

Dormition of The Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church

1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7A8

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

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

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

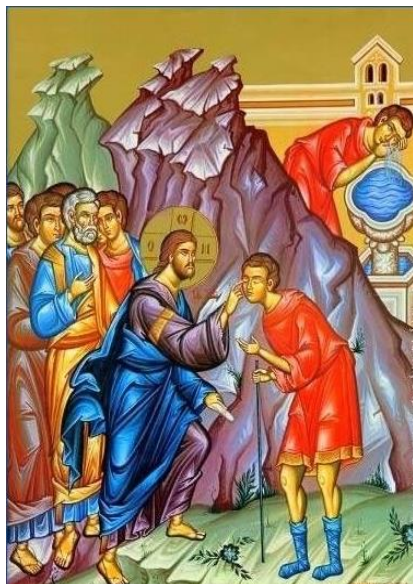


Успення Пресвятої Богородиці Українська Католицька Церква

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

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

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



SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND / Неділя Сліпонародженого

May/ Травень 25th, 2025 A.D.

““Let your light shine!” Jesus asks this of us all. But to keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it. Pray. Pray. Pray.”

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

Christian Greetings: (April 20th - May 28th): **Christ Is Risen! - Indeed, He Is Risen!**

Chrystos Voskres! - Voistynu Voskres! Христос Воскрес! - Воістину Воскрес!

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 with responsibility and honesty 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 May 25th 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)

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

Mon., May 26th at **9:30 a.m.** Moleben to The Theotokos Blessed Virgin Mary

Tue., May 27th at **9:30 a.m.** Paschal Stychyras

Wed., May 28th at **9:30 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy:

11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession / Сповідь

11:30 a.m. Rosary: for Peace in Ukraine / Вервиця: за Мир в Україні
and Lectio Divina / Bible studies

Thurs., May 29th (**ASCENSION OF ICXP_ ВОЗНЕСІННЯ ГОСПОДНЄ**) at **9:30 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy:

Fri., May 30th at **9:30 a.m.** The Divine Liturgy:

Sat., May 31st at **9:30 a.m.** Moleben to The Theotokos Blessed Virgin Mary (Church Services in Kelowna, BC)

4:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy: God's blessings for all our parishioners, family members, all relatives and friends (Eng./Ukr.)
(Church Services at Holy Resurrection of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Parish (361 Wade Avenue West) in Penticton, BC)

SUNDAY June 1st at 8:15 a.m. Rosary: (Eng./Ukr.) (Church Services in Kelowna, BC)

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

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

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



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

Liturgical propers in English language:

*Liturgical Instruction: After the priest exclaims "Blessed is the Kingdom" and we have responded "Amen," the clergy sing the following Troparion once and the people repeat it. Then the clergy sing the first half, and we conclude it. This is done every day until the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday. **Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life.** (3x)*

Troparion (Tone 5): Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion (Tone 4): Blinded in the eyes of my soul, I come to You, O Christ, like the man who was blind from birth, and I cry in repentance: You are the brilliant light of those in darkness.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion (Tone 8): Though You descended into a tomb, O Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of Hades; and You rose as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice! and giving peace to Your apostles: You, who grant Resurrection to the fallen.

Prokimenon (Tone 8): Pray and give praise to the Lord our God (Ps 75:12).

Verse: In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel (Ps 75:2).

Prokimenon (Tone 8): Pray and give praise to the Lord our God (Ps 75:12).



Epistle: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles' (Acts 16:16-34)

In those days, while Paul and Luke were on their way to the place of prayer they met a slave girl who had a clairvoyant spirit. She used to bring substantial profit to her masters by fortunetelling. The girl began to follow Paul and the rest of them shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God; they will make known to you a way of salvation." She did this for several days until finally Paul became annoyed, turned around, and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you, come out of her!" Then and there the spirit left her.

When her masters saw that their source of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the main square before the local authorities. They turned them over to the magistrates with this complain: "These men are agitators disturbing the peace of our city! Furthermore, they are Jews, which means they advocate customs which are not lawful for us Romans to adopt or practice." The crowd joined in the attack on them, and the magistrates stripped them and ordered them to be flogged. After receiving many lashes they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was given instructions he put them in maximum security, going so far as to chain their feet to a stake.

About midnight, while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God as their fellow prisoners listened, a severe earthquake suddenly shook the place, rocking the prison to its foundations. Immediately all the doors flew open and everyone's chains were pulled loose. The jailer woke up to see the prison gates wide open. Thinking that the prisoners had escaped, he drew his sword to kill himself; but Paul shouted to him, "Do not harm yourself! We are all still here." The jailer called for a light, then rushed in and fell trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas. After a brief interval he led them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" Their answer was, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, and all your household." They proceeded to announce the word of God to him and to everyone in his house. At that late hour of the night he took them in and bathed their wounds; then he and his whole household were baptized. He led them up into his house, spread a table before them, and joyfully celebrated with the whole family his newfound faith in God.

Alleluia (Tone 8): Look upon me and have mercy (Ps. 118:132). Direct my steps according to Your word (Ps. 118:133).

Gospel (John 9:1-38)

At that time, Jesus saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, was it his sin or that of his parents that caused him to be born blind?" "Neither," answered Jesus: "It was no sin, either of this man or of his parents. Rather, it was to let God's works show forth in him. We must do the deeds of him who sent me while it is day. The night comes on when no one can work. While I am in the world I am the light of the world." With that Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva, and smeared the man's eyes with the mud. Then he told him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." (This name means "One who has been sent.") So, the man went off and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbours and the people who had been accustomed to see him begging began to ask, "Isn't this the fellow who used to sit and beg?" Some were claiming it was he; others maintained it was not but someone who looked like him. The man himself said, "I am the one." They said to him then, "How were yours eyes opened?" He answered: "That man they call Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes, telling me to go to Siloam and wash. When I did go and wash, I was able to see." "Where is he?" they asked. He replied, "I have no idea."

Next, they took the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. (Note that it was on a Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud paste and opened his eyes.) The Pharisees, in turn, began to inquire how he had recovered his sight. He told them, "He put mud on my eyes. I washed it off, and now I can see." This prompted some of the Pharisees to assert, "This man cannot be from God because he does not keep the Sabbath." Others objected, "If a man is a sinner, how can he perform signs like these?" They were sharply divided over him. Then they addressed the blind man again: "Since it was your eyes he opened, what do you have to say about him?" "He is a prophet," he replied.

The Jews refused to believe that he had really been born blind and had begun to see, until they summoned the parents of this man who now could see. "Is this your son?" they asked, "and if so, do you attest that he was blind at birth? How do you account for the fact that now he can see?" The parents answered: "We know this is our son, and we know he was born blind at birth. But how can he see now, or who opened his eyes, we have no idea. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself." (His parents answered in this fashion because they were afraid of the Jews, who had already agreed among themselves that anyone who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age – ask him.")

A second time they summoned the man who had been born blind and said to him, "Give the glory to God! First of all we know this man is a sinner." "I do not know whether he is a sinner or not," he answered. "I know this much: I was blind before; now I can see." They persisted: "Just what did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" "I have told you once, but you would not listen to me," he answered

them. "Why do you want to hear it all over again? Do not tell me you want to become his disciples too?" They retorted scornfully: "You are the one who is that man's disciple. We are disciples of Moses. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this man comes from." He came back at them: "Well, this is news! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners, but that if someone is devout and obeys his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever gave sight to a person blind from birth. If this man were not from God, he could never have done such a thing." "What!" they exclaimed, "You are steeped in sin from your birth, and you are giving us lectures?" With that they threw him out bodily.

When Jesus heard of his expulsion, he sought him out and asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" "You have seen him," Jesus replied. "He is speaking to you now." "I do believe, Lord," he said, and bowed down to worship him.

Instead of "It is truly...": The Angel cried out to the One full of Grace: O chaste Virgin, rejoice! And again I say, Rejoice! Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day, and raised the dead. Let all people rejoice!

Irmos (tone 1): Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exult now and be glad, O Zion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Verses: Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest (Ps 148:1). **Alleluia!** (3x).

Instead of "Blessed is He...": **Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life.** *Instead of "We have seen the true light...":* **Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life.** *Instead of "Let our mouths...":* **Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life.** (x3).

Instead of "Blessed be the name of the Lord...": **Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life.** (x3).

Troparion: **Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and to those in the tombs He granted life.** (x3).

Priest: **And to us He has granted life eternal!** Faithful: **We bow down before His resurrection on the third day!**

Літургійні частини Українською мовою:

Літургійні рубрики: Після того, як священник виголошує "Благословенне Царство" й люди відповідають "Амінь", священники співають Тропар один раз, а люди його повторюють. Далі священники співають першу половину, а люди завершують другу. Так робимо щодня, аж до середи перед четвергом Вознесіння. **Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував** (x3).

Тропар (глас 5): Рівнобезначальне з Отцем і Духом Слово, що від Діви народилося на спасіння наше, прославмо, вірні, і поклонімся, бо Воно благозволито тілом зійти на хрест і смерть перетерпіти, і воскресити померлих славним воскресінням Своїм **Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові.**

Кондак (глас 4): На душевних очах осліплений, до тебе, Христе, приходжу, як сліпий від народження; в покаянні кличу до тебе: Ти в темряві світло пресвітле.

І нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

Кондак (глас 8): Хоч і у гріб зійшов ти, Безсмертний, та адову зруйнував ти силу, і воскрес еси як переможець, Христе Боже, жінкам-мироносицям звістивши: Радуйтеся, і твоїм апостолам мир даруєш, падшим подаєш воскресіння.

Прокімен (глас 8): Помоліться і воздайте Господові, Богу нашому (Пс 75,12).

Стих: Відомий у Юдеї Бог, в Ізраїлі велике ім'я його (Пс 75,2).

Прокімен (глас 8): Помоліться і воздайте Господові, Богу нашому (Пс 75,12).

Апостол: 3 книги Діянь Святих Апостолів читання (Дн. 16, 16-34)

Тими днями, як апостоли йшли на молитву, зустріла нас одна служниця, що мала духа віщуна, і віщуванням справляла панам своїм великий заробіток. Ідучи слідом за Павлом і за нами, вона кричала: «Ці люди – слуги Всевишнього Бога, які звіщають вам путь спасіння!» Чимало днів вона так робила. Набридло це Павлові й, повернувшись, він сказав до духа: «Велю тобі ім'ям Ісуса Христа вийти з неї!» І в ту ж мить він вийшов. Побачивши її пани, що їхня надія на заробіток пропала, схопили Павла й Силу і потягли на майдан до влади. Привівши ж їх до воевод, сказали: «Ці люди колотять наше місто; це юдеї. Вони навчають звичаїв, яких нам, римлянам, не дозволено ані приймати, ані виконувати.» І натовп кинувся на них спільно, а воеводи, здерши з них одіж, звеліли їх сікти різками; завдавши їм чимало ран, кинули у в'язницю, наказавши тюремникові пильно стерегти їх. Він же, прийнявши такий наказ, вкинув їх у в'язницю до самої середини й забив їх ноги у колоди. Павло та Сила опівночі молилися і співали Богу, а в'язні слухали їх. Раптом зчинився землетрус великий, так що підвалини в'язниці затряслися: зненацька відчинилися всі двері, і кайдани на всіх розв'язалися. Якже прокинувся тюремник і побачив відчинені темничні двері, витяг меч і хотів себе вбити, гадаючи що в'язні повтікали. Аж тут Павло скрикнув голосом великим, кажучи: «Не завдавай собі ніякого лиха, всі бо ми тут!» І, попросивши світла, тюремник усковив до в'язниці й, тремтячи, кинувся у ноги Павлові та Силі; а вивівши їх звідти, мовив: «Панове, що мені слід робити щоб спастися?» Ті відповіли: «Віруй у Господа Ісуса, і спасешся ти і твій дім.» І вони йому звіщали слово Господнє і всім, що були в його домі. А він, узнявши їх тієї години вночі, обмив їхні рани й охристився з усіма своїми. Як же запровадив їх до себе в господу, то накрив стіл і веселився з усім домом, який увірував в Бога.

Аллуя (глас 8): Споглянь на мене і помилуй мене (Пс 118, 132). Спрямуй стопи мої за Твоїм словом (Пс 118, 133).

Євангеліє: (Ів. 9, 1-38)

У той час, переходивши, побачив Ісус чоловіка, зроду сліпого. Запитали його, отже, учні його: «Учителю, хто згрішив? Він – чи батьки його, що сліпим він уродився?» «Ані він не згрішив, ані батьки його, – відказав Ісус, – але щоб ділам Божим виявитись на ньому! Поки дня, маємо виконувати діла того, хто послав мене, – бо ніч надходить, за якої ніхто не зможе діяти. І поки я у світі – я світло світу.» Сказавши те, сплюнув на землю, споготовив слиною глей і помастив глеем очі сліпому. До нього ж сказав: «Іди, вмийся в купелі Силоамській», – що у перекладі означає: «Зісланій». Отож подався той, умився – і повернувся зрячим!

Сусіди ж і ті, що бачили його раніше сліпим, заговорили: «Чи то ж не той, який ото все сидів – жебрачив?» Одні казали: То він, – інші: Ні, лиш подібний до нього. Він же каже: «Це я!» Тож питались його: «Як воно так, що прозріли твої очі?» А він: «Чоловік, що Ісусом звуть його, споготовив глей, очі мені помастив та й мовив: Піди до Силоаму, вмийся. Я пішов, умився – і прозрів.» Вони



його тоді питають: «Де він?» – «Не знаю», каже той. Тож ведуть того, хто сліпий був, до фарисеїв. Було ж у суботу, коли то Ісус споготовив глею і відкрив йому очі. То й фарисеї спитали його, як він прозрів. А він їм: «Глею поклав мені на очі, я вмився, й ось бачу.» Деякі з фарисеїв твердили: «Не від Бога цей чоловік, бо суботи не дотримує.» Інші мовили: «Чи може ж грішний чоловік отакі чудеса чинити?» Отож суперечка була серед них. І знову сліпому кажуть: «А ти що про нього кажеш – про те, що очі тобі відкрив?» Одрікає: «Пророк він.» Проте юдеї щодо нього не вірили, що був він сліпий і прозрів, – аж поки не закликали батьків отого прозрілого. Спитали їх: «Чи то ваш син, про якого кажете, що сліпим він уродився? А тепер як же він бачить?» Батьки його і відказали, мовивши: «Знаємо, що то наш син, і що сліпим він був уродився. А як він тепер бачить – не знаємо, і хто відкрив йому очі – не відаємо. Спитайте самого: він дорослий, сам про себе скаже.» Так батьки його казали, бо юдеїв страхалися: юдеї бо вже були домовилися, щоб виключити кожного з синагоги, хто Христом його визнаватиме. Тим то батьки його й казали: Дорослий він, – самого спитайте.

Отож удруге закликали чоловіка, що сліпим був, та й кажуть йому: «Богові славу воздай! Ми знаємо, що той чоловік – грішник.» «Чи грішник він, – озвався він, – я не знаю. Знаю одне: був я сліпим, а тепер бачу.» Вони ж йому на те знов: «Що він таке тобі сподіює? Як він очі тобі відкрив?» Той їм відказує: «Я вже вам оповів, та ви не слухали. Навіщо іще чути хочете? Чи, може, і ви його учнями бажаєте стати?» Ті з лайкою накинулись на нього, і сказали: «Ти його учень! Ми – Мойсееві учні! Ми знаємо: до Мойсея промовляв Бог. А цього не знаємо, звідкіля він.» У відповідь чоловік сказав їм: «Ось воно, власне, і дивно, що ви не знаєте, звідкіля він, а він мені очі відкрив. Ми знаємо, що Бог не вислухує грішників, коли ж хтось побожний і його волю чинить – ось того він вислухує! Нечувано одвіку, щоб хтонебудь відкрив очі сліповродженому. Був би він не від Бога – нічого не спроможен би був зробити!» Озвалися і сказали йому: «Ти весь у гріхах уродився, а нас навчаєш?» І прогнали його геть.

Довідався Ісус, що вони геть його прогнали, отож, зустрівши його, промовив до нього: «Віруєш у Чоловічого Сина?» А той: «А хто він, Господи, щоб я вірував у нього?» Ісус же йому: «Ти бачив його; він – той, хто говорить з тобою.» Тоді той і сказав: «Вірую, Господи!» – і поклонився йому.

Замість Достойно: Ангел сповіщає Благодатний: Чистая Діво, радуйся. І знову кажу: Радуйся. Твій Син воскрес триденний із гробу, і мертвих воздвигнув він; люди, веселіться.

Ірмос (глас 1): Світися, світися, новий Єрусалиме, слава бо Господня на тобі возсіяла. Радій нині і веселися, Сіоне. А ти, Чистая, красуйся, Богородице, востанням родження твого.

Причасний: Тіло Христове прийміть, джерела безсмертного споживіть. Хваліте Господа з небес, хваліте Його на висотах. (Пс. 148:1). **Алилуя** (х3).

Замість Благовіщення, хто йде в ім'я Господнє: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував. Замість Ми бачили світло істинне: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував. Нехай сповняться: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (х3).

Замість Будь ім'я Господнє: Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (х3).

*Під час відпусту "Христос воскрес" співається один раз (на просту мелодію) замість "Слава Отцю..." Тоді знову співається Тропар "Христос воскрес", як і на початку Літургії, але з додатковим закінченням. **Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував** (х3).*

І нам дарував життя вічне, поклоняємось Його на третій день воскресінню!

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 do not give up and continue to pray! Stay informed! Donate. <https://cnewa.org/ca/campaigns/ukraine/>

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, organized and participated in our parish welcoming of Bishop Michael and Reverend Fathers, spent many hours cleaning outside of the church, volunteer, support our parish community and via our church helping people, organized, 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!

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 dormitionetransfer@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)

SUNDAY COLLECTION REPORT

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	<u>Sunday Donations</u>	<u>Weekly Requirement</u>	<u>Shortfall/Surplus</u>
May 18, 2025	\$1,435	\$2,360	-\$925
Year to Date (YTD)	\$29,368	\$47,200	-\$17,832

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. Natalia Kutserby on her birthday (May 21st), Mr. Michael Hinz on his birthday (May 25th), Mr. Mykola and Mrs. Victoria Mazur on their wedding anniversary (May 25th), Mrs. Marta Terletska on her birthday (May 29th), Mrs. Iryna Kruhova on her birthday (May 26th), Juliia Telyaga on her birthday (May 27th), Mr. Ivan Gudz on his birthday (May 28th), Rev. Fr. Andriy Werbowy on his birthday (May 28th), Mr. Ivan and Mrs. Luba Shelelo on their wedding anniversary (May 30th), Mr. Ivan Telyaga on his birthday (May 31st), Milana Fedorov on her birthday (May 31st), Mr. Ron and Mrs. Verna Shoemaker on their wedding anniversary (May 31st), and to all the faithful parishioners Christians as Pilgrims of Hope, celebrating Easter, 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 or 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 Ilitski, 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, Volodymyr Melnyk, Shelley Zemliak, Ron Horon, Adeline Sorochuk, Aretta Manion and The Family, Daniella-Daryna Tomashevskaya and The Family, Patricia Sawadsky, Robert Emery, Lorraine Pasemko, Rose Gaba, Bill Boitson, Walter Achtymichuk, Mary Harasymyshyn, Helen Hut, Kelly Kokolski, Ken Fiddes, 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. Yuriy Vyshnevskyy and The Family, Fr. Pavlo Myts and The Family, and all members of our Christian parochial family and those who are not able to join actively in our community, your families, relatives, friends and neighbours; governments and armed forces, especially the shut-in or those in the hospitals, traveling, working or studying, nursing and senior homes, seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer; your spiritual fathers, those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; widows and widowers, orphans, homeless, those who love us and those who hate, use & hurt us; and all people who have asked us pray for them. Please, also in your kindness keep praying those daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Remember to ask for special blessings to all Christian families and yourselves! **REMINDER** for families of individuals, who are admitted to hospital. If you or a family member is admitted to hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call our parish rectory office to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation.

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

Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion: 1) You are a member of the Catholic Church (faithful of the Orthodox churches are very welcome to receive Holy Communion); 2) You have participated in the Sacrament of Confession at least during the Easter or Christmas seasons this past year if not more frequently; 3) You attend Divine Services regularly; 4) Your lifestyle is consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church; 5) You have kept the Liturgical fast – no food at least one hour prior to the Divine Liturgy (water and medicine does not break the fast). 6) You have been in church from the beginning of the service, or at least heard the Gospel. 7) To

the best of your ability, you are in the state of Grace. *If for any of these or other reasons you cannot receive Holy Communion, you are very welcome to come for a blessing. Please indicate to the priest that you would like to receive his blessing.*

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 National 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!

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 Vasyi 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 5 pm

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:

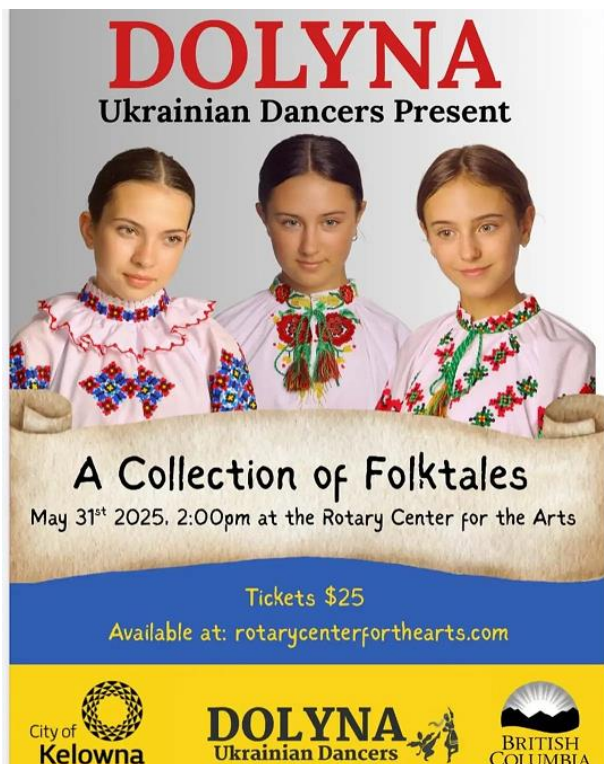
Visit the website: bvmartyrshrine.com

Call 204-338-7321 Email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com

**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.**



DOLYNA
Ukrainian Dancers Present

A Collection of Folktales
May 31st 2025, 2:00pm at the Rotary Center for the Arts

Tickets \$25
Available at: rotarycenterforthearts.com

City of Kelowna DOLYNA Ukrainian Dancers BRITISH COLUMBIA

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 гідність 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.

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)

JUBILEE YEAR 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE
DESIGNATED PILGRIMAGE SITE
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

2025 ЮВІЛЕЙНИЙ РІК
ПАЛОМНИКИ НАДІЇ
ВИЗНАЧЕНЕ МІСЦЕ
ПАЛОМНИЦТВА
НЬЮ-ВЕСТМІНСТЕРСЬКА ЄПАРХІЯ УГКЦ



PRINCIPAL LITURGY & CONFESSIONS SCHEDULE:

Sundays: 9:00 AM (English)
11:00 AM (Ukrainian)

Weekdays: 9:30 AM Daily

CONFESSIONS: 20 minutes prior to each Eucharistic Liturgy or upon request at other times

Visiting hours: Sunday 8:00 - Noon / Weekdays 9:00 - Noon
Website: kelowna.nweparchy.ca Tel. 250-860-7295

ОСНОВНИЙ РОЗКЛАД ЛІТУРГІЙ І СПОВІДЬ

неділя: 9:00 (англійська)
11:00 (укр.)

будні: 9:30 ранку щодня

СПОВІДЬ: за 20 хвилин до кожної Євхаристійної Літургії або за бажанням в інший час

Години відвідування: Неділя 8:00 - 12:00 / Будні 9:00 - 12:00
Сайт: kelowna.nweparchy.ca тел. 250-860-7295



Welcome to all who seek reconciliation and a new beginning in life.

“Hope does not disappoint!” (Rom 5:5)

Вітаємо всіх, хто прагне примирення та нового початку життя.

«Надія ж не засоромить!» (Рим 5:5)

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 its 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.



Do you have a child entering Kindergarten this fall? St. Joseph Catholic School is a great choice for your family! At St. Joseph's your child will receive a quality, faith-based education based on the virtues of kindness, honesty and service. For more information, please contact our office at sjkoffice@cisnd.ca or 250-763-3371

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



Rachel's Corner: "I felt like I could finally talk to people who understood me and what I went through after having carried this for more than 20 years. I feel good all over, but the most important part is I feel forgiven." Testimonial Being able to speak your pain in a safe and confidential place where you are not judged or condemned is important. It is life-giving. If you have been carrying your pain in silence, not knowing who you can trust, know that we are here for you and ready to walk with you as you open your heart, mind, body and soul to healing.

Join the men and women on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. You will find that you are not alone.

info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com www.rachelsvineyardkelowna.com

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

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>
- Жусе ТВ.: <https://zhyve.tv> Дивен Свм.: <https://dyvensvit.org>
- Катехизм УГКЦ.: <http://catechismugcc.org/>



Parish Youth Hiking on Sunday,

May 25th, 2025 A.D.

Всім привіт! Зустріч молоді нашої церкви відбудеться цієї неділі о 14:00.

Ми вирішили провести зустріч у Келовна це цікава прогулянка парком Кнох Mountain.

До зустрічі, будемо раді всіх бачити, дякуємо.

Hello, everyone! The youth meeting of our church will be held this Sunday at 2:00 P.M.

We decided to hold the meeting in Kelowna it is an interesting walk in the park Knox Mountain

See you there, we look forward to seeing you all, thank you.

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

MALE STUDY - GROUPS DISCUSSIONS - YOUTH EVENTS

Dormition Youth Group
Церковна Група Молоді

Join our Church Youth Group
(Youth 17-35 years old)
Запрошуємо молоді вкром від 17-35

Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church

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.

Science says we need at least 4 basic elements to survive:

1. Water
2. Air
3. Food
4. Light

And look what the bible tells us about Jesus:

1. I am the Living Water
2. I am the Breath of Life
3. I am the Bread of Life
4. I am the Light of the World.

Science was right, we need Jesus to live.

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.

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A 28-year-old Catholic male relocating to Kelowna for farm work is looking for accommodations with a Catholic household. If anyone could offer assistance: Please contact Jesse Power Email: jdjdbp016@gmail.com Phone or Text: 780 903 7559



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.

Head of the UGCC in the 170th Week of the War:

We Rejoice That Pope Leo's Heart Beats in Unison with the Hearts of Ukrainians



The Holy Father expressed his deep spiritual unity with the Ukrainian people. "I am with you. I carry the pain of Ukraine in my heart," he said to me. These were the words of His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, in the 170th week of the great war—a week marked by historic events and during which Ukraine remained in the global spotlight.

"We saw who truly wants peace and who evades it," he said. "And yet, even as peace was being discussed at the highest levels, Ukraine continued to suffer. But our people, who thirst for peace, pray for it and build it in today's world."

According to the spiritual leader, this week—as so often before—the Eternal City became the center of church life. For three days -Monday through Wednesday—the Jubilee Pilgrimage of the Eastern Catholic Churches to Rome took place.

On Wednesday, a unique joint prayer of all Catholic Churches of the Byzantine Eastern tradition was held in St. Peter's Basilica. The Jubilee concluded with the first general audience of the newly elected Pope Leo XIV, held specifically for the faithful of the Eastern Catholic Churches. "We felt as if the Holy Father had embraced us and honored our traditions," said the Primate.

There was also another historic event. "The newly elected Roman Archbishop received me—unworthy as I am," said His Beatitude Sviatoslav,

"at one of the first private audiences of his pontificate. Perhaps it was outside protocol, since discussed how Ukrainians are awaiting the Pope's visit to Ukraine, hoping it might help bring an end to the war."

"We rejoice," he added, "that Pope Leo's heart beats in unison with the hearts of Ukrainians. He listened attentively as I spoke about the life of our Church in Ukraine today. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude that our Church stands with its people."

The Head of the Church also said he had the opportunity to present the Pope with a unique artwork—a painting by the father of a fallen defender of Ukraine, who expressed his grief in a piece entitled *Prayer-Requiem*. The Holy Father was moved - sometimes the language of art speaks more deeply than human words ever can.

The UGCC Department for Information: <https://ugcc.ua/en/data/head-of-the-ugcc-in-the-170th-week-of-the-war-we-rejoice-that-pope-leos-heart-beats-in-unison-with-the-hearts-of-ukrainians-1661/>

"God gave me optimism": The story of Mark, who survived prisons, war, and 56 surgeries

This is an honest conversation with Mark, a Ukrainian soldier who has lost much but never lost faith. In this interview, he shares his journey from a rebellious childhood on the streets and in prison cells to the front lines, intensive care, and a deep awareness of God's presence. He speaks about spiritual visions after being wounded, his personal battle with pain, daily prayers on the front line, and his path to Christianity - not through dogma, but through sincere trust.

Mark Fedoriv is a fighter of the 36th Marine Brigade, a former prisoner who was drawn to the army not only by his will but also by prayer. His life is an example of how one can rise even from the darkest places if there is a dialogue with God. His story is about faith that became his armor.

Our conversation took place in a hospital, far from the front line, where Mark was undergoing rehabilitation. He ended up in the hospital after being seriously wounded during a combat mission. According to him, he's feeling well now, mostly because there haven't been any surgeries recently. In total, he has undergone 56 surgical operations (as of now, already 60 — editor's note).

"Honestly, I'm already a bit tired of it, but I understand the surgeries are necessary - I still have a lot of health problems. Soon they'll send me back to Kyiv for more operations.

This is how it happened: an FPV drone with an unusual explosive fell at my feet. Normally, such drones carry an RPG-7 round or a grenade, but in my case, it was a homemade explosive device. The guys found the remains: a Pringles can, filled with nails, ball bearings, fishing hooks, glass, and cast iron, all wrapped in a chainsaw chain. The device landed at my feet — I saw a flash, and then everything went black. I woke up a week later in intensive care. At first, I didn't know where I was. I thought I was still in the forest, and the battle was ongoing.

My unit mates told me that after the explosion, they pulled me into a pit, applied tourniquets, and radioed the commander. There was no evacuation vehicle, so they removed the tourniquets and used Israeli bandages. I lay in the pit for a whole day because drone and mortar attacks made evacuation impossible. Eventually, a Humvee arrived. They quickly pulled me out and threw me into the trunk. The driver sped through the field in zigzags at up to 200 km/h under mortar fire.

First, they took me to a stabilization center in Sudzha, then to Sumy. But the doctors there refused to operate — they were afraid I would die on the table. So they transferred me to Kyiv. Doctor Ivan Mykolayovych Rudenko later told me that when I arrived, I had no blood pressure and barely any blood left in my body. My heart stopped three times — the longest for eight minutes. The last time, they restarted it right on the hospital grounds using a defibrillator and an adrenaline shot straight to the heart. The surgery lasted from 9:30 p.m. until 4:30 a.m.

After that, I spent nearly three months in intensive care. Only my hands and neck could move — the rest of my body was immobilized by an epidural catheter in my spine for pain control. I underwent surgery every two days. When I finally got out of intensive care, I felt better, but I'd been through some really intense experiences. I couldn't tell if I was hallucinating, having visions, or if I'd been in hell.

I remember one of them clearly. It felt like I was approaching three podiums, like the ones at the Olympics — they had no numbers but were different heights. I walked up to the middle one. A man was standing there. I didn't recognize him, didn't understand who he was. Then they introduced themselves, one by one. The first reached out his hand and said, "Hi, my name is Raphael." The second said his name was Michael. The third — Gabriel. They told me everything would end the way it was meant to end, but they didn't explain what was the actual plan."

"I'd like to go back a bit to your childhood memories. How would you describe yourself in your early years?"

"I was a hyperactive kid — that was in early childhood. Later, I became more of a troublemaker, you could say. I was always chasing some kind of fun. I constantly got into things that gave me an adrenaline rush. Even just simple street fights, football matches, clashes between fans, jumping across rooftops and high-rise buildings — things like that. I was always looking for some kind of... adventure, but the kind that was dangerous.

If I think back to my childhood, my father probably went gray because of me. One memory especially stands out: my friends and I were collecting scrap metal in the fields. We sold it at a collection point and got some money. I thought, 'Well, this is a decent business.' So, when some neighbors went away, I broke into their yard, busted the lock, dismantled their stove, and sold the metal. My dad had to buy the scrap back, reassemble the stove, and fix everything. That wasn't the only story like that — there were plenty more."

"Did your father make you attend church services?"

"I remember every Sunday my father and I would go to church for children's services. There, they would talk to the kids about God and about faith in Jesus Christ. But over the course of my life, I've been to many churches of different denominations — Orthodox, Charismatics, Seventh-Day Adventists, Baptists, Pentecostals. In many of them, I felt out of place. I always wanted to leave. I didn't like the people there. But now my father says that everyone has their own path to God. Some come to faith as children, some in adulthood — each person has their own timing and their own trials. These days, I have no problem with that anymore. My parents loved and supported me, but I was a real troublemaker. I was raised both by my parents and by the street — more by the street, because I often ran away there.

At 17, after being released from juvenile detention, I met Vasyl Voznyak. He invited me to a service at the Monastery of Saint Basil the Great in Kyiv. Initially, I didn't want to go, but Vasyl insisted. There, we were welcomed by a monk, Brother Pakhomiy. He greeted me warmly and gave me a tour. The service felt light, and I felt peace in my soul. After that, I started going to church more often. I got involved with the 'Obnova' youth movement and even took part in a Christmas play.

I considered entering a seminary, but I ended up back in prison again, chasing adrenaline. After that, I began speaking more with priests, listening, and learning to trust. Since then, I've been reading the Bible. I found something that speaks to my heart. It brings peace to my soul. I found my place there, and I've learned to trust in God — and in people."



photo of Mark with his parents

"Do you think that not feeling at home in church, while your father was a pastor, influenced your choice to spend more time in the streets?"

"Maybe. A child looks for comfort wherever they can find it. I was searching for attention and recognition from my friends, and that drew me to the streets more than to the church. I just didn't like some of the people in the church."

"I was 14 when I first ended up in a detention center. My friends and I were drinking in the courtyard when a drunk man approached us and started making accusations. I didn't stay silent — we got into a fight. I hit him in the temple, and some time later, he died. I didn't know about it. I was arrested at home — by 30 police officers. At first, I was charged with premeditated murder, but after the forensic examination, it was reclassified as grievous bodily harm resulting in death. I was sentenced to five years but released after three for good behavior."

When I was 17, I went back to prison for stealing a phone. I needed a smartphone for work and decided to take one from a drunk man. I was quickly caught and sentenced to seven years. Already in the detention center, I started reflecting on life. I would pray secretly.

I often had conversations with myself and with God. I asked: 'What are you doing? Why do you need this? Why am I here? What am I doing here? What do I need to do to move forward?' I remember one particular time — my third stint in detention — there were 19 of us in the cell. One evening, everyone started talking about what they had achieved in life. Some had families, kids, things like that. And I sat there thinking: what can I even say? I was the youngest one there and had done nothing in life except fool around like a kid. I thought, 'God, why am I even in this world?'

So I prayed — quietly, so no one would hear. That night, I had a dream. I saw a beautiful iconostasis. I was kneeling in a cassock with a white collar, holding a rosary and a prayer book. At the same time, I was watching myself from behind, as if I were sitting right behind my own back. That image stuck with me.

After that, I realized I needed to follow some kind of path like my father's — but not to become a pastor like him. I wanted to enter a seminary and become a priest because I had come to love the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Even while in prison, I started studying Church history, philosophy, and theology. Eventually, I got into studying the history of Catholic monastic orders, and global religious communities — including the Jesuit Order.

The first person I discovered was Father Andriy Zelinskyi. He's an incredible person — a priest, monk, political scientist, writer, and public intellectual. He teaches at three universities and is also a military chaplain. Father Andriy headed the Department of Military Chaplaincy in the Patriarchal Curia of the UGCC. I got in touch with him, and we started talking about political science, psychology, and philosophy."

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion in 2022, many prisoners were willing to join the army to defend the homeland. Everyone had loved ones who needed protection. But there was no legal way to enlist — until I ended up in a prison colony in Cherkasy Oblast, in the village of Stari Babany. That's when a law was passed allowing prisoners to join the military.

Father Andriy, the chaplain of the 36th Marine Brigade, was highly respected among the troops. After consulting with him, I decided to join that particular brigade, even though there were offers from other units. Training went well. Later, we took part in combat operations in the Kharkiv region, including in Vovchansk, where the fighting was intense. We were successful in our assaults, and I actually liked it — the adrenaline, which I had always craved in life. But at the same time, it was terrifying.

At war, everyone holds on to some kind of faith. And you know what? It really helps. First of all, prayer and sincere belief, especially when you realize that this might be the last thing you can do. You understand that you could die at any moment, and the only thing left is to pray.

In that sense, there are no atheists on the front line. They simply don't exist. Everyone believes in something. You might believe in a piece of wood, but you believe in it.

"Are there any particular words that had a strong impact on you?"

"Our chaplain was Father Andriy. I used to talk to him more privately, away from the others. I asked him a lot of questions — like, 'What do you think it's like to die? What is it like not to live?' And he always told me, 'You won't die until your time comes. God is giving you the right to live right now — and today, you are alive.'

So on one hand, you can keep asking God forever: 'Why am I here?' You ask fate, God, your life, yourself — why you are here. But if you flip that around, you should ask yourself: what can I do, what am I worth, and why am I here?

From the beginning of time, every human has been given the freedom to choose between good and evil. And you choose your own path. Your today is the result of what you chose yesterday. And what you choose today is what you'll receive tomorrow. Those words really motivated me to live, to fight. Every one of us, as a soldier, understood why we were there — why we picked up weapons, what our purpose was, and what we were fighting for."

"While you were on the battlefield — in combat — how did you feel God's presence? In what moments did you turn to prayer, and how did it help you?"

"You need it all the time, to be honest. In war, you realize that even a dugout won't save you. One time, we were running, and the commander shouted that a KAB — a guided air bomb — was incoming. We dropped our backpacks and jumped into a cellar, but even that wouldn't have saved us. On the next street over, we later saw a crater over ten meters deep — we would've been blown to pieces."

When KABs are flying overhead, or you hear a drone behind you, it's terrifying. You know you could die at any moment. And the only thing you can do is ask God to forgive your sins and just get ready to go to Him.

Even here, in the hospital, I've heard guys cry out to God — especially the ones in severe pain. I've done that too. You ask, 'Lord, please take the pain away,' or, 'Just let me go to You.' Those kinds of prayers are very common because the fear and the pain are real.

Right now, I'd say I'm doing okay, at least during the day. But at night it's really bad. I'm in constant pain. I have several tubes in my abdomen, and when they twist, they press against my internal organs. The pain is so intense that it brings me to tears. And in moments like that, all you can do is read the Bible, pray to God, and believe that this is your trial — your cross — and you have to carry it."

During my entire recovery, the book that stood out to me the most was the Book of Job. Just look at how many trials he went through. From that story, we understand that God never gives you a burden heavier than you can bear. That's why I believe this is my burden — and it's the burden of everyone who has taken up arms, of everyone now undergoing treatment, of everyone in the trenches or on an assault mission, or lying in ambush.

There's this short parable: five or six people are walking through a desert, each carrying their own cross. Some of them threw their crosses away to walk more easily. Others carried theirs all the way. At the end of their journey, they came to a deep ravine. Those who still had their crosses laid them down across the gap like a bridge, and crossed to the other side, where there was grass, a lake, and berries. So the things we endure — they are our trials. And a person becomes stronger once they understand that it is a trial.

Reality sends you these challenges every day. You can either give up and crawl into your shell like a snail, or you can fight back. I'd put it this way: don't go to God saying, "God, I have a problem." Go to the problem and say, "Problem — listen up. I have God." And then, you won't have a problem anymore.

After understanding that, life became a lot easier for me. People ask, "How do you manage to take things so calmly?" I say, "There are problems today, there'll be problems tomorrow. You either face them calmly with a cool head, or you get irritated and fall into despair. It all depends on how you perceive reality."

"And what was your communication with your father like while you were on the front line? How did his guidance and support help?"

"As long as I was still in Ukrainian territory, every time there was a signal, the first person I called was my dad. He was really worried about me — I called him several times a day. He always told me how much he loved me, that God loves me, that he prays for me, and that many others are praying for me, too. That kind of spiritual support really helped. But after I crossed into the Kursk region, I lost signal completely."

"Overall, what helps you stay strong during recovery and rehabilitation?"

"Well, first of all, my personal faith, my prayer life, and reading the Bible. Every day, I find something new and meaningful in it. Then, there's communication with my parents — their presence, their spiritual support, and their prayers. Also, just interaction in general. No matter what city I went to, there was always a priest waiting to meet me outside the hospital.

And second, God gave me optimism. It's spring now, and we've already gone out and bought ourselves fishing rods. We go fishing almost every day, walk around the city, and spend time together. The guys who can walk — great. Even those who can't — we'd carry them into the car and take them with us, then bring them to a bench. No problem at all. So it comes down to this: you either choose to believe that everything is terrible, or that everything is good."

"I'd like to ask you about the future — how you see it, what you're striving for, and what you dream about."

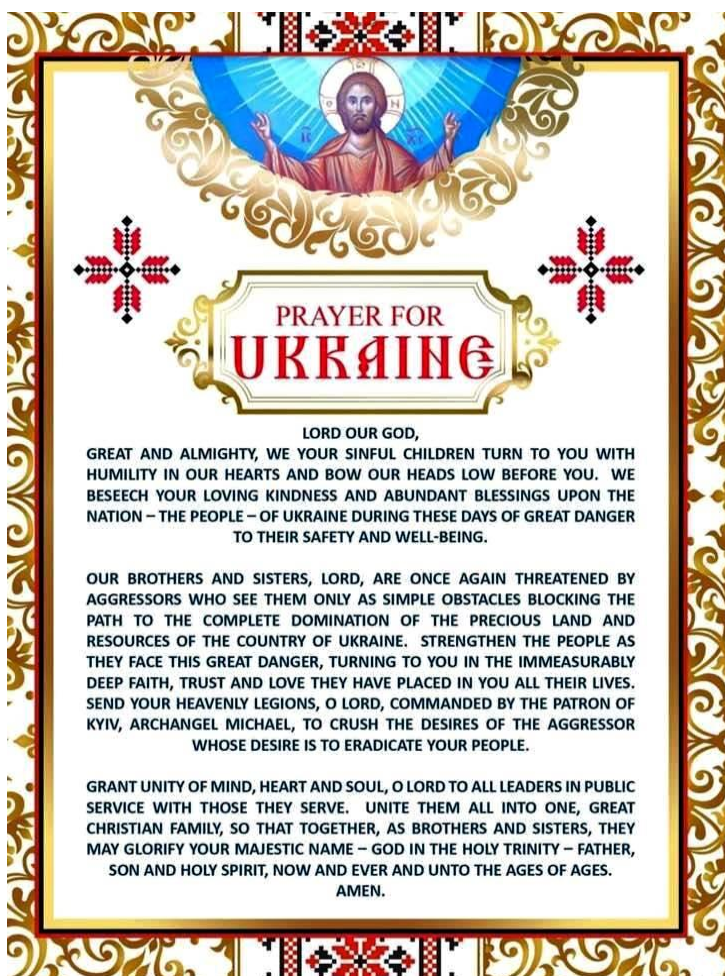
"That's a tough question, because I haven't fully decided whether I want to get married or not — and whether that will even work out for me. I also have the desire to continue studying. I don't yet know whether I want to apply to UCU in Lviv or go to a seminary. But if I eventually decide not to get married, I've been thinking about joining the Redemptorist monastic order. So for now, it's all still very uncertain. I need to finish my treatment first. Because looking ahead to the future when you haven't finished dealing with today — that's nice for dreaming and planning, sure, but you have to finish what you're doing now."

"What would you say to yourself five years ago?"

"I'd say: live for yourself, and be who you truly are — the way God created you. Don't try to earn someone else's approval or respect, because God truly sees your heart for what it is. You could be a gentle guy inside, but put on a mask of someone cruel, insulting others, and so on. But God still sees that you're weak inside — He sees the mask. You just have to live in a way that lets you be yourself.

Because, you know, in this world all the roles are already taken — so play your own.

The interview was conducted within the framework of RISU's cooperation with the Faculty of Journalism of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. https://risu.ua/en/god-gave-me-optimism-the-story-of-mark-who-survived-prisons-war-and-56-surgeries_n156166



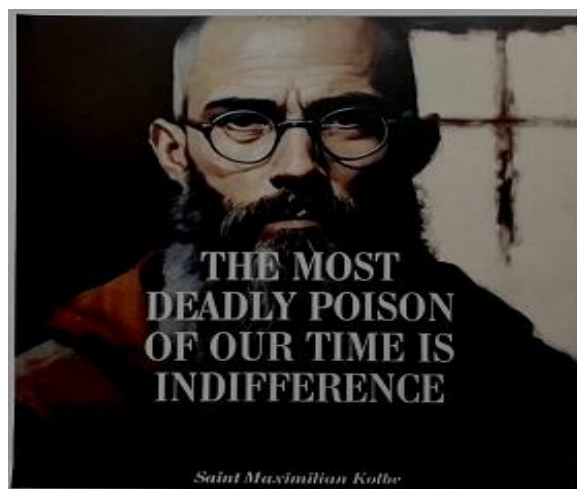
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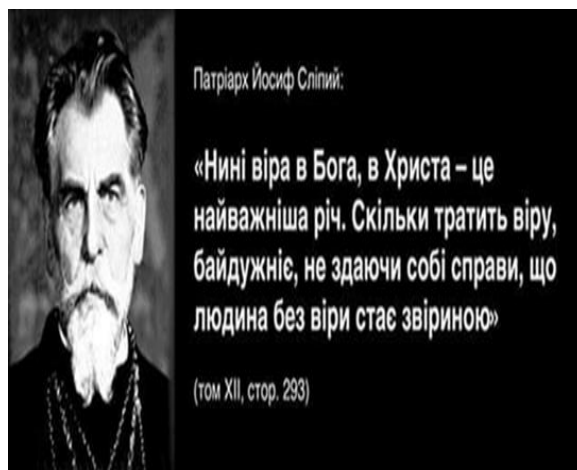
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Patriarch Josyf Cardinal Slipyj teaches and reminds all:

“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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