# PRAYER FOR WARRIORS AND VICTIMS OF WAR

Great God, Almighty God! We, Your sinful children, with humble hearts, bow our heads before You. Father! Forgive us our sins, and the sins of our parents, grandparents, and ancestors. Accept this day, we beseech You, our sincere prayers and gratitude for Your infinite mercy upon us. Hear our prayers and accept the supplication of our hearts. Bless our ancestral homeland Ukraine, grant victory over her adversaries, wisdom, and good fortune. Oh, Gracious Lord, grant mercy to all who turn to You in supplication.

We beseech You, God, on behalf of all warriors and defenders, our brothers and sisters, widows, orphans, the crippled and the weak, for those who are oppressed and imprisoned, for those suffering difficulties, for refugees, and all those who are in need of Your mercy and help. Unite us all into one large Christian family, so that all the people of Ukraine, through our unity and victory may glorify Your majestic Name always, now, and forever, unto ages of ages. Amen.

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TO THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH,

MAY THE GRACE AND PEACE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, TOGETHER WITH OUR PRAYER,
BLESSING AND FORGIVENESS BE WITH YOU ALL

We glorify the God in Trinity, who has once again guided us as Church to the venerable and blessed period of Holy and Great Lent, the arena of physical and spiritual discipline and ascetic struggle, in order to prepare ourselves in a manner according to Christ and journey in humility to the Holy and Great Week and life-giving Resurrection of the Lord.

Ascetic discipline is of course not only a feature of Holy and Great Lent; nor is it solely a matter of concern and obligation to monastics; nor again is it a result of external influence on the Christian ethos, a foreign element in our devotional life. Asceticism belongs to the core of Christian existence and the life of the Church. It constitutes a calling by Christ to His faithful and a witness of His saving presence in our lives. As believers, we do not address an impersonal or inaccessible God, but the incarnate Word that revealed the love of God the Father and, through the Holy Myrrh, which, by the grace of God, we will officiate at this year during Holy Week at our Sacred Center. This blessed and “divinely efficacious” oil of the “Eucharist of Myrrh” transmits the diverse sanctification of the Holy Myrrh, which, by the grace of God, we will officiate at this year during Holy Week at our Sacred Center. This blessed and “divinely efficacious” oil of the “Eucharist of Myrrh” transmits the diverse

Sacred Mysteries – as well as for the divinely inspired presence in the world and witness of the gift of grace and hope that lies in us. The character of the Holy Spirit as “force of communion” is also manifested in the way that the Holy Myrrh is prepared by boiling ingredients offered by the local Orthodox Churches as well as in the place of its blessing within the eucharistic assembly, immediately following the sanctification of the Holy Gifts, but equally in the other church uses of Holy Myrrh, such as the chrismation of heterodox and lapsed entering the Church, the consecration of churches and holy altars, antimensions, and so forth.

Throughout these days, the pious people of Ukraine carry their own weighty Cross, as they suffer the unspeakable abuses of an unprovoked, irrational and hostile war, which propagates pain and death. Co-suffering with our tested brethren and children, we intensify our supplication to the Lord of mercy and God of peace, unto the immediate cessation of this conflict and the prevalence of justice and peace, which are a foretaste of the redeemed joy of the Resurrection.

This selfsame salvific truth of the Orthodox faith, piety and spirituality is also emphasized by the event of the sanctification of the Holy Myrrh, which, by the grace of God, we will officiate at this year during Holy Week at our Sacred Center. This blessed and “divinely efficacious” oil of the “Eucharist of Myrrh” transmits the diverse gifts and manifold charisms of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Chrismation upon the newly-illumined “heavenly citizen” for strength and participation in the life of the Church – and foremost the communion of the Sacred Mysteries – as well as for the divinely inspired presence in the world and witness of the gift of grace and hope that lies in us. The character of the Holy Spirit as “force of communion” is also manifested in the way that the Holy Myrrh is prepared by boiling ingredients offered by the local Orthodox Churches as well as in the place of its blessing within the eucharistic assembly, immediately following the sanctification of the Holy Gifts, but equally in the other church uses of Holy Myrrh, such as the chrismation of heterodox and lapsed entering the Church, the consecration of churches and holy altars

Nothing in the life of the believer is fragmentary or an end in itself. Life in Christ is holistic and undivided. Repentance, humility, prayer, fasting, good deeds – all of these are intertwined and orient the believer to the Eucharist of the Church, the eschatological mystery of the Kingdom. Ascetic struggles are the beginning, the “narrow gate” that leads us to the Holy of Holies. In our tradition, there is never “asceticism for the sake of asceticism.” Ascetic discipline is always a journey; it is fulfilled when it becomes part of the Church, when it leads us to communion of the Sacred Mysteries, which in turn incorporate us into the movement of the Church toward the Kingdom. Let us remind you of the example of St. Mary of Egypt, who is honored on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. After forty years of harsh ascetic struggle and unceasing prayer, she sought to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ from the hands of St. Zosimas in full knowledge that Holy Communion is the source of life and medicine of immortality. In the same vein, the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church (Crete, 2016), which described fasting as “a great spiritual feat” and “the expression par excellence of the ascetic ideal of the Orthodox Church,” emphasizes that “the true fast affects the entire life in Christ of the faithful and is crowned by their participation in divine worship, particularly in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist” (The Importance of Fasting and its Observance Today, § 1 and 3).

There is no Orthodox spirituality without participation in the Divine Eucharist, through which as believers we become one body, a communion of persons, the community of life, participants of the “common salvation” in Christ the Savior, who is the “common good.” Therefore, fasting is submission and obedience to the rule of the Church, a communal experience. Holy and Great Lent is an invitation for us to discover the Church as a place and way of sanctification and sanctity, as a foretaste and image of the splendid radiance, of the fullness of life and of the complete joy in the eschatological Kingdom. Experientially and theologically it is impossible for us to comprehend the spirit of Holy and Great Lent if we do not perceive it as a journey toward Pascha. The entire period of fasting preserves the “paschal perception” of life. Gloomy asceticism is a perversion of the Christian experience; it is the ignorance of the imminent grace and future Kingdom; it is life “as if Christ never came,” without expectation of the “resurrection of the dead” and of “life in the age to come.”

This spirit was the experience of the Fast before Pascha in the early Church, where it was a time when the catechumens prepared for Holy Baptism during the Divine Liturgy on the night of Resurrection. Even when, later, the catechetical nature of this period of fasting was replaced by the ethos of repentance, the experience of “repentance” as a “second baptism” was nevertheless preserved and remains as the existential disposition that leads us once more to the paschal eucharistic fullness of ecclesiastical life, to the home of the Father, to the communion of the Holy Spirit. In this case, too, the “lifting of the cross” comprises the way to the ineffable joy of the Resurrection.

With these sentiments, as we pray that the arena of fasting will prove smooth and our journey toward the Lord’s Pascha will be unimpeded, we invoke upon you – our most honorable brothers in Christ and beloved children of the Mother Church of Constantinople throughout the world – the life-giving grace and great mercy of Christ our God, who forever blesses the ascetic achievements of His people.

+ BARTHOLOMEW

Your fervent supplicant for all before God
Нехай благодать й мир від Господа і Спаса Нашого Ісуса Христа,
З цими почуттями, бажаючи, щоб арена посту була гладкою і наша подорож до Пасхи Господньої була
підготовлена у спосіб гідний Христа і прямувати у смиренні до Святого і Великого тижня і животворного
Воскресіння Господнього.

Цей дух був досвідом посту перед Пасхою в ранній Церкві, де це був час, коли оглашень готувалися до
Свято Хрещення яке відбувалося під час Божественної Літургії в ніч Воскресіння. Навіть коли згодом
катехетична природа цього періоду посту була замінена етосом покаяння, досвід «покаяння» як «другого
реформування» все ж зберігся і залишається екзистенційним настроєм, який знову веде нас до параклісової
євхаристійної повноти церковного життя, до дому Отця, до причастя Святого Духа. І в цьому випадку
ідея спасення, забезпечення спасу від безумовної смерті через причастність до таїнства Святого Духу, до
сукупності святого престолу, антимінсів, і інших.

Немає православної духовності без участі в Божественній Євхаристії, завдяки якій ми як віруючі стаємо
одним тілом, єдностю осіб, спільнотою життя, учасниками «загального спасіння» у Христі Спасителя, який
є «загальним благом». Отже, піст – це підпорядкування та послух правилу Церкви, спільне переживання.
Святий і Великий Піст є для нас запрошенням віднайти Церкву як місце і шлях освячення і святості, як
передмисл і образ чудового сяйва, повноти життя і повної радості у есхатологічному Царстві. Дослідно
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є перекрученням християнського досвіду: «так незначення неминучої благодаті й майбутнього Царства; це
життя, «наче Христос ніколи не прийшов», без очікування «воскресіння мертвих» і життя в майбутньому.

Це ж спасивши істину православної віри, благочестя і духовності підкреслити і події освячення Святої Мира, яку
ми з благодаттю Божою звершували цього року у нашому сакральному центрі на Страсному тиждень. Цей благословення і
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що включає і прийнято в екрологічному Царстві, а також в інших церковних вжитках Святого Мира, як
ізбраність, антимінсів, інших.

Благочестивий український народ у ці дні несе свій важкий хрест, зазнаючи невимовних страждань
неспокійної та ірраціональної наступальної війни, що поширює біль і смерть. Співстраждаючи нашим
випробуванням браттям і чадам, ми посилюємо наші молитви до Господа милосердя і Бога миру за негайне
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His All-Holiness, Patriarch of Constantinople, BARTHOLMEW has profoundly expressed in his message to the world for Holy and Great Lent 2022: “Experientially and theologically it is impossible for us to comprehend the spirit of Holy and Great Lent if we do not perceive it as a journey toward Pascha. The entire period of fasting preserves the ‘paschal perception’ of life. Gloomy asceticism is a perversion of the Christian experience; it is the ignorance of the imminent grace and future Kingdom; it is life ‘as if Christ never came,’ without expectation of the ‘resurrection of the dead’ and of ‘life in the age to come.’”

For too many of us, Great Lent has, indeed, become just that “gloomy asceticism”, which prohibits so many from comprehending PASCHA as the culmination of all our life. If we fast “because we’re supposed to” or “because that’s what Babusya did” accepting a burdensome tradition, without a paschal expectation in life, then it truly is a perversion of the Christian experience. Can we possibly allow ourselves to live our life as though Christ never came, never offered Himself up for our salvation, never rose from the dead and that there is no hope for an age to come? This truly would be gloom followed by death and nothing more.

Great Lent must be perceived as a positive opportunity to fit our life into the framework of the reality of Pascha. It must be a time of serious contemplation about the ways we fail to reflect the Light and the Power of the Resurrection through our own being life around us. We must determine not only the need to reposition ourselves in order reflect fully, but to take the necessary steps to do so. This is a challenge and when we begin to experience the great benefits resulting from our acceptance of that challenge, the gloom we may be experiencing suddenly begins to fade away.

Among the first of such steps is a need for a real increase in our prayer and fasting efforts. Here there is no better way to begin than the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian, which, if we pray it at some point each day and during the Liturgical Services of Great Lent, contemplating each word we say when the prayer is complete, will open the way to real personal spiritual depth during the Lenten season:

O Lord and Master of my life, take away from me the spirit of laziness, lust for power, idle talk and despair. Give me rather, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love. Yes, Lord and King, grant that I may see my own sins and judge not my brother; for blessed are You, unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

We pray for you all each day and have, most importantly throughout the pandemic that has sohorribly affected so many of our lives. We will continue to do so during this Great Lent and all our lives. We presently have, as you all know, a further obligation in our prayers and fasting – the invasion of our beloved Ukraine by the Russian Federation. It is nearly impossible to believe that after 30 years of independence recognized by all nations of the world, we return in our prayers to utilizing the words “our long-suffering Ukraine” in beseeching God’s intercession to bring the carnage to an end. Please, please, dearly beloved, offer additional prayer and fasting for the safety, protection and healing of our brothers and sisters under attack and those who have been forced to flee from the aggression.

In addition, we will pray in gratitude for the world-wide reaction in support of the Ukrainian people and the nation. We are not speaking of and expression of “thoughts and prayers”. Rather, the world is reaching out diligently in offering physical, financial and most of all medical support to Ukraine, beyond all expectation. European nations are welcoming refugees from all over Ukraine without any restrictions and providing for their every need. This is the will of God, and we thank all who have stepped forth.

As we have prayed fervently for weeks now in all our parishes, we beseech our Heavenly Father to send forth his legions of angels, commanded by the Patron of the City of Kyiv, Archangel Michael, to crush the aggression of those who would destroy Ukraine and her people.

May the Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

In our Lord’s All-Encompassing Love,

+ ANTONY
By the Grace of God, Metropolitan

+ JEREMIAH
By the Grace of God, Archbishop

+ DANIEL
By the Grace of God, Archbishop
Його Всесвятість Константинопольський Патріарх Варфоломій у своєму глибокому посланні на Святий і Великий піст 2022 року, звернувся до всього світу зі словами: «Дослідно і по-богословському нам неможливо осягнути дух Святого і Великого посту, якщо не сприймати його як подорож до Пасхи. Весь період посту зберігає «пасхальне сприйняття» життя. Похмурий аскетизм є перекрученням християнського досвіду; це незнання неминучої благодаті й майбутнього Царства; це життя, «як від Христос ніколи не прийшов», без очікування «воскресіння мертвих» і «життя в майбутньому».

Для багатьох із нас Великий Піст став лише «похмурою практикою аскетизму», яка забороняє багатьох зрозуміти Пасху як кульмінацію всього нашого життя. Якщо ми постимо тільки «тому, що ми повинні» або «тому, що так робила Бабуся» то ми приймаємо на себе лише якусь традицію, без пасхального очікування в житті. Ми повинні визначити для себе не лише необхідність змінити себе, але прийняти необхідні для цього кроки, щоб повністю їх відобразити у нашому житті. Це є безумовно викликом, але коли ми починаємо відчувати користь від того, що ми прийняли на себе цей виклик, то похмурість, яку ми можемо відчути спочатку - починає зникати. Одним із перших таких кроків є необхідність примноження наших намагань у молитві та пості. Тут немає кращого способу розпочати, ніж молитва преподобного Єфрема Сиріна, яка, якщо ми її молимося кожного дня та під час Літургії у часі Великого Посту, і роздумуємо над кожним її словом, то після цієї молитви, відчувати користь від того, що ми прийняли на себе цей виклик.

Ми молимося за Вас усіх кожен день і продовжували молитися протягом пандемії, котра залишила жахливі наслідки для багатьох з нас. Ми продовжуватимемо це робити під час цього Великого Посту та по всі дні нашого життя. На даний момент, як ви всі знаєте, ми маємо ще один обов’язок у наших молитвах і пості, причиною – є вторгнення Російської Федерації у нашу любу Україну. У цей час ми діємо з одного боку безпеки інших, а з іншого боку захищаємо свої інтереси, права й свободи нації й нації.

Господи від гарячого життя моєго, душі моя, не пускайте мене у ночі, бо моя душа є моєю життям.

У Всесвяточній Любові Нашого Господа,
+ АНТОНІЙ
З благодаті Божої, Митрополит
+ СРЕМІЯ
З благодаті Божої, Архієпископ
+ ДАНИЙЛ
З благодаті Божої, Архієпископ
As the dark sullen clouds slowly sailed across the sky, the bells of the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in the Spiritual Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, in South Bound Brook, NJ, began to slowly toll the hour. Inside the memorial building, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, turned to open the Royal Gates and begin the Divine Liturgy.

A quick glance around the nave made it evident that today something extraordinary was taking place. As faithful crowded in, they found a spot to stand, while each holding a small poster with the photo, name, and description of one of the fallen heroes of Ukraine’s Revolution of Dignity, which occurred in the Maidan of Kyiv, in February of 2014.

As the Divine Liturgy began, the voices of Archbishop Daniel, Very Rev. Fr. Yuryi Siwko, Very Rev. Fr. Ivan Lysnyk, Rev. Fr. Andri Drapak and Rev. Fr. Mykola Zomchak, echoed inside the tall walls of the church, the petitions to God holding a deeper meaning today.

“For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.”

Peace and unity, and the stability of the Holy Church of God, were at the forefront of the revolution eight years ago, and now the peace in Ukraine is challenged by the aggression of the Russian Federation. Eight years ago, the entire situation arose when then President Yanukovych of Ukraine, announced the suspension of plans to have Ukraine join the European Union, in exchange for a pro-Russian agenda. The people, who yearned for freedom, poured out onto the streets to calmly demonstrate against the government, which was acting against the interest of the populace, in favor of a few. Three months later, security forces mounted attacks on the peaceful protesters gathered on Maidan Square in central Kyiv, mercilessly killing the unarmed individuals, most of whom were shot by hired snipers. These fallen heroes, who gave their life defending freedom, are now lovingly known as the “Heavenly Hundred.”

“For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.”

The day’s Gospel Reading, in preparation for Great Lent, was the Parable of the Prodigal Son. In his sermon, Archbishop Daniel explained that salvation is attained through spiritual accountability, maturity, humility and faith.

It is through the simple displays of faith, getting on our knees in our icon corners, bemoaning our sinful natures, and asking the Lord’s forgiveness as did the Prodigal Son in today’s Gospel Reading, that we can attain salvation. For even if we follow all the stipulations of the Faith — fasting, tithing, praying... if we do not do it earnestly, from a pure heart, humble, and standing only in judgement of ourselves, and not others, the Lord will not accept our prayers. We need to be like the Tax Collector, like the Prodigal Son, and having reviewed our life, realizing the sins we have committed, humbly, and meekly ask the Lord to forgive us, and to strengthen us so we can abstain from future sins.

Before concluding, Archbishop Daniel brought everyone’s attention to the faces of the Heavenly Hundred which were found around the church. He stated that these individuals’ lives were cut short due to human greed, and a pharisaical outlook on life. The same attitude of “I am better than him” is behind much of the evil in the world.

As Ukrainians, it is our duty to remember the souls who gave up their lives in an attempt to cement freedom for their loved ones. While the world remembers numerous genocides, wars, famines, and holocausts, the crimes perpetrated against the Ukrainian nation and her people, are all too often erased from history, or rewritten. While we work to ensure these tragedies do not reoccur, we must always ensure the historic truth is preserved.

Eight years after the Maidan, Ukraine is still engaged in a real war with Russia, which illegally seized Crimea and continues a simmering conflict in the eastern region of the Donbas. These actions go against any number of treaties and memorandums which were signed in good faith, and yet the world has turned a blind eye. The current war cannot be reduced to an internal disagreement, a civil war of sorts. If we do not remember, if we do not proclaim the truth, the truth will be obliterated before our very eyes. Therefore, His Eminence asked that we pray for these hundred souls, not just today, but, throughout the year, and let them remind us to be faithful to the truth, and to uphold the dignity of humanity, and the fight for freedom, not just in Ukraine, but world-wide.

As the Divine Liturgy continued, even though the faithful rejoiced in the Lord, the mood was melancholy, as they glanced around them at all the faces of those who had...
died to preserve their right for freedom. Later, approaching to partake of Holy Communion, the young children stopped to look at a particular photograph, or point to another one across the aisle... the young, too innocent to yet realize why these faces stood before them, were nonetheless mesmerized by the display, realizing from the demeanor of the adults around them that this was something special.

Nobody complained of aching feet as the service, already two hours long, continued after the Divine Liturgy, with the celebration of a Panakhyda (Memorial Service) for the peaceful repose of the souls of the Heavenly Hundred.

Tears flowed freely as seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary of the UOC of the USA, stood in the nave and began to sing “Plyve Katcha,” a song now synonymous with the Maidan. It is a lament. A sad retelling of a sacrifice.

“May their memory be eternal!” - the choir responded: MEMORY ETERNAL!

Dozens upon dozens of people were killed by snipers in Maidan on February 18th and 20th, 2014 and were buried and mourned in a mass funeral on February 21st, with this song being used to memorialize their lives.

The silence of the church was broken by the low melodic tone of the male voices humming the lament, as the deep voice of seminarian Andriy Akulenko sang out the refrain. Goosebumps arose on those who were standing with candles in the church, and those who were watching the service over the live broadcast via Facebook Live feed.

Trying to hold back tears proved futile, as memories of the images of that day arose in everyone’s mind... the innocents with nothing to defend themselves with against the violent onslaught of the riot police. Images of the unprovoked vicious and violent beatings... bodies dropping under the onslaught of sniper’s bullets... as the bells of the St. Michael’s Golden-Domed Monastery bells rang out in the middle of the night, waking the populace in an ancient medieval method of raising the alarm... four hours the bells rang, warning the people of the danger, raising them from their beds, and calling them to arms. Many of the injured fled to the monastery where they collapsed for the night, lying unconscious before the icons of the saints and angels who seemed to spread their wings over them, while the priests and monks stood in corners and prayed fervently throughout the night for peace. All these memories came flooding back and overflowed as tears at the injustices of this world.

The panakhyda continued with His Eminence praying for the souls of the departed, reading out each individual name, not only praying for them, but, acknowledging appreciation for their ultimate sacrifice.

“With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Thy servants, where there is no pain, nor any sorrow, nor is there any sighing, but life everlasting.”

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel added some incense to the censer and beginning in the front made his way around the church, censing the images of the faces of the departed souls... Once again, the faithful broke out in tears, as the incense formed clouds, enveloping them, and thinning the lines between the living and the dead, as they all stood together, humbled before the Lord.

Having concluded the solemn and heart-wrenching service, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony (who was in attendance) thanked all those who had joined in prayer, especially those who had joined via the Livestream from all over the world, while calling upon all people of good will to do everything in their power to stop the war in Ukraine.

Final words of the prayer service: “In a blessed falling-asleep, give rest eternal, O Lord, unto Thy departed servants, and make their memory to be eternal...” - the choir of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church (under the leadership of Dr. Michael Andrec) responded: MEMORY ETERNAL!


May their memory be eternal!

ВІЧНА ПАМ’ЯТЬ!

Photos by Subdeacon Voroslav Bilohan

Text by Elizabeth Symonenko
Присвячується до Вам, Боже христійської, всіх Ієрархів, духовенства та вірних Православної Церкви України в честь святіх пророків Іоанна Крістіані та Іллія Мудрий, що жили і благословляли своїх ближніх.

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urrection, Ієрархія України відзначає своє життя, свободу, гідність і права людини заради тих людей, які бажають мати право на мир і стабільність, які є відомими всім демократичними державами світу. Голос миролюбного народу України має бути потужним і його повинно всі планувати. Цей голос не може бути приглушенім тим, хто чи в політичній, чи в духовному напрямку є агресором і вирішує обмежувати та зловживати, використовуючи навіть в армії України та її народу.

Вірні нашій Церкві в США, Північній Америці та Ісландій мають коріння у усіх регіонах України. Наші рідні та други живуть на Сході та Захаді, Івано-Франківські, Львівські та Львівські Українці. Ми є частиною купринської добробуту, стабільності і безпеки наших людей, яким вони зможуть повідомити про підготовку епізодів та, які підлягають страти, у своєму, направленою в табори для «регуляторів» або тих, хто змушений змінити, оських загарбників притягує неповність взагалі під контроль усю нашою.

Українська Греко-католицька Церква в США, Північній Америці та Ісландій має коріння у усіх регіонах України. Наші рідні та други живуть на Сході та Захаді, Івано-Франківські, Львівські та Львівські Українці. Ми є частиною купринської добробуту, стабільності і безпеки наших людей, яким вони зможуть повідомити про підготовку епізодів та, які підлягають страти, у своєму, направленою в табори для «регуляторів» або тих, хто змушений змінити, оських загарбників притягує неповність взагалі під контроль усю нашою.

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The Hierarchs of the UOC of the USA
Send Letter of Support to the Primate
of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine

ІЕРАРХИ УПЦ США НАДІСЛАЛИ ЛИСТА
ПІДТРИМКИ ПРЕДСТАВНИЄМУ
ПРАВОСЛАВНОЇ ЦЕРКВИ УКРАЇНИ

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople
Metropolia Center – Office of the Consistory

† Antony, Metropolitan

† Daniel, Archbishop and Consistory President
V. Rev. Victor Wrotnyj, Vice-President
Ms. Elizabeth Symenko, Secretary
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Throughout Ukraine’s history, millions of people have given their lives for freedom, dignity and human rights, in order to claim the right to peace and stability as any other nation enjoys in the world. The voice of the peace-loving people of Ukraine must be heard and respected and it cannot be silenced by the noise of ammunition and actions of those in political and spiritual leadership positions who choose to confuse and abuse by utilizing violence – war, against the people of Ukraine.

The faithful of our Church in the USA and Diaspora are from the various parts of Ukraine. We all have family members and friends living in the East and West, North and South of Ukraine, and thus we are profoundly concerned for the wellbeing, stability, and security of the people of Ukraine that are threatened by the reports of the planned persecution and the crimes against humanity in Donbas region of Ukraine.

We join Your Beatitude, clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in prayer for the peace in the ancestral homeland for so many of Ukrainian Christians in the United States of America and throughout the globe. We are standing with you and offer our assistance in the battle against the war crimes against the people of Ukraine. No physical force will ever succeed in eliminating the free will and the voice of the citizens!

Embracing the gift of freedom with you, our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and throughout the world, and in the hope of moving forward, rather than backward in history, we beseech with awe and thanksgiving the Father of lights and every perfect gift, the Son of righteousness and the Spirit of truth to descend upon us all, embrace us, guiding and perfecting our every deed.

+Antony, Metropolitan

+Jeremiah, Archbishop

+Daniel, Archbishop
The Council of the Metropolia, meeting in its annual session on 24-25 February 2022, was profoundly saddened and affected by the unjustifiable and unlawful invasion of our beloved Ukraine – a sovereign and independent nation recognized as such by the entire world – by the armed forces of the Russian Federation at the direction of its President, Vladimir Putin. As justification for his (and his alone) decision to invade Ukraine, Mr. Putin presented a completely false version of history linking Kyivan-Rus (Ukraine) and Rosiya (English – Russia). He further accused the Ukrainian nation of anti-Semitism – Russia). He further accused the Russian government and its spiritual leaders who know this the consequences of the invasion – his desire to crush the ambitions of the Archangel Michael, the patron saint of Kyiv, to crush the ambitions of the aggressors. We condemn Mr. Putin for the decision to invade Ukraine, Mr. Putin – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – receive our prayerful petitions sending the legions of angels commanded by Archangel Michael, the patron saint of Kyiv, to crush the ambitions of the aggressors. Metropolitan Antony - Primate of the UOC of the USA Archbishop Daniel - President of the Consistory


Mr. Michael DOBRANSKY Ms. Olga DSKINSKA Ms. Alexandra KOCKeLO Dr. Paul MICEVYCH Mr. Howard WEST Ms. Elizabeth SYMONENKO Dr. Gayle WOLOSSHAK

Mrs. Karen FERRARO - UOL President Protodeacon Ihor MAHLAY - St. Andrew Society President

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

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

OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, LORD, ARE ONCE AGAIN THREATENED BY AGGRESSORS WHO SEEK TO DESTROY THE SOULS OF CHILDREN AND MARK THEM FOR DEATH. WE PRAY TO YOU TO FOLLOW THE PATH TO THE COMPLETE DOMINATION OF THE PRECIOUS LAND AND RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY OF UKRAINE. STRENGTHEN THE PEOPLE AS THEY FACE THIS GREAT DANGER, TURNING TO YOU IN THE IMMENSITY OF DEEP FAITH, TRUST AND LOVE THEY HAVE PLACED IN YOU ALL YOUR LIVES. SEND YOUR HEARTHEN LEGIONS, O LORD, COMMANDED BY THE PONTIFF OF KYIV, ARCHANGEL MICHAEL, TO CRUSH THE DESIRES OF THE AGGRESSOR WHOSE DESIRE IS TO ENGLORIFY YOUR PEOPLE.

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

Amend.

The Council of the Metropolia join citizens of the world in hundreds of cities, towns and villages throughout the world who have already gathered to manifest their prayers and support to the Ukrainian people. May our loving God in the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – receive our prayerful petitions sending the legions of angels commanded by Archangel Michael, the patron saint of Kyiv, to crush the ambitions of the aggressors.

We, members of the Council of the Metropolita, a sovereign and independent nation recognized as such by the entire world, by the armed forces of the Russian Federation at the direction of its President, Vladimir Putin. As justification for his (and his alone) decision to invade Ukraine, Mr. Putin presented a completely false version of history linking Kyivan-Rus (Ukraine) and Rosiya (English – Russia). He further accused the Ukrainian nation of anti-Semitism – Russia). He further accused the Russian government and its spiritual leaders who know this the consequences of the invasion – his desire to crush the ambitions of the Archangel Michael, the patron saint of Kyiv, to crush the ambitions of the aggressors. We condemn Mr. Putin for the decision to invade Ukraine, Mr. Putin – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – receive our prayerful petitions sending the legions of angels commanded by Archangel Michael, the patron saint of Kyiv, to crush the ambitions of the aggressors.

We condemn Mr. Putin for the invasion of our beloved Ukraine – a country recognized as such by the entire world, its people, its government, and the United Nations. We condemn the invasion, which violates international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and which is a flagrant violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. We condemn the illegal use of force by the Russian Federation, which has already resulted in the deaths of innocent Ukrainian civilians and the wounding of Ukrainian servicemen, and which has forced civilians to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighboring countries.

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Our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA Council of the Metropolia met on 24-25 February, 2022 at Metropolitan John (Theodoryych) Memorial Library for its annual budgetary sessions. The library is in the Consistory Administrative building in the Holie Eparchy Center in Somerset, NJ. This was the first "in-person" meeting of the Council since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, which should have been a joyful experience. Unfortunately, however, the invasion of Ukraine by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation began the day before the meeting opened. In this dark time of the world, who can understand the great sadness for the Council members, the meeting proceeded as planned opening with a Molieben to the Birth-Giver of God for her protection of the people – the nation – of Ukraine.

Before the Council moved into the scheduled topics of the day, a lengthy discussion ensued with the members asking Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel to share with them every bit of information they had about the conditions in Ukraine, especially regarding if and how the Ukrainian government and the population can face the overwhelming threat confronting them in a Russian army that so greatly exceeds their own and whose weapons seem so much more powerful, as well. Our hierarchs encouraged the Council members to remain positive in their outlook about the invasion. The people of Ukraine have powerful motivation because of their profound unity in opposition to the Russian Federation’s delusions about a “Russian World” or a recreated Soviet Union.

The Council of the Metropolia devoted a great deal of time to discussion about the ways it could support their brothers and sisters in Ukraine. The members were as surprised as most of the world about the level of the Ukrainian lgion’s defense during the first days of the invasion. They vowed to return to their home parishes, cities and towns to participate in any events that bring the truth to those communities about Ukraine, her people and the historical lies expounded by Vladimir Putin.

The Council did, after long discussions about Ukraine, effectively complete its planned agenda. Reports of all Consistory Officers, Offices of Ministry, Financial Officers, Audit Commission, St. Sophia Seminary, All Saints Camp, the Ukrainian Orthodox League, St. Andrew Society, the Guardians of the Metropolia, the Ukrainian History and Education Center, plans for the 23rd Regular Sobor in October, Inter-Church Relations (the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops, the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine), a very important discussion about our property management and future concerns and finally, the Budget in consideration of all the above. We have many issues on the horizon concerning the life of our Church. These will be presented to all parishes through their representatives – delegates to the 23rd Regular Sobor.

"The Council of the Metropolia, meeting in its annual session on 24-25 February 2022, was profoundly saddened and affected by the unjustifiable and unlawful invasion of our beloved Ukraine – a sovereign and independent nation recognized as such by the entire world – by the armed forces of the Russian Federation at the direction of its President, Vladimir Putin. As justification for his (and his alone) destruction of Ukrainian churches, homes, Mr. Putin presented a completely false version of history linking Kyivan-Rus (Ukraine) and Rosiya (English – Russia). He further accused the Ukrainian nation of anti-Semitism with plans to develop nuclear weapons, among other falsehoods. We condemn Mr. Putin for the complete lack of truth in every part of his justification and for the truth about his invasion – his desire to rebuild his belittled, but thoroughly failed Soviet Union. We condemn the silence of Russian government and government leaders who know this truth but by their silence condemn perhaps thousands or millions of innocent people to death or serious injury. This is nothing new for the people of the Russian Federation and/or the Soviet Union.

The history of Ukraine is replete with genocide and crimes against humanity committed by them against the population of Ukraine.

We strongly urge all members of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America and the Diaspora to share bold support for the people of Ukraine not only in prayers and thoughts, but to take to the streets demanding that their elected government officials seek every opportunity to support them with whatever they need to survive. We urge all members of our church and beyond to contribute to the fund-raising efforts on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church official website: ucofusa.org and on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA Facebook page. Every penny of donations received through these efforts will go to the aid of wounded armed forces members and their families, to those suffering the consequences of the invasion with destroyed churches, homes, and injuries and to those forced to become refugees in neighboring countries. We have the means and methods of providing this aid and we pray that it is plentiful.

We members of the Council of the Metropolia join citizens of the world in hundreds of cities, towns and villages throughout the world who have already gathered to manifest their prayers and support to the Ukrainian people. May our loving God in the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – receive our prayers. And may Archangel Michael, the patron saint of Kyiv, crush the ambitions of the aggressors."
абсолютну відсутність правди
планами розвитку ядерної
Націю в антисемітизмі з
Росію. Серед своєї брехні, він
Київську Русь (Україну) та
Путін представив абсолютно
рішення вторгнутися в Україну,
Виправданням свого власного
президента Володимира Путіна.
Федерації за вказівкою її
світом, піддається вторгненню
усім Україну, котра є суверенною
вторгненням у нашу дорогу і любу
невиправданим і незаконним
стурбована та вражена
25 лютого 2022 р. є глибоко
на щорічному засіданні 24-
«Рада Митрополії, яка зібралася
Собору.
через їхніх представників –
представлені всім парафіям
нашої Церкви. Усі вони будуть
викликів, які стосуються життя
сфері усіх діяльностей згаданих
Обговорили звичай і бюджет у
щодо управління нашим майном
Єпископів поза межами України).
Постійна Конференція
Православних Єпископів,
Патріархат , Асамблея Канонічних
Константинопольський
звіти щодо Міжцерковних
жовтні цього року, були заслухані
23-го Звичайного Собору у
Т акож був представлений план
Історико-Освітнього Центру.
Святого Андрія, та Українського
Православної Ліги, Т овариства
Т абору Всіх Святих, Української
для Українського Народу. Ми
можливі способи підтримки
виходити на вулиці та вимагати
лише в молитвах і думках, а й
підтримувати народ України не
людей, які цінують свободу,
Народу. Ми закликаємо всіх
сміливо виступити на підтримку
Південної Америки та Діаспори
Православної Церкви США,
Ми наполегливо закликаємо
населення України.
вчиненими Росією проти
та злочинами проти людства,
Чи Радянського Союзу. Історія
dля уряду Російської Федерації
знищенню. Ці події є нічим новим
тисячі чи навіть мільйони
лідерів, які знають цю істину,
російський уряд та її духовних
провалений Радянський Союз.
маючи за мету його вторгнення
церквами, будинками, а також
вторгнення отримуючи травми,
хто потерпає від наслідків
військовим та їхнім сім'ям, тим,
хто потерпає від наслідків
вторгнення отримуючи травми,
залишивши зі знищеннями
цирками, будинками, а також,
tим, хто зумівь стати
біженцями в сусідніх країнах. У
нам є засоби та методи надання
ці допомоги примножувалася.
біженцями в сусідніх країнах.

«Рада Митрополії, яка зібралась
на щорічному засіданні 24-
25 лютого 2022 р. є глибоко
стурбована та вражена
невиправданим і незаконним
вторгненням у нашу дорогу і любу
усім Україну, котра є суверенною
і незалежною державою, і
брудо визнаною такою усім світом,
pіддається вторгненню
біженцями в сусідні країнах.
вторгненням у нашу дорогу і любу
усім Україну, котра є суверенною
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брудо визнаною такою усім світом,
pіддається вторгненню
біженцями в сусідні країнах.

Ми, члени Ради Митрополії,
приділюємо до всього Людства
у різноманітних місцях по
всюй світі, які вже зібралися,
щоб піднести свої молитви та
поваги до Церкви та усіх охочих,
сприяти військовим та їхнім сім'ям,
хто потерпає від наслідків
вторгнення отримуючи травми,
завелички зі знищеннями
цирками, будинками, а також,
tим, хто зумівь стати
індустрії в сусідніх країнах.
нам є засоби та методи надання
ці допомоги примножувалася.

підтримати Український Народ.
щоб піднести свої молитви та
поваги до Церкви та усіх охочих,
сприяти військовим та їхнім сім'ям,
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вторгнення отримуючи травми,
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цирками, будинками, а також,
tим, хто зумівь стати
індустрії в сусідніх країнах.
нам є засоби та методи надання
ці допомоги примножувалася.

As a 17-mile-long convoy of Russian
tanks rumbled towards Kyiv, and
over 500,000 women and children
made their way west towards Poland
to escape death, leaving behind
their fathers, husbands, brothers,
and sons to defend Ukrainian
sovereignty, the people of New
candle lit in prayer, lit in memory,
lit in hope. Echoing the church,
the hundreds of people who had
gathered at the steps of the
St. Andrew Memorial Church to pray
for their safety and the sovereign
integration of their ancestral
homeland of Ukraine.

At 7 PM, as the church bells began
to slowly chime, His Eminence
Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch
of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church
of the USA and Diaspora, His
Eminenence Archbishop Daniel Ruling
Hierarch of the Western Eparchy
of Ukraine.

He smiled as he recalled all the
messages from her… but was
surprised to see that the messages
had been deleted. He immediately
got concerned; she had never deleted
messages before. Was she okay?
Had something happened?
He phoned her, and she answered
the phone from her basement,
where the family had retreated for
safety as the bombs fell nearby and the
house shook. She told him she had
sent them back in Ukraine, but now
the streets were empty and other
cities in Ukraine were destroyed and
impassible. Many homes are destroyed,
building demolished, innocent lives
shattered.

Everyone was moved as His
Eminence described his daily
communications with his mother.
He smiled as he recalled all the
texts, and funny clipart she sends
him daily. This morning he awoke
expecting to read the numerous
messages from her…but was
surprised to see that the messages
she had sent were labeled as having
been deleted. He immediately got
concerned; she had never deleted
messages before. Was she okay?
Had something happened?
He phoned her, and she answered
the phone from her basement,
where the family had retreated for
safety as the bombs fell nearby and the
house shook. She told him she had
sent them back in Ukraine, but now
the streets were empty and other
cities in Ukraine were destroyed and
impassible. Many homes are destroyed,
building demolished, innocent lives
shattered.
Silence spread like a blanket over the entire crowd as they fought back tears, feeling the mother’s pain, her concern, and her fear. She, and millions of other innocent people were hiding, running, fleeing for their lives, and fighting for their freedom.

We are standing outside today, because of an 18-year-old soldier stands in the cold outside in Mariupol in order to protect the lives of innocent people, who are trying to rest, hiding in their basements, in underground subway stations, wherever they can find shelter.

His Eminence stated that driving home to New Jersey from Youngstown, Ohio yesterday, he and the seminarians stopped at a small gas station along the way. The clerk who was standing outside overheard them speaking amongst themselves in Ukrainian and asked them what language they were speaking. When the Archbishop told her they were Ukrainians, she stood up and told them how sorry she was for what was happening in their country. She said that today, she is also Ukrainian, and that everyone is Ukrainian, as we all stand against tyranny. His Eminence shared that he, Fr. Stephen Hutnick had told him that driving to this evening prayer service through Delaware, every single electronic billboard along the way displayed, “Pray for Ukraine” or “Ukraine, we are with you”. We, the Ukrainians, are so grateful to the people of the United States, of New Jersey, of our local communities for their unwavering support. This evening we offer a fervent prayer service for the people and the nation of Ukraine. While we pray for the safety of the living, we also remember those who have already lost their lives, including a 6-year-old child in Mariupol.

He asked that everyone be united with Ukraine and tell the world we cannot let such atrocities go unanswered. We must once and for all say “NO” to war.

With these words, His Eminence thanked the elected officials, the police, the Faith Community Leaders, and all those gathered, for joining together to support Ukraine, and honor the lives of the innocent people of Ukraine and stepping down he joined Metropolitan Antony and the other hierarchs and clergy and began to pray.

The faithful filled the grounds behind their hierarchs, their candles rivaling the stars twinkling in the sky above. It seemed as if heaven had reached down and touched the earth, as the shimmering lights of the stars melded with the shimmering flames of the candles, the hopes, and the prayers of those who prayed.

“We pray for our God-loving and God-protected country the United States of America, for our Government and armed forces and for all the people; for our God-loving and God-protected ancestral homeland Ukraine and for all the people, that the Lord God help keep them in all things and protect them from every enemy and adversary.”

The clergy prayed, while the seminarians of the Saint Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary sang the responses. The faithful prayed, tears shining in their eyes, as they called out to God.

“Lord our God, Great and Almighty, we Your sinful children turn to You with humility in our hearts and bow our heads low before You. We beseech Your loving kindness and abundant blessings upon the nation – the people – of Ukraine during these days of great danger to their safety and well-being.”

With their heads bowed low before the Lord, the tears flowed freely, as the faithful were overcome with emotion, and as a child, pleaded with their Father to hear them and have mercy.

The service ended in silence. The only sound heard was the flapping of the flags that furled and snapped in the cold breeze.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony stepped up to the podium and greeted everyone with the ancient Christian Greeting of “Christ is among us”. The world watches another attempt of the Russian leadership to intimidate Ukraine and turn her merely into a small region of Russia. A nation that attacks innocent civilians is guilty of tyranny, instigated by low self-esteem. This is a dangerous circumstance as it comes with the realization that all things of Ukrainian value are lost to them.

His Eminence continued stating that Russia first tried to intimidate the nation by surrounding the country with military installations and armored vehicles. When the intimidation failed, the Russian government chose to invade, to deliberately kill innocent civilians indiscriminately. No care was being taken to minimize civilian casualties. This is an act of terrorism against Ukraine, against Democracy and against the world.

He continued by stating the Ukraine is a geographic reality, with her own borders, which have been coveted over the centuries by neighboring countries. Ukraine is blessed with numerous and abundant natural resources, and rich black soil that yields plentiful crops. It is due to this rich soil that Ukraine is known as the “Breadbasket of Europe”.

It is no secret that under the guise of the Soviet Union, Russia wanted to claim these vast resources, but she also wanted to install a wide buffer zone between herself and European. In her efforts at acquiring what belonged to others for herself, Russia killed indiscriminately as human life meant nothing, it was expendable, and mass graves would soon be forgotten. What they did not realize, is that Ukraine is more than a border line, it is a nation, and her most valued resource are her people, who possess an indelible self-identity which will never be ripped from their hearts or souls. His Eminence continued by stating that it is exactly these people whom we are concerned for today. It is for their sakes that we gather here this evening, to do what we can, in this cold evening on the steps of the church, to pray for their salvation and God’s protection of the Ukrainian nation, her sovereignty, and her very identity.

Metropolitan Antony expressed his joy at seeing the world finally united, in her defense of Ukrainian tyranny. From the farthest corners of the world, people are gathering, rallying, protesting, and making known their disapproval and condemnation of Russia’s act of war against an innocent, peaceful, and democratic nation. Formerly, rival nations have swung their doors wide open, accepting the thousands of refugees who are fleeing for their lives with little more than the clothes on their back. This is the Finger of the Lord, as He acts to save His people.

His Eminence thanked all the clergy, the faithful, the guests, and elected officials for joining in tonight’s prayer and standing up for freedom and for Ukraine. He thanked them not only joining in prayer, but joining in showing the world that we will not back away from terror.

With this the Honorable Phil Murphy, Governor of the State of New

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You described the image as a page from a document, but it seems there was also an image of a map. Would you like to include that in your analysis as well?
Jersey, stepped up to share a few words. He said that we all pray for the people of Ukraine, but, also for the innumerable people in Russia who stand with Ukraine. New Jersey boasts over 75,000 Ukrainians, and with those in residence in neighboring New York, supports the largest population of Ukrainians in the U.S.A.

He continued by stating that this unprovoked invasion of a democratic and independent nation was a choice made by a thug who play by his own rules and puts millions of lives at risk. However, this thug named Putin, never expected such solidarity, which is evidenced locally here tonight, and echoed throughout the world. Having formerly been the US Ambassador to Germany, Governor Murphy stated that he is familiar with European history and has studied the history of sovereign nations that have the right to defend their borders.

He concluded by declaring that tonight, we are all Ukrainians, and we will be Ukrainians every single night until Ukraine is once independent and knows peace. "Ukraine, New Jersey stands with you... the United States stands with you... and we will never ever waver. God bless you all."

Next up to the podium was the Consul General of Ukraine to New York, Oleksii Holubov, who defended Ukraine’s right to sovereignty and expressed his condemnation of the Russian invasion of a freely elected, democratic nation. He encouraged everyone to continue to pray and to defend the freedom of Ukraine and the world.

Pastor George Montanari, of the Franklin Township Interfaith Council stepped up and explained that having attended services over the last few days, how moved he was by the pain and the hope in God of the people of Ukraine. His heart was torn at hearing the many horrific stories of those trapped in Ukraine, and the many calls people had received with final goodbyes from their loved ones. Pastor George continued by stating that his heart was moved by the many prayers and songs seeking comfort in the Lord.

This incursion into Ukraine is not due to a fractured soul, but, due to a soul that is completely missing something. It is a deficiency in character that would justify such action. It is a deficiency that entices through a false trust, promises of protection, and then turns and invades.

In vivid contrast, Ukraine shows that the true strength is in the character of the free people of Ukraine, which have inspired humanity throughout the world, even in Moscow, where people demand an end to this aggression.

Ukrainians are a defiant example to the rest of us. They made a choice between complacency and courage, between selfishness and sacrifice, and they chose to stand up against tyranny. Neutrality is not an option. Faithfulness to God demands us to take a stand. We must defend those in need. We must be strong and courageous. We pray for the protection of the Ukrainian people, that the Lord strengthen them, and that God’s embrace comforts and fortifies them. We pray that the day of victory and peace comes soon.

The final speaker represented the Muslim Community. Imam Mustafa El-Amin of Masjid Ibrahim, who stated that when God wishes to raise a people higher, He tests them. He tests them with the fruits of their labor, in order to see which of you will be steadfast, which will be patient, which will respond, and how they will respond. Throughout history, God has taken down the pharaohs of the world, who oppressed His people, the righteous and innocent, the people who wished only to live in peace and harmony. Therefore, the Muslims in the United States stand with the people of Ukraine, and he expressed his desire that one day soon we should all gather together once again to celebrate Ukraine’s freedom. May God bless Ukraine and support the just cause of that nation.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel stepped up and explained that a short 8 years ago, Ukrainians had peacefully gathered on the Maidan of Independence in Kyiv, once and for all declaring to the pro-Russian president that they do not wish to move closer to Russia, but yearn for a European way of life. That president ordered the slaughter of those 100 men and women, which we now know as the “Heavenly Hundred.”

Just a few days ago on the 21st of this month, we marked the anniversary of their murders, and recall that as their bodies are returned to their families for burial.

The young men began to sing the soulful melody, as the deep and haunting lyrics wound their way down the steps of the church and enveloped everyone present, bringing them to tears. Even those who did not understand the Ukrainian words, were moved by the meaningful melody about a duckling and his mother.

“Oh, I will die on foreign lands, who will lay me in my grave?” the son asks his mother, to which the seminarians standing there, and...
mother weeps in reply exclaiming her sorrow, and how he had laid upon her heart… as the melody fades, the duckling floats away…

As the evening service concluded, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel once again thanked everyone for joining them tonight in prayer, especially the hierarchs, clergy, local police, dignitaries, elected officials, Community Faith Leaders, faithful and guests.

Turning to the people His Eminence stated that these days we Ukrainians have a greeting, “Слава Україні!” to which the reply is “Г ероям слава!” He repeated the words slowly so that all those gathered could memorize them, and then yelled out loudly “Слава Україні!” and received a resounding response of “Г ероям слава!” Again, he called out, “Slava Ukrayini!” “Heroiam Slavat!” “Glory to Ukraine!” “Glory to her heroes!”

As the final echoes stilled, the bells of the church began to toll slowly, somberly, sadly. Starting quietly the seminarians began to sing “Вічная Пам'ять!” / “Memory Eternal” . Their voices resonated between the chimes of the bells, as the people gathered joined in singing not only with their hearts but with their souls, that the Lord should give rest to all those who have lost their lives due to current and former Russian aggression among His Saints.

May the Lord safeguard Ukraine, protect her people, grant integrity to her borders, and chase all evil, danger, and trouble from her lands.

Religious and community leaders of the Ukrainian American Diaspora met with the US Secretary of State Honorable Antony Blinken in order to address humanitarian concerns in the ongoing military aggression of Russian Federation against the sovereign nation of Ukraine.

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel, in his capacity of the President of the Consistory of the UOC of the USA and assisted by Rev. Fr. Vasyl Pasakas, traveled to Washington, DC on March 2, 2022 in order to participate in the meeting with the Secretary of State.

The formal meeting took place at the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church (on the campus of the Catholic University of America). Metropolitan Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and Archbishop Daniel of the UOC of the USA presented introductory remarks at the meeting with the US Diplomat in the presence of Her Excellency Oksana Markarova – the Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States of America.

The participants of the meeting posted a number of questions to Secretary Blinken, calling upon the US Government to continue their diplomatic efforts against the government of Russian Federation that attacked and killed thousands of Ukrainian civilians – which is truly a crime against humanity.

Archbishop Daniel along with Mr. Michael Sawkiv of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America raised the issue of granting the refugee status to Ukrainian citizens that left their homes in search of safety for themselves and their families. Vladyka Daniel also shared a reflection about the silence of the Russian Orthodox Church, whose patriarch most recently called the members of Ukrainian society as “source of evil” – which equals to the call for action against the people of Ukraine that protect their homes and sovereignty with their own lives.

In conclusion of the meeting, the Secretary of State sated to those in attendance that the US Government will not give up their efforts in the process of defending the nation of Ukraine by providing the necessary services for the wellbeing of Ukrainian citizens.

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Церкві Святої Трійці (на території кампусу Католицького Університету Америки). Митрополит Української Греко-Католицької Філадельфійської Архієпархії Борис Гудяк та Архієпископ УПЦ США Даниїл виступили із вступним словом на зустрічі з дипломатом США у присутності її Високоповажності Оксани Маркарової – Посла України в Сполучених Штатах Америки.

Учасники зустрічі поставили нижку запитань до секретаря Блінкена, закликаючи уряд США продовжувати свої дипломатичні зусилля проти уряду Російської Федерації, який напав і вбив тисячі українських мирних жителів, що є справді злочином проти людства.

Архієпископ Даниїл разом із паном Михайлом Савківим із Українського Конгресового Комітету Америки порушували питання надання статусу біженця громадянам України, які покинули свої домівки у пошуках безпеки для себе та своїх сімей. Владика Даниїл також торкнувся теми, що стосується Російської Православної Церкви, патріарх якої нещодавно назвав українське суспільство «джерелом зла» – що виступає непрямим закликом до агресивних дій проти народу України, в той час коли сам народ захищає свої домівки та суверенітет, разом з власним життям.

На завершення зустрічі Держсекретар зазначив усім присутнім, що уряд США не зупиниться у своїх зусиллях щодо захисту нації України, надавши усе неохідне для благополуччя українських громадян.

Photos by Fr. Vasyl Pasakas and Mrs. Ulyna Mazurekovich

Over a thousand Ukrainian-Americans and supporters gathered outside the White House in Washington, DC for a peaceful rally in support of Ukraine and against the aggression of the Russian Federation.

On a bright Sunday afternoon, March 6, 2022 - just outside the White House fence, the demonstrators gathered about 2 pm in Lafayette Square appealing to the government of the United States of America, NATO nations and the rest of the world to do more to stop the war against Ukraine that was declared by the Russian President Vladimir Putin. Hundreds of flags of Ukraine, USA, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Uzbekistan, and other nations were proudly raised and held above the crowd as people shouted “GLORY TO UKRAINE – SLAVA UKRAINI!” and “Stop the war, Defend Ukraine now!”

Numerous politicians and religious leaders addressed the people in attendance, offering their thoughts and prayers for the people of Ukraine.

Archbishop Daniel led a delegation of Ukrainian Orthodox Christians at the rally, and together with the Rabbi Avi Weiss, Fr. Volodymyr Stelaik (pastor of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Silver Spring, MD), Fr. Mark Morozovyk (Dean of Theology of the Catholic University of America) offered the prayer for Ukraine.

Vladyka Daniel addresses the rally, reflecting on a powerful words of the American civil rights movement leader Martin Luther King Jr, who deliver a public speech “I have a dream” on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. Archbishop Daniel stated: I also have a dream... that Ukrainian children will not be afraid to look up into the sky because of the flying rockets and bombs; I have a dream, that that elderly will not have to hide
in basements of their homes and bomb shelters; I have a dream, that the evacuated 1.7 million people will have a chance to return back to their homes and live THEIR dream – their lives; so, I say to all of you let's appeal to our government and all NATO nations – PLEASE, SAVE UKRAINIAN LIVES! PLEASE, answer to the appeal of Ukrainian President and the people of Ukraine, declare a NO-FLY ZONE over Ukraine!...

Among those in attendance, were numerous representatives of the diplomatic community of foreign nations in the US.

Former Ambassador of the USA to NATO Kurt Volker; US Senator from Ohio Rob Portman (R) and Ukrainian community leaders and foreign dignitaries addressed the rally, all condemning the slaughter of innocent lives and the invasion of Ukraine by Russian Federation.

In conclusion of the formal program, seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary of the UOC of the USA (South Bound Brook, NJ) called upon those in attendance to pay prayerful respect to the memory of the fallen men and women of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and numerous innocent civilians, while chanting the solemn and sober hymn in memory of the Heavenly Hundred “Plyve kacha to Tysyni...”

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslaw Bilohan

The New Jersey State House, built in 1792, is located in Trenton and is the capitol building for the U.S. state of New Jersey. On March 8th, 2022, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy greeted all the members of the 220th legislature, guests, faith leaders, veterans, and New Jerseyans, prior to presenting his $48.9 billion budget address Tuesday afternoon, highlighting a new property tax relief program.

Before giving his address, Governor Murphy expressed his thoughts on the current war in Ukraine.

“As we sit here this afternoon, 4,000 miles away another anxious evening is darkening across Ukraine -- an anxious evening that will give way to another fitful night.

As New Jerseyans and as Americans we stand unified, with our allies and so many across the world, in calling for an end to the unprovoked and desperate aggression of the Putin regime against the free people of Ukraine. New Jersey stands in support of the international efforts to bolster the Ukrainian resistance and the economic sanctions against Putin and his crony government.

Our administration is assessing what financial or business exposure we may have to the Russian government or Russian-owned business interests or securities -- including in our pension funds. I also thank Senator Paul Sarlo for leading the Legislature's bipartisan response in support of this effort.

And let me make it perfectly clear -- we will take whatever actions are needed to ensure New Jersey taxpayer dollars are not supporting Putin's unlawful invasion of Ukraine.

New Jersey is proud to be home to one of our nation's largest Ukrainian American communities. We are also the home of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America.

I am incredibly honored that we are joined today by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and His Eminence Archbishop Daniel.”

With these words, Governor Murphy turned to Metropolitan Antony and invited him to come up and lead the legislative body in prayer and provide the day's invocation.

Bowing his head, His Eminence called upon Almighty God to look down upon all gathered inside the legislative chamber and bless all who work there to serve the needs of those who have entrusted them to maintain the good estate of their lives. He asked that the Lord impart the governor and his staff with an abundance of wisdom, and that they will lead the government in contributions that will go beyond the borders of their own state, to make the entire nation the best in the world.

Pausing, His Eminence continued by asking that Christ bless the people of Ukraine who suffer greatly, yet again, and that He grant them the strength and endurance to deal with the horror concocted and conducted in the mind of a single isolated man who seems unable to comprehend evil. He asked that the Lord open the eyes of the invading forces to see that the people they are killing are not the enemy but are
human beings whose lives worth as much as their own, and that He send them home to their own families and communities to build their own nation instead.

Metropolitan Antony continued by asking God to strengthen His people, the people of the Ukrainian nation, so that it may rise up from the ashes like the Phoenix, as it has so many times throughout history. He asked that the Lord continue to call forth the supporters of Ukraine, who have valiantly stepped up and answered the call, and bless all the people of the world, especially those in New Jersey, who have contributed beyond all expectations, and grant that they experience the gratitude and love the citizens of Ukraine have for them.

His Eminence concluded the prayer by thanking the Lord for His abundant blessings upon the State of New Jersey, stating that we worship Him from the depths of our hearts and souls. Amen.

As many in the chamber crossed themselves, Metropolitan Antony took the opportunity to say a few words, and express his own gratitude and thanks on behalf of Archbishop Daniel, his brother bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church for all the support. He explained that the Metropolia Center, established in 1951, of the Church is located in Somerset/South Bound Brook, and invited everyone present to stop in for a visit to the center of all Ukrainian Orthodox churches outside the borders of Ukraine, except Canada.

His Eminence expressed what a blessing the governor and his wife, Tammy, have been, along with so many government officials, faith leaders, and citizens of the state, appearing at rallies and gatherings in support of Ukraine. He continued by stating the finally the world is seeing the horror that Mr. Putin in inflicting upon Ukraine, and the world is not afraid to speak up. The Ukrainian nation has historically suffered horrors inflicted by their neighbor. In 1932-33 alone between 7-11 million Ukrainians were starved to death in the Holodomor, when every single grain was confiscated from the hungry and shipped to Moscow or destroyed. Millions died during the years of Soviet repression. Demographers tell us that due to the tragedies of this past century alone, the population of Ukraine is down an estimated 100 million people. In other words, we have lost not only the initial millions, but, generations of their descendants who were never born.

Turning to the governor, Metropolitan Antony thanked him for inviting him and Archbishop Daniel to join them on this day. Thanking him for the kindness he has exhibited in these trying times, His Eminence asked Governor Murphy and all those gathered to continue praying for Ukraine and her people. Not to just keep Ukraine in their perfunctory thoughts and prayers, but to pray deeply and fervently, because prayers are powerful and can result in miracles.

The members in the chamber stood and applauded Metropolitan Antony as the governor stepped up to the podium. Before commencing with his speech, Governor Murphy stated, "Thank you, Your Eminence. May God be with you both, and with the People of Ukraine. Slava Ukraini!"
On March 9, 2022, the 14th day of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora, and His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, along with His Eminence Archbishop Eliopoulos of America, local clergy, and faithful gathered at the St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Manhattan, New York, in solidarity to support Ukraine in her resistance to the ongoing Russian invasion upon her lands, and the slaughter of her innocent people.

As 10 a.m. approached, the Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Dr. John Chrysasagis (Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Throne) stepped up to the microphone and thanked everyone who had gathered for this Intercessory Prayer Service, known as a Moleben. He went on to explain that the Moleben consists of prayers for the intercession and supplication for cessation of the war in Ukraine, as well as for solidarity of those defending their homeland from the devastating war initiated by Russia.

Greeting the honorable members of the state and civic governments, eminent members of the Diplomatic Corps, esteemed members of the Ecumenical and Interfaith organizations, venerable hierarchs and clergy of the Ukrainian and Greek Orthodox communities, and honored guests, Rev. Dr. John Chrysasagis, stated that at this time of horror of the assault of Russia upon Ukraine, prayer seems inadequate. However, he continued to explain that having spoken with a friend in Ukraine, she made him promise to never stop praying, stating that during war, they have realized that they cannot rely strictly upon themselves and their human leaders, and quickly become overwhelmed without prayer. It is in fact, only due to the constant prayer throughout the world on behalf of Ukraine, that the nation has been able to stand against the onslaught of the large Russian forces.

We get the impression that we have not made much progress, but in fact we have, he continued. The world has united against this injustice. The people stand together in large protests and demonstrations and have formed unimaginable alliances here and all around the world, even within Russia. While we feel helpless, and that we are doing too little, too late, here we stand, all together with Ukraine against Russian aggression.

As everyone stood, the Royal Gates opened as Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Archbishop Eliopoulos and local clergy emerged and stepped down to stand before the tetrapod upon which lay Chryssavgis introduced the first speaker, and host of the event, Rev. Dr. John Chrysasagis. He went on to explain that during war, they have realized that they cannot be reduced to or overcome by political tyranny or ideological oppression. The people of Ukraine have reminded all of us that we live in a different world today. Whether we know it or not, in fact, whether we like it or not, we have come a long way. There has been a shift in the democratization of political life in Ukraine, which has emerged and is protected by the growth of the Internet. Where people feel the need to have more responsibility, more influence over events – no longer taking it for granted. The people of Ukraine have shown all of us and the world, that we must speak up against aggression. That we cannot be silent in the face of brutal aggression. That churches, even some of his own, are guilty of remaining silent, even complicit; and that nations, even his own, are sometimes too slow to respond. The people of Ukraine, have shown all of us and the world that faith communities should be united against war, for peace, just as they are in Ukraine, where every Faith is marching together as one, and so too should be against divisions on the base of race, or religion, ethnicity, or identity. Religion should never be used to divide people, based on moral presumption or prejudice. We have learned from Ukraine because they have shown us all, especially religious leaders that full transparency is vital, even in the Church. Every form of authoritarianism is immoral and reprehensible; that Church leaders are accountable for their lack of transparency for their endorsement or tolerance of autocracy. With these final words Rev. Dr. John Chrysasagis introduced the first speaker, and host of the event, Metropolitan Antony of the UOC of the USA.

Stepping up to the podium, His Eminence warmly welcomed all of those who had gathered for this prayer service and thanked them for their participation and support. Metropolitan Antony informed those assembled that he is a fourth generation American, and even though he many generations removed, his ties to Ukraine are just as tight as his brother bishop’s, Archbishop Daniel’s, whose parents are both from Ukraine. They have ties to our homeland that go beyond all comprehension, and what happens in Ukraine, affects us deeply here in the United States of America. In fact, it affects not only Ukrainians, but all peace-loving people throughout the world; all the people whose nations have known the horrors of subjugation, and genocide. Ukraine once again finds itself being invaded by a neighboring nation. Throughout history she was always coveted by her neighbors, with different portions of her conquered by various nations, forming empires until the 20th century and the Soviets took over, subjugating Ukraine completely. It is difficult to even begin to explain to you what has taken place just in this century in the life of Ukraine. When the Soviets took over the entire nation, millions were killed. Stalin sent in his butchers and took every bit of grain from the homes...
of the people, confiscated bread baking in ovens, tore up floors and confiscated the grain saved for spring planting. Over the 6 months, 7-10 million people starved to death, on the streets, in their homes before their children.

Metropolitan Antony continued, asking to share one thing. When we talk about genocides, the number of people who have died. In the 20th century well over 20 million people have died in Ukraine. Demographers have studied the numbers and stated that Ukraine’s population today would be over 100 million individuals, instead of 44 million (minus the 3 million that have now fled their homeland in search of safety). It is not just those who died, whom we have lost. We have lost their future descendants. Those who would have built the nation to be even stronger, and even more freedom loving. We stand here today, beside ourselves, that after 30 years of independence, recognized by the world over, did we ever think that we would be going back to what we see today? This is sadly the history of Ukraine. His Eminence said he cannot begin to explain the depth of appreciation that the people of Ukraine, and of Ukrainian descent, have for people and nations throughout the world, the Representatives of State and Federal Government entities, to not only repeat “you are in our thoughts and prayers”, but, to have developed a movement with a desire to help, and to fall on their knees and pray. The people of Ukraine tell us they feel the power of those prayers. His Eminence stated that is all he can ask of those gathered, to continue to pray fervently for Ukraine.

Turning to face the religious leaders, of various Faiths, sitting behind him, he thanked them for coming from all over the state to support Ukraine. Metropolitan Antony than turned to those in front of him, and thanked all the political leaders, and all the guests. He stated that, “We emerge standing, embracing someone with love, you do not get away easily.” He stated that the Ukrainian embrace them, and hold onto them, for comfort and a sense of peace, for a sense that sooner or later it is all going to be okay. His Eminence concluded by praying that this be the pivotal moment, that the world wake up, and realize the feeling of disgust and horror, and will say no more. No more can we permit Ukraine to suffer. No more can we watch her innocent children die. The first steps towards that Google has already been taken. With his warmest thanks and blessings, Metropolitan Antony retook his seat as Fr. John stepped up to introduce the next speaker, the 57th, and first female governor of the State of New York, the Honorable Kathleen Hochul.

Governor Hochul explained how honored she was to be participating in this event, in this beautiful Orthodox Cathedral, which had once been a synagogue. She explained that this is the correct location to have all the Faiths to come together and lift up Ukraine. Looking about the room, the governor explained that she hears the powerful prayers on their lips, but, she also sees the tremendous pain their eyes, she senses the weeping hearts. However, she also senses defiance in their souls, which encapsulates that she and we all stand against tyranny, and against Putin’s attack on Ukraine. She asked people to continue to pray, but realize we are all in this together, supported by our Churches, we will overcome.

The next speaker was Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, Executive Vice President of the New York Board of Rabbis. Rabbi Joseph greeted all the members of the Interfaith community and explained that he too is a refugee. He was born after the war, to a young woman who lost 5 children. When arriving in Massachusetts after the war, they were greeted by Catholics and Jews who helped them begin life again, because those people understood the ancient Jewish commandment of loving your neighbor. The Christian New Commandment also teaches to love your neighbor. In the Quran, God teaches that God has made one blood of the human family. He continued that when Abraham pleaded for the lives of the 360 people starved to death, he did not only plead for the lives of Jewish people, but, for all people. When Jonah pleaded for the people of Nineveh, he pleaded for all people. Elie Wiesel stated that the true tragedy of the Holocaust was that those that should have been shouting were silent.

We come here today, and we proclaim that we will shout over and over again. Because when we said never again after the war, we did not put a question mark after it, but an exclamation mark after it. We can discuss and debate a no-fly zone, but there is one thing we cannot debate. There should be a no-cry zone. We should never ever see innocent people mercilessly murdered. We are approaching Purim. There was a despot, Haman, who wanted the Jewish people to submit to his rule. They fought back, and ultimately, he was relegated to the dust bin of history, and the people were victorious. He hopes that the president of Russia reads this story. Maybe this year it will be Putin’s Purim, because we have learned that history often repeats itself. So, when the President of Russia speaks of denazification, he is astounded for as many of you know, the president of Ukraine is Jewish. His grandfather fought in the soviet army against the Nazis. President Zelensky is correct. Do not call it denazification. What you are doing in assaulting Ukraine is Nazification.

Rabbi Potasnik recalled a story of people stranded in the desert with one canteen of water between them. If they both drink, they will both die. If one drinks, one survives. The question is, who should drink from the canteen. After some debate, if you own the canteen, and
As the applause died down, His Excellency Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the 10th and current Archbishop of New York stepped up to say a few words, stating that a common conviction all the members and women gathered, is that God can bring good out of evil. We are seeing real evil in Ukraine, in this irrational invasion. However, we are witnessing a people who have never in history known as divided or diminished, and they have the vision of a future world has united as never before in standing up to evil. The other day he met with a journalist who had just returned from Ukraine, who told him that the people are united through national pride, language, and a desire for freedom, but what is uniting Ukraine is faith. They are a deeply religious people of various persuasions, and among them point out the difference between good and evil, God and Satan, virtue and slavery, peace, and war — because they believe in God who assures them that in God, unite with Ukraine and shout “Help these people, bless them, and save Ukraine!”

As the applause died down, His Excellency Sergiy Kyrylytsya, who serves as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations stepped up to speak. He is trained as a diplomat and strong when he has to look in the eyes of evil and deliver speeches defending his nation. He said God believes in God, and that Ukraine is composed of many faiths. Having taken a DNA test, he is Ukrainian from Kyiv, with a bit of Polish, and a bit of Ashkenazi Jew. He told the herd of Satan, his Russian adversary in the Security Council that there is no purity for war criminals, and they go straight to hell. Everyone has an option and is up to him to decide whether he remains on the side of evil or repents and takes the side of God.

Quoting Robert Frost: “I shall be telling this with a sigh, Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference.”

So, as he told the Russian Ambassador, we are today at that road. As one learns from the Bible, there is always an option and way which is short, and a short way that is long. The travel of the Jews from slavery to freedom was filled with trials and challenges, and yet they continued on, with strong nations, reassured that leaving Egypt was the right thing to do.

The same is the destiny of Ukraine, leaving the evil empire of the Soviet Union was and is the right thing to do. As the Jews had doubted after 40 years of wandering in the desert whether they would ever conquer the Promised Land, so the Ukrainians of today, must have faith in God, and know that they shall conquer and possess the land which is theirs by God’s Will. They simply must trust and obey. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Today, there is no one who would claim Ukrainians do not have faith. They all believe in God and will not fail.

Today, we celebrate the memory of Ukraine’s Kobzar, Taras Shevchenko, and the Ambassador concluded his speech quoting the great bard,

“Есперець — необерег, Вам Бор нова!... За ваць нажада, за ваць снача. І оон самача!”

“Fight — and you shall conquer, for God helps you! Truth is with you, glory is yours. And freedom is holy!”

The Ambassador received a standing ovation which he humbly acknowledged as the final speaker came up.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America stepped up and delivered a moving speech.

Over the past two weeks, the world has watched as Russia launched an unjust and violent invasion into Ukraine. During these turbulent times, everyone has an option and is up to him to decide whether he remains on the side of evil or repents and takes the side of God.

In this same spirit, we join ourselves to these sentiments expressed by His All-Holiness and we exhort the Faithful: to offer prayers and tangible support for all the Ukrainian People — that the power of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and those of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church under the Moscow Patriarchate — brothers in the Catholic and Jewish communities, for those belonging to a religion and for those without religion, and for all those who find themselves in the dire circumstances of war. I would like to commend His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of Hierapolis and His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Pamphilon for their inspirational leadership during these challenging times.

As they host this prayer service in their Cathedral, we thank them for allowing us this opportunity to gather and pray together in a spirit of solidarity and compassion.

Today, we feel blessed to be surrounded by so much love and support, he stated. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you today for answering our call to pray for peace in Ukraine with such readiness. In response to the tragic humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the immediate aid needed there, we, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, have announced a major fundraising effort that “the friends of Ukraine” are expected to affect by the Russian invasion. This is why — as a first step — we have donated $100,000 to the Ecumenical Patriarchate to support the efforts of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, and have also created the Ukrainian Relief Effort, which was established in collaboration with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). As the Righteous Gideon proclaimed, “the Lord is peace” (Judges 6:24).

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the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, who participated in the Unification Council of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine in Kyiv and was present for the official signing of the Tomos of Autocephaly of the OCU in Constantinople in 2019 to say a few words.

His Eminence stated that an hour before this prayer service he received a phone call, and a text message from the Archbishop of Donbas, of Mariupol, His Eminence Metropolitan Serhij, who texted him initially from the basement of his church and reported that a children’s and maternity hospital where mothers were giving birth to babies was just bombed. Sounds of shock and horror rose from the people listening. While many people had already been evacuated, still the loss of life is most likely severe. He said that the streets of Mariupol are covered with blood. Even though the Russian Federation has promised to create a safety corridor, they have violated their promises over and over again. The Ukrainian people cannot escape and are stuck in the danger zone.

13 days ago, at the Saint Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary, he recalled how he had sat in front of the TV with the seminarians, all from Ukraine, and watched the first images being shared of the atrocities taking place in their homeland due to the attack of the Russian Federation on the sovereign nation of Ukraine. As their bishop, he had a hard time consoling these young men. There are no words to take away the pain and horror.

8 years ago in Ukraine, the war started. It did not start a few weeks ago, but, years ago, when the Revolution of Dignity took place, when the pro-Russian president fled Ukraine, and the loss of the Heavenly Hundred in Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine took place. Ukraine has responded to the tragedy of the Heavenly Hundred, the first hundred people who died during the Maidan of Kyiv by creating a hymn, a song in memory of those who had lost their lives. It is called “Plyve Kacha.” It is a song about a mother and son having a conversation about their lives, and what happens if mother or son dies, and who will take care of them.

Before the seminarians chanted the song in memory of the first Heavenly Hundred, and all those who have perished in today’s tragedy in Ukraine, His Eminence asked everyone to rise for a moment of silence. He asked everyone to pray according to their own tradition, as we are all united in prayer. As Archbishop Daniel asked that the lives of all those who lost their lives be eternal, all those assembled quietly rose to their feet, and bowed their heads in silence, commemorating and praying for all the human lives lost to tragedy. Quietly, eerily, the seminarians’ voices rose in a solemn chant. Those who understood the words were quickly reduced to tears, while those who did not speak Ukrainian also found tears streaming down their cheeks, as the emotion of the chant was felt, and if not understood by the ears, was understood by the hearts and souls.

As the deep male voices faded to silence, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony once again turned to all the gathered hierarchs, clergy and faithful, thanking them for coming and for their support of the nation of Ukraine. He stated that people who love God, regardless of their many traditions, can come together and make a statement to the world, supplicating God, beseeching God, to look down upon us all and give us the strength to do what we can, for His Glory, and for the establishment of His Kingdom of Love.

Glory to God! Slava Ukraini! Glory to Ukraine!

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan

Text by Elizabeth Symonenko

During LENT, in addition to being the best you can be, listening to your parents, not arguing, being kind, and going out of your way to help others...

There are THREE things that Christ expects of you.

PRAYER
- Pray more often
- Pray from your heart
- Pray for others
- Pay attention when you pray

FASTING
- If you can, abstain from meat & dairy
- Otherwise, avoid fancy meals
- Eat simple foods
- Fruits, Veggies
- Learn to say NO

TITHE (DONATE)
Instead of spending your money on buying new toys or clothes for yourself, donate your money to the Church, which will make sure those in need are cared for.

Text by Elizabeth Symonenko

UOCOFUSA.ORG
Each day of Great Lent post an image that illustrates your understanding of the word for that day.

You do not have to be a great photographer. This project is more about the practice of paying attention and being intentional. Just share them on your Facebook page and tag us.

Let's start this 40-day spiritual journey together, sharing glimpses of our lives with one another. Let this be an intentional time, even for a few minutes a day, to pause, to reflect, to remember, and to connect.

#myUOCphotoLent

**Let’s visually share our Lenten Journey!**

**MARCH**
- 7. God
- 8. Faith
- 9. Hope
- 10. Light
- 11. Prayer
- 12. Humility
- 13. Pride
- 14. Patience
- 15. Rested
- 16. Honor
- 17. Gathered
- 18. Endurance
- 19. Peace
- 20. Life
- 21. Silence
- 22. Compassion
- 23. Mercy
- 24. Touch
- 25. Thankfulness

**APRIL**
- 26. Dependable
- 27. Repetition
- 28. Solid
- 29. Time
- 30. Space
- 31. Scent
- 11. Need
- 12. Want
- 13. Entrance
- 14. Path
- 15. Discipline
- 16. Depth
- 17. Grief
- 18. Calm
- 19. Protection
- 20. Beauty

21. Mystical
22. Deep
23. Victory
24. Joy

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**Фото-Виклик**

Кожного дня Великого Посту виставляйте фото, яке відображатиме Ваше розуміння слова, що припадає на той день.

Вам не потрібно бути чудовим фотографом. Цей проект є спрямованим більше на тренування Вашої уваги та виявлення бажання. Просто поширюйте фото на Вашій сторінці у Фейсбук та позначайте нас, чи поширюйте їх на нашій сторінці у Фейсбук у коментарях кожного дня.

**Фото-Виклик**

Давайте візуально поділимося нашою Постовою Мандрівкою.

**БЕРЕЗЕНЬ**
- 7. Бог
- 8. Віра
- 9. Надія
- 10. Світло
- 11. Молитва
- 12. Смирність
- 13. Гордість
- 14. Терпіння
- 15. Відпочинок
- 16. Честь
- 17. Зібрання
- 18. Витривалість
- 19. Мир
- 20. Життя
- 21. Мовчання
- 22. Співчуття
- 23. Мілосердя
- 24. Дотик
- 25. Вдячність

**КВІТЕНЬ**
- 1. Слова
- 2. Почуття
- 3. Медитация
- 4. Смуток
- 5. Благодать
- 6. Писати
- 7. Будинок
- 8. Дім
- 9. Друг
- 10. Ближній

21. Таємничий
22. Глибокий
23. Перемога
24. Радість
NO-BAKE OATMEAL COOKIES

Ingredients:
- ¼ cup coconut oil
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- ¼ cup almond milk
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- ¼ cup and 2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- ⅛ teaspoon vanilla
- 1½ cups whole rolled oats

You may add sugar or honey, if you feel the cookies are not sweet enough.

NOTES:
Make sure your peanut butter is runny. Add chocolate chips. And make everyone love you.
Make a double batch and freeze some. These freeze really well. Also, the recipe isn’t huge, so just double it for a party.

Instructions:
Lord, bless my work.

Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a medium saucepan, melt the coconut oil over medium heat. Add the maple syrup, almond milk, cocoa, peanut butter, and vanilla and whisk to combine.

If you boil it too long, your blobs will end up all cocoa, peanut butter, and vanilla and you won’t get the desired texture.

Remove from the heat and stir in the oats. Use 2 tablespoons to scoop the batter onto the baking sheet. Chill for 30 minutes or until firm.

Enjoy!
may god grant to them many happy and blessed years!

Rev. Vasyl Shak 3/12/2016
Rev. Walter Hvostik 3/19/1995
V. Rev. Gregory Czumak 3/24/2001
Dn. Adrian Mazur 3/6/2016

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
SEARCHING FOR FAITHFUL OF ALL AGES FROM 14 THROUGH ADULTS
OPPORTUNITIES RANGE FROM SPECIALTY EVENT TO FULL SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

POSITIONS INCLUDE: HEAD CHEF, CABIN STAFF, PROPERTY/KITCHEN STAFF, PROGRAM STAFF.
FOR A FULL LISTING OF AVAILABLE POSITIONS VISIT UOCYOUTH.ORG

BEGINNING JUNE 2022 THROUGH AUGUST

INFORMATION OR TO APPLY WWW.UOCYOUTH.ORG
QUESTIONS UOCYOUTH@AOL.COM OR
JOSH@ALLSATINTSCAMP.ORG

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Support Ukraine by ordering T-Shirts and Challenge Coins of the South Bound Brook Police Department of New Jersey.

Підтримайте Україну, замовляючи футболки та пам'ятні медалі поліцейського відділу Свят Бавнд Бруку, Н. Дж.

PRICING:
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1 T-Shirt: $25
1 Challenge Coin: $15
2 T-Shirts: $45
2 Challenge Coins: $25

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**April Celebrations**

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Annunciation of the Mother-of-God
April 7

Palm Sunday
April 17

PASCHA (Resurrection of Christ)
April 24

ST. THOMAS WEEKEND
April 30 - May 1

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July 27-31

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