with the pastor, for property approved financial transactions.

It is also very important, vibrant and vital for our Christian community-family to have active and carrying representatives (a leader and helpers) at different Parish Committees such as: Liturgical, Church Singing, Knights of Columbus, Lay Ministry of Pastoral / Spiritual Care, Educational, Children Ministry, Youth Ministry, Senior Ministry, Decoration / Beautification, Maintenance, Kitchen, Welcoming/ Social / Public Relations with Connection to Other Churches and Local Organizations, Aid for Ukraine and Refugees Committee, Parish Property (Church Hall and Parking Lot) Rental, Cleaning Committee, etc.



Traditional and Very Delicious Ukrainian Food will be available again soon for sale at our parish: If you need more information or to place your order, please contact Mrs. Alice Pelechaty at 250-763-4870 or Mrs. Olena Fedorov at 778-821-0759.



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 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!**



Rachel's Corner: *“The Rachel's Vineyard atmosphere provided me with the opportunity to deal with some of the details of the abortion. These were details which God had already forgiven me for, but they were details I had to humble myself and acknowledge openly, in order to experience that forgiveness.” Testimonial*

Rachel' Vineyard is where those affected by an abortion experience can gather to support each other and reclaim that part of their lives that was lost that day as well. info@rachelvineyardkelowna.com

www.rachelvineyardkelowna.com f Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna: 250-762-2273



Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Basilica of Saint Peter on 25th March, 2022 A.D.

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves.

Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.
Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.
Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We

trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen."



АКТ ПОСВЯТИ НЕПОРОЧНОМУ СЕРЦЮ МАРІЇ

"О Маріє, Мати Божа і наша, у цю скорботну годину ми прибігаємо до Тебе. Ти є Матір'ю, любиш і знаєш нас: ніщо, що сповнює наші серця, не приховане від Тебе. Мати милосердя, багато разів ми відчували Твою турботливу ніжність, Твою присутність, яка повертає мир, тому що Ти завжди ведеш нас до Ісуса, Князя миру.

Однак ми загубили шлях миру. Ми забули урок трагедій минулого століття, про жертву мільйонів полеглих у світових війнах. Ми знехтували зобов'язаннями, взятими як Спільнота Націй, і зараз зраджуємо мрії народів про мир і надії молоді. Ми захворіли на жадібність, ми замкнулися в національних інтересах, ми дозволили собі бути скованими байдужістю і паралізованими егоїзмом. Ми воліли ігнорувати Бога, співіснувати з нашою облудою, підживлювати агресію, придушувати життя та накопичувати зброю, забуваючи, що ми є хранителями нашого ближнього та нашої спільної домівки. Ми спустошили війною земний сад, зранили гірхом серце нашого Отця, який хоче, щоб ми всі були братами і сестрами. Ми стали байдужими до всіх і до всього, окрім до самих себе. І з соромом кажемо: прости нам, Господи!

У нещасті гріха, у наших зусиллях та слабкостях, у таємниці несправедливості зла і війни Ти, Пресвята Мати, нагадуєш нам, що Бог не покидає нас, а продовжує дивитися на нас з любов'ю, з прагненням пробачити і знову піднести нас. Це Він дарував нам Тебе і розмістив у Твоєму Непорочному Серці пристановище для Церкви і людства. Завдяки Божественній доброті Ти є з нами і лагідно ведеш нас, навіть вузькими і звивистими стежками історії.

Тож прибігаємо до Тебе, стукаємо у двері Твого Серця ми, Твої дорогі діти, яких Ти не втомлюєшся відвідувати і запрошувати до навернення. У цю темну годину прийди, щоб допомогти нам і втішити нас. Повторюй кожному з нас: «Хіба Я не тут, Я, що є твоєю Матір'ю?». Ти знаєш, як розв'язувати плутанину у наших серцях та вузли нашого часу. Ми покладаємо на Тебе нашу надію. Ми впевнені, що Ти не знехтуєш, особливо в хвилини випробування, нашими благаннями і прийдеш нам на допомогу. Саме так Ти вчинила в Кані Галілейській, коли пришвидшила час втручання Ісуса і спонукала Його вчинити перше чудо у світі. Коли свято перетворилося на смуток, Ти сказала Йому: «Не мають вина» (Ів. 2, 3). Повтори це ще раз Богові, о Мати, бо сьогодні в нас вичерпалося вино надії, зникла радість, розчинилося братерство. Ми втратили людяність, ми зруйнували мир.

Ми стали здатними на будь-яке насильство і знищення. Нам негайно потрібне Твоє материнське втручання.

Тому прийми, о Мати, це наше благання.

Ти, Зоре морська, не допусти, щоб ми потонули в бурі війни.

Ти, Ковчегу Нового Завіту, надихни плани та шляхи примирення.

Ти, Небесна земле, поверни у світ Божу злагоду.

Погаси ненависть, вгамуй помсту, навчи нас прощати.

Визволи нас від війни, вбережи світ від ядерної загрози.

Царице Вервиці, пробуди в нас потребу молитися і любити.

Царице людського роду, вкажи народам шлях братерства.

Царице миру, випроси мир для всього світу.

Твій плач, о Мати, хай зворушить наші зачерствілі серця. Хай сльози, які Ти пролила за нас, зроблять квітучою долину, яку висушила наша ненависть. І поки не стихає гуркіт зброї, хай Твоя молитва схилить нас до миру. Хай Твої материнські руки голублять тих, хто страждає і втікає від бомбардувань. Твої материнські обійми хай втішають тих, хто змушений покинути власні домівки та свою країну. Хай Твоє Скорботне Серце відкриє нас до співчуття і спонукає нас відчинити двері та подбати про поранене й відкинуте людство.

Пресвята Богородице, коли Ти стояла під хрестом, Ісус, побачивши учня поруч із Тобою, промовив до Тебе: «Ось син Твій» (Ів. 19, 26), довіривши Тобі кожного з нас. Потім до учня, до кожного з нас, Він сказав: «Ось Мати твоя» (Ів. 19, 27). О Мати, ми прагнемо тепер прийняти Тебе в наше життя та в нашу історію. У цю годину з Тобою під хрестом перебуває виснажене і налякане людство. Йому потрібно ввіритися Тобі, щоб через Тебе посвятитися Христу. Український народ та російський народ, які вшановують Тебе з любов'ю, прибігають до Тебе, а Серце Твоє вболіває за них і за всі народи, скошені війною, голодом, несправедливістю і злиднями.

Тому ми, о Мати Божа і наша, урочисто ввіряємо і посвячуємо Твоєму Непорочному Серцю себе самих, Церкву і все людство, а особливо Росію та Україну. Прийми цей наш акт, який ми здійснюємо з довірою і любов'ю, вчини так, щоб закінчилася війна, наповни світ миром. Твоє «так», що вийшло із Твого серця, відчинило двері історії для Князя миру; ми віримо, що через Твоє серце знову прийде мир. Тому ми посвячуємо Тобі майбутнє всього людського роду, потреби та очікування народів, тривоги та надії світу.

Хай через Тебе зійде на Землю Божественне милосердя, а лагідний ритм миру знову відмірює наші дні. Жінко, яка сказала «так», на яку зійшов Святий Дух, поверни нам Божу гармонію. Вгамуй спрагу наших спраглих сердець, Ти, що є «живим джерелом надії». Ти, що виткала людську природу Ісуса, вчини нас творцями єдності. Ти, що ходила нашими шляхами, веди нас стежками миру. Амінь."

Pope Francis' homily at the penance service and act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/250800/full-text-pope-francis-homily-at-the-penance-service-and-act-of-consecration-to-the-immaculate-heart>

Vatican City, Mar 25, 2022 / 16:41 pm

On March 25 Pope Francis led a celebration of the sacrament of penance and the act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in St. Peter's Basilica. The following is the full text of the pope's prepared homily.

In the Gospel reading for today's Solemnity, the angel Gabriel speaks three times in addressing the Virgin Mary. The first is when he greets her and says, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Lk 1:28). The reason to rejoice, the reason for joy, is revealed in those few words: the

Lord is with you. Dear brother, dear sister, today you can hear those words addressed to you. You can make them your own each time you approach God's forgiveness, for there the Lord tells you, "I am with you". All too often, we think that Confession is about going to God with dejected looks. Yet it is not so much that we go to the Lord, but that he comes to us, to fill us with his grace, to fill us with his joy. Our confession gives the Father the joy of raising us up once more. It is not so much about our sins as about his forgiveness. Think about it: if our sins were at the heart of the sacrament, almost everything would depend on us, on our repentance, our efforts, our resolves. Far from it. The sacrament is about God, who liberates us and puts us back on our feet.

Let us recognize once more the primacy of grace and ask for the gift to realize that Reconciliation is not primarily our drawing near to God, but his embrace that enfolds, astonishes and overwhelms us. The Lord enters our home, as he did that of Mary in Nazareth, and brings us unexpected amazement and joy. Let us first look at things from God's perspective: then we will rediscover our love for Confession. We need this, for every interior rebirth, every spiritual renewal, starts there, from God's forgiveness. May we not neglect Reconciliation, but rediscover it as the sacrament of joy. Yes, of joy, for our shame for our sins becomes the occasion for an experience of the warm embrace of the Father, the gentle strength of Jesus who heals us, and the "maternal tenderness" of the Holy Spirit. That is the heart of Confession.

And you, dear brother priests who are ministers of God's forgiveness, offer to those who approach you the joy of this proclamation: Rejoice, the Lord is with you. Set aside rigidity, obstacles and harshness; may you be doors wide open to mercy! Especially in Confession, we are called to act in the person of the Good Shepherd who takes his sheep into his arms and cradles them. We are called to be channels of grace that pour forth the living water of the Father's mercy on hearts grown arid.

A second time the angel speaks to Mary. She was troubled by his greeting, and so he tells her, "Do not be afraid" (v. 30). In the Scriptures, whenever God appears to those who receive him, he loves to utter those words: Do not be afraid! He says them to Abraham (cf. Gen 15:1), repeats them to Isaac (cf. Gen 26:24), to Jacob (cf. Gen 46:3) and so on, up to Joseph (cf. Mt 1:20) and Mary. In this way, he sends us a clear and comforting message: once our lives are open to God, fear can no longer hold us in thrall. Dear sister, dear brother, if your sins frighten you, if your past worries you, if your wounds do not heal, if your constant failings dishearten you and you seem to have lost hope, do not be afraid. God knows your weaknesses and is greater than your mistakes. He asks of you only one thing: that you not hold your frailties and sufferings inside. Bring them to him, lay them before him and, from being reasons for despair, they will become opportunities for resurrection. Do not be afraid!

The Blessed Virgin Mary accompanies us: she cast her own anxiety upon God. The angel's proclamation gave her good reason to be afraid. He proposed to her something unimaginable and beyond her abilities, something that she could not handle alone: there would be too many difficulties, problems with the Mosaic law, with Joseph, with the citizens of her town and with her people. Yet Mary did not object. Those words – do not be afraid – were sufficient for her; God's reassurance was enough for her. She clung to him, as we want to do tonight. Yet so often we do the exact opposite. We start from our own certainties and, when we lose them, we turn to God. Our Lady, on the other hand, teaches us to start from God, trusting that in this way everything else will be given to us (cf. Mt 6:33). She invites us to go to the source, to the Lord, who is the ultimate remedy against fear and emptiness in life. There is a lovely phrase written above a confessional here in the Vatican that reminds us of this. It addresses God with these words, "To turn away from you is to fall, to turn back to you is to rise, to abide in you is to have life" (cf. SAINT AUGUSTINE, Soliloquies I, 3).

In these days, news reports and scenes of death continue to enter our homes, even as bombs are destroying the homes of many of our defenceless Ukrainian brothers and sisters. The vicious war that has overtaken so many people, and caused suffering to all, has made each of us fearful and anxious. We sense our helplessness and our inadequacy. We need to be told, "Do not be afraid". Yet human reassurance is not enough. We need the closeness of God and the certainty of his forgiveness, which alone eliminates evil, disarms resentment and restores peace to our hearts. Let us return to God and to his forgiveness.

A third time the angel speaks to Mary and says: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you" (Lk 1:35). That is how God intervenes in history: by giving his very Spirit. For in the things that matter, our own strength is not enough. By ourselves, we cannot succeed in resolving the contradictions of history or even those of our own hearts. We need the wisdom and gentle power of God that is the Holy Spirit. We need the Spirit of love who dispels hatred, soothes bitterness, extinguishes greed and rouses us from indifference. We need God's love, for our love is fragile and insufficient. We ask the Lord for many things, but how often we forget to ask him for what is most important and what he desires most to give us: the Holy Spirit, the power to love. Indeed, without love, what can we offer to the world? It has been said that a Christian without love is like a needle that does not sew: it stings, it wounds, and if it fails to sew, weave or patch, then it is useless. This is why we need to find in God's forgiveness the power of love: the same Spirit who descended upon Mary.

If we want the world to change, then first our hearts must change. For this to happen, let us allow Our Lady to take us by the hand. Let us gaze upon her Immaculate Heart in which God dwelt, "our tainted nature's solitary boast". Mary is "full of grace" (v. 28), and



thus free from sin. In her, there is no trace of evil and hence, with her, God was able to begin a new story of salvation and peace. There, in her, history took a turn. God changed history by knocking at the door of Mary's heart.

Today, renewed by God's forgiveness, may we too knock at the door of her immaculate heart. In union with the Bishops and faithful of the world, I desire in a solemn way to bring all that we are presently experiencing to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I wish to renew to her the consecration of the Church and the whole of humanity, and to consecrate to her in a particular way the Ukrainian people and the Russian people who, with filial affection, venerate her as a Mother.

This is no magic formula but a spiritual act. It is an act of complete trust on the part of children who, amid the tribulation of this cruel and senseless war that threatens our world, turn to their Mother, reposing all their fears and pain in her heart and abandoning themselves to her. It means placing in that pure and undefiled heart, where God is mirrored, the inestimable goods of fraternity and peace, all that we have and are, so that she, the Mother whom the Lord has given us, may protect us and watch over us.

Mary then uttered the most beautiful words that the angel could bring back to God: "Let it be to me according to your word" (v. 38). Hers was no passive or resigned acceptance, but a lively desire to obey God, who has "plans for welfare and not for evil" (Jer 29:11). Hers was the most intimate sharing in God's plan of peace for the world. We consecrate ourselves to Mary in order to enter into this plan, to place ourselves fully at the disposal of God's plans. After having uttered her "Fiat", the Mother of God set out on a long journey to the hill country, to visit a relative who was with child (cf. Lk 1:39). May she now take our own journey into her hands: may she guide our steps through the steep and arduous paths of fraternity and dialogue, along the way of peace."

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

LORD OUR GOD,
GREAT AND ALMIGHTY, WE YOUR SINFUL CHILDREN TURN TO YOU WITH HUMILITY IN OUR HEARTS AND BOW OUR HEADS LOW BEFORE YOU. WE BESEECH YOUR LOVING KINDNESS AND ABUNDANT BLESSINGS UPON THE NATION – THE PEOPLE – OF UKRAINE DURING THESE DAYS OF GREAT DANGER TO THEIR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING.

OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, LORD, ARE ONCE AGAIN THREATENED BY AGGRESSORS WHO SEE THEM ONLY AS SIMPLE OBSTACLES BLOCKING THE PATH TO THE COMPLETE DOMINATION OF THE PRECIOUS LAND AND RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY OF UKRAINE. STRENGTHEN THE PEOPLE AS THEY FACE THIS GREAT DANGER, TURNING TO YOU IN THE IMMENSELY DEEP FAITH, TRUST AND LOVE THEY HAVE PLACED IN YOU ALL THEIR LIVES. SEND YOUR HEAVENLY LEGIONS, O LORD, COMMANDED BY THE PATRON OF KYIV, ARCHANGEL MICHAEL, TO CRUSH THE DESIRES OF THE AGGRESSOR WHOSE DESIRE IS TO ERADICATE YOUR PEOPLE.

GRANT UNITY OF MIND, HEART AND SOUL, O LORD TO ALL LEADERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE WITH THOSE THEY SERVE. UNITE THEM ALL INTO ONE, GREAT CHRISTIAN FAMILY, SO THAT TOGETHER, AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THEY MAY GLORIFY YOUR MAJESTIC NAME – GOD IN THE HOLY TRINITY – FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, NOW AND EVER AND UNTO THE AGES OF AGES.
AMEN.

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Patriarch Josyf Cardinal Slipij 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 293)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josyf_Slipij

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