Protection of the Mother-of-God

Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці
PROTECTION of the BIRTH-GIVER OF GOD
ПОКРОВА ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ

Hail Mother of God, you preserver,
Blessed and full of grace.
May your patronage be with us,
May your protection cover our homes.

Hail Mother of God, who is ever-blessed
Hail Mother of God, protect us always.

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AXIOS! METROPOLITAN ANTONY MARKS 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARCHPASTORAL CONSECRATION

Members of the Council of Metropolia, Consistory, Clergy and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA sincerely greet His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, the Primate of the UOC of USA, on the 36th anniversary of his archpastoral ministry.

Many years have passed, dear Vladyko, since the time of your personal Pentecost: through the Grace of the Holy Spirit, you became part of Apostolic Succession and ministry. These many years have been filled with various events, including many blessings, and trials; however, the Lord has given you the wisdom and strength required to succeed along the path you have chosen.

“Yes, Lord, You know that I love You!” (John 21:16) - such was the ancient testimony of Christ’s disciples who sacrificed for the Lord and wished to serve Him selflessly. Today, is the day when you proclaimed your love for the Lord, and in response heard, “Feed my sheep” (John 21:16). This responsibility for the Lord’s flock is both a wonderful blessing and a great responsibility.

Remaining faithful to your calling, not only in word, but, with your own example of love towards God and Church, you affirm Holy Orthodoxy, and kindle a flame in the hearts of our clergy and faithful.

We wish you infinite strength, spiritual joy, and God’s help as you continue in your ministry. May the Lord help you as you undergo this great work of preserving Christ’s flock and leading them to eternal salvation.

ВИСОКОПРЕОСВЯЩЕННИЙ МИТРОПОЛИТ АНТОНІЙ ВІДЗНАЧАЄ 36-ТУ РІЧНИЦЮ АРХІЕРЕЙСЬКОГО СЛУЖІННЯ

Рада Митрополії, Консисторія, духовенство та миряни Української Православної Церкви США сердечно вітають Високопреосвященного Митрополита Антонія, Предстоятеля УПЦ США, з 36-ю річницею архієрейського служіння.

Вже чимало років тому відбулась Ваша, дорогий Владико, особиста П’ятидесятниця: благодатью Святого Духа Ви стали наслідником Апостольського служіння. Цей час архієрейського служіння був сповнений різними подіями, різноманітними благословеннями та випробуваннями, але Господь давав Вам мужність і силу достойно йти колись Вами обраним шляхом.

«Так, Господи, Ти знаєш, що люблю Тебе!» (Ів. 21:16) - таким було давнє свідчення учнів Христових, котрі прагнули служити Господу жертвенно та самовіддано. Сьогодні той день, коли Ви принесли слова своєї любові Христу, і почули благу відповідь Господа: «Паси мої вівці» (Ів. 21:16). Ця відповідальність за Господне стадо - і велике благословення, і велика відповідальність.

Але зберігаючи вірність своєму покликанню, Ви не тільки словом, але й власним прикладом любові до Бога і Церкви утверджуете святе Православ’я та розпалаєте вогонь віри у серцях наших пастирів та вірних.

Бажаємо Вам невичерпної сили, духовної радості та допомоги Божої у Вашому подальшому служінні. Нехай Господь допомагає Вам у великій справі збереження стада Христового ведучи його до спасіння.
Головний мотив, який послужив покрова й заступництва для Пресвятої Богородиці та днем нашого українського народу - свято Покрова завжди було і є для людини, родини й народу. Тому заступництва й опіки хоче кожна могутня заступництво. А такого земне, людське, але небесне й в тому, що тут ідеться не про Покровительки, лежить, мабуть, ревного культу Богоматері як того постійного, улюбленого й княжих часів аж по сьогодні. Секрет тягнеться золотою ниткою від як Покровительки нашого народу, Богородиці. Культ Божої Матері, свято Покрова Пресвятої особливу увагу заслуговує нашеї церковній року на Поміж Богородичними святами. СВЯТО ПОКРОВА ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ омофор, і широко простирає її голови преясну хустку-покров. Відтак встає, здіймає зі своєї від престола, вклякає, довго молиться і заливається сльозами. До Неї в тяжкіх хвилині прибігали наші князі і їхнє військо. Князь Митсілав, в поході проти черкесів обіцяє і зберігає ціль святу Богородиці, якщо Вона допоможе йому перемогти ворога. Він перемагає і радо визнає своє обітию. Наші славні Запорожці мали на Січі значну іконо- покровом і ізбави нас от всякого зла”. Вибиравшись в похід на ворога, козаки проводили покровом і звільнялися з листра до Твоєї милості, а від Запорожців, що від Покрови Пресвятої Божої Матері, як своєї Защитниці, Покровителькою і Царицею нашого українського народу. До Неї в тяжкі хвилині прибігали наші князі і їхнє військо. Князь Митсілав, в поході проти черкесів обіцяє і зберігає ціль святу Богородиці, якщо Вона допоможе йому перемогти ворога. Він перемагає і радо визнає своє обітию. Наші славні Запорожці мали на Січі значну іконо- покровом і ізбави нас от всякого зла”. Вибиравшись в похід на ворога, козаки проводили покровом і звільнялися з листра до Твоєї милості, а від Запорожців, що від Покрови Пресвятої Божої Матері, як своєї Защитниці, Покровителькою і Царицею нашого українського народу. До Неї в тяжкі хвилині прибігали наші князі і їхнє військо. Князь Митсілав, в поході проти черкесів обіцяє і зберігає ціль святу Богородиці, якщо Вона допоможе йому перемогти ворога. Він перемагає і радо визнає своє обітию. Наші славні Запорожці мали на Січі значну іконо- покровом і ізбави нас от всякого зла”. Вибиравшись в похід на ворога, козаки проводили покровом і звільнялися з листра до Твоєї милості, а від Запорожців, що від Покрови Пресвятої Божої Матері, як своєї Защитниці, Покровителькою і Царицею нашого українського народу.
“O Mother of God, sheltered by Thy coming / we faithful people today keep feast in joy, / and looking at Thy most pure image, / moved to the depths of our hearts, we say: / Protect us with Thy precious Veil and deliver us from every ill, / by entreating Christ, Thy Son and our God, / to save our souls.”

(Tropar in tone 4 - Protection of the Mother of God)

Early one morning, two sisters were getting ready for school, as one sister walked out of her room with one pillow on her back and one pillow on her chest. Her sister asked, “why do you have pillows on you?” “Well,” she said, “the pillow on my chest is to protect from all the boys that will break my heart. And the pillow on my back is to protect me from all the friends that will stab me in the back.”

We all have, at one time or another, felt like that sister who needed protection from the hurts and pains of our earthly life. The same was for the residents of Constantinople in the early tenth century (c. 911 A.D.), as they were under siege from pre-Christian Slavs. Threatened, overwhelmed and full of fear, the inhabitants of Constantinople turned to prayer. The people were able to assemble in the Church of the Mother of God at Vlakherna (Blachernae) where a relic of the veil of the Virgin Mary was kept for veneration. During the all-night vigil service, Righteous Andrew fool-for-Christ, saw a vision of the Mother of God carrying her veil which she stretched out over the city and all the people. It was beneath her protection that all could come for refuge. Accounts vary as to how the siege ended, however the faithful believed that the Lord, through the prayers of His Most Holy Mother, had preserved their city from certain destruction.

One might say, “nice story, Father, but what meaning does it have for me 1100 years later?” This feast reminds us that, like the Orthodox faithful who have come before us, we are to remember and cherish the good things that have been done for us. The Divine Liturgy is a wonderful example of how we are to work together in the corporate nature of prayer. Praying not only with those who are standing next to us but with the countless millions who have returned to the earth from which they were taken.

The universe is made up of two parts, spiritual and physical, and we stand at the edge of these two worlds. The Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God shows us the union of these two worlds. The miracle of this feast is that it was witnessed by the faithful and it was made visible to the human eye. It is a reminder to us that the Mother of God and all the saints are so close to us that they pray together with us in our churches.

Let us be vigilant to see with purity, to interpret with purity of heart and to act with love. Then we shall be able to see freely the divine light shining on the world and in the world. In this manner we can better love, serve, and be part of the world which God given us.

All of us are capable of ascending the heights of holiness. This is God’s promise for everyone, His help is assured, whether or not we succeed, depends entirely on us. Amen.

Fr. Myron Oryhon

BLESSED FEAST DAY OF THE PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD!

When we fail to understand the gift of Mary - the Birth-Giver of God, as Mother, we can also miss the call of every Christian to bear Jesus Christ for the world as She did. It is time to re-examine the deeper implications of the treasure that is found in the life example and message of the little Virgin of Nazareth. This wonderful title, Mary, the Mother of God, “Theotokos”, reveals a profound truth not only about Mary, but about each one of us. We are now invited into the very relationship that She had with her Son. We can become “God-bearers” and bring Him to all those whom we encounter in our few short days under the sun.

- Archbishop Daniel

БЛАГОСЛОВЕННОЕ СВЯТА ПОКРОВА ПРЕСВЯТОЙ БОГОРОДИЦЫ

Якщо ми не усвідомлюємо дар Марії - Богородиці, як Матері, ми також не можемо знати заклики до кожного християнини нести Ісуса Христа у світ, так як це робила вона. Настав час ще раз переглянути та переоцінити наші сподівання, які містяться в життєвому прикладі та житті Пречистої Діви з Назарету. Цей чудовий титул «Марія, Матір Божа», «Богородиця», розкриває глибоку право думку не лише про Марію, а й про кожного з нас. Тепер ми запрошено до тих самих стосунків, які вона мала зі своїм Сином. Ми можемо стати «носіями Бога» і принести його всім тим, з ким стикаємося у наших щоденних життєвих намаганнях.

- Архієпископ Даний

Fr. Myron Oryhon
The Clergy Conference of 2021 was planned, as is normal for our annual conclude, to take place at the Metropolis Center, the heart of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in South Bound Brook/ Somerset, N.J. When I received the notification from our hierarchs of these plans for our regular three-day Clergy Conference, I was thrilled about the possibility of a return to a further sense of normality. However, due to rising cases of Covid Delta variant and new travel restrictions in different states throughout the USA, and hesitation of many to travel, the conference was changed to a Zoom format as we have done in the past two years. It was convened on 9 October with Their Eminences Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel hosting us in loving fashion.

Ninety-five of our brothers logged in to the meeting constituting the largest attendance in decades. Archbishop Daniel welcomed us all with great enthusiasm and led us in prayer for the Guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ. Metropolitan Serhiy shared a pastoral reflection on a youth ministry in their parishes. He emphasized that numbers do not matter. Even if there are just a few children, we have the sacred responsibility to ensure that the learn how to live their Holy Orthodox Faith on a daily basis.

The Clergy Conference of 2021 was devoted to a discussion of pastoral concerns during the pandemic and beyond and the sharing of pastoral experiences throughout the pandemic. "Priests definitely need priests in their lives" as His Eminence Metropolitan Antony frequently quoted V. Rev. George Hnatko, and such opportunities as these, where any priest present has the opportunity to express his thoughts, emotions, needs and ideas, inviting his brothers to comment and share their thoughts is extremely important. It felt absolutely wonderful to hear other priests and the spiritual care but also humanitarian work in educating and ministering to the youth at our parishes. She also guided us to the Consistory Office of Youth and Education and explained the unique curriculums that are available to any of our clergy.

The first presentation of the Clergy Conference followed. As a recipient for tens of thousands of dollars from the Diocese, St. Andrew Society, Metropolitan Serhiy of Donetsk and Mariupol (Orthodox Church of Ukraine), joined the meeting to offer his reflections on the ministry of the Diocese located just seven kilometers from the front line during the times of the ongoing invasion war in Eastern Ukraine. His Eminence shared the good news that has become reality because of the love and compassion of our faithful here in the USA. It was so timely to hear about the troubles His Eminence and his priests have endured for nearly a decade. It was a powerful inspiration for our clergy to hear how much the Metropolitan, his adriatic faith have sacrificed to continue to serve God and His people in the war-torn Eastern Ukraine.

Even though, clergymen of His Eastern diocese were persecuted, arrested, tortured, seen their wives raped and their church burned, they have not abandoned their priestly ministry to the people, which includes not only spiritual care but also humanitarian care – because of their belief IN our Lord and their commitment to His teachings. Metropolitan Serhiy also shared the work of their organization, the Consistory, which has approved a grant of the purchase of 25 tons of coal to fuel the furnaces keeping the elderly warm during the coming winter. Metropolitan Antony our Church remains committed to supporting these vital assistance efforts as much as possible.

The second presentation of the conference was offered by Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon the director of Consistory Office of Youth and Adult Ministry. She reminded the clergy of the importance of the Youth Ministry Survey posted on our church website on the Youth Ministry page. She also guided us to the Youth Ministry page. She also guided us to the Consistory has approved a grant of the purchase of 25 tons of coal to fuel the furnaces keeping the elderly warm during the coming winter. Metropolitan Antony our Church remains committed to supporting these vital assistance efforts as much as possible.

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The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America convened in person for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Washington, D.C. October 2-5 for its 10th Anniversary Meeting. This is the first in-person meeting presided over by Archbishop Elpidophoros. Twenty-nine Hierarchs participated in-person and were joined by seven Hierarchs who participated virtually. In their opening session, they called to mind the losses suffered over the past year and a half, due to the global pandemic, and offered prayers for the continued health and recovery of the faithful and all people.

The Assembly also reviewed the extensive work of its Committees and Task Forces undertaken over the past year and a half. The Assembly also reviewed the Executive Committee’s full address, click here.

The events began on October 2nd with a meeting of the Executive Committee. Later that evening, all the Bishops gathered at Saints Peter and Paul-Antiochian Orthodox Church in Potomac, Maryland for Great Vespers, presided over by Metropolitan Joseph, Vice-Chairman of the Assembly. A reception hosted by the parish for local clergy and their families followed.

On Sunday, October 3rd, members of the Executive Committee – Archbishop Elpidophoros (GOA), Metropolitan Joseph (AOCA), Bishop Irenej (SOC), Metropolitan Nicolaie (ROC), Bishop Sabas (SOC), Metropolitan Tikhon (OCA), and Metropolitan Gregory (ACROD) – consecrated the Divine Liturgy at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, D.C. This historic event was the first time the Assembly opened with a consecration of the heads and representatives of the jurisdictions, fostering the bond of love and communion. The sermon was offered by Metropolitan Tikhon. After the liturgy, they engaged with the faithful during a reception hosted by the parish. The Bishops then engaged the local faithful at a Networking Charitable Event at the Museum of the Bible on Sunday evening, where a panel of youth and young adults presented challenges and opportunities facing the youth today as well as how the Church can support youth in maintaining faith. At the conclusion of the panel, all the participants joined the Bishops in assembling hygiene kits to be distributed by IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) to those in need.

In his opening remarks on Monday, October 4, Archbishop Elpidophoros, Chairman of the Assembly, shared his joy that the Hierarchs were able to gather in person this year, continuing their 10th Anniversary Celebration. He also expressed sorrow at the falling asleep in the Lord since the last gathering of Metropolitan Theodosius of the OCA, Metropolitan Maximos of the GOA, and Archbishop David of the OCA; and joyfully welcomed the new members to their first Assembly meeting.

The Assembly reviewed the extensive work of its Committees and Task Forces undertaken over the past year and considered the traditions of the Church, while being balanced and above all else pastoral. In order to see the Chairman’s full address, click here.

In 2020, the Hierarchs declared 2021 the “Year of the Youth.” Thus, a highlight of this gathering was the formation of two new transformational Assembly Agencies focused on serving youth and young adults to better address their needs. A Pan-Orthodox Agency for Youth and Young Adults will prepare and provide effective resources, programs, tools, and gatherings to assist ministry workers, clergy, parishes, and parents in order to form and strengthen future generations of engaged and faithful Orthodox Christians. The new Orthodox Volunteer Corps will respond to the deep desire of our Orthodox young adults to serve others, by providing year-long immersive service opportunities in nonprofit organizations. These two new Agencies will continue the Assembly of Bishops’ focus on youth and young adults.

The Assembly also reviewed the extensive work of its Committees and Task Forces over the past year and considered committee proposals. The Assembly approved the ongoing work of the Committee for Canonical Matters to continue developing a clergy database, the Committee for Youth’s upcoming Orthodox Camping and Youth Worker Conference to be held in the first quarter of 2022, and the Committee for Chaplaincy’s Institutional Chaplains Program. The Mental Health Task Force reported that it will continue its work having completed the Mental Health Needs Assessment Survey by developing program proposals based on the results.

On their final day of meetings, the Hierarchs engaged in a thoughtful dialogue about their respective practices for the reception of converts into the Orthodox Church. As a result, the Assembly approved the formation of a Task Force, under the oversight of the Committee for Pastoral Practice, to examine the issue of the reception of converts into the Church.

The last session of the meetings examined the North American Orthodox-Roman Catholic Theological Consultation, looking at the past, present, and future of the historic and important ministry. The Assembly of Bishops also introduced a new iPhone/Android App that will allow the Assembly to gather valid research in order to better meet the needs of the faithful. The App will also serve as a tool to enhance and promote communication among the Hierarchs and the faithful. The App will roll out in phases starting late 2021/early 2022.

As the meetings were underway in Washington, D.C., the Assembly acknowledged the joint statement of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Pope Francis, Archbishop Justin of Canterbury, Metropolitan Hilarión of Volokolamsk, Rev. Ioan Sauca, WCC Acting Secretary General, and other global faith leaders on the climate prior to the upcoming United Nation’s Climate Conference (COP-26).

Before concluding, the Hierarchs agreed to convene again October 2-4, 2022. They regretted the absence of their Brother Hierarchs of the Moscow Patriarchate and reiterated their invitation to participate in the following Assemblies.

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Ordaining a new priest for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel encouraged him to witness to Christ’s truth.

Entering the parish temple, Vladyka Daniel was greeted by the members of the parish board of administration and the youth of the Church. Panimatka Kristi Mackey presented His Eminence with the traditional bread and salt and shared with the hierarch that the bread was baked by the pastor of the congregation – Rev. Fr. Theophan Mackey. Fr. Theophan also welcomed the hierarch into the temple, stating that this was a special occasion for the visit, following the most recent archpastoral visit of Vladyka Daniel to Los Alamos, NM in September.

Responding to the words of welcome, Archbishop Daniel addressed Deacon Frank Lucero: “Today you begin living a truth that will empower you to serve the Church with all of your heart,” the Eparchial hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Church said at October 1, 2021 ordination at St. Job of Pochaiv Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Los Alamos, New Mexico noting that on that day newly ordained Fr. Frank Lucero was beginning “a new life in and for the Lord.”

“Deacons and priests are men who must live the truth, seek the truth, preach the truth, love the truth and long for the day when we all will know the truth,” the archbishop said. “God’s Spirit assures the Church that we will possess the truth and that possession will make us all free. Christ Himself of course is the Truth as he called Himself.”

People in the congregation wore facemasks as a safeguard against the spread of the coronavirus, as did the clergy concelebrating with the archbishop.

As he gave his homily, Archbishop Daniel stood behind the beautifully decorated image of Cross of the Lord stating to the soon to be ordained priest Frank that he must live by the precepts of the truth that comes from the Holy Spirit and will empower him to live holy life in imitation of Christ and in service to the Church and face the challenges that come his way.

Vladyka Daniel encouraged him to be a man of prayer as he will serve the people entrusted to him.

“My son, the Church will soon come alive for you in the faces and through the voices of the people that you will encounter. The elderly and sick, the young and joyful, the grieving and confused, the couples and young adults who will fill your lives must also become the very images of the Church for which you must pray daily,” said the archbishop.

As the faithful lined up to partake of the Holy Eucharist, the Royal Gates opened and out came Father Frank holding the Chalice.
hierarch’s watchful gaze, the newly ordained priest carefully bestowed the Holy Sacrament. His Eminence gave the faithful one last blessing, returning the Chalice to the table of Oblation.

With a sigh of joy and relief Father Frank descended from the ambo to read the Prayer of Dismissal, thanking God for this day, for His Gifts, for His mercy, and asking for His guidance in the days to come.

Archbishop Daniel stepped out of the sanctuary and presented the certificate of ordination to him, reading off that by his ordination he is now blessed to perform baptisms, crowning ceremonies marrying a man with a woman, hear confessions, and all other Holy Sacraments. Handing the certificate to the new priest, and giving him his blessing, he then turned his attention to Dobrodijka Rita and invited her to join her husband upon the solea. The couple stood together as she bowed her head. The Archbishop laid his hand upon her head and prayed that God grant her strength and wisdom to help her husband in his ministry.

Father Frank took the opportunity to thank Archbishop Daniel for the compassion, support and encouragement over the years. He asked to keep him and his family in prayers, before turning to the others and thanking the clergy who had traveled great distances to participate in this celebration. He thanked the Seminary Instructors, his brother seminarians, and guests for joining him on this day and asked for their continued support and prayers. He turned to his wife, and thanked her for always being there for him, and finally thanked his family for supporting him as he had studied and encouraging him as he followed his calling. As he invited everyone to enjoy a luncheon at the parish building, the congregation in attendance sang a joyous rendition of Mnohaya Lita! Many Years!

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan

Blue skies and bright sunshine greeted current and former members, family, and friends of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Johnson City, NY as they gathered to celebrate the 95th Anniversary of the parish on Sunday, September 19, 2021.

The faithful waited in anticipation as His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, the Seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary, Pastor Fr. Ivan Synnevskyy and our dedicated altar boys proceeded from the Rectory to the Church for this joyous event. It was a truly beautiful sight to behold as the sun glistened on the intricately embroidered vestments, stoles and crowns of our beloved Hierarchs, and reflected off of the processional cross and fans, as the group made their way to the front of the church for the special Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

Parish President Brian Baxendale, along with parish children, warmly greeted our Hierarchs with traditional bread and salt and presented them with bouquets of sunflowers. The sunflower was chosen as the 95th Anniversary theme since it symbolizes spiritual faith, longevity, hope and joy. The children giggled as Vladyka Daniel shared his sunflowers along with smiles, kind words and laughter. Parish President Baxendale noted, “When one of you visits, we are truly delighted and honored to have you here but with both of you, we are truly blessed”. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony responded that it was truly a joy to be able to participate in this important Feast Day.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and his Eminence Archbishop Daniel made their way into the nave of the Church where Fr Ivan Synnevskyy greeted them. He
thanked them for joining us on this special day in the life of our parish and for their prayers and blessings. Metropolitan Antony remarked on his long history with our parish, and its rich heritage. He spoke of the people and clergy who have led and guided the church for 95 years, providing the foundation for its growth. He observed that the walls of our church have absorbed the faith, love, beauty, and prayers of the people within; “the walls would be nothing”, he noted, “if it wasn’t for the people within and the clergy who have led them throughout all of these 95 years”. He shared that he would commemorate all of them as well as pray for the children and the future of our church.

What followed was a truly beautiful and spiritually uplifting Hierarchical Divine Liturgy as the Church Choir, led by Directors Julieanne Marra, Nancy Tarcha and Stamatia Dimitriou, lifted their voices in prayer and praise, along with His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, and the seminarians. Chants of “Eis pollá étē, Déspota” filled the air along with the light and joy of this sacred service. It was incredibly powerful and spiritual. Indeed, God was in our midst!

Archbishop Daniel read from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, his strong and pure voice echoing throughout the church and commanding the attention of the faithful. Let us be attentive!

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony provided a moving and impactful sermon imploing congregants to open their eyes to the glorious vision of Christ, something, he said, that our ancestors understood so well. He emphasized that we are all part of the ministry of Christ and reminded us how grateful and appreciative our ancestors were to work together to build a house of God and to worship together. He called on us to be, like them, an example, “called to put in process a movement of love that emanates from Christ’s love for you and the love that you have for each other as you gather together in worship over these last 95 years”.

After the communion of the divine and holy Eucharist, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony called upon longtime parish members Melodye and Robert Onysko to come forward. He praised their commitment, dedication and numerous contributions to the parish and presented them with the “Hramota” [Certificate of Merit]. The Hramota is a very special honor reserved for the most dedicated servants in the life of the Church. While Melodye and Bob recently relocated, their legacy and impact on St. John’s remains. The congregation was incredibly happy to see them, to honor them and to hear Melodye’s beautiful voice during the Liturgy.

Pastor Fr. Ivan provided remarks reflecting on the sunflower theme. He said that “our parish life looks like the sunflower. The same way the sunflower turns and follows the sun, the same way we as the parish move towards Christ. He is our Sun and when we fulfill His commandments and teachings, we are moving towards Him. Because He is everywhere present, He sustains us with water, air, and minerals. So even when it’s not sunny all the time we can stay protected and in peace knowing He takes good care of us.”

The program included performances of The Star Spangled Banner, the Ukrainian National Anthem and selections “Oh Dark as a Gypsy”, “A Yearning” and “Dance, Dance” performed by our church choir. Dance, dance is just what our young St. John Ukrainian dancers did, performing lively and spirited versions of Chumak, Hone Veeter and Flirtation, to the delight of those present.

As a special treat, those in attendance were also gifted with songs by our guest seminarians who spoke of their mission work. Their beautiful, angelic, ethereal voices added so much to the beauty of the day.

Following a Benediction by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, the Ukraine National Anthem was sung again, as well as another chant of Eis pollá été, Désproté. Lastly, everyone sang God Grant You Many Years, raising voices and glasses, in honor of 95 years of faith, family and tradition. Mnohiya Lita!

By Melinda Holicky

Photo Credits: Grey Goose Graphics, Dr. Peter Hatala, Jeffrey Hatala, Melinda Holicky, Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan
On an overcast morning, as a light drizzle fell from the clouds, the light shown brightly from the open doors of Holy Trinity parish in Trenton, New Jersey. Standing in the doorway was parish pastor, Fr. Zinovy Zharsky, along with the members of the parish board of administration. Gathered before them were the children of the parish, waving flowers high in the air as they awaited the arrival of their much-loved hierarch. The children on lookout at the top of the steps to the church let out an excited squeal as they bounced back inside letting the others know that procession has begun.

Led by a man carrying a cross, followed by icon banners, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and the Diaspora, walked along the sidewalk towards the church, to celebrate the parish’s 102nd anniversary. Joining towards the church, to celebrate the Diaspora, walked along the sidewalk Orthodox Church of the USA and the Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Eminence Metropolitan Antony, followed by icon banners, His Eminence stepped forward to kiss the youngsters with a smile, His Eminence and present hismbers. Thus, Metropolitan Antony made his way to the center of the Nave, where he stood as the Divine Liturgy commenced. Dressed in golden vestments, amidst the glowing icons, the relics of the Saints, His Eminence stood humbly surrounded by his flock. The faithful, adorned in traditional Ukrainian outfits, their faces covered with masks, nonetheless, reflected their joy on this happy occasion, which was reflected in the sparkle in their eyes.

The reading was from the Gospel according to Matthew 22:35-46, reflecting how a lawyer once approached Christ and asked Him which was the greatest commandment, to which He replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Closing the Gospel Book and placing it back upon the Altar table, His Eminence stepped back out on the Ambon and delivered a riveting sermon.

The faithful sat mesmerized as His Eminence elucidated upon the Lord’s Two Great Commandments, driving home the seriousness of them both. The Ten Commandments were given to Moses so he could share them with the people; however, these two were given by God directly to us all. On one hand these two supersede the ten, on the other, if we truly live by these two, we will also fulfill the ten.

“Christ was serious!” His Eminence loudly proclaimed, as he looked the people directly in their eyes to convey the magnitude of his words. He was silent for a few seconds, allowing the message to get absorbed. In the silence, everyone sat up straighter, put down the papers they had in their hands, set aside their phones, and quieted their children. All attention on was the Metropolitan.

He continued, by stressing that when they go out into the world beyond the church doors, they need to live these commandments. When Christ instructed us love our neighbors as ourselves, He was not speaking to love them like we love the person who looks back at us through the mirror in the morning. No. It is not about us, but, about God, and the image of God in each of us.

Every single person has been created in the image of God, and therefore, we are to love them all as we would love God. We are to realize we are gazing upon the people around us, as we would love God. We are to realize we are gazing at the very image of God Himself. How can we state that we dislike different people, because they are black, brown, white, purple, blue, red, or green? We are not to even notice these superficial things. When we look upon another, we need to see God in them, for God has made them, and God loves them just the way they are.

Imagine if we all lived according to these two Commandments? What a wonderful world it truly would be. We would focus on the positive and not the negative. We would accept, help, and love everyone equally. Harmony would prevail.

On one hand these two supersede the ten, if we truly live by these two, we will also fulfill the ten.
partaken of the Eucharist everyone quietly prayed, as Fr. Zinovy read the Prayer behind the Ambon.

“O Lord, Who blesses those who bless You and sanctifies those who put their trust in You, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Protect the whole body of Your Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house. Glorify them in return by Your divine power and forsake us not who have set our hope in You. Grant peace to Your world, to Your churches, to the clergy, to our civic leaders, to the armed forces, and to all Your people. For every good and perfect gift is from You, the Father of lights. To You we give glory, thanksgiving, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.”

At the conclusion of the prayer, His Eminence called all the children to step forward. His Eminence sat down in a chair, so that he would be at eye level with the youngsters as he addressed them. Looking them in their shining bright eyes, he instructed them that even though they are young and small, God loves them more than they can imagine, and He expects them in turn to love Him, and thereby, love all the other people in their lives. Metropolitan Antony told them that they are to look upon all their friends, classmates, and acquaintances like God – with love, care, and mercy.

To clarify the ask, His Eminence asked the children if they’d ever been bullied in school. Timidly a few hands jotted upward, and were quickly lowered. His Eminence smiled at the children’s innocence and reminded them that it is never good to bully anyone else. We are never to hurt anyone, not their bodies, nor their feelings. If you do this, you must stop. When you look at another child, stop and imagine you are looking upon Jesus. How would you treat Him? So, treat all the children you meet.

To lighten the moment, His Eminence once again opened his arms, and like moths to a flame, all the children eagerly raced forward and got lost in his vestments, enveloped in a loving and warming bear hug. His Eminence stood and read a prayer of blessing over all the little bowed heads before him, asking the Lord’s intervention in their lives, that He would protect and guide them all their days. They giggled and squealed as Vladyka sprinkled them with Holy Water.

Having taken a group photo, Fr. Zinovy took a moment to thank His Eminence on behalf of all the parishioners for visiting and celebrating their 102nd anniversary with them. Quietly, everyone lined up to get their hierarch’s blessing, and to receive a prayer card which he was handing out to commemorate the day’s events. The children could not get enough of Metropolitan Antony and kept running up for more hugs. The adults smiled, realizing the children had actually listened and absorbed their hierarch’s words to them. Holding the icon cards close, squinting against the bright sunshine that had chased away the morning clouds, like His Eminence’s words had chased away their morning worries and concerns, everyone made their way down the front steps of the church, and proceeded out into the world beyond. As the breeze blew the leaves off the trees, peppering the sidewalk below, the faithful drove away taking the words of Metropolitan Antony home with them, nestled safely within their hearts. They were determined to look upon the world with new eyes, seeing Christ in everyone they met along the way.

With renewed hope and joy, the parish promises to flourish for another century. May God grant them many years!
10 жовтня 2021 року у соборі святого Володимира міста Філадельфії відбувалась урочиста Літургія за участю Високопреосвященішого Митрополита Антонія з нагоди 95 річниці заснування парафії та храмового свята Покрови Пресвятої Богородиці.

Присутність серед парафіян Високопреосвященішого Митрополита Антонія наповнила серця кожного радістю та відчуттям великого торжества, що з благословення Митрополита, відбулося у нашій церкві. Прекрасний спів псалмів та щирі слова молитов духовно збагатили нас. Проповідь Митрополита Антонія вкотре нагадала нам, що головним у житті є любов. Любов до Господа Ісуса Христа, любов до ближнього, і якщо ми відкриємо свої серця, то любов Божа завжди перебуватиме там.

Славімо Бога своїми словами та вчинками. Не розгубімо того духовного багатства, що оселитися у наших душах під час святкової Літургії і хай всіх милосердий Господь буде нам в цьому у поміч. Бож завжди поміч нас, тоді джувайте йому за все і хваліте його повсякчас. Окрім слова відкриття висловити б висловити усім тим, хто допоміг до організації храмового свята. Дітокам парафії, що радо зустріли Митрополита Антонія і отримали його благословення, проповідь Митрополита святу Літургію, хористам, які своїм прекрасним співом додали урочистості. Щирі слова відкриття висловити б висловити усім тим, хто допоміг до організації храмового свята. Дітокам парафії, що радо зустріли Митрополита Антонія і отримали його благословення, проповідь Митрополита святу Літургію, хористам, які своїм прекрасним співом додали урочистості.

On October 10th in the year of the Lord 2021, in St Vladimir UOC Cathedral in Philadelphia PA, his Eminence Antony, Metropolitan and Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, celebrated a hierarchical Liturgy commemorating the 95th Anniversary of St Vladimir Cathedral and the feast of St Mary the Protectress. The presence of Metropolitan Antony filled the hearts of parishioners and guests with joy and greatly enhanced the feast day celebration that, with the blessing of Metropolitan Antony, was commemorated at our cathedral. The beautiful singing, psalms, hymns, and prayers greatly enriched us. Metropolitan Antony’s sermon reminded us that the focus in our lives must be love for Jesus Christ and for each other, and that, if we open our hearts the Lord’s love will always be present in us. Exalt the Lord with our words and our actions. Let us not allow the spiritual richness that came upon us during Liturgy to dissipate; let the Lord help us in this goal. The Lord helps us in all, for which we need to thank and exalt Him.

We thank everyone who helped organize and make the celebration a success. We are very grateful to the children of the parish that greeted Metropolitan Antony and received his blessing, to Metropolitan Antony for celebrating the Liturgy with us, and to the choir members for the beautiful singing.

Everyone present at the celebratory luncheon had a wonderful time in the midst of friends and in mutual love.

We sincerely thank Metropolitan Antony and all of the seminarians from St Sophia that visited St Vladimir and shared in the joy of the celebration. May the Lord bless you and grant you good health and inspiration for continued work on His behalf. We hope and trust that you will visit us again so that you may share your thoughts and prayers with us. May the Lord grant you and all of us peace and good.

Written by Victoria Vavrukh translated by Jurij Trypupenko

Photos by Seminarian Andrii Akulenko
Sunday, October 10, the sun shone brightly upon the little parish of the Dormition of the Birth-Giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox Parish, in Jones, Oklahoma. Today was a special day for the parish that was celebrating its 102nd anniversary, as this day they would be blessed with a hierarchical visit by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and the Diaspora.

Tuming the corner, Archbishop Daniel, who was walking in procession to the open church doors, looked up at the crosses atop the golden domes as they glowed in the morning light. He smiled as his eyes settled upon the many happy faces awaiting him at the entrance. Smiling, His Eminence reflected on the amazing history of the parish which was a good reflection of Orthodoxy in the New World. The faithful who filled the church came from diverse backgrounds, nationalities, and races, being composed of not only Ukrainians, but, also of American-born faithful, as well as people from Lebanon, Greece, Georgia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Belarus.

Climbing the steps, His Eminence was warmly greeted by Parish Board President, Maura Baker. Following the ancient Ukrainian tradition, she approached the hierarch holding a lovely long embroidered towel, upon which was a round loaf of bread, with salt. The round loaf of bread (Kolach) is a symbol of eternity and represents hospitality, while the salt reflects Christ's words, "You are the salt of the earth". Graciously accepting the greeting, and commenting on the beautifully baked bread, Archbishop Daniel stepped forward to the awaiting priests. Presenting him with a cross, and holy water, was parish pastor, V. Rev. Stepan Bilogan, next to whom stood Archimandrite Raphael Moore, emeritus. Smiling at the clergy, His Eminence venerated the offered cross, than with a smile turned and addressed the clergy dressed in gold, seemed to glow as they entered and exited the Holy Altar. The sun poured in through the windows, lighting the interior of the church. The wooden ceiling and floor led the faithful, who filled the church, to easily imagine themselves standing within the safe confines of the Ark which in Noah's time brought creation to safe harbor, and such the new Ark, the Church, once again brings those safely found inside it, to safety and salvation.

The day's Gospel Reading, according to the Gregorian Calendar, was from Luke 7:11-16, retelling of the time that Christ resurrected the widow's son. Closing the Gospel, and returning it to the Altar Table, His Eminence stepped out on the ambon and delivered a moving sermon. He told of an instance he witnessed in New York City. The city is busy, bustling with people, tourists from all nations, businessmen rushing to work, taxi's honking, hawkers selling their wares, rats scurrying about, garbage littering the streets, and a constant cacophony of noise. However, as you approach this one busy corner, at the crosswalks of life, you can hear a single voice yelling over the din. Standing there, blind to the sideways glances and pointing fingers, stands a man holding a Bible, and yelling out, "I was once lost, but now I know God!" Nobody hears his message. The few who do notice him simply laugh at him, because even as Christians they have an expectation of Christianity – you dress up and go to church on Sunday. But this man doesn't care, because he is happy for, he knows God.

New York is filled with people escaping their previous lives, and they all collide. Today, in the Gospel Reading we heard of another collision. A collision of life and death. Death is exiting while life is entering. Archbishop Daniel continued, explaining that in those days women had few rights and were not even permitted to leave their home unaccompanied by a husband, or other male relative. For her to even go to the local market, she needed to be escorted by a man. Therefore, this woman who was already a widow, relied heavily on her son, her only remaining male relative, not only for her livelihood, but for the most basic of human needs. Without him, she found herself at a great disadvantage, with her needs. She wept, mourning not only the loss of her beloved child, but, wept in fear and hopelessness as she was now a woman alone.

As death and hopelessness, in the guise of the funeral procession exited the city, they collided with hope, and life, as Jesus Christ, along with his Disciples entered. Death crashes into Life. The Lord hears the widow’s weeping, and realizing her dire situation, and before she even asks for help, He has compassion on her and tells her not to weep. He reaches over...
to the casket, touches it, and tells the young man to “arise”. Touching the casket, or the body of the dead person was viewed as taboo, rendering the person spiritually unclean and in need of several weeks of purification before being permitted to return to society. Yet, Christ, is life, and life does not fear death, and so the Lord touches the casket, and brings life to where death was. The boy wakes up, and the Savior reaches over and picks up his living body and returns him to his mother. Not only does He return to her a son, but He returns to her hope, and life.

His Eminence expounded that we too often spend our lives in darkness, feeling alone, overpowered by despair, and anxious about our futures. His Eminence paused and gazed around at all the slightly nodding heads. Stepping down from the ambo, stepping closer to the people, he stated that we need to remember that Christ is always to remember that Christ is always on the path to meet us, and He is our one true Salvation.

The despairing widow represents the past, the dead young man, are all the people who had yet to encounter Christ. The Lord touches him, and he lives. Thus we, touched by the Lord, live. However, each day we need to decide – will we walk in the procession of light and life with Christ, or will we choose to walk along the path that will take us further away from Him?

It is a question of faith. Will we, the Christians of the 21st century proclaim that we believe in this miracle? Because if we do not believe, if we are merely observers of Christianity, we would say that raising someone from death is an impossibility. In the physical world this would be true, for we cannot bring back to life a person who has died. However, in the world of faith, in the supernatural world, in the world in which we truly believe in Christ Jesus, our Savior, we know He can bring life back. We know He can say to us “Rise Child of God,” and even though we are spiritually dead, we will arise and live in Him... if we believe.

Each of us experiences spiritual death. We lay in our caskets every day. In numerous monasteries, monks have the tradition of preparing their casket for burial, while they still live. They keep these caskets in their cells, and at night they lie down to sleep in them, as a symbol of death; that they are dying to the world through the night, and will be resurrecting in the morning, to proclaim the existence of the Lord once again to the world.

Each of us goes to bed each night, positioning ourselves in our own caskets of life. Each evening we are to put our fingers together and make the Sign of the Cross physically over our beds, stating that tonight we commit our souls and our bodies to God, and ask for His mercy that we should arise in the morning. In the morning when we awaken, we make the Sign of the Cross over ourselves, thanking the Lord for the blessed night, the rest we received, and asking for His blessing throughout the upcoming day.

This decision we make daily, with every word we speak, and every action we take identifies which path we walk. Let us choose life. Let us choose Christ. With one final long look at the people who were now sitting mesmerized, Archbishop Daniel returned to the Altar and the Divine Liturgy continued.

As the choir sang angelically, the remainder of the service, the people prayed, contemplating His Eminence’s words, and their own actions and life choices. When the Royal Gates opened, and the Eucharist was presented, they made their choice this day to follow Christ, as they humbly got in line to partake of Holy Communion. The words spoken by Fr. Stepan, “The servant of God partakes of the precious and all-holy body and blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, onto the forgiveness of sins and unto life everlasting,” held a deeper meaning, as having partaken they too felt resurrected this day, and fully alive.

As the Divine Liturgy concluded the faithful feeling energized and strengthened, came up to receive a blessing from Archbishop Daniel, who having blessed each person, exchanged a few words with them, and gifted them with a lovely icon, and prayer card. The icons represented various saints and angels. Kissing them reverently, the faithful held them close to their hearts as they made their way to the parish hall to enjoy a delicious lunch.

The hours wired away as the young children settled on the carpet and played with blocks, and the adults sat laughing and catching up on the latest news about family and friends. Throughout the afternoon His Eminence walked from table to table, getting to know his flock better, praying over them, bestowing blessings, and sharing hugs and words of encouragement. Having shared a pleasant afternoon, their bodies nourished, and their souls overflowing, the faithful began to depart for their homes. Their laughter echoed in the parking lot, as the last of the cars departed, leaving the golden domed church to bask in the setting sun. With such a rich and diverse congregation, the parish promises to be around for another century or more. May the Lord bless the parish of the Dormition of the Birth-Giver of God with many blessed, happy, and prosperous years!

Photos by Pani-matka Iryna Bilogan
On Sunday morning, Fr. Raphael drove His Eminence to St. Mary Dormition Ukrainian Orthodox Church located in Jones City, Oklahoma, to be welcomed by the faithful of the parish. St. Mary Church was founded in 1918 by Ukrainian immigrants who entered the United States through the port of Galveston, Texas. They then travelled by train to the farming community of Britton, Oklahoma, to be welcomed by St. Mary parishioners Pamuka and Irma Gomarteli and their children in Norman, Oklahoma. The Gomarteli family are from the Republic of Georgia, therefore, it was not surprising to find many Georgians, many of whom are members of St. Mary parish, joining them for dinner.

Before sitting down to the meal, the Lord’s Prayer was recited in Ukrainian. With final renditions of each nation’s anthem, the following morning, Fr. Stepan and panimatka Iryna Bilogan, as well as Archimandrite Raphael Moore.

The Divine Liturgy was served by Archbishop Daniel, concelebrated by Fr. Stepan and Archimandrite Raphael. The clergy were assisted by Subdeacon Robby Wall and several altar servers. Afterwards, the ladies of the sisterhood prepared a delightful lunch, the faithful began to depart for their homes, as His Eminence, along with the Parish Council members, retreated to the church for a short meeting.

After the meeting, Archbishop Daniel visited Emily Tucker who is recuperating from a recent fall. Pani Emily is the very last member of the original group of Ukrainians who settled the state. She recently fell at her assisted-living apartment and is temporarily residing at a rehabilitation hospital in Midwest City, while undergoing physical therapy. Her face lit up as His Eminence entered her room, and everyone gathered around her, expressing their joy at seeing her recovering from her injuries. Vladyka Daniel prayed over her, asking that God grant her a speedy and complete recovery. Emily joined in and recited the Lord’s Prayer in Ukrainian. With final smiles and blessings, the little party departed, but, Emily smiled well into the evening, her soul rejoicing at the visit of her hierarch and friends.

His Eminence took the opportunity to meet with the clergy and discuss items concerning the parish and make plans for a bright future. Archbishop Daniel also shared news of the UOC of the USA, and updated the clergy on the situation in Ukraine.

Later that afternoon, His Eminence visited the community of Britton, where he was able to meet with numerous Orthodox priests serving in the Oklahoma City area. Archbishop Daniel was greeted by several Antiochian, Greek, ROCOR, and UOC of the USA clergy. They met at the “Zero Tolerance Coffee and Chocolate Shop,” a business owned by St. Mary Church parish members, the Baker family. Maura Baker, currently serves as St. Mary Parish Council President, and all four of their sons serve as readers or acolytes. The oldest son, Roman, is serving in the U.S. Navy, and is stationed in Bahrain. The afternoon hours wiled away in light banter, as well as deep theological discussions, as brother priests from various jurisdictions met together in fellowship and in the love of Christ. The day ended with a delicious dinner served at the home of St. Mary parishioners Pamuka and Irma Gomarteli and their children in Norman, Oklahoma. The Gomarteli family are from the Republic of Georgia, therefore, it was not surprising to find many Georgians, many of whom are members of St. Mary parish, joining them for dinner.

His Eminence had gotten to know the parishioners, the local clergy, and the wonderful people of Oklahoma City. The faithful of St. Mary Church look forward to the next, hopefully longer, visit of Archbishop Daniel soon.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora, arrived in Oklahoma City late on Saturday, the ninth of October, 2021, and was welcomed to the state by Very Rev. Stepan and Panimatka Iryna Bilogan, as well as Archimandrite Raphael Moore.

The people had prayed together with their hierarch, spent time talking with him and sharing stories. His Eminence had gotten to know the parishioners, the local clergy, and the wonderful people of Oklahoma City. The faithful of St. Mary Church look forward to the next, hopefully longer, visit of Archbishop Daniel soon.
At the beginning of the fall semester of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary, the first- and second-year students of the full time academic program accompanied their teacher Pani Nelia, on an introductory tour of the St. Sophia Seminary Library. The Library tour was conducted by the Librarian, Dobrodijka Oksana Pasakas, and assisted by long-time Library assistant Pani Liudmila Bezsoniw. The Library tour introduced the students to the holdings of our Library: where they would be able to find theological books, Ukrainian fiction, history, music, the reference section, calendars and almanacs, periodicals, books and materials pertaining to the Holodomor (man-made Famine in Ukraine in 1932-33), commemorative books from parishes and Ukrainian-American organizations, and much more. During the tour, the students were shown the online catalog, which is updated on a weekly basis with new donations that have come to the Library.

Resources at our St. Sophia Seminary Library play a vital role in the education of the students at the Seminary. Our circulating library continually updates its holdings to include books utilized by the students for the classes, term papers, and additional reading material "for fun". Near the end of the tour, students began to wander off and settling in stacks that were of interest to them: some flipped through old almanacs and calendars of the UOC of USA, another grabbed his first book to check out of the Library, and another began opening up boxes of liturgical sheet music.

If you would like to support the Library at the Seminary, you may do so by making a financial donation or by donating books and other resources. For more information, contact the Library by calling 732-356-0090, ext. 120 or by emailing Dobrodijka Oksana at library@stsuots.edu.

Come one and all!
You’re invited to the 75th UOL Convention!


It’s time to renew those old friendships! Time to make some new friendships! It’s just time to start doing UOL items again! The convention theme “In the Beginning” will take you back to the beginning of the UOL with wonderful memories and give us the “beginnings” for the next 75 years of the UOL. The convention committee has some wonderful events planned to take you through all the years and “for all ages”! We can not wait to welcome you to Carnegie & Pittsburgh!

Wednesday Night will be Hospitality Night with some special treats to help make you feel right at home! If you know anything about Sts. Peter & Paul in Carnegie, you know we “love” to feed people anyway we can! The evening is a great way to catch up with your UOL friends and share memories. Bring pictures to show and stories to tell people, you never know how ideas start! (Think front porch of ASC Dining Hall and everyone sitting around and talking!)

Thursday Night we will have you dancing and remembering Thru the Decades! The evening will have a cocktail hour, dinner and desserts that were popular from each decade! We hope you will come dressed in clothing from YOUR favorite decade! Still have your grunge or poodle skirt? What about that victory suit or bell bottom pants? Tables and favors will be “decked” out to the “Decades” to reflect the periods. You will be able to dance to all the sounds from Big Band to Punk Rock to Rock’n’roll and much more!

Friday Night is a special Ukrainian Christmas in July event. Some special eight-legged friends might be visiting us to share their Christmas Story! The Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Group will be around to provide a new Christmas Show to everyone. Of course, the evening will not be complete without ‘caroling’, so make sure you bring your voices to sing!

Saturday Night of course will be the Grand Banquet and Ball celebrating the UOL’s birthday of 75 years! The theme for the night will be of the 1940’s design with all the elegance. A jazz band will start the night during the cocktail hour and dinner. Afterwards you will be able
to dance the night away to the fabulous sounds of “ZIRKA” from Canada! Make sure you bring your dancing shoes!

**Sunday** will be the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at our parish, St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Mansfield Blvd in Carnegie. Here’s a special note; **WE WILL HAVE AIR CONDITIONING IN THE CHURCH THIS DAY FOR YOUR COMFORT!** After the service, everyone is invited to our Parish Hall for the **Farewell Brunch**. (The parish hall is air conditioned too!) There you will enjoy a fabulous sampling of food that will make you wish the convention wasn’t ending! Which the convention isn’t ending, as the memories will always be there, and new ones are “just beginning”.

The convention itself will be held at the **Hilton Double Tree in Greentree** and the rooms will be $99.00 a night! Look for more information on the hotel, convention events, packet information and other exciting happenings will be available in upcoming news information and on our Website, Facebook & Instagram Pages.

Make sure you follow us on our sites as we also have some fun and exciting convention fundraising opportunities you can participate in, and you don’t have to be local to Carnegie or the Pittsburgh Area either! Our Sure Tip Raffles continually change, and you can play along by visiting this link [https://orthodoxcarnegie.org/75thsuretipraffles](https://orthodoxcarnegie.org/75thsuretipraffles) or following along on our Facebook page. See you soon in Carnegie!
CABBAGE ROLL CASSEROLE

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1
Preheat oven to 350° F. Lightly coat a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with cooking spray.

Step 2
Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add ground beef and onion; cook, stirring, until the beef is no longer pink, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in broth, tomato sauce, rice, 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper; bring to a simmer. Cover, reduce heat to maintain a simmer and cook, stirring once or twice, until the rice is tender, about 17 minutes (the mixture will be a little saucy). Uncover and remove from heat.

Step 3
Meanwhile, heat the remaining 2 tablespoons oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add cabbage, dill, crushed red pepper and the remaining 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper. Cook, stirring, until the cabbage is just tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Remove from heat.

Step 4
Spread half the cabbage in the bottom of the prepared baking dish. Top with half the beef mixture then half the cheese. Repeat with the remaining cabbage, beef mixture and cheese. Bake until hot and the cheese has melted and started to brown, about 25 minutes.

INGREDIENTS:

3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
1 pound lean ground beef
1 cup chopped onion
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 cups low-sodium chicken or beef broth
1 (15 ounce) can no-salt-added tomato sauce
1 cup long-grain white rice
1/2 teaspoon salt, divided
1/2 teaspoon ground pepper, divided
8 cups chopped green cabbage (1 1/4 pounds)
2 teaspoons dried dill
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
1 1/2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD - POKROVA

Once upon a time, in the 10th century, on October 1 (October 14 according to the modern calendar) the ancient city of Constantinople was being attacked by pagans. All the faithful ran to the Blachernae Church, where the many relics of the Mother of God were being kept, such as her robe, veil, and part of her belt. With the war raging outside, the people knelt and prayed unceasingly for the Virgin Mary to intercede before her Son on their behalf and save them.

Near 4 o’clock in the morning, St. Andrew “the Blessed Fool for Christ”, who was also present and praying for salvation, looked up and saw the dome of the church open and the Virgin Mary come down from heaven, surrounded by angels and saints. She came down and knelt, and prayed fervently for all the Christians of the world. She asked Christ, her Son, to accept the prayers of the people who were calling upon Him, and asking for her assistance. Having finished her prayers, she walked to the altar and continued to pray, then she turned and spread her veil over all the people in the church, covering them with her protection.

St. Andrew turned to his student, St. Epiphanius, and asked if he had seen the Virgin Mary praying for all the world? His student nodded, replying, that yes, he too had seen her and was amazed.

At that moment the attacking army became confused, and were easily defeated, and all the people were saved.

Eatingwell.com/Carolyn Casner
ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Where had the people gathered?

2. What was happening outside that they were hiding from?

3. Whom did they ask for help?

4. What was found in that church?

5. Who came to help?

6. What did she do?

7. Which saint was present and saw these things with his eyes?

8. What is the name of the church where all this happened?


may god grant to them many happy and blessed years!

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony 10/6/1985
(Episcopal Ordination)

V. Rev. Taras Naumenko 10/1/1995
Rev. John Charest 10/1/2017
Rev. Borislav Kroner 10/9/2010
V. Rev. Bohdan Kalynyuk 10/14/1989
Rev. Silouan Rolando 10/18/2009
Rev. Ivan Tchopko 10/21/2018
V. Rev. Richard Hawrish 10/30/1982
Protodn. Anthony Szwez 10/19/2003
Dn. Paul Neal 10/22/2017

Do not just read the pages of the Bible and Holy Scripture, but live the pages, allowing them to lead you along the path towards God and salvation.
— Archbishop Daniel

Не просто читайте сторінки Біблії та Святої Письма, а живіть сторінками, дозволяючи їм вести вас шляхом до Бога та спасіння.
— Архієпископ Ярослав

MEMORY ETERNAL!

OCTOBER

23 October 1973 - Archbishop Hennadij (Shyprykevich)
2nd 1952 - PRIEST STEFAN MOSIYCHUK
9th 1960 - PROTOPRESBYTER VASYL WARWARIW
22nd 1963 - PROTOPRIEST JOHN ZAYATZ
19th 1966 - PROTOPRIEST MYKOLA CZERNIAWSKY
8th 1975 - PROTOPRIEST MICHAEL KOCHANSKY
15th 1976 - PRIEST GEORGE YAHODSKY
24th 1979 - PRIEST THEODORE BORECKY
8th 1981 - PRIEST BORIS ARJUCZUK
20th 1985 - PROTOPRIEST LEW OPOKA
17th 1988 - PROTODEACON YURIJ KORSUN
16th 1992 - PROTOPRESBYTER JOHN DANYLEVICH
19th 2003 - ARCHIMANDRITE ANASTASIJE
5th 2004 - PROTOPRESBYTER PAUL HRYNYSHYN
9th 2004 - PROTOPRESBYTER SERHIJ NEPREL
3rd 2005 - PROTOPRESBYTER THEODORE FOROSTY
28th 2006 - PROTOPRIEST MYKOLA NEWMERZYCKYJ
11th 2007 - PRIEST WOLODYMYR BOROWSKY
30th 2014 - PROTODEACON JOSEPH HOTROVICH
14th 2015 - PROTOPRIEST ANATOLIY DOKHVAT
In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds us that we need to be
"transformed by the renewal of our mind."
So every day, little by little, we need to change our way of thinking. We need to try and think more like God does, trying to do what God wants, not what we want.

- Archbishop Daniel

У своєму листі до Римлян святий Павло нагадує нам, що ми повинні бути «перетворені оновленням нашого розуму».
Тож щодня, потроху, нам потрібно змінювати спосіб мислення. Нам потрібно намагатися думати більше, як робить Бог, намагаючись робити те, що хоче Бог, а не те, що ми хочемо.

- Архієпископ Даниил

OUR LIFE IS A JOURNEY TOWARDS HEAVEN...
This journey is not always easy but we need to seek out Christ in our ordinary life - in our families, in our work, in the people that we meet.

- Archbishop Daniel

НАШЕ ЖИТТЯ - ЦЕ ПОДОРОЖ ДО НЕБА...
Ця подорож не завжди легка, але нам постійно потрібно шукати Христа у нашому звичайному житті - у наших сім’ях, у нашій роботі, у людях, яких ми щоденно зустрічаємо.

- Архієпископ Даниил
During Great Lent, participate in prayerful and penitential liturgical services!

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ΑΚΑΘΙΣΤ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑΟΥ

CHRIST

AKATHIST OF THE PASSION OF

CHRIST

During Great Lent, participate in prayerful and penitential liturgical services!

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$20

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Service Books | Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Language: English Hardcover: 663 pages The Apostol book contains all of the New Testament following the Gospels, except Revelation. The book contains appendices which give the various prokeimena, Alleluia verses and readings for a given day of the year, along with additional information for vigil rank saints and Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God.

www.uocofusa.org
NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS У ЛИСТОПАДІ СВЯТКУЄМО

5
Holy Apostle James the Brother of the Lord
Апостола Якова, брата Господня по плоти

21
Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the other Bodiless Powers
Собор Архистратига Михаїла і інших Небесних Сил безтільних

6
Demetrious Memorial Saturday
Димитрієва поминальна субота

26
St. John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople
Свт. Іоан Золотоустого, архиєп. Константинопольського

8
Holy and Glorious Great-martyr Demetrios of Thessalonica
Вмч. Димитрія Солунського

27
Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip - Beginning of Philip’s Fast-Advant
Апостола Пилипа - Початок Пилипівки

9
St. Nester the Chronicler of the Kyiv Caves
Прп. Нестора Літописця, Печерського, в Ближніх печерах

29
Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew
Апостола і евангеліста Матвія

10
Ven. Job of Pochaiv
Прп. Іова, ігумена Почаївського

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October 14

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Jan 25 - Feb 6 2022

Demetrius Saturday
November 6

Save the Date SOBOR
2022

Thanksgiving
November 25

UOCofUSA uocofusa.org

Start of Philip’s Fast (Advent)
November 27

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