

Dormition of The Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church



Успення Пресвятої Богородиці Українська Католицька Церква

1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8

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

Email: dormitionkelowna@gmail.com

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

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

Church Office Manager: Mrs. Lilia Mykhnevych: dormitionofficemanager@gmail.com

Hall rental: <https://kelownahallrental.ca/>

Church parish office / cultural centre-hall and kitchen Tel: (250) 763-7447 Church office open: Monday-Friday: from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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

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



36th SUNDAY after PENTECOST / 36^{ТА} НЕДІЛЯ після ЗІСЛАННЯ СВЯТОГО ДУХА

Our Venerable Father Xenophon and his wife Maria

January 26th, 2025 A.D.

**“Holiness is not the luxury of a few people,
but a simple duty for you and me.”**

– teaches, guides and reminds us all Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta today

Christian Greetings: Christ Is Born! – Let us glorify Him!

Христос Рождається! – Славимо Його! Chrystos Rozhdaet'sia! – Slavimo Yoho!

Christ Is among us! – He Is and Will Be!

THE VIBRANT PARISH - A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST:

**Through the Word, the Holy Mysteries & Prayer, Serving One's Neighbour, Leadership,
Fostering & Serving Unity and Missionary Spirit.**

– Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US BY PRAYING TO THE ALMIGHTY GOD! We welcome, pray, greet, and wish you and all your dear ones to be guided by the Holy Spirit, blessed with joy, peace, good health, unity, and Christian love and respect today and always! Your pastor has thoughtfully prepared this church weekly letter/bulletin for you to pray read, spiritual growth and as Christians with conscious, constant awareness of The Divine Creator to evangelize daily and by responsibly and honestly sharing with all people the Good News/Gospel of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ in the World today!

Liturgical and Sacramental Services celebrated during week / Розпорядок Богослужінь:

SUNDAY January 26th at 8:15 a.m. Rosary: (Service in Kelowna, BC)

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

Tue., Jan. 28th at 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings in good health for Most. Rev. Bishop Gregory Bittman

Wedn., Jan. 29th at 6:30 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession / Сповідь

7:00 p.m. Rosary: *for Peace in Ukraine / Веруця: за Мир в Україні* and Church History studies

Thurs., Jan. 30th at 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends

Fri. Jan. 31st at 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: repose of the soul of Mr. John Malfair (*requested by Mr. Ted and Mrs. Amelia Malfair*)

Sat., Feb. 1st at 4:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends (Eng./Ukr.)

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

SUNDAY February 2nd ENCOUNTER ICXP at 8:15 a.m. Rosary: (Service in Kelowna, BC)

9:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends (in English language)

11:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends (in Ukrainian language)

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



Liturgical propers in English language:

Tone 3, text from book *"The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom"*; pages 93-95

Epistle: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy: (1 Timothy 1:15-17)

Son Timothy, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.



Gospel: (Luke 18:35-43)

As Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Літургійні частини Українською мовою:

Глас 3, текст *"Божественна Літургія Святого Івана Золотоустого"*; сторінки 92-94

Апостол: До Тимотея перше послання Святого Апостола Павла читання: (1 Тим. 1, 15-17)

Сину Тимотею, вірне це слово й гідне всякого довір'я, що Христос Ісус прийшов у світ, щоб спасти грішних, з яких я перший. 16. Але я був на те помилуваний, щоб Ісус Христос на мені першим показав усю свою довготерпеливість як приклад тим, що мають увірувати в нього для вічного життя. 17. Цареві ж віків, нетлінному, невидимому, єдиному Богу честь і слава на віки віків. Амінь.



Євангеліє: (Лк. 18, 35-43)

В той час, як наближався Ісус до Єрихону, один сліпий сидів край дороги і просив милостині. Почувши, що народ іде мимо, він спитався, що б воно могло бути. Йому сказали, що то Ісус Назарянин проходить. 38. Він став голосно кричати: – Ісусе, сину Давидів, змилуйся надо мною! А ті, що йшли попереду, зупиняли його, щоб замовчав, та він ще дужче кричав: Сину Давидів, змилуйся надо мною! Ісус зупинився й велів привести його до себе. Коли той наблизився до нього, спитав: – Що хочеш, щоб я зробив тобі? – Господи, – сказав той, – щоб я прозрів! Ісус сказав до нього: Прозри! Віра твоя спасла тебе. І вмить прозрів той і пішов за Ісусом, славлячи Бога. Ввесь народ, бачачи те, воздав хвалу Богові.

THANK THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

ЩИРО ВАМ ДЯКУЄМО!



HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE PEOPLE IN UKRAINE:

The people of Ukraine need your help. As we mark the 11th year of the war in Ukraine, millions of the country's inhabitants are in dire straits. Constant bombardment, frigid temperatures, fluctuating power, lack of food, shelter and other basic necessities. As part of your Lenten sacrifice, kindly consider making a donation towards providing emergency services and humanitarian and pastoral support to Ukrainians by offering care, medical supplies, food, clothing and shelter to displaced persons, the elderly and the sick, as well as educational programs and support to local priests. For example, for only \$25, an emergency food package can provide much needed relief. \$100 can buy four packages. Each

package will feed 2 persons for 1 week. Donations may be made through your local parish, the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster, or directly to Catholic Near East Welfare Association - Canada (cnewa.ca). For information on how your donation is making a difference, see Catholic Near East Welfare Association's 2022 Campaign Report: Ukraine Emergency Relief. May God bless you and your family for your generosity.

Help Ukraine! Please pray! Stay informed! Donate. <https://cnewa.org/ca/campaigns/ukraine/>

https://www.catholicregister.org/item/34002-caritas-prepared-should-tanks-roll?mc_cid=839560d5dd&mc_eid=995513d2e2

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 our church, and to every person who knowingly or unknowingly for the other people thoughtfully make donations, participate at our parish community Christian ministry, implement projects and ministry, volunteer, support our parish community and via our church helping people, organized, volunteered, hospitably supporting people of Ukraine at the time of war, and projects inside and as missionaries praying and reaching outside our parish to very challenging and unpeaceful World today by keeping and sharing their Christian love, respect and unity in Christ by looking after and graciously supporting our Ukrainian Catholic Church communities in Okanagan Valley!

SUNDAY COLLECTION REPORT

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	<u>Sunday Donations</u>	<u>Weekly Requirement</u>	<u>Shortfall/Surplus</u>
January 19, 2025	\$464	\$2,360	-\$1,896
Year to Date (YTD)	\$2,204	\$7,080	-\$4,876

+ DONATIONS! Amid war in Ukraine and Covid-19 Pandemic causing many difficulties and challenging times we continue to rely on your Christian care, understanding, support and generosity! **Please continue to support our parish financially by e-transfer to dormitiontransfer@gmail.com or mailing a cheque payable to Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church 1091 Coronation Ave., Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8. PLEASE, DO NOT FORGET TO INCLUDE A MEMO FOR WHAT THE E-TRANSFER IS FOR.** Thank you for your understanding and care by supporting and generously donating 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)

GREETINGS!**ЩИРО ВАС ВІТАЄМО!**

May the Almighty God bless in good health, peace, love, joy and salvation in many, happy and blessed years of life to Mrs. Zoriana Skits on her birthday (Jan. 27th), Mark Teslia on his birthday (Jan. 27th), Daniella-Daryna Tomashevskya on her birthday (Jan. 28th), Danylo Werbowy on his birthday (Jan. 29th), and to all the faithful parishioners Christians celebrating Christmas time as Pilgrims of Hope, their birthdays, heavenly patron's name-days, wedding anniversaries, and any other special anniversaries and celebrations this week Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita / Many Blessed Years of Life!

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please join our Christian prayerful community by visiting and following our parish Facebook page: [DormitionKelowna Parish:](https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5)
<https://www.facebook.com/dormitionkelowna.parish.5>

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

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR: Lucy D., Janet F., Volodymyr P., Ivan L., Ray Saranchuk and Family, Cameron V., Keyton A., Shelley M., Fanny Kim, Danny M, Jordan M. Torin S., Sabre S., Keyton M., Dylan M., Bernard M., Darrin M., Kit C., Shirley C., Kay Ilnitski, Kalyna Kociuba, Peter Huska and Family, Roma Nowakowski, Barbara and Vincent Pasternak, The Hillman Family, Joseph Stetch, Rosa Maria Santos, Anita N., Ron and Verna Shoemaker, Jonas and Anne, Alyssa and Adam, Teresa Huculak, Mark and Asia, Karen Feniuk, Volodymyr Melnyk, Shelley Zemliak, Ron Horon, Adeline Sorochuk, Aretta Manion and The Family, Daniella-Daryna Tomashevskya and The Family, Shane Bettin, Patricia Sawadsky, Robert Emery, Lorraine Pasemko, Rose Gaba, Bill Boitson, Walter Achtymichuk, Mary Harasymyshyn, Helen Hut, Leah Chernesky, Kelly Kokolski, Ken Fiddes, Angela Killen, for peace in the World, for all people defending Ukraine and all refugees at the time of war, Dmyterko Families, His Grace Most Rev. Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, Most. Rev. Bishop Gregory Bittman, Fr. Yuri Vyshnevskyy and The Family, Fr. Pavlo Myts and The Family, and all members of our Christian parochial family and those who are not able to join actively in our community, your families, relatives, friends and neighbours; governments and armed forces, especially the shut-in or those in the hospitals, traveling, working or studying, nursing and senior homes, seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer; your spiritual fathers, those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; widows and widowers, orphans, homeless, those who love us and those who hate, use & hurt us; and all people who have asked us pray for them. Please, also in your kindness keep praying those daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Remember to ask for special blessings to all Christian families and yourselves! **REMINDER** for families of individuals, who are admitted to hospital. If you or a family member is admitted to hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call our parish rectory office to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation

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

Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion: 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

Discover Canada's 2nd National Martyr's Shrine

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

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

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

Open: Tuesday to Friday – 10 am to 5pm

Saturday – 10 am to 1 pm

Sunday – after 10 a.m. Liturgy

Also every Wednesday:

1:30 pm Praying for Ukraine

7 p.m. Devotional Service

For more information:

Visit the website: bvmartyrshrine.com

Call 204-338-7321

Email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com



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.

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

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

YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFDrZoGsYeJG1IqgdZyfYMA>

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

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.**

Christian prayers-petitions for Ukraine: «Ще молимося, щоб Господь Бог у своєму милосерді споглянув на весь наш український народ, у цей час війни захистив щитом своєї всемогутньої опіки наші міста і села, зцілив рани терплячих, подав свою вселаскаву допомогу всім потребуючим та дарував нам свій благословенний мир.
Господи, вислухай і милостиво помилуй.

We also pray that the Lord God in His mercy will look upon our Ukrainian people, in this time of war and safeguard all cities and villages with His almighty protection, heal the wounds of those who suffer, grant His all-merciful help to all those in need and grant us His blessed peace. Lord, hear us and mercifully have mercy.

Ще молимося, щоб всемилостивий Господь укріпив силою своєю українських воїнів, які захищають Батьківщину від російського агресора. Благаємо, щоб вони були збережені від ворожих нападів і всякої смертоносної рани та здобули перемогу в боротьбі за волю і єдність нашого народу. Господи, вислухай і милостиво помилуй».

We also pray that our all-merciful Lord will strengthen those defending the freedom of Ukraine and convert the hearts and souls of the Russian aggressors. We pray that those defending the freedom of Ukraine will be protected from enemy attacks and any deadly wound and will win the fight for the freedom and dignity of our people.

Lord, hear us and have mercy.



The Catholic Page

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! Be aware and remember that your help is always appreciated, and we still need more parishioners to volunteer! Thank you for your support and care at this uneasy time for us all. "Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us!" (A Prayer from the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom)

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

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

If you wish to help or have any questions, wish to help, suggestions, ideas about our Christian community life, please, contact our parish executive council chairperson Mrs. Gloria Dudych.

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.

Catechetical online resources in English and Ukrainian languages:



Royal Doors with daily readings and reflections, UGCC - Catechism online, articles, etc.: <https://www.royaldoors.net/> • Formed: Christian movies, TV shows, prayers, etc.: <https://watch.formed.org/browse>

• Dynamic Catholic. Beautiful resource for the whole family with Catechism for children, marriage, enrichment programs, etc.: <https://dynamiccatholic.com>

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

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

We welcome all children to our Dormition of the Mother of God Parish Catechism program.

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

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

Also there is usually another table set up for the older children for any activity or socialization they would like. We are also working organizing children-youth choir in our Christian parish community.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to call our parish catechism teacher, Mrs. Marilyn Daulat 250-801-7538 Marilyn_daulat@hotmail.com or pastor Fr. Pavlo Myts.

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



Theophany/Jordan Home Blessing and Pastoral Annual Visitations sign up list, to arrange with Pastor Rev. Fr. Pavlo Myts

the actual date and time, is available at the entrance to the church in the vestibule and at the parish hall.

*Lord
Bless our home
as we come and go.
Bless our home
as our children grow.
Bless our families
as they gather in;
Bless our home
with love and friends.*

Why Do We Bless Homes?

The blessing of homes constitutes an invocative blessing, meaning that by his prayer and by the sprinkling of Holy Water the priest invokes God's blessings and protection upon the home and those living in it. We bless homes for many reasons:

to reveal the home as what God had created it to be, a way to Heaven

to rid the home of every evil † to show that the family is a small Church unit in Christ

to consecrate the home and all activity in it to God †to fill the home and all who live in it with the fullness of God

Traditionally, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our homes we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings.

Just as our souls, so also our homes become tainted by the sins of those living in them and consequently lose God's protective power. We cleanse our souls of sins at least once a year and the church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should our homes be sanctified with Holy Water to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants. As we renew the insurance on our home every year, so we should renew our insurance of God's protection and His blessing which is of greater importance and more effective.

What should we do during a home blessing? As we welcome our priest during the holy season of Theophany to bless our home, let us be mindful that he is bringing to us the "blessing of the Jordan," and that unless God protects and blesses our home, we "labour in vain." (Ps. 12 7:1)

Each family is considered a small church and the family table is the home altar. When the priest comes, have as many family members there as possible. If you do not have an icon corner, ensure that you set up a place for prayer either at the kitchen or dining table. On the table include an icon and a lit candle. You may also include anything that you may want to have blessed (i.e. icon, cross, personal item, etc.) Make sure that the lights are on in every room. The priest will begin the blessing at the icon corner or table. If you have children, they may lead the priest, while holding a candle, to each room in the house. This is also a wonderful time for you and your priest to visit and to get to know each other better.

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Ukrainian priest in Russian detention: “Their goal was to break us.”

Nearly two years ago, two Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Redemptorists, Fr. Bohdan Geleta and Fr. Ivan Levytskyi, were arrested in Berdiansk, a southeastern Ukrainian city occupied by Russian troops.

When Russian forces detained them on Nov. 16, 2022, the priests had been assigned for nine months to ministry at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, where parishioners lived in chaos and fear amid the Russian occupation.

After the priests were detained, their Redemptorist order had little information about their whereabouts or physical condition. But whispers of hope persisted, even as the men remained imprisoned for a harrowing year-and-a-half.

The priests were released from Russian detention on June 28, 2024. While details remain unclear, it is widely believed that diplomats from the Holy See played a pivotal role in securing their freedom.

Both priests are now undergoing physical and psychological rehabilitation, as their period of detention left them with significant trauma. Fr. Geleta told *The Pillar* that the priests arrived in Berdiansk in 2019, following the Redemptorist practice of rotating confreres every four years, and it was their turn to serve in southeastern Ukraine.

Geleta explained that the southeastern region of Ukraine is distinct, influenced by decades of Soviet atheist propaganda, which has left many people distanced from religion.

“We had different people in our parish,” Geleta told *The Pillar*. “There were ‘hereditary’ Greek Catholics — who had moved from western Ukraine at various times — who formed the backbone of our community and kept coming. There were also those who came to our church out of curiosity and ultimately discovered faith. Others included transplants from Donbas who had relocated after 2014, when the war began there.”

Geleta told *The Pillar* there was tension in the city on the eve of the 2022 invasion, although it didn’t escalate into open conflict. Some people, influenced by Russian propaganda, were anticipating the arrival of the “Russkyi mir.” But the outbreak of a full-scale war came as a shock to everyone.

“From the first day of the occupation on February 27, when invading troops entered Berdiansk, people began fleeing from Mariupol and Melitopol. They came to Berdiansk, where columns of buses and cars formed and departed toward Zaporizhzhia. Many people passed through—some families even spent the night with us before leaving. There was a lot of talk about destroyed houses and apartments. Some had lost friends,” the priest said.

“People were terrified; there was panic. People were dying. They didn’t know what to do or how to live, and the future was entirely uncertain. In those first weeks, we could have left safely, and we, too, felt fear and panic. But we were determined to stay here, to continue serving God and the people. We resolved to remain until the end. I offered Masses in the Roman Catholic church in Berdiansk and also offered Divine Liturgies in our church. Meanwhile, Fr. Ivan offered the liturgy in our church and went downtown to pray with people on the street,” Fr. Geleta recalled.

The priest said that in the early days after the invasion, fear and uncertainty drew local people to his parish — many of whom had previously seemed indifferent to religion.

And for their part, Russian occupation authorities did not interfere with parish activities for the first nine months.

But in November 2022, Russian authorities began police actions against religious communities, specifically targeting Greek Catholics and Protestants. During that time, three other UGCC priests in neighboring Melitopol were arrested and taken to the front line, where they were ordered to leave their parish communities, and move toward the Ukrainian troops.

“The people who remained came to [our parish], sharing various fears. Someone had been beaten, someone else killed, an apartment robbed—there was always something,” Fr. Geleta recalled.

“For nine months, we waited and prepared ourselves for when they would eventually come for us. We didn’t know when, but we were ready. And the people prepared us, too. It’s difficult to put it into words, but there was this inner feeling, a sense of faith. We were afraid, like everyone else, but this fear was controlled.”

On November 16, 2022, both priests were arrested by Russian authorities.

On November 24, the Russian military-owned propaganda channel Zvezda announced that Russian special forces had found weapons and explosives in a Ukrainian Greek Catholic Redemptorist house. At the time of the arrest, only Fr. Geleta was actually in that house, while Fr. Ivan was in the city center praying with people.

“That day, I was in the church, already vested to offer the liturgy. The arrest was very simple. Two men came in, masked and holding guns. They said they would check my documents and that I should go with them, and then I could return and continue [the liturgy]. And that was it,” Geleta recalled.

“At first, they couldn’t determine how to treat us—whether as religious persons or otherwise. They tried to convince us to cooperate, and when we refused, they accused us of terrorist activities. The investigator told me I would face 25 years in prison.” According to Fr. Geleta, the most difficult part leading up to the arrest was the uncertainty of what lay ahead.

“When I was arrested, there was a sense of relief that it had finally happened, and that whatever would come, I would let it happen as God willed. Yet the uncertainty and anxiety continued, especially about Fr. Ivan, who had been arrested separately. We didn’t know about each other until four months later, when we were transported to another prison and were together for the first time in the transfer vehicle.”

“In the early days, the experiences were very intense because there was a torture chamber across from the cell, and we could hear voices and moans. I imagine Father Ivan was thinking about me, as I was thinking about him, wondering if I might hear his voice, if he was being tortured. I think that was the hardest part. The psychological pressure was immense.”

From the moment of their arrest, the priests were held separately in Berdiansk.

Father Geleta was placed in a cell designed for two, which held six to eight people at a time. Sometimes he had to sleep on the floor. Most of his cellmates were detained on suspicion of pro-Ukrainian activities, refusal to accept a Russian passport, or refusal to complete documentation for business, as well as retired military officers etc...

“In Berdiansk, we were not forbidden to pray, so we prayed in the cell. We talked about religious topics, about God, and we prayed constantly,” Geleta recalled.

“People sometimes asked difficult questions: Why did all of this happen? Where is God in it? It was very hard to answer. Actually, I didn’t even try to convince anyone. It’s very difficult to reason with someone when they’ve lost a loved one or endured tragedy and misfortune. Sometimes, it’s better to just sit in silence with them. But despite everything, I believe the Lord still worked through us.”

“There’s a kind of fear, almost animal-like, the fear of death, but the Lord always gives a person the strength to overcome it. In those moments, I’d feel this inner voice— ‘Stop, don’t be afraid; there’s nothing to fear. It’s all a test, an illusion.’”

“In that environment, we choose whether or not we’re afraid because we have an eternal soul. Fear often surfaces when we stray from truth, when we stop praying, or when we’re consumed with questions: Why? How? Why is there such injustice? That’s when true tragedy can settle within the soul, and the psyche may not be able to withstand it.”

According to the priest, during his entire imprisonment, he was never able to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, not even privately.

Cell inspections were thorough, with all items carefully checked whenever prisoners were taken out for brief half-hour walks, making it impossible to hide anything.

Prisoners also lacked access to reliable information about events outside; their only source of news was the sound of artillery, which indicated that Ukraine was still resisting Russian occupation.

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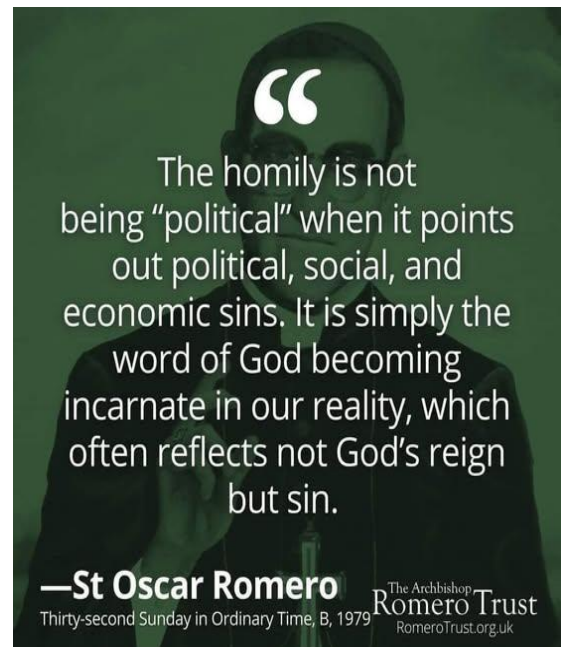
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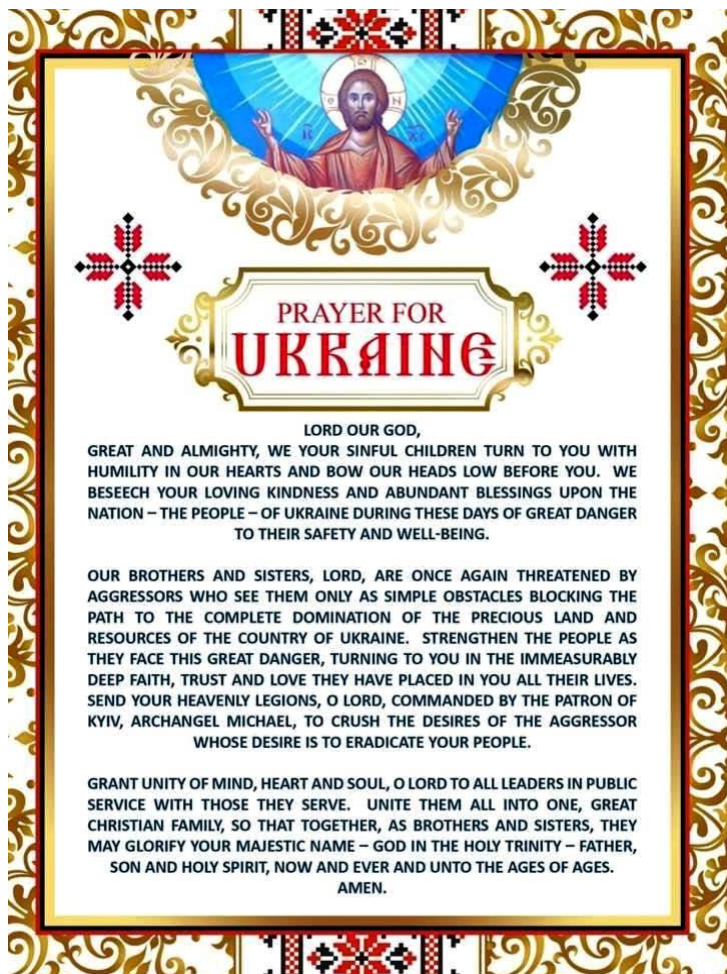
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source: <https://ugcc.ua/en/data/ukrainian-priest-in-russian-detention-their-goal-was-to-break-us-1264/>

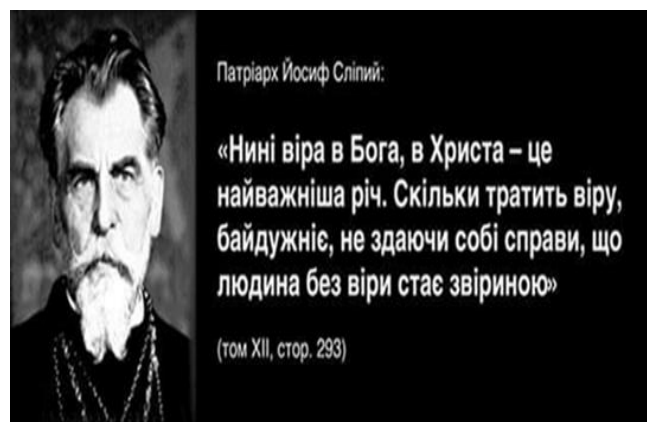


**PRAYER FOR
UKRAINE**

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 IMMEASURABLY
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.



Patriarch Josyf Cardinal Slipyj teaches and reminds all:
“Today faith in God, in Christ – is the most important thing.
How many people lose their faith,
become careless,
do not even realize, that a human person without faith
becomes an animal. (vol. XII, page 293)

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