

PARISH BULLETIN – Sunday, March 24, 2024

**Flowery (Palm) Sunday:
The Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem**

**Welcome to St. George's Church!
Welcome! Bienvenue! Вітаємо!**



[@STGEORGE_SARNIA](#)

Our mission is to know, love and serve our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ.

Here at St. George's Church, the center of our life is the Sunday and daily Divine Liturgy. It is here where we come to know Christ in each other, in the Sacred Scriptures and through participation in the Holy Sacraments.

A life of Christian Catholic stewardship includes a strong commitment toward the sacramental life through prayer, Liturgy and active ministry.

We are called to become the image and likeness of Christ God in all we say and do.

Website: <http://www.stgeorgessarnia.ca>

Email: stgeorge.ucetec@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stgeorge.sarnia>

Office: [519-542-9903](tel:519-542-9903)

Pastoral Emergency: [519-818-6149](tel:519-818-6149)

Pastor: [Fr. Yaroslav Lukávenko](#)
[o. Ярослав Лукáвенко](#)

Parish Council

Sally Smoly

Claire Johnson

Marc Beauchamp

Marcel Paquette

Jennifer Paquette

David Makuch

Marie-France Bernier

Rohan Jacob

Brenda Black

John Waligorski

Church Bulletin
March 24, 2024

**Українська Католицька Церква
Св. Юрія
Великомученика**



St. George the Great Martyr
Ukrainian Catholic Church



@STGEORGE_SARNIA

Pastor:
Rev. Yaroslav Lukávenko
о. Ярослав Лукавенко

Divine Liturgy

Saturday Divine Liturgy:

5:00 pm English

Sunday Divine Liturgy:

9:30 am English

11:30 am Ukrainian

Weekdays:

Thursday 9:00 am (there is no Liturgy during the Great Fast)

(See Weekly Bulletin for other times)

Parish mailing address:

St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church

1055 Rosedale Ave.

Sarnia, Ontario

N7S 1Z5

Tel.: 519-542-9903

Email: stgeorge.ucetec@gmail.com

Emergency: 519-818-6149

St George's Parish website:

<http://www.stgeorgessarnia.ca/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stgeorge.sarnia>

Sacraments:

Confession:

4:15 pm - 4:45 pm Saturday afternoon

8:45 am - 9:15 am Sunday morning

By appointment during the week

Baptism:

Please contact parish office two months in advance.

Marriage:

Please contact parish office one year in advance.

DIVINE LITURGY AND CHURCH SCHEDULE

Saturday March 23 Palm Sunday Vigil

5:00m DIVINE LITURGY Eng

Sunday March 24 Palm Sunday

9:30pm DIVINE LITURGY Eng

11:30am DIVINE LITURGY Ukr

Monday March 25 Great and Holy Monday

5:3 pm The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

Tuesday March 26 Great and Holy Tuesday

10:0 am The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

Wednesday March 27 Great and Holy Wednesday

5:30 pm The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

Thursday March 28 Great and Holy Thursday

6:00 pm Vespers with the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Friday March 29 Great and Holy Friday

10:00 am Vespers with the placement of the Holy Shroud

Saturday March 30 Great and Holy Saturday

10:00 am Vespers with the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (The Blessing of Paschal Food)

Sunday March 31 Pascha (Easter) – The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

8:30 am Service at the Grave, Paschal Matins (this takes place at the church)

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom (The Blessing of Paschal Food)

Bilingual Eng/Ukr

Easter Sunday

8:30 am: Service at the Grave, Paschal Matins (this takes place at the church)

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy will be in both English and Ukrainian. There will be a Blessing of Baskets and an Agape meal will follow the Divine Liturgy.

**Please note, there is no 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil Liturgy
on March 30. See Schedule above.**

Palm Sunday: He Comes in Humility

St. Andrew of Crete

Palm Sunday marks the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. But he entered in humility, not in pomp and power. To humble ourselves and make our souls the garments that we spread before him, this is the greeting he desires says St. Andrew of Crete, one of the Early Church Fathers.

Let us go together to meet Christ on the Mount of Olives. Today he returns from Bethany and proceeds of his own free will toward his holy and blessed passion, to consummate the mystery of our salvation. He who came down from heaven to raise us from the depths of sin, to raise us with himself, we are told in Scripture, above every sovereignty, authority and power, and every other name that can be named, now comes of his own free will to make his journey to Jerusalem. He comes without pomp or ostentation. As the psalmist says: *He will not dispute or raise his voice to make it heard in the streets.* He will be meek and humble, and he will make his entry in simplicity.

GREET THE HUMBLE KING WITH HUMILITY

Let us run to accompany him as he hastens toward his passion, and imitate those who met him then, not by covering his path with garments, olive branches or palms, but by doing all we can to prostrate ourselves before him by being humble and by trying to live as he would wish. Then we shall be able to receive the Word at his coming, and God, whom no limits can contain, will be within us.

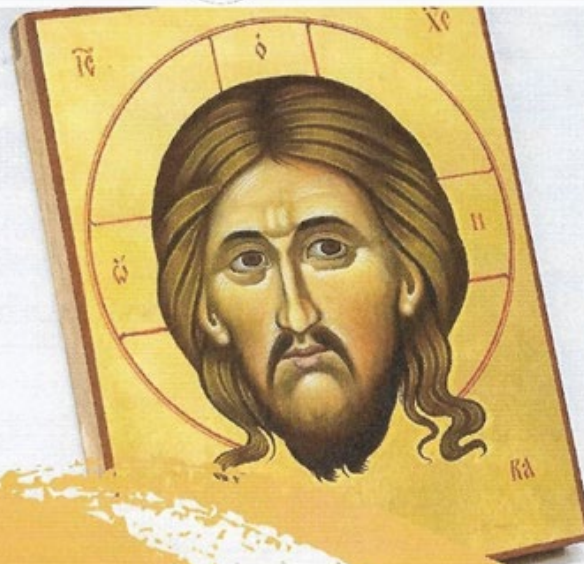
In his humility Christ entered the dark regions of our fallen world and he is glad that he became so humble for our sake, glad that he came and lived among us and shared in our nature in order to raise us up again to himself. And even though we are told that he has now ascended above the highest heavens – the proof, surely, of his power and godhead – his love for man will never rest until he has raised our earthbound nature from glory to glory, and made it one with his own in heaven.

So let us spread before his feet, not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither, but ourselves, clothed in his grace, or rather, clothed completely in him.

LET OUR HUMBLE SOULS TAKE THE PLACE OF PALM BRANCS

We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before him. Now that the crimson stains of our sins have been washed away in the saving waters of baptism and we have become white as pure wool, let us present the conqueror of death, not with mere branches of palms but with the real rewards of his victory.

Let our souls take the place of the welcoming branches as we join today in the children's holy song: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel.*



SCAN ME

Iconography Retreat

.....
July 8-12, 2024
Mon-Fri

\$650 (includes meals and supplies)
\$550 for commuters

CAPUCHIN RETREAT CENTER

62460 Mt. Vernon Rd,

Washington, MI 48094

In this retreat, you will learn how to paint an icon of Jesus Christ (Mandylion, Image of Edessa) using gessoed wooden panels, genuine gold leaf, and traditional egg tempera. At the end of the course, you'll be able to take home a beautiful icon painted by yourself, the fruit of many hours of hard work and prayer.

You do not need to have any professional art training or prior experience in icon painting. The only expectation is your willingness to learn something new and to immerse in an ancient and sacred tradition of iconography to enter into a deeper relationship with God.

Brother Thomas Skowron is a Capuchin Franciscan friar born in Poland and raised in Germany, living in the USA since 2019. He began painting icons in 2017. He studied at Eikonon Schole in Uzhgorod, Ukraine, an iconography school of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo and the Capuchin Custody of Ukraine and Russia, as well as with Fr. Anthony Gunin and George Kordis. He focuses on classical Byzantine and Neo-Byzantine iconography and traditional techniques of egg tempera, but he's also interested in contemporary trends, in particular in the art of Jerzy Nowosielski and new Iconography of Lviv, Ukraine.



@bruturb

For Registration

Call 248-651-4826 (or)

Visit CAPRETREAT.ORG

Announcements/Оголошення:

* We are now saying prayers of Preparation for Communion before the Liturgy, and Prayers after Communion from the Liturgy book in the pews.

* **Free English classes**

We are starting an English class for Ukrainian newcomers twice a week. This past Friday was the first introduction meeting. Please contact Fr. Yaroslav at 519-542-9903.

* We still have **Burgundy Divine Liturgy Books** for purchase. The cost is \$15.00.

* We have **Holy Water bottles** for sale for a freewill donation of \$3.00.



There will be an Easter Egg hunt for kids of all age after the blessing of Easter food. The children will need to bring bags or baskets for all the treasures they find.

YOUR RETURN GIFT TO GOD:

If your preference is to use a debit or credit card, please find the DONATE Link on our website main page. May Our Lord reward you a hundredfold for your generosity.

Дякуємо за вашу щедрість!

LAST WEEK COLLECTION:

March 16 & 17 2024

\$1,075.30 Collection at three Masses

\$10.00 Cost of Envelopes

\$26.00 Votive Candles

+\$258.08 Online donations

+\$186.28 Goods and Services

The Knights of Columbus Council 1429, Sarnia is holding a charitable fundraiser, the Spring Dinner Dance, on Saturday, 13 April, 2024 at Our Lady of Mercy Church Hall. Proceeds will go towards supporting various charitable organizations including the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Youth Ministry. Any form of assistance or donations in cash and/or kind would be greatly appreciated. For tickets, please contact Garry Prokopovich at **519-328-5010** or prokopog@gmail.com or Peter Laychak at petelayc@gmail.com.

Norman Monteiro – Grand Knight

William E. Prentice Council 1429

Sarnia, ON

519-542-7528

GK1429@ontarioKofC.ca



LITURGY INTENTIONS

You can request Father Yaroslav to celebrate Liturgies for your intentions. Please contact the parish office: 519-542-9903 to book a Liturgy. The suggested stipend for a Divine Liturgy is \$20.00

Кава та спілкування після кожної Божественної Літургії.

Приєднуйтесь до нас!

Coffee and Fellowship After Every Divine Liturgy.

Come join us!

New Fridge Fund

After 25+ years of faithful service in the Church kitchen, our old commercial refrigerator stopped working and needed to be replaced. A temporary residential fridge was obtained, but was found to be unsuitable for the kitchen. A new commercial fridge has now been purchased that will meet all the requirements of the kitchen for many years to come. With the support of the Women's Group of St. George, we are asking our parishioners to consider giving a special donation to our 'New Fridge Fund' to help offset the \$7,400.00 cost. Any contribution will be gratefully appreciated. As of March 10th, we have already received \$2,700 towards this goal. May God bless your generosity.

BCU Financial
Кредитова Спілка Будучність



Вітаємо новоприбулих в Канаді!

Саме для вас - спеціальний
пакет фінансових послуг!
Звертайтеся за деталями:



1-800-461-5941 | bcufinancial.com
info@bcufinancial.com



Spring Dinner Dance

Saturday, 13 April 2024
5:30 pm to 11 pm

Our Lady of Mercy Church Hall

\$55 Early Bird before 15 March	\$60 per ticket	\$550 Table of 10
Four Course ITALIAN MEAL Catered by SAM & JOANNA GIRESI	 Live Entertainment CYNTHIA FAY with STEPHEN HALSEY	

ATTIRE
Semi - Formal


CASH BAR
Door Prizes
Spot Prizes
50-50
Gift basket raffle

Proceeds to Youth Ministry, SSVP, KofC

519-333-9972 GK1429@ontarioKofC.ca



John Waligorski
Spiritual Director
wudan108@yahoo.com

www.spiritual-assistance.com
In Sarnia: 519-542-0788
In Michigan: 810-542-0788

Spiritual Direction

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Flowery (Palm) Sunday: The Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem.

First Antiphon

I am filled with love* for the Lord will hear the voice of my plea.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.

For He has inclined His ear to me,* and I will call to Him all the days of my life.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us

The pangs of death encircled me,* the trials of Hades befell me.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us

I met with anguish and pain,* and called upon the name of the Lord.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Only-begotten...

Third Antiphon

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good,* for His mercy endures forever.

Troparion, Tone 1: Assuring us before Your Passion of the general resurrection,* You raised Lazarus from the dead, O Christ God:* and so, like the children we also carry signs of victory* and cry to You, the conqueror of death:* Hosanna in the highest!* Blessed is He who comes* in the name of the Lord.

Therefore, let the house of Israel say that He is good,* for His mercy endures forever.

Troparion, Tone 1: Assuring us before Your Passion of the general resurrection,* You raised Lazarus from the dead, O Christ God:* and so, like the children we also carry signs of victory* and cry to You, the conqueror of death:* Hosanna in the highest!* Blessed is He who comes* in the name of the Lord.

Therefore, let the house of Aaron say that He is good,* for His mercy endures forever.

Troparion, Tone 1: Assuring us before Your Passion of the general resurrection,* You raised Lazarus from the dead, O Christ God:* and so, like the children we also carry signs of victory* and cry to You, the conqueror of death:* Hosanna in the highest!* Blessed is He who comes* in the name of the Lord.

Let all who feat the Lord say that He is good,* for His mercy endures forever.

Troparion, Tone 1: Assuring us before Your Passion of the general resurrection,* You raised Lazarus from the dead, O Christ God:* and so, like the children we also carry signs of victory* and cry to You, the conqueror of death:* Hosanna in the highest!* Blessed is He who comes* in the name of the Lord.

Entrance

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, we bless you from the house of the Lord,* the Lord is God and has appeared to us.

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion, Tone 1: Assuring us before Your Passion of the general resurrection,* You raised Lazarus from the dead, O Christ God:* and so, like the children we also carry signs of victory* and cry to You, the conqueror of death:* Hosanna in the highest!* Blessed is He who comes* in the name of the Lord.

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

Troparion, Tone 4: Buried with You through Baptism, O Christ our God,* we have been granted immortal life by Your resurrection,* and we sing Your praises, crying out:* Hosanna in the highest!* Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 6: Mounted on the throne in heaven, O Christ God,* and on a colt here on earth,* You accepted the praise of the angels,* and the hymn of the children who cried to You:* Blessed are You who have come to call Adam back.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord;* God the Lord has appeared to us.

verse: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. (*Psalm 117:26-27*)

Epistle

Philippians 4:4-9

A reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Philippians.

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Alleluia, Tone 1

verse: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has worked wonders.

verse: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (*Psalm 97:1*)

Gospel

John 12:1-18

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out:

"Hosanna!

'Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the LORD!'

The King of Israel!"

Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

"Fear not, daughter of Zion;

Behold, your King is coming,

Sitting on a donkey's colt."

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and *that* they had done these things to Him.

Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

Hymn to the Mother of God

O my soul, magnify Christ who seated on a foal.

And the irmos: The Lord is God and has appeared to us:* together let us celebrate.* Come with great rejoicing; let us magnify Christ* with palms and olive branches, and with sings let us cry aloud to Him:* Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Communion Hymn

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord;* God the Lord has appeared to us.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

(Psalm 117:26-27)



БОЖЕСТВЕННА ЛІТУРГІЯ

Неділя, 24 березня 2024 р

Квітна (Вербна) неділя: Вхід Господній в Єрусалим.

Третій антифон свята

Стих: Сповідуйтеся Господ^еві,* бо Він благ^ий, бо на вік^и м^илість Йог^о (Пс. 117,1).

Троп^ар (г. 1): Сп^ільне воскрес^іння п^еред Твоїми страст^ями запевн^яючи,* з м^ертвих воздв^игнув Ти Л^азаря, Хр^исте Б^оже;* т^им-то й ми, як ^отроки, знам^ена перем^оги н^осячи,* Тоб^і, перем^ожцеві смерті, воскликнемо:* Ос^анна в в^ишніх, благослов^ен, хто йде в ім'я Госп^одне.

Стих: Нех^ай же ск^аже д^ім Изр^аїлів,* бо Він благ^ий, бо на вік^и м^илість Йог^о (Пс. 117,2).

Троп^ар: Сп^ільне воскрес^іння:

Стих: Нех^ай же ск^аже д^ім Ааронів,* бо Він благ^ий, бо на вік^и м^илість Йог^о (Пс.117,3).

Троп^ар: Сп^ільне воскрес^іння:

Стих: Нех^ай же ск^ажуть ус^і, що боя^тся Г^оспода,* бо Він благ^ий, бо на вік^и м^илість Йог^о (Пс. 117,4).

Троп^ар: Сп^ільне воскрес^іння:

Вхідне: Благословен, хто йде в ім'я Господнє,* ми благословляли вас із дому Господнього; Бог – Господь і явився нам (Пс. 117,26-27).

Тропар (г. 1): Спільне воскресіння перед Твоїми страстями запевняючи,* з мертвих воздвигнув Ти Лазаря, Христе Боже;* тим-то й ми, як отроки, знамена перемоги носячи,* Тобі, переможцеві смерті, восклицуємо:* Осанна в вишніх, благословен, хто йде в ім'я Господнє.

Слава: Тропар (г. 4): Погребавши себе разом з Тобою через хрещення, Христе Боже наш,* сподобилися ми безсмертного життя через Твоє воскресіння* і, заспівуючи, кличемо: Осанна в вишніх,* благословен, хто йде в ім'я Господнє.

Інині: Кондак (г. 6): На престолі на небі, на жереб'яті на землі* Тебе носять, Христе Боже;* ангелів хваління і дітей оспівування прийняв Ти;* вони кликали до Тебе:* Благословенний Ти, що йдеш Адама призвати.

Прокімен (г. 4): Благословен, хто йде в ім'я Господнє; Бог – Господь і явився нам (Пс. 117,26-27).

Стих: Сповідуйтеся Господеві, бо Він благий, бо на віки милість Його (Пс. 117,1).

До Филип'ян послання святого апостола Павла читання.

Літургія св. Йоана Золотоустого: Флп. 247 зач.; 4, 4-9.

4. Браття, радуйтеся завжди у Господі; знову кажучи: радуйтеся. 5. Хай ваша ввічливість буде всім людям відома. Господь близько. 6. Ні про що не журіться, але в усьому виявляйте Богові ваші прохання молитвою й благанням з подякою. 7. І мир Божий, що вищий над усякий ум, берегтиме серця й думки ваші у Христі Ісусі. 8. Наостанку, брати, усе, що правдиве, що чесне, що справедливе, що чисте, що любе, що гідне хвали, коліяка чеснота чи яка похвала – про те думайте. 9. Чого ви навчилися, що прийняли, що почули та бачили в мені – те чиніте, і Бог миру буде з вами.

Алилуя (г. 1): Заспівайте Господеві пісню нову, бо дивне створив Господь (Пс. 97,1).

Стих: Віділи всі кінці землі спасення Бога нашого (Пс. 97,1).

Від Йоана святого Євангелія читання.

Літургія св. Йоана Золотоустого: Йо. 41 зач. 12, 1-18.

1. Шість днів перед Пасхою прибав Ісус у Витанію, де був Лазар, який був помер і якого воскресив Ісус. 2. Там отже, справили йому вечерю, і Марта usługувала. І Лазар був один з тих, які сіли з ним до столу. 3. Марія взяла літру міра з щирого нardu, вельми дорогоцінного, помазала ноги Ісуса й обтерла їх своїм волоссям; і наповнився дім пахощами міра. 4. Каже тоді один з його учнів, Юда Іскаріот, що мав його зрадити: 5. – Чому не продано це миро за триста динаріїв і не роздано бідним? 6. Сказав він так не тому, що піклувався про бідних, але тому, що був злодій; він мав при собі калиту і крав те, що туди кидали. 7. Ісус промовив: – Лишіть її. Вона зберегла те миро на день мого похорону. 8. Бідних маєте з собою завжди, мене ж не маєте завжди. 9. Тим часом багато юдеїв дізналися, що він там, і зійшлися не тільки Ісуса ради, але також щоб Лазаря побачити, якого він воскресив з мертвих. 10. Тоді первосвященники змовилися і Лазаря вбити, 11. бо численні юдеї лишили їх через нього й увірували в Ісуса. 12. На другий день сила людей, які прийшли на свято, почули, що Ісус іде в Єрусалим, 13. і взяли пальмове гілля й вийшли йому назустріч з окликами: – Осанна! Благословен грядий в ім'я Господнє, цар Ізраїлів! 14. І найшовши ослия, Ісус сів на нього, як написано: 15. Не бійся, дочко Сіону, ось іде твій цар верхи на жереб'яті ослиці. 16. Цього не збагнули його учні спершу, але коли Ісус прославився, вони згадали, що це було написано про нього і що такé вчинено йому. 17. Та й народ, що був при ньому, коли він був викликав Лазаря з гробу й воскресив його з мертвих, свідчив про те. 18. Тому й народ вийшов йому назустріч, бо довідався, що він учинив те чудо.

Замість Достойно, приспів: Величай, душе моя, Господа, що сидить на жереб'яті.

Ірмос (г. 4): Бог – Господь і явився нам; справляйте прázник і, веселячїсь, прийдїть, возвелїчимо Христа з квітами й галúзками, в піснях кличучи: Благословén, хто йде в ім'я Гóспода, Спáса на́шого.

Причáсний: Благословén, хто йде в ім'я Господне; Бог – Господь і явився нам (Пс. 117,26-27). Алилу́я, трїчі.

Precious and Life Giving Cross

Theodore the Studite

St. Theodore the Studite here acclaims the cross as a life-giving tree that is the antidote to that tree in paradise that was Adam's undoing. Following the early Christian method of interpreting the Old Testament spiritually, he traces the many ways the wood of the cross is prefigured by the staff of Moses, the staff of Aaron, Noah's ark and the wood carried by Isaac up Mount Moriah.

How precious the gift of the cross, how splendid to contemplate! In the cross there is no mingling of good and evil, as in the tree of paradise: it is wholly beautiful to behold and good to taste. The fruit of this tree is not death but life, not darkness but light. This tree does not cast us out of paradise, but opens the way for our return.

TREE OF DEATH, TREE OF LIFE

This was the tree on which Christ, like a king on a chariot, destroyed the devil, the Lord of death, and freed the human race from his tyranny. This was the tree upon which the Lord, like a brave warrior wounded in his hands, feet and side, healed the wounds of sin that the evil serpent had inflicted on our nature. A tree once caused our death, but now a tree brings life. Once deceived by a tree, we have now repelled the cunning serpent by a tree.

What an astonishing transformation! That death should become life, that decay should become immortality, that shame should become glory! Well might the holy Apostle exclaim: *Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world!* The supreme wisdom that flowered on the cross has shown the folly of worldly wisdom's pride. The knowledge of all good, which is the fruit of the cross, has cut away the shoots of wickedness.

FORSHADOWED IN TYPES & FIGURES

The wonders accomplished through this tree were foreshadowed clearly even by the mere types and figures that existed in the past. Meditate on these, if you are eager to learn. Was it not the wood of a tree that enabled Noah, at God's command, to escape the destruction of the flood together with his sons, his wife, his sons' wives and every kind of animal? And surely the rod of Moses prefigured the cross when it changed water into blood, swallowed up the false serpents of Pharaoh's magicians, divided the sea at one stroke and then restored the waters to their normal course, drowning the enemy and saving God's own people? Aaron's rod, which blossomed in one day in proof of his true priesthood, was another figure of the cross, and did not Abraham foreshadow the cross when he bound his son Isaac and placed him on the pile of wood?

GLORY & CROWN

By the cross death was slain and Adam was restored to life. The cross is the glory of all the apostles, the crown of the martyrs, the sanctification of the saints. By the cross we put on Christ and cast aside our former self. By the cross we, the sheep of Christ, have been gathered into one flock, destined for the sheepfolds of heaven.



His Beatitude Sviatoslav's Sermon at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York

March 11, 2024,

*For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish
but might have eternal life (John 3, 16)*

Your Eminence,
Your Excellencies,
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

In today's readings, the Lord announces to us a profound message of hope. Christ is our hope, his words and love are our hope. His death and resurrection are our hope.

Hope is what we all need — every human soul navigating life's challenges and moments of despair. A refugee migrant looking for safe haven, the homeless and unemployed, those trying to make ends meet, parents or children of a drug-addict, someone whose life is degraded by obstinate racism, the starving in Africa, Christians in China, women in Afghanistan, families suffering division or a mental or mortal disease of a loved one, a society torn asunder by a polarizing public discourse. All of us who are facing our own sinfulness. We all need hope!

Hope is what the hearts of my people long for. It sustains soldiers in foxholes defending the freedom of fellow citizens and the God-given dignity of family members, POW's and civilians under occupation, grieving mothers and fathers, young widows, orphans, and traumatized children who bravely endure daily air raid sirens while in school.

Allow me to be their voice today and express gratitude to Catholics in the US and worldwide, to His Eminence Cardinal Dolan, and to Aid to the Church in Need and for the support we experience every day.

The humanitarian aid you provide feeds, warms, and heals millions. In his cathedral, I thank Cardinal Dolan, the first US bishop to visit Ukraine after Russia's full-scale invasion. Your Eminence, your visit to Ukraine in spring 2022 was a profound display of solidarity. You so much wanted to be with the suffering people of Ukraine.

I thank Aid to the Church in Need. Many of our bishops and most of our priests were supported by scholarships from your donors. Among those lucky students I was the one. Church in Need has demonstrated singular generosity to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church for three generations. We thank you for your prayer, advocacy and aid. By God's grace we stand. Thanks to God and to you, Ukraine fights for freedom, peace, and justice and, be sure, Ukraine will prevail.

In the Letter to the Ephesians, Saint Paul reminds us of the immeasurable riches of God's grace. He emphasizes that it is by God's grace alone that we are saved, not by our own merit or works. This grace is a gift freely given to us out of God's great love.

Paul declares that we are God's handiwork, each with a purpose. God has prepared good works for us to do. It is our calling to live in accordance with His will.

The Gospel of John expresses God's ultimate love for us. This love is supreme and sublime. God sends His Only Begotten Son into the world, who freely gives His life on the cross to save us. Lent invites us into Jesus's Paschal pilgrimage from death to life. A passage that turns us away from sin and brings us salvation.

Alas, Jesus acknowledges the fact that some people choose darkness over light because their works are evil. We all have a choice to make. We can either embrace the light of Christ and live in truth, or we can dwell in darkness and sin.

Allow me to address the Ukrainian faithful, the soldiers, the injured, the traumatized and refugees here in The Big Apple and those dispersed globally.

Dear sisters and brothers, in a time of pain, fear and despair, the Lord gives us hope and promises us life. And this is not just a promise, it is backed up by God's action — He gives his Only Begotten Son so that we may live. The incomprehensible sacrifice of the Son of God gives us life. God loves the world so much, He loves us so much.

We are loved by God, and no enemy can overcome us. We have experienced this during these two years — mutual love, care, and protection.

Thank you for expressing this love through your prayer, action and sacrifice. Let's not give up! Hold your checkpoints.

Don't let the devil or enemy propaganda capture your heart, but pray and work, as His Beatitude Liubomyr commanded us.

God's truth will win, Ukraine will win, do not doubt it!

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish
but might have eternal life."*

These are among the most powerful Gospel words that bring us hope in times of despair — we will not perish; in Christ we will have eternal life.

God has granted eternal life to all who suffer for the truth — to the man in Bucha who was shot with his hands tied behind his back in March 2022, to the mother killed a week ago in Odesa by a Russian drone while holding her 4-month-old son in her embrace, to helpless prisoners of war and those who were tortured to death, to you and to me.

Today, I would also like to remind you of another powerful quote from the Gospel of John: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Ukrainians call every person their friends as they lay down their lives protecting the world from the diabolical evil manifested in this genocidal invasion. For more than two years, Ukraine has been sacrificing its precious people, rich lands, schools, hospitals, roads, and bridges.

On behalf of the people of Ukraine — wounded yet unbroken, tired yet resilient — I ask you to be a sign of hope.

As a professor of moral theology, I often explained to my seminarians and students that hope is a theological virtue. It means placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Hope is our weapon; hope is our shield.

The Ukrainian soldiers defending the innocent in Chasiv Yar, Robotyno, Kupiansk at this very moment "put on the breastplate of faith and charity, and for a helmet, the hope of salvation".

In its essence, hope is utterly practical. To flourish hope needs us — our hands, voices, prayer and effort. I ask you to do everything in your power, and believe me, you can do a lot, to invoke God's power to intercede for the people of Ukraine, for peace and justice.

A visionary American, Martin Luther King Jr. stated that no one is free until we are all free. No one is at peace until we are all at peace. There is no justice if someone continues to suffer from injustice.

Be people of hope, keeping in your minds and hearts the ultimate hope and promise — we will not perish; we will have eternal life. Amen.

† SVIATOSLAV



Basic Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion:

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

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

St. Theophan the Recluse: When going to the Holy Mysteries, go with . . .

When going to the Holy Mysteries, go with simplicity of heart, in full faith that you will receive the Lord within yourself, and with the proper reverence towards this. What your state of mind should be after this, leave it to the Lord Himself. Many desire ahead of time to receive this or that from Holy Communion, and then, not seeing what they wanted, they are troubled, and even their faith in the power of the Mystery is shaken. The fault lies not with the Mystery, but with superficial assumptions. Do not promise yourself anything. Leave everything to the Lord, asking a single mercy from Him — to strengthen you in every kind of good so that you will be acceptable to Him. The fruit of Communion most often has a taste of sweet peace in the heart; sometimes it brings enlightenment to thought and inspiration to one's devotion to the Lord; sometimes almost nothing is apparent, but afterward in one's affairs there is a noted a great strength and steadfastness in the diligence one has promised.



PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

*Give comfort to those who suffer because of the violence.
Give comfort to those who mourn their dead, and strength to neighboring
countries to welcome the refugees.
Convert the hearts of those who resort to arms and protect those who work
to promote peace.
God of hope, inspire leaders to choose peace instead of violence and to seek
reconciliation with enemies.*

Inspire compassion in the universal Church for the Ukrainian people and give us hope for a future of peace based on justice for all.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Light of the world. Amen.

Russia invaded Ukraine on Thursday, February 24, 2022 and is posing the largest threat to international global security since WW II.

The Ukrainian people will fight to defend their homeland and in doing so, will prevent the spread of russian aggression.

russian aggression will result in one of the largest humanitarian crises of this century. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Ukrainians will be displaced.

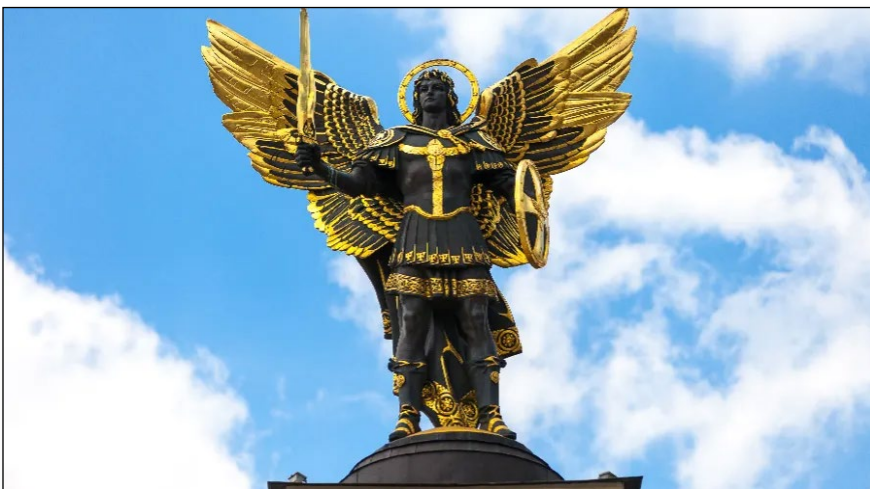
If you wish to make a donation to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine, please donate through the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), and specify that your donation is for Ukraine - <https://cnewa.org/ca/donate/>

You may also donate directly to St George's Church, the money will directly to charity efforts for Ukraine.

Simply send an E-Transfer tosaveukraine@stgeorgessarnia.ca

МОЛИТВА ЗА МНОГОСТРАЖДАЛЬНИЙ УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ НАРОД У ЧАС ВІЙНИ

Господи Ісусе Христе Боже наш, благаємо Тебе, вислухай ширу молитву Твоїї улюбленої Церкви Київської Русі за важко страждаючих дітей українського краю. Сподівайся милостивим оком на їх лихоліття та ласкаво поспіши на допомогу. Звільни свій беззахисний народ від несправедливих загарбників, нашої агресорів та терору війни. Зміцни силою Твоюю усіх доблесних і відважних захисників для добросердечної боротьби, щоб вони радше керувалися любов'ю до беззахисних, аніж ненавистю до ворогів. О Премилосердний Господи, захорони переселенців, зціли поранених, борони сиріт, підтримай вдів, потіш скорботних та ласкаво прийми до Твого Царства всіх, хто благородно віддав своє життя в обороні Батьківщини від нападів ворогів. Поспіши зупинити кровопролиття як друга, так і недруга та запали серця багатьох до мужньої боротьби за істинну справедливість, що є джерелом тривалого миру. О добросердий Господи, Ти - наш мир, пом'якши зачерствілі серця, наведи тих, хто сприяє воєнним діям, до примирення, щоб Твій улюблений український народ втішався миром, справедливістю та свободою - ознаками Твого Царства, в якому Ти царюєш з Предвічним Твоїм Отцем, і Всесвятим, Благим і Животворним Твоїм Духом, нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.



[**Statue of St. Michael the Archangel that stands above Kyiv's Independence Square.**](#)

[**St. Michael is patron saint of the Ukrainian capital.**](#)

*ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL Defend people of Ukraine
in battle; be their defence against the wickedness and
snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and to you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of
God, thrust into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who
are trying to invade Ukraine.*

Amen.