SAINT NICHOLAS

Troparion (Tone 4)

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nicholas, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion (Tone 3)

You revealed yourself, O saint, in Myra as a priest, For you fulfilled the Gospel of Christ By giving up your soul for your people, And saving the innocent from death. Therefore you are blessed as one become wise in the grace of God.
COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA:
THANKSGIVING 2019

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We greet you in the love of Jesus Christ on the joyous occasion of our national celebration of Thanksgiving. This is truly a beautiful national holiday, for it presents us with an opportunity to come together as families and communities in gratitude for the tremendous blessings that God continually bestows upon us each and every day of our lives.

This beautiful tradition – the celebration of Thanksgiving Day in our country reminds us that we are a people under God — born from His loving hand, created in His image and for His purposes.

In this sacred season of St. Philip's (Pre-Nativity) Fast, we need to renew our gratitude to God for all of His gifts. But we also need to learn to say “thank you” with love to the people in our lives.

We know the word “Eucharist” comes from the Greek word, which means “thanksgiving.” And as Orthodox Christians, we are called to be a “eucharistic people,” a people of thanksgiving!

The Eucharist roots our worship in gratitude to God. So, in that spirit, we should make a new commitment to renew our spirit of thanksgiving and to pray for those who bring us good gifts and blessings from God.

We need to live with joyful awareness that everything we have is a gift of grace from our God. And we know that God's gifts are not given to us to use selfishly. We should give thanks to God — but we also know we should “give back” to him. Our gratitude must be gracious. The gifts we’ve been given, we must share with others.

God expects us to use the gifts he has given us to collaborate with him in building the kingdom of love and truth in our world. He wants our lives to be filled with good deeds, acts of charity. He wants us to bear the good fruit of a strong and steady witness to our faith in our daily lives — in our homes, in our workplaces, in our communities.

We are called as Orthodox Christians to be Eucharistic people — men and women of thanksgiving who offer everything we do as an act of thanksgiving. Men and women who thank God and glorify him for all of his wonderful works in our lives.

It is our heartfelt prayer that as we come together on this Day of Thanksgiving, feasting in thanks and in gratitude with our loved ones, friends, and family, we may be cognizant of the very special blessings that we enjoy in this land and that we may strive in our daily actions to reflect that gratitude in the love we show to others.

Let’s give thanks to God this weekend and let’s commit ourselves to look for new ways to “give back” to God through our service to others.

May our hearts be filled with gratitude to God for all His blessings of life, liberty, and the freedom to worship Him.

May God bless each and every one of you on this Day of Thanksgiving, and may God bless America.

We are those who pray for you unceasingly,

+ Antony, Metropolitan
+ Jeremiah, Archbishop
+ Daniel, Archbishop
Dearly beloved clergy, monastics and faithful of our Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchies beyond the borders of Ukraine and to all throughout the world who prepare during this Phillip’s Fast – Advent for the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – “our Savior – God with us”:

Approximately 700 years before the Nativity of Christ, Isaiah prophesized that He would be born of a virgin, which we see was, indeed, fulfilled in Bethlehem as described in the Gospel of Matthew. The world awaited the arrival of the Messiah – the Savior – sometimes with patience, sometimes with doubt, sometimes with impatience and sometimes with outright rebellion. We have been blessed to become faithful witnesses to the Truth of the Incarnation of God – the Word of God – Jesus Christ – God with us – God Who offered, and continues to do so, Himself for our salvation.

The world of the time of the Incarnation – the Nativity of the Christ-Child – quite frankly, failed to recognize that the wait was over. No one expected the Messiah – the Savior – would come as an innocent child, born of a virgin in a cave and placed into a food trough of domestic animals. And yet, from these almost unfathomable circumstances we set out upon the path leading to our salvation.

After the Great Feast of Pentecost, the Apostles and their successors, under the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, knew that theirs was a holy and inescapable responsibility to bear witness to Christ – the Incarnated Son of God – Who is risen from the dead. It was not an easy task. The Evangelist, Apostle Matthew utilizes history to reveal who this Jesus was to those who identified themselves completely through their own history. In the first chapter of his Gospel, which we read during Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before the Nativity, Matthew presents the genealogy of Jesus Christ through 42 generations: from Abraham to David, fourteen generations, from David to the captivity in Babylon, fourteen generations and from the captivity in Babylon to Christ – fourteen generations. Following this presentation, Matthew goes immediately into the narrative of the Nativity of our Lord.

Matthew understood that it was extremely important to convey to the people of God that this Jesus Christ was one of them, an integral part of their entire history – not a stranger who has no compassion or love for them – but one of them who came to fulfill God’s loving promise to them. The point of all this is that Matthew was trying to convey to all that all that history, all those generations were leading to something – something far beyond what they had ever humanly expected.

The entire New Testament does the same for all of us who comprehend that the Son of God remains as “one of us”. All that we witness in the Gospels and the Epistles and Revelation – both the good (in human terms) that we read and the bad that we read – continue to reveal to us that everything is still “leading to something” – and that something is the expectation of our salvation, to becoming one with God.

Our prayer is that as we proceed through this pre-Nativity season, we keep this expectation in clear focus. God has come to US, God is among US and God will embrace US once again in His Heavenly Kingdom, if we live as those who clothed themselves in Him during the Holy Mystery of Baptism and received the fullness of Grace from the Holy Spirit in the Holy Mystery of Chrismation. Let us strive always to keep that baptismal garment, the pure white cloth in which we were wrapped following our Baptism, as unblemished by sinfulness on the day of our repose as it was originally.

Let us prepare through prayer and fasting and in contemplation of the purity of LOVE offered to us in an innocent child, continually dwell upon the ultimate goal – that something – that God has been leading us to through all the generations of human history.

In the All-Encompassing Love of our Lord and through the prayers of the Holy Apostle Phillip,

+ YURIJ – Metropolitan Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
+ ANTONY – Metropolitan Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America and Diaspora
+ JEREMIAH – Archbishop Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America
+ DANIEL – Archbishop Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora
+ ILARION – Bishop Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
+ ANDRIY – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
ПОСЛАННЯ НА ПОЧАТОК РІЗДВЯНОГО ПОСТУ ПИЛИПІВКИ

“Тому Господь Сам дасть вам знак: Ось Діва в утробы зачне, і Сина народить, і назвеш ім’я Йому: Еммануїл.” (Іс. 7:14)

“A все оце сталося, щоб збулося сказане пророком від Господа, який провіщає: Ось діва в утробі зачне, і Сина породить, і назву Йому Імення Еммануїл, що в перекладі є: З нами Бог.” (Мтт. 1: 22-23)

Возлюблене духовенство, монашество и вірні наших Українських Православних Епархій за межами України та по всьому світі, хто готується під час цього Філіпівського Посту - до Різдва Господа нашого і Спасителя Ісуса Христа - “наш Спаситель – з нами Бог”:

Приблизно за 700 років до Різдва Христового Ісая пророкував, що Він народиться від Діви, і ми бачимо, що справдилося це у Вифлеемі, як описано у Євангелії від Матфея. Світ чекав приходу Месії - Спасителя - хто з терпінням, хто із сумнівом, іноді із нетерпінням, а іноді відвертим бунтом. Ми були благословлені стати вірними свідками Втілення Істинного Бога - Слова Божого - Ісуса Христа - з нами Бог - Бога, одного з нас - Бога, який пожертвував Себе і продовжує робити це заради нашого спасіння.

Світ у часі Втілення - Різдва Христа-Дитяти - цілком відверто кажучи, не зміг визнати, що чекання завершилося. Ніхто не сподівався, що Месія - Спаситель - прийде, як невинне дитя, народжене від діві в печері і буде поміщене в ясла світських тварин. І все ж із цих майже незбагнених обставин ми стали на шлях, що веде до нашого порятунку.

Після Великого свята П’ятидесятниці апостоли та їхні наступники під натхненням і дією Святого Духа знали, що їхні святий та неминучий обов’язок свідчити про Христа - Втіленного Сина Божого - Воскреслого з мертвих. Це було непросте завдання. Апостол та Евангеліст Матфей використовує історію, щоб розкрити, хто був цей Ісус для тих, хто повністю ідентифікував себе через свою історію. У першому розділі свого Євангелія, яке ми читаємо за Божественною Літургією у неділю перед Різдвом Христовим, Матфей розкриває генеалогію Ісуса Христа через 42 покоління: від Авраама до Давида, чотирнадцять поколінь, від Давида до Бавилонського полону чотирнадцять поколінь і від Бавилонського полону до Христа - чотирнадцять поколінь. Після опису родоводу апостол Матфей негайно переходить до розповіді про Різдво нашого Господа.

Матфей розумів, що надзвичайно важливо є, донести до людей Божих, що цей Ісус Христос був одним із них, невід’ємною частиною їхньої всієї історії - не чужинець, який не має співчуття чи любові до них, - а є одним із них, хто прийшов допомогти Божому обіймати даним ім. Сенс у всьому цьому полягає в тому, що Матфей намагався донести до всіх, що вся ця історія, всі ці покоління приходили до чогось більшого, ніж вони коли-небудь очікували.

Весь Новий Завіт показує те саме для всіх нас, хто розуміє, що Син Божий залишається “одним із нас”. Все, що ми бачимо в Євангелях, Посланнях та Одкровенню - добре (в людському розумінні) те, що ми читаємо, і не добре те, що ми читаємо, - надали виявляє нам, що все це “веде до чогось” - і те щось є очікування нашого спасіння, щоб стати єдиними з Богом.

Наша молитва полягає в тому, щоб, продовжуючи цей передредів’яний час, ми перебували в очікуванні. Бог прийшов до НАС, Бог є серед НАС, і Бог знову приймє нас у Свєте Небесне Царство, якщо ми живемо як її, хто здобувся в Нього у часі Святого Таїнства Хрестення і отримав повноту Благодаті Святого Духа в Святому Таїнстві Миропомазання. Будемо завжди прагнути зберегти цю одежду хрещення чистою, білою одежду, в яку ми були здобуті після нашего Хрестення, і незапламені гриховнистю в день нашого упоєння, як це було напочатку.

Будемо готуватися через молитву та піст і в споглядани на чистоту ЛЮБОВІ, даної нам через невинне дитя, постійно прагнути до кінцевій цілі – до того – до чого Бог веде нас через усі покоління людської історії.

У Всебіймаючій Любові у Христі та за молитвами Святого Апостола Філипа,

+ Юрій – Митрополит Української Православної Церкви в Канаді
+ Антоній – Митрополит Української Православної Церкви в США, Лівадії та Канаді
+ Єремія – Архієпископ Української Православної Епархії в Північній Америці
+ Данило – Архієпископ Української Православної Церкви США та Канади
+ Іларіон – Єпископ Української Православної Церкви в Канаді
+ Андрій – Єпископ Української Православної Церкви в Канаді

+ Іван) – Патріарх Української Православної Церкви в США
Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula) and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom Saint Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man’s poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. Saint Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, Saint Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

At one point Nicholas embarked upon a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. Saint Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured, was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, Saint Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshiping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Visiting the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, Saint Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, “Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world and glorify My Name there.” So, he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men.
One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. “What is your name, child?” he asked. God’s chosen one replied, “My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant.”

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine as emperor, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, Saint Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicean Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor denounced by Saint Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of Saint Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to Saint Constantine in a dream, Saint Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers. He worked many other miracles and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now. Kyiv preserves the memory about the miraculous rescue of a drowning infant by the saint. The great wonderworker, hearing the grief-filled prayers of the parents for the loss of their only child, took the infant from the waters, revived him and placed him in the choir-loft of the church of Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sophia) before his wonderworking icon.

In the morning the infant was found safe by his thrilled parents, praising Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker.
День св. Миколая відзначили в Українській Школі при церкві-пам'ятнику Св. Андрія Первозванного у Саут Баунд Бруці в Духовному Осередку УПЦ США

21 грудня 2019 Школа українознавства при Українській православній церкві св. Андрія Первозванного мала зустріч із св. Миколаем в приміщені Культурного Центру Української Православної церкви США у Саут Баунд Бруці, Нью-Джерзі. На запрошення Адміністрації Школи, вчителів та школярів, завітали на наше свято дуже багато гостей. У свою чергу були присутні Голова Консисторії та Правлячий Архієрей Західної Єпархії Української Православної Церкви США Високопреосвященніший Архієпископ Даниїл, духовенство та парафіяни церкви-пам'ятника Св. Андрія Первозванного, батьки учасників нашого свята. Головним гостем цього свята, на яке завжди чекають наші діти був Святий Миколай.

Свято розпочалось зальною молитвою, яку очолив Архієпископ Даниїл. Метою заходу було виховати у дітей навички до українських традицій, належність до культури та історії українського народу; розширити знання дітей про українські свята та обряди. Діти підготували великий концерт, із задоволенням приймали участь в конкурсах, читали вірші та співали пісні й колядки.

Прибувши на нашу уроочисту частину Святий Миколай із захопленням дивився на виступ дітей. Кожен учасник, звичайно, хвилювався, щоб як найкраще виступити та отримати винагороду від Св. Миколая. Настає найважливіша мить - Св. Миколай вручає дітям подарунки, а діти з нетерпінням чекають їх. На прощання всі дякують Св. Миколаю за ласку і добро, а Він у свою чергу благословляє присутніх. Також Владика Даниїл подарував кожному учаснику та вчителю йогони хрестики із Єрусалиму, котрі неподавно
були привезені до США групою паломників Церкви.

На завершення виступу була зроблена загальна фотографія на пам'ять із Св. Миколаем і учні із нетерпінням побігли розкривати свої подарунки. Усі діти отримали цікаві подарунки та незабутнє враження від свята.

Хочемо подякувати Директору Школи, вчителям, батьківському комітету та дітям за те, що подарували всім присутнім неймовірну святкову атмосферу та Святому Миколаю, який завітав до нас на це свято.

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilogan and Lev Khmelkovsky
On Sunday December 22, 2019, on the day that the Holy Orthodox Church remembers the Conception by St. Anna, of “Whence is Conceived the Holy Mother of God”, Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox mission had the great pleasure of receiving His Eminence Archbishop Daniel. Despite the early morning freezing temperatures, the cold weather could not bring down the joy of the parishioners awaiting the arrival of His Eminence.

Upon arrival to Sts. Peter and Paul, His Eminence was greeted by the head of the parish sisterhood Mrs. Walentyna Micewicz. She presented His Eminence with the traditional Ukrainian korovai which was made by Ms. Inna Smirnova and warmly welcomed His Eminence to our family parish. His Eminence thanked her for her kind words and then was subsequently greeted by Inna Kosmenko, who oversees all parish activities for the parish children. She offered His Eminence a heartfelt greeting after which the children of the parish gathered in the center of the church, and when the time came, they beautifully recited the prayer “Our Father”. Shortly afterward, His Eminence came out with the holy chalice and communed the faithful parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, His Eminence was greeted by the rector of the parish V. Rev. Victor Wronskyj who thanked Him for taking the time to visit Sts. Peter and Paul and especially the greeting from the children of the parish, His Eminence was greeting by the rector of the parish V. Rev. Victor Wronskyj along with V. Rev. Stepan Bilohan who just recently arrived from Ukraine.

Soon afterward, the ringing of the church bells signaled the beginning of the Divine Liturgy. The responses to the Divine Liturgy was sung by the church choir and His Eminence gave a wonderful inspiring homily on reminding the faithful how we must live out our lives before God and others by not wearing a false mask. A mask, that we so often use in our lives, to hide from others our true feelings and self-interests that are opposite of what God teaches us. At the point of the Divine Liturgy before the singing of “Our Father”, the children of the parish gathered in the center of the church, and when the time came, they beautifully recited the prayer “Our Father”. Shortly afterward, His Eminence came out with the holy chalice and communed the faithful parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul.
thanked His Eminence as well, for His tremendous hard work in Ukraine as Exarch of the Ecumenical throne, which directly contributed to the formation and establishment of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. His Eminence in turn greeted V. Rev. Victor Wronskyj on the occasion of his birthday which he celebrates on December 19th and many years was sung. His Eminence also greeted V. Rev. Stepan Bilohan on the occasion of his birthday, which he celebrates on December 20th and many years was sung. In addition, His Eminence, officially welcomed V. Rev. Stepan Bilohan and Matushka Iryna Bilohan to Sts. Peter and Paul, where V. Rev. Stepan Bilohan will begin assisting V. Rev. Victor Wronskyj in divine services and various events associated with the life of the parish.

Upon completion of the veneration of the Cross, the parish faithful, His Eminence and clergy gathered in the parish hall, where a luncheon was served. But at the same time everyone was anticipating the arrival of St. Nicholas, who arrived shortly afterwards to greet the children of the parish to see whether they were “naughty” or “nice”. The children of the parish greeted St. Nicholas with poems and songs such as “St. Nicholas, St. Nicholas visit us”. Upon completion and after careful examination of the children St. Nicholas made the decision that the children were indeed “nice”, and they all received special gifts. After distributing gifts not only to the children, but to all the parishioners and as well as to His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, St. Nicholas departed.

The afternoon concluded with V. Rev. Victor Wronskyj thanking all the parishioners and especially His Eminence Archbishop Daniel for attending. In closing, V. Rev. Victor Wronskyj reminded the faithful of the love that St. Nicholas had not only for God, but for others and how this love should always be present in our everyday own lives and in the parish family.

*Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslaw Bilohan*
The family that prays together, stays together. The family that stays together is a strong family.

The parish family of Sts. Peter and Paul in Palos Park has come together to pray and celebrate a special occasion on October 4-6, 2019. There was a lot to celebrate. God has granted this small community on the south side Chicago Land to serve Him and His people for 110 years.

Another chapter. Another decade!

The parish has started a second decade of life in a second century of its ministry.

Not many parish communities have been blessed to live over a century.

The celebrations started with Saturday evening vespers. As the sun was setting down, brushing its still summery warm rays off of the cross on the church dome as well as the crowns of pine trees near by, the parishioners and guests one after another were coming up the steps of the forty-year old church temple of the hundred and ten year old parish community. Chicago Deanery clergy along with His Eminence Archbishop Daniel led the Great Vespers.

The flickering flame of beeswax candles, the sweet smell of incense, chanting of vesperal hymns was the spiritually uplifting aura of the evening service. The culmination of the vespers was the Holy Sacrament of Chismation administered by Archbishop Daniel to Jeanne Patricia Maack, who has been worshiping with us for over three years. Through Holy Sacrament of Christmation she was received into the Holy Orthodox Church. As His Eminence Archbishop Daniel addressed the congregation complete stillness took over the temple as everyone with anticipation was expecting something extraordinary. It did happened. His Eminence surprised everyone as He presented to the attendees of the vesperal service a chance to venerate the very relics of Sts. Peter and Paul, he brought over from Rome. Even greater surprise followed as His Eminence announced that He would like to gift the relics to the parish family. Hard to explain the emotion that overtook the members of the parish family as with tears of joy and humbleness they were approaching the Holy relics of their patron saints for veneration.

After Vespers, parish family and guests gathered at the Church hall for the memorial night. Enjoying snacks and drinks, attendees reminiscent about the good old days. A video was shown covering a century of Parish ministry prepared by parish photographer - Donna Nevels. Huge collection of photos depicting parish history, nearly Assam led by Mike Gbur, was available for viewing.

On the next day, Sunday, as the bright morning sun was lighting up the fiery golden and red crowns of already turning towards fall trees, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel accompanied by
seminarians Yaroslav Bilohan and Myroslav Mykytyuk and a team of parish subdeacons with altar servers arrived at the Church temple.

His Eminence was greeted by a bunch of eager to see Him children. Of course group hug with Archbishop followed. Sandra Hladky - parish council president with Anatoly Bilyk - Parish council secretary greeted Archbishop Daniel with Bread (Korovai) and flowers. Parish priest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha welcomed His Eminence and asked to lead us in the Divine Liturgy.

Before the Liturgy started two readers of our parish, Elias and his son Peter Gordan were elevated to the order of subdeacons by His Eminence. The number of subdeacons in our parish has grown again. We are blessed with nine subdeacons now. The Liturgy was extraordinary with altar filled with clergy and altar.

The choir’s joyful singing carried on the celebration under the leadership of Subdeacon George Cepynsky. The Gospel was read from Luke 5:1-11 about fishers of men. Then the time came for the Bishop’s word. Everyone was carefully listening as their spiritual shepherd preached about the reality of this world. His words were real, thought provoking. He spoke about how contemporary world is failing in all of the virtues. He encouraged us to preach the Gospel with our lives. Each and everyone of us is called to be the fisherman of human souls for Christ. His Eminence passed an actual fishing pole and bait around the church as he explained what are the actual tools for fishing for souls in our environment. The fishing pole does need to be used by each and every one of us if we want those people who surround us in our daily life to rejoice in the faith we rejoice. That fishing pole needs to be used to the best of our abilities if we want this community under the patronage of Sts. Peter and Paul to continue to grow and minister to the generations to come. With
inspirational words of encouragement, His Grace Daniel was exhorting us to ponder upon the true values in life, the right choices we should make if we want others to come to Christ. He was exhorting us to make the right choices boldly. The virtues ought to be practiced with great diligence among each other if we want to bring others to Christ. Archbishop’s heartwarming words of encouragement, touched the souls of many.

As the Divine Liturgy continued, spiritually uplifted children once again adorned the Liturgy with their angelic voices singing the “Otche Nash,” the prayer of Our Father and Holy Eucharist Hymns. It is an overwhelming feeling of joy, to hear our youngest parishioners so eagerly and in such piety exclaim their prayers to Our God the Father. I can almost hear their voices still resounding inside the temple.

After the dismissal, His Eminence Daniel recognized the following parishioners of our parish: Mrs. Noreen Neswick, Mr. Michael Gbur, Subdeacon George Cepynsky, Mrs. Donna Nevels, Subdeacon James Nevels, Subdeacon Dennis Rehr, Subdeacon Jeremy Oryhon, Mr. Anatol Bilyk, Mr. Richard Ganske by presenting them with the 100th Anniversary medals of UOC of USA. Those medals of St Andrew the founder of Christ Church in Ukraine were presented to them for years of hard work by serving on different committees, volunteering their time and labor for the benefit of our parish.

With the conclusion of award ceremony, all of the present in the temple went outside to process around the Church. The procession would stop on the four sides of the Church and the Gospel was read by His Eminence. After each reading of the Gospel, the Archbishop blessed with Holy water the temple and the congregation. The procession ended with a group picture on the steps of the Church temple. We surely were making history for the next generations to see.

Delicious dinner was catered by Tradicia Polish Fusion Cuisine. Cake in the shape of a hundred and ten was cut up and served to all of the attendants. It was truly a great day. We completed another chapter in the life of the parish. Our parish community has entered into a second decade of the second century of serving God and His people. Let’s continue to make history by worshiping, working and celebrating together.

Text by Very Rev. Fr. Vasyl Sendeha
Photos by Seminarian Yaroslav Bilohan
On a glorious weekend, October 12-13, 2019, the historic Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity in Trenton, New Jersey, by God’s infinite grace, celebrated 100 years of parish life.

His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony and Archbishop Daniel together with Fr. Zinovy Zharsky, former pastor Very Rev. Fr. Ivan Lymar and accompanied by guest priests and seminarians led the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom filled with love, hope and joy.

Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church was founded 100 years ago through the sacrifices of Ukrainian immigrants and continues to thrive. Today, the church has four generations of those original families still worshipping here along with the faithful of many nationalities.

Archbishop Daniel remarked in his sermon that, “It would serve each of us well to remember the enormous sacrifices of those that came before us. The ones that took second mortgages on their homes to make donations to the church because they believed that it was necessary in order to preserve and spread their faith.”

In a church that was filled to capacity, we look forward to another hundred years of proclaiming the love of Christ and challenging one another to live Orthodoxy to the fullest.
Високопреосвященні Митрополит Антоній та Архієпископ Даниїл разом з настоятелем храму от. Зіновієм Жарським, попереднім настоятелем от. Іваном Лимар, от. Петром Круашвілі з Грузинської Православної Церкви, от. Дияконом Святословом Готь, семінаристами Мирославом Микитюк, Андрієм Ватрич та Ярославом Білоган. Також ми всі вітали інших священнослужителів які завітали до нас щоб розділити радість цього свята.

Трепетно і урочисто звучав спів церковного хору під керівництвом Тараса Павловського.

Сивочолі і малеча зводили до Бога руки і серця у молитві за сьогодення і майбутнє цієї святої церкви та нашої рідної України, за перемогу у війні з Росією, за здоров'я рідних, за любов до ближнього. І здалося мені на мить, що «Отче наш» разом з нами співають ангели.

Барвиста українська вишивка і солов'яна мова поєдналися з американською землею на справжньому святі душі - столітньому ювілеї Української Православної Церкви Святої Трійці.

Text by Christopher Capelli & Ганна Цебрій

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan and Elizabeth Symonenko
ВІДЗНАЧЕННЯ 50-ТИ РІЧЧЯ ОТЦЯ ОРЕСТА ПУГАЛЬСЬКОГО

20-го жовтня 2019 року в 18-ту неділю після П'ятидесятниці до парафії святих Апостолів Петра і Павла в Глен Спей, НЙ зі своїм Архієрейським візитом завітав Його Високопреосвященство Архієпископ Даниїл. Цей день був особливим для парафії, зокрема для настоятеля цього храму Протоієрея Ореста Пугальського, який в цей день святкував своє день народження, своє 50-ти ліття.

Це свято парафіяни разом з настоятелем розпочали з святкової архієрейської літургії, яку очолив сам Архієпископ Даниїл. Разом з настоятелем йому співслужили прот. Зеновій Жолобак, прот. Роман Шак, прот. Яромир Микитюк та диякон Святослав Готь, котрі приїхали щоб разом з настоятелем розділити радість ювілею та разом помолитись Всещаному у цей день. Перед початком літургії за проханням настоятеля, Архієпископ Даниїл здійснив освячення нової церковної утварі в храмі: хоругв та підсвічників, котрі були пожертвувані парафіянами храму. Цілий храм був заповнений парафіянами та гостями які прибули з різних міст та околиць щоб привітати отця Ореста та спільно піднести за нього молитву на архієрейській літургії.

Семінаристи Семінарії Святої Софії допомагали на Богослужінні як прислуговуючи у вівтарі: Іподиякон Мирслав Микитюк, Іподиякон Ярослав Білоган та семінарист Андрій Ватрич так і допомагаючи хористам: Іподиякон Юрій Бобко, Іподиякон Микола Зомчак, семінарист Павло Висотський та семінарист Максим Журавчик.

Під час літургії, у своїй проповіді, Архієпископ Даниїл звернувся до людей з закликом сприймати Церкву Христову так як діти сприймають і захоплюються зоопарком. Закликав усіх пробудити себе та вмити свої духовні очі, щоб побачити справжню красу Христової Присутності в Церкві та й загалом у нашому житті.

В кінці літургії Архієпископ привітав прот. Ореста з його 50-ти річним ювілеєм, зокрема підкреслив особливу подяку від Української Православної Церкви за його труди в Христовому Винограднику. З цієї нагоди прот. Орест був нагороджений орденом
Святого Іова Почаївського за особливі заслуги перед парафією та Церквою загалом.

Разом з настоятелем храму нагороди у вигляді столітніх медалей та грамот були вручені ще кільком парафіянам за їхній труд та особистий вклад при парафії та Церкві. Для всіх лунало многолітня.

Після цього всі разом зробили спільне фото на пам'ять про цей день Архієрейського візиту та 50-го ювілею настоятеля парафії.

Святкування продовжили за святковим столом, куди були запрошени всі парафіянини та священнослужители. У залі під час смачного святкового обіду неодноразово лунали слова та пісні з привітаннями до отця Ореста.

На кінець усі розділили великий ювілейний торт, який приготували парафіяни для свого настоятеля.

Text by Subdeacon Mykola Zomchak
Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan
On Sunday October 27, 2019 Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox mission had the great pleasure of receiving His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, the ruling hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Despite the heavy morning rainfall, the weather could not bring down the joy of the parishioners awaiting the arrival of His Eminence.

Upon arrival to Sts. Peter and Paul, His Eminence was greeted by the head of the parish sisterhood Walentyna Micewicz. She presented His Eminence with the traditional Ukrainian korovai and warmly welcomed His Eminence to our parish family. His Eminence thanked her for her kind words and then was subsequently greeted by Inna Kosmenko, who oversees all parish activities for the parish children. She offered His Eminence a heartfelt greeting after which the parish children, also then greeted His Eminence, with their own personal greetings by reciting religiously themed poems. After the completion of each poem the children handed His Eminence a personal bouquet of flowers. After the greeting from the children of the parish, His Eminence was greeting by the rector of the parish V. Rev. Victor Wronskyj.

The visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony marked a very special day for the parish. On this Sunday, the parish was celebrating “Founder’s Day”, remembering the past parishioners that founded the parish back in 1925. This day was also made special by having in attendance Mrs. Daria Williams (Zawyrucha), who is the granddaughter of the original founding members of the parish. Also, in commemoration of this day the parishioners worked very hard in replacing the entire front entrance to the parish. A new staircase, new church doors, and a disabled wheelchair lift were installed. To mark this special occasion, His Eminence proceeded to bless the newly completed church doors, staircase, and disabled wheelchair lift. Afterwards, His Eminence re-entered the church and proceeded to bless all the faithful who were in attendance.

The church bells signaled the beginning of the Hierarchical Liturgy. The responses to the Divine Liturgy was beautifully sung by the seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary. His Eminence gave the homily reminding the faithful that they in essence are the “new founders” of the parish and have the responsibility to continue to grow the church for the future, just as the original founders did when they established Sts. Peter and Paul in 1925. The “new founders” were identified by the Metropolitan referring to the fact that although the parish was originally founded in 1925, it became inactive in the early 1990’s, due to the repose of the last parishioners remaining in the area and their children having moved to other parts of New York City or around the nation. In 2012, His Eminence spoke with Fr. Victor Wronskyj, present pastor...
of the parish, about the possibility of reestablishing the parish as a new Mission, since the number of Ukrainians newly arriving in the area was sufficient to support such an effort. Fr. Victor readily agreed and went to work.

His Eminence explained to all present what Fr. Victor and Matushka Ivanka found when they first entered the church building, which needed major renovations. They immediately went to work with their own hands completely gutting the interior of the building and reconstructing it, including all electric work and even painting the stars on the ceiling and building the temporary iconostas. After the original work had begun, family members joined in the effort, physically and with financial support. The Mission was opened on November 21, 2013 and many new members began to join. With many of these new people Fr. Victor created a “construction crew” to finish the entire building, including new support beams in the parish hall, new bathrooms, etc., until we have the beautiful edifice of today – ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND AS A PLACE OF PEACE AND LOVE TO WHICH THE FAITHFUL MAY COME DURING THE STORMS OF DAILY LIFE. IT IS HERE THAT THEY CAN GATHER WITH BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST – WITH THEIR SPIRITUAL FATHER – TO EXPERIENCE THAT PEACE AND LOVE AND TO OFFER WORSHIP AND GRATITUDE TO GOD FOR HIS ABUNDANT BLESSINGS.

At the point of the Divine Liturgy before the singing of “Our Father”, the children of the parish gathered before the Ambon, and when the time came, they beautifully recited the prayer “Our Father”. Upon completion of “Our Father”, His Eminence exited the altar and personally blessed each child. Shortly afterward, His Eminence came out with the holy chalice and communed the faithful parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, His Eminence was greeted by the rector of the parish V. Rev. Victor Wronskyj and many years was sung for him. V. Rev. Victor Wronskyj in addition gifted His Eminence a copy from Kiev of the wonder working Icon of the Theotokos, known as the Icon of the Mother of God “Prize for Humility”, which is today found in Kiev’s Holy Vvedensky Monastery. Also, His Eminence, was gifted a communion spoon as a reminder that as the Good Shepard, he has the responsibility to feed and nourish His flock not only with the words found in the Holy Gospel’s, but with the Most Pure and Precious Blood and Body of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. His Eminence, in turn thanked the parish for receiving Him so warmly and in the end, he offered prayers for the original founders of the church and the choir responded with the singing of memory eternal.

After the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, a festive luncheon was held at Gemelli’s Restaurant in Babylon, Long Island, where everyone had the chance to meet and talk with His Eminence. The youngest parish members of Sts. Peter and Paul, under the direction of Inna Kosmenko prepared a short presentation for His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, that concluded with the children singing “Many years” and His Eminence was given by all the young parish members personalized hand painted pictures, which were painted by them earlier in the week. Also, the seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary sung a few traditional Ukrainian songs for all those in attendance. In the end, this was an unforgettable day, that no one would soon forget.
СВЯТКУВАННЯ ЮВІЛЕЮ ЗАСНУВАННЯ МІСІЙНОЇ ЦЕРКВИ

У неділю 27 жовтня 2019 року місійна церква Свв. Петра і Павла в Лонг Айленді мала велику радість приймати Високопреосвященнішого митрополита Антонія, правлячого ієрарха Української Православної Церкви в США. Незважаючи на сильні ранкові дощі, погода не змогла перешкодити радості парафіян, які з нетерпінням очікували приїзду Його Високопреосвященства.

Під звук церковних дзвонів митрополит Антоній увійшов до церкви, де Його Високопреосвященство зустріла з традиційним українським короваєм і привітанням голова сестринства Валентина Міцевич. Його Високопреосвященство подякував їй за теплі слова, а згодом митрополита Антонія привітала Інна Косменко, яка відповідає за всі заходи з дітьми парафії. Після чого наймолодші парафіяни, які з нетерпінням чекали на приїзд Митрополита Антонія, мали нагоду привітати Його Високопреосвященство особистим привітанням та квітами. Після привітання дітей, Його Високопреосвященство привітав настоятеля парафії о. Віктора Вронського. Візит Високопросвященнішого митрополита Антонія ознаменував дуже особливий день для парафії. Адже у цю неділю парафіяни святкували «день засновника», згадуючи всіх тих парафіян, які в 1925 році заснували церкву Свв. Петра і Павла. Великою радістю була присутність Дарії Вільямс-Завірюхи, внучки одного з засновників парафії.

Для відзначення цього дня, парафіяні дуже наполегливо працювали над оповненням входу до церкви. Було встановлено нові двері церкви та підлогинник для інвалідних візків, а також реставровано схожі. Щоб відзначити цей особливий день, Його Високопресоєшвестество посвятило нові двері церкви. Після цього Його Високопреосвященство митрополит Антоній у своїй проповіді нагадав присутнім парафіянам, що вони тепер є «новими засновниками» церкви Свв. Петра і Павла і несуть відповідальність розбудовувати церкву на майбутнє, як це робили попередні засновники коли вони її заснували в 1925 році. Митрополит зазначив, що хоч і парафія була заснована в 1925 році але вона стала неактуальною на початку 1990-х, коли останні прихожані, що жили у цьому районі упокоїлись, а їхні діти переїхали до інших частин Нью-Йорка або в інші міста Америки. У 2012 році, Його Високопреосвященство митрополит Антоній зустрівся з о. Віктором Вронським, нинішнім настоятелем парафії, про можливість відновлення парафії як нової Місії, оскільки кількість українців, що переїхали в цей район була достатньою для підтримки таких зусиль. О. Віктор охоче погодився і вже вже взявся за працю.

Під час Божественної Літургії, перед співом «Отче наш», наймолодші парафіяні зібралися перед Амвоном, і коли настало на мислі, діти всі разом проголосили молитву «Отче наш». По завершенні молитви, Його Високопреосвященство митрополит Антоній привітав настоятеля церкви о. Віктора Вронського, матушку Іванку Вронську та парафіян і заспівав всім «Многая
літа». О. Віктор Вронський подякував Його Високопреосвященству митрополиту Антонію і подарував від всіх парафіян кохану чудотворну ікону Богородиці, відому як ікона Божої Матері «призри на смирення», оригінал якої сьогодні знаходиться в Свято-Введенському монастирі. Також Його Високопреосвященству подарували ложку для Причастя, на спомин про те, що як Добрий Пастир, він несе відповідальність голівяти свою паству духовною поживою, а це не тільки словами зі Святого Євангелія, але і Пресвятим і Пречистим Тілом і Кров’ю Господа Бога і Спаса нашого Ісуса Христа.

Його Високопреосвященство митрополит Антоній подякував парафії за тепле прийняття і на завершення помолився за засновників церкви і всі разом заспівали «Вічная пам’ять»

Після Архієрейської Божественної Літургії відбувся святковий обід у ресторані «Джемелль», де всі мали нагоду більше поспілкуватися з Його Високопреосвященством. Наймолодші парафіяни церкви Свв. Петра і Павла під керівництвом Інни Косменко приготували невеличний виступ для Його Високопреосвященства митрополита Антонія, дещо завершення її тільки разом заспівали «Многая літа» і подарували свої малюнки. А семінаристи Свято-Софіївської Богословської семінарії виконали для всіх присутніх декілька українських пісень. Це був незабутній день для всіх.
On Sunday, November 17, 2019 Very Rev. Fr. Petro Levko, pastor of St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Parish in Yardville, NJ and his Dobrodijka Maria Levko celebrated 40 years since they were wedded in the Mystery of the Holy Matrimony. The celebration of their 40th jubilee was extra special. Their children Very Rev. Vasyl Sendeha with PM Olenka and Very Rev. Michael Hontaruk with PM Anna along with the parishioners of St. George's parish prepared a surprise celebration.

Delicious dinner was prepared by the parish's sisterhood of St. Olga. Friends and neighboring priests were invited. Everything was done in secret by the parishioners so it would be a complete surprise for their beloved priest and dobrodijka. They wanted to honor their Priest and Pani Dobrodijka on their anniversary in an extraordinary way and to show to them their appreciation for years of ministry. After all, in married Priesthood, both priest and his wife serve the needs of the parish family. Fr. Petro and his wife Maria truly have served the parish of St. George in the capacity of a father and mother of the parish for nearly twenty years now. They have been setting a great example for married couples to follow. No wonder why their parishioners wanted to honor them in a special way.

People were coming into the parish temple with smiles on their faces and bouquets of flowers in their hands.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel accompanied by Hieromonk Sophroniy, Deacon Sviatoslav Ghot, newly ordained Deacon Yuri Bobko and seven seminarians paid a surprise visit.

His Eminence just came back from the trip to the Holy Land, but found time in his very busy schedule to come and honor the anniversary couple. Archbishop Daniel along with clergy and seminarians were warmly welcomed by the parishioners of St. George’s parish family. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was also extraordinary. Altar was filled with clergy and altar severs. Deacon Yuri Bobko was serving his very first Liturgy as he was just ordained to the holy diaconate the day before by His Eminence Daniel. Newly ordained Deacon Yuri Bobko along with his wife Olena were just starting their life journey by answering call to serve in the Holy priesthood. There was this feeling of uniqueness, realizing how the life of the Holy Church continues on in the service of the Holy Priesthood. As we were celebrating a milestone of a couple with years and years of service behind their back a other couple, practically newly wedded, were just beginning their service in God's Holy vineyard.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, His Eminence Daniel called Fr. Petro and Pani Dobrodijka Maria upfront and has read special prayers of blessing their marriage union.

His Eminence Daniel, blessed and gave them a cup of wine to share which He obtained while visiting the Holy Land. Archbishop had an opportunity to receive this wine from monks in Cana of Galilee, place were Christ has performed His very first miracle while attending
a wedding feast. Everyone present in Church with joy joined the choir in singing of “Many years.”

After greeting the anniversary couple in church, people entered parish hall to continue the celebration. Guests were welcomed to feast on a heavy-laden tables prepare with love by the sisterhood of St. Olga.

As Fr. Petro and Pani Maria were greeted by family members, parishioners and friends, it was evident that in their forty years of marriage, they as a couple have touched many people’s lives with their love and care. Even at the celebration of their anniversary they used a chance to honor, greet and share some words of wisdom with a young couple, newly ordained Deacon Yurii and his wife Olha. It was an amazing experience to share in the joy of parish family of St. George’s in Yardville as they have celebrated their Priest’s and Pani Dobrodijka’s 40th Wedding anniversary.

40 years might not seem like a lot, but at the same token it’s quite a bit to line together as a married couple. It’s truly a blessing for Fr. Petro and Pani Dobrodijka Maria. A blessing worth celebrating.

By Fr. Vasyl Sendeha
In March of the year of our Lord 1929 Saint Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Scranton Pennsylvania was established. A group of devoted men and women who wanted to preserve their faith and heritage, formed a place of worship where they would glorify our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ for many years to come. These men and women gave of themselves by their hard work and by donating what little they had. By the Grace of God, 90 years and generations later the parishioners of St. Michael’s still come to worship at the beautiful church building built by their families before them.

By the Grace of God, 90 years and generations later the parishioners of St. Michael’s still come to worship at the beautiful church building built by their families before them.

On a sunny but brisk morning, November 23, 2019, the parish family, friends and neighbors of St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Scranton, PA, gathered together to celebrate the Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Michael and the other Bodiless Powers and to mark 90 years of glorifying our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ.

It was with great joy that we welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Daniel to celebrate this wonderful occasion. His Eminence was greeted by parish president Helenmarie Olecki, Agitha Harendza, representing the youth of the parish and then by Fr. Philip Harendza, pastor of St. Michael’s.

Among the clergy that concelebrated with His Eminence, were Protopresbyter Myron Oryhon, Hiromonk Sophroniy, Fr. Philip Harendza and Dn. Sviatoslav Hot. The Divine Liturgy was sung by seminarians of St. Sophia’s Seminary. After hierarchical Divine Liturgy Vladyka Daniel awarded Protopresbyter Nestor Kowal and three parishioners that deserve great honor with St. Andrew Centennial Award: John Roditski, Margaret Roditski, and Joseph Buchma who will be 100 years on November 26.

The celebration continued with a brunch catered by Paul Warnas and staff at the 6East Dinner and Banquet Center. During the serving of Hors D’oeuvres, Bill Roditski entertained with playing some Ukrainian songs on his accordion. Others reflected on different stories of history and parish life throughout the years. Rachel Harendza performed and sang for all in attendance. Finally the Seminarians of St Sophia sang a Ukrainian folk song and ended with a closing prayer.

It was an uplifting and prayerful day for all in attendance. And we are grateful for all of the Lords blessings that He has bestowed upon St. Michael’s Parish in Scranton, PA. We thank His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, the clergy, the Seminarians, and all our guests, who came to celebrate with us on this beautiful and glorious day.

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan and Seminarian Andrii Vatrych
24 листопада в 23 неділю після П’ятидесятниці, правлячий архієрей Західної епархії УПЦ США архієпископ Даниїл звершив Божествену Літургію в храмі Архістратига Божого Михаїла в місті Балтимор, штат Мериланда.

Цього дня парафія Архістратига Божого Михаїла в Балтиморі відзначала 70-ту річницю з дня свого заснування. З благословення Першоїєрарха УПЦ США митрополита Антонія святкове богослужіння очолив керуючий Західною єпархією УПЦ США архієпископ Даниїл. Зустрічали владика настоятеля парафії протоієрей Василій Кринштополь, протоієреї Володимир Штіляк, Зіновій Жолобак, ієромонах Софроній (Чуприна), диякон Святослав Готь, голова парафіяльної управи Олександр Стрижак, парафіяні та гости храму.

При зустрічі владика Даниїл від імені митрополита Антонія та себе особисто привітав настоятеля та парафіян з визначною для парафії датою. В свою чергу настоятель подякував влади за візит та попросив від імені громади молити за тих, хто сімдесят років тому назад заснував та протягом багатьох років розбудовував парафію. Після вітальних слів відбулася урочиста зустріч архієрея та розпочалося богослужіння. Цього дня до храму на Божествену Літургію зібралися українці з усього Балтимора та його околиць, аби спільно розділити радість цього недільного та знаменного дня парафії дня. За богослужінням співали семінаристи Свято-Софійської православної Семінарії разом із парафіяльним хором.

Під час богослужіння на Малому Вході за багаторічну та плідну працю на благо Святої Православної Церкви та народу Божого з благословення собору епископів УПЦ США протоієрей Василій Кринштополь був нагороджений правом носіння Хреста з прикрасами. Парафіяни
разом з духовенством привітали свого настоятеля вигуком: Аксіос!
Після Євангельського читання архієпископ Даниїл звернувся до людей зі словами наставні.

На заупокійні ектенії владика пом’янув усіх спочиліх парафіян храму, які трудилися на розбудові парафії, а також молитовно згада усіх українців голодом вбитих в роки Голодомору 1932-1933 років.

На завершення богослужіння архієпископ Даниїл ще раз привітав настоятеля та парафіяльну управу з 70-ю річницею від дня заснування парафії. Настоятель подякував владці Даниїлута духовенству забогослужіння та від імені громади передав вітання митрополиту Антонію після чого було проголошено многолітня.

Святкування визначної дати для української парафії в Балтиморі продовжилося в банкетному залі, де з благословення митрополита Антоній архієпископ Даниїл нагородив Орденом святого апостола Андрія Первозванного, заснованим на честь 100 річчя УПЦ США, найстарішу парафіянку храму архістратига Михайлі пані Надію Стрижак.
Також цього дня Благословеними Грамотами були відзначені голова парафіяльної управи Олександр Стрижак та активні парафіяни Володимир Демиденко, Наталія Короза та Ростислав Лерман.

Автор: ієромонах Софроній (Чуприна)
Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan
On Saturday, November 9, 2019 the faithful of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin in South Plainfield, New Jersey gathered with clergy and Orthodox faithful from New Jersey and Pennsylvania to commemorate and celebrate 85 years.

Serving alongside the parish pastor, Rev. Vasyl Pasakas, were clergy from neighboring parishes: V. Rev. Yuriy Siwko (St. Andrew Memorial Church, South Bound Brook, NJ), V. Rev. Roman Shak (St. Michael's, Komarno, Ukraine). Rev. Vasyl Shak (St. Panteleimon, Brooklyn, NY), Rev. James Cairns (St. Demetrius, Carteret, NJ), Rev. Oleg Kravchenko (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, Northampton, PA), and assisted by Subdeacon Myroslav Mykytiuk.

Responses were beautifully sung by the Seminarians of Saint Sophia Seminary: Subdeacon Yurii Bobko, Subdeacon Ihor Protsak, Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilogar, Seminarian Pavlo Vysotskyi, and Seminarian Maksym Zhuravchyk.

During the Divine Liturgy, petitions were offered for the health and well-being of all the present parishioners, clergy, and guests who gathered together to mark this momentous occasion.

In addition, petitions were offered in remembrance of all the departed founders, members, benefactors, and clergy of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin who devoted their life to Christ, His Church, and this parish. It is through their diligent efforts, true devotion to Christ and perseverance that this humble Ukrainian-Orthodox community has survived to this day. Through their example and strength, can we learn to maintain our Orthodox faith in the years to come.

In Fr. Vasyl Pasakas’ reflections on Saturday’s Gospel reading from Luke 9:37-43 and Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 underlined the importance of spiritual life and faith. In this extremely busy world, we way too often act like Martha, constantly running, trying to fulfill our duties at times forgetting why we are doing it all. By being so busy, we do not see the blessings and miracles happening around us. Our Holy Fathers and Mothers became saints, because they took the time to put their faith first and based on their faith they made decisions in their lives, and not vice versa by trying to adapt their faith to fit their busy daily life. If we will do the same, we for sure will have more time in our life with less stress and anxiety.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Parish was founded in 1934 and the first liturgy was served on Christmas Day (December 25th) with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by Archbishop Athenagoras (later His Holiness Patriarch Athenagoras). In 1948, Archbishop Athenagoras was elected Patriarch of Constantinople, and would become the namesake of The Athenagoras Human Rights Award, an award that is presented every year at the Annual Banquet of the Order to a person or organization, which has consistently exemplified by action, purpose and dedication, concern for the basic rights and religious freedom of all people. In 2019, His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine received the award.

In the years that followed, the parish grew
to include parish organizations—a Parish Board, a Sisterhood and Brotherhood, a Pierogi Group, and a choir. Over the years, the parish had actively participated in events of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America, and later the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Their philanthropic efforts supported both domestic and foreign organizations, such as the orphanages in Ukraine and Russia, the soup kitchens in Ukraine through St. Andrew Society, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry, Ronald McDonald House in Red Bank, NJ, the South Plainfield Soup Kitchen, and St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary.

Following the Divine Liturgy, all who gathered to pray together reconvened in the parish hall for a catered lunch, while sitting around chatting with friends and family.
Архієпископ Даниїл звершив Божественну Літургію на храмовому святі в Джамейці в Нью-Йорку

В суботу, 30 листопада за Григоріанським календарем престольне свято відзначає парафія на честь просвітителя слов'ян, святого апостола Андрія Первозваного в Нью-Йорку. З благословення керуючого Східною єпархією, Першоієрарха УПЦ США митрополита Антонія, урочисту Божественну Літургію в Джамейці звершив Високопреосвящений архієпископ Даниїл.

Цього дня на архієрейське богослужіння зібрали люди не тільки з Джамейки але й інших районів Нью-Йорку. Традиційно, зустріч архієрея відбулася з хлібом та квітами в присутності парафіян та гостей свята. Настоятель храму протоієрей Іоан Протеса привітав та подякував владиці Даниїлу за його візит та можливість разом відзначити знамену для парафії дату.

Після урочистої зустрічі, виголосом «Благословенне Царство, Отця і Сина і Святого Духа», розпочалася Божественна Літургія. Архієрею співслужили настоятель Свято-Андріївської парафії протоієрей Іоан Протеса, протоієреї Федір Мазур, Володимир Музичка, о. Василь, іеромонах Софроній (Чуприна) та диакони Андрій Мазур, Святослав Готь та Юрій Бобко.

Свято-Андріївська парафія в Джамейці є прикладом християнської єдності, адже переважна більшість парафіян, це православні румуни (українського походження), українці, греки та білоруси. В храмі лунають чудові візантійські наспіви у виконанні парафіяльного хору на румунській, українській та англійській мовах.

Після Євангельського читання архієпископ Даниїл звернувся до парафіян зі словами настанови наголосивши на необхідності позбуватися гріха та чинити добро ближнім. У своєму повчальному слові владика торкнувся життєвого апостольського служіння та жертвознісності Апостола Андрія Первозваного та закликав присутніх до власного життєвого апостольського служіння у XXI столітті. Проповідь є невід’ємною частиною богослужіння, тому віруючі з особливою увагою слухали слова архієрейського благовістя.

Після проповіді на потрійній єктенії архієрей разом з духовенством звершивши посилено моління за дітей, які прийшли цього дня до храму, а також за молодь, аби Господь укріпив їх і дав ім можливість служити Церкві Христовій.

Божественна Літургія звершувалася трьома мовами: українською, румунською та англійською, що надавало богослужінню особливий, вселенський зміст та сприйняття Церкви, як Єдиного Тіла Христового.

Цього дня на Свято-Андріївській парафії відбулася ще одна знамена подія, на храмове свято з містечка Тейлор що в Пенсильванії прибула відома в США мироточива ікона Божої Матері «Пом’якшення злих сердець». В супроводі протоієрея Марка, клірика Карпато-русинської єпархії, який супроводжує мироточивий образ, ікона була представлена віруючим для молитовного вшанування. Всі хто з вірою звертається до Богородиці прославлений в її чудотворному образі «Пом’якшення злих сердець».
отримують бажане. По молитвам до Богородиці перед цією іконою люди найчастіше отримують зцілення від онкологічних хвороб та безпліддя. Пресвята Богородиця засвідчує Свою милість до людей рясним мироточінням ікони. Нижня частина кіоту встелена ватою на яку стікає святе миро і яке має дуже сильний пахучий аромат.

Після відпусту та многоліття урочисто виголошеного дияконом, владика Даниїл ще раз привітав настоятеля та парафіян з храмовим святом. В свою чергу настоятель подякував архієрею та надав слово отцю Марку Ліжер. На завершення люди з благоговінням підходили до священиків, які помазували віруючих ватою просоченою святим миром та давали на молитовну згадку маленькі образи точній копії мироточивої ікони.

Закінчилося святкування урочистим банкетом в приміщенні парафійного залу.

автор - ієромонах Софроній

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan
It is a pious tradition in the life of St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring, MD to celebrate the patron feast day with the Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA – His Eminence Metropolitan Antony. However, due to Metropolitan’s illness, Archbishop Daniel traveled to the nation’s capital and presided over the weekend festivities at St. Andrew’s cathedral.

On Saturday, December 7, 2019, prior to the arrival to Silver Spring, MD, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel paid a special visit to the Navy Memorial and WWII Memorial in Washington, DC, paying special tribute to fallen sailors-heroes of Pearl Harbor. On that day, the nation marked the 78th anniversary of the tragic attack upon the Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor by Japanese naval forces.

On Sunday morning, Vladyka Daniel surrounded by numerous altar server of the parish community, entered through the doors of St. Andrew’s cathedral in order to be welcomed for the Eucharistic celebration of the Patron’s Feast Day of the entire cathedral parish family. Welcoming the archbishop, the children of the parish presented him with flowers and the Parish Board President Dr. Tamara Woroby welcomed His Eminence with the traditional bread and salt, calling upon the hierarch to offer intercessory prayers for the parish community.

The pastor of the cathedral, Very Rev. Fr. Volodymyr Steliak, assisted by Very Rev. Fr. Vasyl Kryshtompol (Holy Archangel Michael UOC parish in Baltimore, MD), Very Rev. Fr. Claudiu Lutai and Deacon Sviatoslav Hot (St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary; South Bound Brook, NJ) presented the archpastor with a cross for veneration and a short reflection about the legacy of the cathedral parish and the continued dedication and pledge to the Mission of the Church.

The early hours of the morning brought over 200 people to the cathedral’s temple for the Divine Liturgy. The church was packed with young and old, and there was a holy atmosphere during the service that was supported by the glorious singing of the cathedral’s choir, directed by Greg Oleynik.

Following the chanting of the Gospel Reading, Archbishop Daniel deliver a sermon, reflection on the Gospel narrative of the Sunday, stating that “…being a saint does not mean separating from the world; on the contrary, it means loving God and serving neighbors right here and right now – in the middle of the world…”

Numerous parishioners prepared themselves to receive the Most Holy Mystery of Eucharist. Children, adults, elderly and people with disabilities with prayers on their lips approached the two priests holding sacred chalices, distributing to the faithful the Most Holy and Precious Body and Blood of the Lord.

The day continued with a festive luncheon prepared in honor of St. Andrew’s Feast Day and the visiting hierarch. Ladies in the kitchen (members of the Cathedral’s Sisterhood under the leadership of Pani-matka Marta Steliak), assisted by the younger generation of volunteers, treated everyone in attendance to a festive meal. Dr. Tamara Woroby and Fr. Volodymyr Steliak addressed the congregation reflecting upon the true meaning of parish life and the importance of healthy Christianity in the local community where Ukrainian Orthodox Christians find themselves not only living their lives, but most
importantly sharing their lives and Faith with those around them. Vladyka Daniel also addressed the gathered congregation, informing everyone in attendance about the various ministerial opportunities in the life of the Church, as well as about the charitable ministries of the Church.

A true treat to everyone in attendance was a call from His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, who by phone greeted the congregation with their feast and wished them to live their Faith to fullest potential.

Any Dydyk Petrenko addresses the congregation of the luncheon with a challenge to offer their donations to the ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and for the support of the entire Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook, NJ. The parish pledged to match the gifts that were gathered by the congregation. Thus a donation of $20,000 was collected and pledged to the sacred work of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

Both Archbishop Daniel and Fr. Volodymyr Steliak offered sincere welcome to the diplomats of the Embassy of Ukraine in the United States of America that joined the celebration and participated in the activities of the day. Mr. Andriy Yanovskyi – Charge d’Affaires approached the podium and greeted the congregation on their feast day on behalf of the staff of the Embassy.

As it was also the parish feast day, two awards made annually were presented. Anna Fisher was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award and Svitlana Kozyr with the Parishioner of the Year Award.

The day concluded with yet another short prayer and numerous opportunities for the parishioners and guests of St. Andrew’s to visit with their bishop, many of whom asked for special prayers and blessings. It was a truly special day!

*Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan*
On October 16, 2019 the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, located in South Bound Brook, New Jersey, bustled with activity as final preparations were made, and guests began to arrive for the 22nd Regular Sobor.

The week began with pre-Sobor activities which included meetings of the Consistory Board, the Council of the Metropolia, Seminary Board and Clergy Conference. As the various groups met, the Consistory Staff members were busy preparing for the Sobor – printing handouts, setting up tables, planning meals, and ensuring that everything would run smoothly in the days to come.

The rain fell in buckets, and the wind whipped the trees outside, but, indoors the main hall of the Ukrainian Cultural Center glowed invitingly as the delegates, and clergy, from all over the country began to file in and find their seats. Hugs were exchanged as old friends were found, and new ones introduced. The quiet banter mingled with laughter suddenly ceased as everyone stood to greet the hierarchs who were entering in a procession led by the Holy Gospel. Reaching the front of the hall, they stopped before the icon of Sts. Volodymyr and Olha holding the Church of the Tithes (Dormition of the Mother of God), where a Moleben to the Mother of God was served.

Having concluded the prayer service, the hierarchs ascended to the dias and took their seats. Behind them on the Cultural Center Stage was the large traditional Sobor icon of the Protection of the Mother of God, from whom they had asked for intercession during the Moleben, along with prayers that we might prove faithful to her Son and our God during the Sobor. Before the various icon banners on one side of the stage stood an icon Christ our Lord, gifted to His Eminence Metropolitan Antony at his 70th birthday celebration by the children of parishes all around the country. The icon was developed by Natalie Kapeluck, Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
and was composed of small individual photos of a few hundred children, which were submitted from the parishes. On the other side of the stage stood a horizontal banner with pictures all the bishops of the UOC of USA, from the foundation of our Church through today.

Following the National Anthem of the United States of America and Ukraine, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony called the Sobor to Order under the theme: “LORD, I LOVE THE BEAUTY OF YOUR HOUSE AND THE PLACE WHERE YOUR BEAUTY DWELLS”. He welcomed all the clergy and faithful present and reminded them of their responsibilities during this, the highest administrative body of our Church and asked that we all remember that we are part of the Body of Christ – the Church and that we must act under the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the Sobor.

Appointed to the Sobor Presidium were: Vice Chairs: Protopresbyter John Nakonachny, Pastor of St. Vladimir Cathedral, Parma, OH and Dr. Paul Micevych, St. Andrew Parish, Los Angeles, CA and Member of the Council of the Metropolia; Secretaries: Rev. Fr. Vasyl Shak, Pastor of St. Panteleimon Parish, Brooklyn, NY and Consistory Staff; Rev. Fr. Vasyl Pasakas, Pastor of Nativity of the Mother of God Parish, South Plainfield, NJ and Consistory Staff; Dr. Gayle Woloschak, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Palos Park, IL and Secretary of the Council of the Metropolia and Elizabeth Symonenko, St. Mary Protectress Cathedral, Southfield (Detroit), MI, Member of the Council of the Metropolia and Secretary of the Consistory.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony read a message from His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew who offered his warm greetings and well wishes for the 22nd Regular Sobor, promising continued prayers for the UOC of USA, her hierarchs, clergy and faithful. His All-Holiness spoke to the theme of the
Sobor and described the work of the Sobor as “the liturgy after the Liturgy” – liturgy being the Greek word for “the common (or community) work”. The Divine Liturgy is the “communal work of worship” and the Sobor is the communal work of living as those in Whom Christ dwells.

During his message to the Sobor, His Eminence spoke about the theme of the Sobor, in particular about the Old Testament rituals of cleansing oneself prior to entering into the Tabernacle and standing in humility before the Holy of Holies – the place where God dwells as a permanent presence among His people. These rituals were extensive and sometimes took place over lengthy time periods – even eight days – depending on the cleansing necessary for various sins, illnesses, etc. He compared this to the New Covenant cleansing, which is the Sacrament of Holy Penance in order to unite oneself with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist, thus becoming the dwelling place of God: “Those who eat My Flesh and drink My Blood abide in me and I in them.” This is the goal of our entire life – to be one with God. Once we realize this to be our goal, we cannot look at one another in judgment or without mercy, we must, rather, see Christ dwelling in each other and “love the place where He dwells”.

His Eminence also expressed his gratitude to Archbishop Daniel for all he has done for not only our Holy Church here in the USA, but for the Church in Ukraine, as well. The Archbishop played an incredibly important role in the church unification process in Ukraine and the awarding of the Tomos of Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in Constantinople on the Eve of the Nativity of our Lord (Epiphany on the New Calendar) – 6 January 2019 – in the Holy Cathedral of St. George in Constantinople (modern Istanbul). The President of Ukraine praised His Eminence Archbishop Daniel for his powerful role in the whole process at the conclusion of the Unity Sobor in December 2018.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel presented his opening remarks and a report of the President of the Consistory. Before presenting a detailed account about the various ministries of the Church since the last Sobor in 2016, Archbishop stated: “…Reflecting on the ministry of the Church since the last SOBOR of 2016, as stewards of our Metropolia family, we are encouraged to speculate what the future of our Church in the United States of America is going to be like. It must be noted, that this precious jewel – UOC of the USA – is not ours – but Christ’s; however, it was given to us for nurturing and edification.

If we look at our lives globally, we begin to realize that in this time of history - today, humans have acquired more knowledge than any other time in history. Science and medicine are going places never before imagined… We are living in a critical time never before experienced in the history of humankind, and the Church must respond to human’s deepest needs. One question keeps coming to mind: “Who will be the next generation of leaders in our church, both clergy and laity, throughout the future? How will we manage addressing the spiritual needs of our faithful in a world of constant changes and challenges?” Our current parish leaders are getting older. We are in desperate need of new and sound leadership to continue the Master’s work. We need to bring the spiritual experience of our faithful to a new level. It is not only about being a good leader, but most importantly it is about knowing how to follow the Leader – our Lord.

In my final analysis, the church must do away with all and any excuses and continue to prepare young men and women – a new generation to lead the Church into the future.

The previous 6 Sobors of our Church have produced a major shift in the mindset of the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. In the past we often preoccupied ourselves and our SOBOR sessions, discussing, at times too much the issues that we have very little control of. The concerns over financial stability impacted in both ways (positively and negatively) the fabric of our Church family. However, the faithful of our Church under the leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, turned their attention and direction to the ultimate reality of the Church – the rededication of our efforts for the evangelization and spiritual renewal of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church and her faithful.
The dynamics of previous Sobors were so evident during the breakout and plenary sessions, - that the Council of Metropolia and Consistory of the Church entered into a new phase of studying this desire of our parishes for a vibrant parish experience and life. About four years ago, Metropolitan Antony granted his blessing to initiate the creation of a “study” group of our clergy and faithful, who worked diligently – learning about the strengths and weaknesses of our Church, listening to voices from our parish families, learning about their dreams, hopes and aspirations. A blueprint was generated that mapped the STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE UOC OF THE USA – concentrating on Spiritual Renewal, Educational Opportunities and truly Responsible Stewardship. The next several days of our SOBOR must provide an opportunity for us to examine, to learn and to decide whether we are willing to act in the Name of Christ and for the benefit of the next generation of Ukrainian Orthodox Christians in the United States of America.”

The only other formal report for this day’s session was the Financial Report presented by Consistory Treasurer V. Rev. Stephen Hutnick and Assistant Treasurer Natalia Honcharenko-Andrec. Following the report an important discussion ensued, which was a primary issue of the Council of the Metropolia and the Consistory for consideration during this regular Sobor. Our hierarchs both expressed their concern about financial trends in both the economy of the nation and that of our Church. Significant time must be dedicated to thoroughly detailing for the delegates at the Sobor and through them for the parishes they represent. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony explained that the Council of the Metropolia needs to hear the thoughts and concerns about the finances of the Church because the Council is the body charged by the Church Constitution with stewardship decisions regarding all aspects of Church life, including finances and property development. A primary goal of any discussion of finances is to protect our Metropolitan Mstyslav Endowment Fund for the future. The discussion of finances was scheduled to continue on the second and third days of the Sobor. At the conclusion of this first part of his report, Fr. Stephen announced that an anonymous individual had made a donation to the Endowment Fund and challenged other delegates to do the same and that individual would match donations up to $1,000. Then another anonymous challenge was stating that it would match donations if they reached the level of $10,000!

Following the recess of the plenary session the clergy and lay delegates enjoyed a wonderful dinner prepared by Maureen Nevins and Troy O’Prandy, children of our long-time caterer, Tom O’Prandy, our original caterer at the Cultural Center. The meals throughout the Sobor were up to the usual standard our faithful have come to expect through several Sobors – no one leaves the Center hungry!

The final gathering of the evening was Three Holy Hierarchs Chapel in St. Sophia Seminary. Whether it was Vespers, Evening Prayers or any other service, the faithful always closed each day in peaceful worship of God in the Holy Trinity, offering gratitude and praise for the guidance so freely gifted to us in the process of the liturgy after the Liturgy during the Sobor. The gathering for worship also took place at the beginning of each day during Divine Liturgy in St. Andrew Memorial Church, during which everyone received the spiritual fortification for the day in the Holy Eucharist enabling each of us to “be Christ” to one another. Archbishop Danial celebrated Liturgy on Wednesday morning, Metropolitan Antony on Thursday morning, Archbishop Jeremiah (Eparchy of South America) and Archbishop Danial on Friday morning and Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel on Saturday for the closing Liturgy.

The entire morning plenary session on Thursday was devoted to reports. First up was the conclusion of the Financial Report by Fr. Stephen Hutnick. He fielded many questions about specific points in the report with delegates offering suggestions about financial issues. After a thorough discussion the Sobor approved the Financial Report and Elizabeth Davies, St. Job of Pochaiv Mission, Los Alamos, NM, head of the Audit Commission, presented the Audit Report, which found all financial records to be complete and in order. Next came the reports of the Central Institutions and Organizations of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

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Reports were presented from St. Sophia Seminary (Archbishop Daniel, Fr. Theophan Mackey, St. Job of Pochaiv Parish, Los Alamos, NM, Vocations Director); from the Sr. Ukrainian Orthodox League (Karen Ferraro, St. Vladimir Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA, President); St. Andrew Society (Protodeacon Dr. Ihor Mahlay, St. Vladimir Cathedral, Parma, OH, President); All Saints Camp (V. Rev. John Haluszczak, St. Vladimir Parish, Pittsburgh, PA, Chairman; Josh Oryhon, Manager; Michael Nakonachny, Planning Committee Chairman); Ukrainian History and Education Center (Fr. Stephen Hutnick, board President and Natalia Honcharenko-Andrec, Museum Director); Metropolitan John Theodorovych – St. Sophia-UOC Library (PM Oksana Pasakas, Librarian); St. Andrew Cemetery (Fr. Vasyl Shak, St. Panteleimon Parish Brooklyn, NY, Manager); Ecclesiastical Store (PM Olena Shak, Consistory Staff, Manager); Strategic Planning (Dr. Gayle Woloschak).

Next the delegates heard the reports of the Consistory Offices of Ministry, all included in the Sobor Report Book, with additional comments of directors, if desired: Office of Stewardship, V. Rev. Fr. Robert Holet, St. Nicholas Parish, Charlottesville, VA and Member of the Council of the Metropolia, Director; Office of Religious Education, V. Rev. Fr. Harry Linsinbigler, Protection of the Mother of God parish, Dover, FL, Director; Office of Clergy Development, newly appointed Fr. Theophan Mackey, St. Job of Pochaiv Parish, Los Alamos, NM, Director; Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie, PA, Director; Office of Public Relations, Fr. Ivan Synevsky, St. John Parish, Johnson City, NY, Director; Office of Liturgical Publications, Archbishop Daniel, Director; Office of External Affairs, Metropolitan Antony, Director; Office of Christian Charity, Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay, Director; Office of Cultural Affairs, Natalia Honcharenko-Andrec, Director; Office of Archives and Historical Information, Dr. Michael Andrec, Director.

Much information about all our Central Organizations, Institutions and Offices of Ministry may be found on our UOC of USA website – uocofusa.org – in many news articles and links to additional websites (under Institutions, Organizations, Metropolia (Offices of Ministry tab) and others. On these pages one can find much, much information about the life of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and all the activities reported on at the Sobor.

One of the highlights of each Triennial Sobor of our Church is the Grand Banquet, which took place on Thursday evening in a completely transformed Cultural Center – turned into an elegant cocktail and dining environment with decorations and graphics designed by our own Consistory staff and volunteers working diligently: PM Oksana Pasakas, PM Olena Shak, PM Oleksandra Pavlykivsky, PM Alexandra Andrushkiw, Maria and Ihor Morozowsky, Petro Rudy, St. Sophia Seminarians, Troy O’Prandy, Maureen Nevins and the Cultural Center food service staff. Special guest for the evening was His Grace Bishop Apostolos, Chief Secretary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, representing His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Archbishop of America and Exarch of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. The Archbishop was unable to join us because he was leading the first session of his Archdiocesan Council since his recent appointment as the Archbishop. He expressed his regret at not being able to be with us and his great joy at the awarding of a Tomos of Autocephaly to the Church of Ukraine and our Church and its hierarchs’ contributions toward that goal.

A beautiful concert was presented under the direction of Natalia Honcharenko-Andrec and included the talent of our local dance ensemble, Barvinok, centered at the Cultural Center, sisters Lida Dzus and ZinaDzus-De Bole, from Pokrova Parish, Rochester, NY presenting beautiful songs with their sweet harmonized voices and finally, the St. Sophia Seminarian Choir, consisting of the nine full-time seminary residents – Deacon Sviatoslav Hot, Subdeacon Mykola Zomchak, Subdeacon Yuriy Bobko, Subdeacon Ihor Protasak, Subdeacon Myroslav Myktyuk, Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan,
Maksym Zhuravchyk, Pavlo Vysotskyi and Andrii Vatrych – singing spiritual and folk selections. The audience truly appreciated these presentations and rewarded the entertainers with abundant applause and cheers!

On Friday morning, the third day of the Sobor, the Cultural Center was amazingly recreated again into the Sobor plenary session room and meal service area. Several final reports were first on the agenda, followed by an inspiring presentation by the members of the Youth Sobor who clearly explained to those gathered exactly what it is the youth of the Church “need” from their adults – love, understanding, a clear explanation of the Faith, and a gentle encouragement from their elders. The Youth Sobor is the fourth conducted simultaneously with the regular Sobor, where young students from around the country are invited to discuss the needs of the youth of our Church and to convey their conclusions to the regular Sobor. The reports presented to our Sobor were pronounced by Metropolitan Antony to be very mature, forward looking and thought provoking. He urged the students to remain strong in their faith and devoted to our Lord and His Holy Church. The Sobor stood to applaud these wonderful students.

After lunch everyone wondered throughout the Metropolia Center, enjoying the Rushnyky exhibit located in the temporary museum exhibition room located in the Metropolitan John Library and the new museum building with its construction completed down to the interior finishes.

A final discussion of the financial report and financial matters of the future filled most of the afternoon of this day’s plenary session. The delegates had obviously spent some considerable time thinking about such matters between sessions, because the discussion was thoughtful and positive in consideration of many possible routes to follow in the future with regard to finances. Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel both expressed the importance of our belief that “God will provide”, with the caveat that we must cooperate with him. The Council of the Metropolia will take all the suggestions heard during the Sobor into serious consideration as they fulfill their obligations over the coming three years.

The Sobor concluded with the election of the members of the various Church Offices, and the Induction Ceremony of the newly elected members of the Council of the Metropolia, Ecclesiastical Court and Audit Commission.


Elected to the Ecclesiastical Court were: V. Rev. Stephen Masliuk, Chair, Rev. Fr. Theophan Mackey, Rev. Fr. Silouan Rolando, Martha Misko, Deacon Michael Abrahamson. Alternate: Christine Charest.

Elected to the Audit-Control Commission were: Elizabeth Davies, Chair, Rev. Fr. James Cairns, Rev. Fr. Andriy Matlak, Tamara Host, Wolodyymyr Katolik. Alternates: Rev. Fr. Borislav Kroner and Alexandra Stryzak.

Having sworn to do their best in the interest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, with the Lord’s guidance and intervention, His Eminence Metropolitan graced each member with a medal signifying the office, and then blessed the newly elected members, along with all the delegates with Holy Water.

In his concluding remarks to the Sobor, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony called upon the delegates to carry the message of this Sobor home to their individual parishes, to their fellow parish family members. He urged them to realize that the local parish cannot stand alone, that without the nerve center of the Church at the Metropolia Center, it would be naked and incomplete standing before the Lord. He stated that whenever he visits parishes, he very often hears the quote from St. Ignatius that “Where the Bishop is, there is the Church” – without him as the successor to the Holy Apostles – there can be no parish, no Church. The Metropolitan declares, however, that the Bishop without the faithful, also cannot be the Church – alone and with no mission. We, bishops, priests and laity, are meant to do the common work – the liturgy after the Liturgy of church life and worship together. The Metropolitan asked for the prayers of all those present for him and for Archbishop Daniel, for without them, it would be impossible to function.

With the final singing of “It is Right in Truth”, the plenary sessions of the 22nd Regular Sobor concluded. As everyone enjoyed their final dinner together, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel presented a poetry book written by one of the orphans of Ukraine supported by the UOC of the USA. He explained how the girl is wheelchair-bound, however, her mind flies free over Ukraine and she puts her dreams, wishes and love of her homeland on paper, which His Eminence gathered and worked to compile into a book. Subdeacon Mykola Zomchak’s sister, Victoria Zomchak, typed up all the pages, which were then published in a book, and printed by the Church in support of the orphanage.

Additionally, Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan’s mother – Dobrodiyka Iryna Bilohan had created a number of teddy-bears which she donated for auction,
with the proceeds going towards the orphanage fund. Many of the bears, named lovingly Antonina, Daniela, Katerina, Maxym, Taras, Ksenia, etc. found new homes, as the orphanage fund grew.

Another powerful presentation was made about the most recent publication of the Church about the Sacred Grounds of St. Andrew Cemetery at the Metropolia Center of the UOC of the USA in South Bound Brook, NJ. Giving a short account about the process of creation the pictorial guidebook, Vladyka Daniel introduced everyone to the author of the publication – Mr. Lev Khmelkovsky, who in turn offered profound historical presentation about the need to tell the story of over 9500 people buried as St. Andrew’s Cemetery, many of whom are religious and political leaders of Ukraine and Ukrainian-American community of Diaspora in the United States of America and beyond.

On a splendidly sunny Saturday, the St. Andrew Memorial Church bells pealed loudly through the crisp morning air, announcing the procession of the hierarchs, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, as they neared the church. The tall, magnificent structure overflowed with clergy and faithful who had gathered on the final day of the Sobor to pray not only for their hierarchs, clergy and the faithful of the Church, but, for the success of all the decisions, organizations and appointments made during the Sobor.

As the choir, under the direction of Dr. Michael Andrec, sang, their voices spiraled to the top of the dome, echoing off the tall pillars, before returning to mingled with the voices of the faithful below.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel once again delivered a sermon that left tears on rolling down the cheeks of the faithful, as he reminded them of Christ’s words, “Follow Me.” His Eminence reminded everyone that the Lord calls to them. Do they hear Him? Do they follow?

The time is at hand, and we need to hear His voice, get up, and follow Him.

As the Divine Liturgy concluded, His Eminence Archbishop Antony explained the history of the Pochaiv Icon of the Mother of God which hangs above the solea. Everyone’s eyes shifted up and watched as the glistening gold icon was lowered to eye level. His Eminence explained that we’ve shown our spiritual faith in the Lord by partaking of the Eucharist, and now we would show our faith via intellect as we venerate the holy icon, demonstrating not only a blind faith, but, a faith of understanding and acceptance. Metropolitan Antony stepped up first to venerate the holy icon, followed by Archbishop Daniel who bowed low before the Mother of God. As the hierarchs exited the church, the faithful quietly approached the icon, bowing reverently, kissing, crying, petitioning, and honoring the most Holy Virgin Mary.

The Sobor concluded as the faithful made their way one last time the Ukrainian Cultural Center to enjoy not only delicious food, but, the company of each other. Many of those gathered only see each other every three years, however, their love for another doesn’t fade with time or distance. Everyone felt as if the person sitting on their right and left and across the table, and the room, were like family.

While they wished to linger, everyone realized they had to catch flights and start long drives home. With final blessings, parting hugs and kisses, exchanging contact information, and final handshakes, the members of the 22nd Sobor descended the steps of the Cultural Center, returning to the world.

Having been spiritually enriched, ignited into action, the faithful of the UOC of the USA, descended down from the spiritual clouds and returned to the earth with vigor and renewed dedication to make a difference in the life of the Church, the life of the world and everyone in it. With many thanks to the hierarchs for their constant prayers and hard work on behalf of the Church and her faithful.

By Elizabeth Symonenko, Sobor and Consistory Secretary

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan and Elizabeth Symonenko
2019 Clergy Conference of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

2019 Clergy Conference of the UOC of the USA took place before the commencement of the XXII Sobor of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church (16-19 October, 2019) at the Spiritual Center of the Church in South Bound Brook, NJ.

As the morning rays of rising sun were gently gliding over the cross topping the main dome of St. Andrew’s Memorial church clergy often accompanied by their wives were arriving to the Metropolia center. The daylight just broke the darkness of night, but the Consistory of the Church was busy as a beehive with preparation for an important event in the life of the Holy Church.

The Conference started with Divine Liturgy led by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Eparchial Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Church and President of the Consistory at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church. The epistle for the day was read from Ephesians 5:25-33. St. Paul in his letter was exhorting husbands to love their wives as their own bodies just like Christ loves the Church, which is His body. It seemed as God had arranged this epistle to be read at the beginning of the Clergy Conference to remind the married priests about the importance of their responsibilities to their families. Priests often ministering to the people under their care and fail to provide needed attention to their own families.

The Gospel for the day was read from Luke 6:46-7:1. Holy Evangalist was retelling Christ’s teaching in parable about the wise man who listens to God and builds his house on a solid foundation. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel preached about the importance of listening to God’s will and not being afraid to preach His saving Gospel to the world in our daily lives. His personal examples of God guiding Him through life and making him a vessel delivering light of Christ to those who were in a great need of it are always inspiring.

After delicious breakfast was served by Elite Catering, clergy gathered in a conference room for their first working meeting. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, along with Archbishop Daniel, presided over the meeting. It’s an indescribable joy to be in the presence of brother clergy. It’s spiritually magnificent to share in the Holy Eucharist at one Holy Altar for those few days.
feels awesome to exchange pastoral experience with one another. Priests definitely need priests in their lives as His Eminence Metropolitan Antony has mentioned quite a few times during the conference. Working sessions turned to be very beneficial for our efforts to fulfill vocation to the Holy priesthood. Filled with encouragement, instructions and new ideas on how to live in Holy Priesthood every day of our lives.

At one of the last meeting session, the clergy had an opportunity to see the presentation of Mrs. Karen Ferraro, the president of the Sr. UOL, about the benefit of having the UOL chapter at the parish. Members of Ukrainian Orthodox League are indeed the working force in our parishes.

Towards the end of Clergy conference, clergy had an opportunity to learn about the endeavors of His Eminence Daniel as he worked tirelessly as exarch of Ecumenical Patriarchate at times putting his life on the line to unite the Church in Ukraine as well as to have the United church officially recognized and be granted the Tomos by Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople. Clergy listened in awe as His Eminence shared with them in a brief speech how much work was put in to have the Church in Ukraine united and recognized by Ecumenical Patriarchate and now by other churches in the world. It was clear to everyone in the room that those were the events that changed history of Ukraine. There was no doubt that this became possible due to enormous efforts of His Eminence Daniel of the UOC of the USA and His Grace Bishop Ilarion of the UOCC. At the end of His Eminence’s speech everyone in the room stood to applaud his unforgettable and courageous work done in complete dedication to the Church of Christ and her life in Ukraine. His Eminence’s speech was a perfect way to end the Clergy Conference and with uplifting words of encouragement prepare clergy to start the 22nd Sobor of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

_Text by Fr. Vasyl Sendeha_
It is with a profound sense of appreciation and prayer that we take this opportunity to write to you as our Nation honors our Veterans.

November 11, 2019 is Veterans Day, originally known as Armistice Day.

The Armistice to end World War I, known at that time as the war to end all wars, was signed by and between the Germans and the Allies in the early morning of November 11th, 1918 – 101 years ago this year – which became effective at the 11th minute, after the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month.

There have been many wars since World War I. In today’s world in which people continue to resort to violence to settle conflicts, war is still a commonly known existence in our lives. In the United States of America, the function of Veterans Day is slightly different from that of similar holidays in other countries. Unlike the practice in other countries, where this calendar date is set aside specifically for honoring those who died in action, Veterans Day in the US honors all American veterans, whether living or deceased. Our specific commemoration of those who perished during armed conflict is made on Memorial Day at the end of May each year.

Our Veterans Day observance is particularly important on the Spiritual Center/Metropolia of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, where the National Ukrainian-American Veterans Memorial is located before St. Andrew Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, NJ. We take pride in the fact that many Ukrainian Americans have served in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard – during times of war or times of relative peace – many living in our parish communities throughout the country, along with those presently serving in any branch of the Armed Forces. We owe them all a great debt and we pray for them on this day.

Veterans Day should be a celebration of lives well lived, as veterans contribute so much to our communities, and should serve as a reminder that many have made great sacrifices and carry heavy physical, mental and emotional burdens from their years of service. This must be a day that we express our deep concern that they receive the necessary care for these burdens. To those presently serving, perhaps far away from loved ones, we say on this day that we carry you in our hearts and prayers. To those families missing someone special to them, we express our appreciation for your patriotism and embrace you, also, in our prayers, for you serve, as well.

It is easy for us on this special day to remember and thank those who served. However, this must not be a one-day remembrance! We must remember them each and every day we live as citizens of this great nation that continues to lead the world and set the example of freedom – the ultimate cause for which all our Armed Forces personnel served and serve so unselfishly.

So, we offer our prayers of Thanksgiving for our veterans and their families. May God bless each one of you – our veterans, our present Armed Forces and our great country – the United States of America.

+Antony, Metropolitan
+Daniel, Archbishop
HOLODOMOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN BY THE UKRAINIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY: SOLEMN COMMEMORATION IN NEW YORK CITY

November is an important month. Solemn Genocidal Famine Remembrance Day was observed by Ukrainian-Americans recognizing and acknowledging the unforgotten abuse of human rights that occurred during the period of 1932-33 in Ukraine, the Holodomor (man-made famine), one of the many heinous crimes in the history of mankind.

On Saturday, November 16, 2019, St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City was filled with members of the Ukrainian Community and concerned citizens of New York and neighboring states to commemorate the 86th anniversary of the Genocidal man-made Famine known as the Holodomor. St. Patrick’s is one of the largest cathedrals in the New York Metropolitan area and is utilized annually to host the thousands of people who attend the yearly Requiem Service.

The event began with the solemn procession of Ukrainian American Veterans carrying flags. Entering between the columns of flags proudly held by the veterans was Nadia Severyn, a survivor of the Holodomor, flanked by honorary escorts. Following, were the students of the School of Ukrainian Studies from New York City.

As everyone found their places the service began with His Eminence Antony, Metropolitan and Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora stepping up to the podium. Vladyka Antony commented on the gravity of the Holodomor, emphasizing that it was murder by starvation:

...This famine which over seven to ten million people died from hunger and starvation began as a genocidal attack on Ukrainian intellectuals, professionals, defiant laborers, the church and lead to farmers whose only “crimes” were simple traditions of hard work, self-sufficiency.

Holodomor of 1932-33, a tragedy beyond tragedies, a monstrosity made even more monstrous, by the simple fact that this event was not the consequence of some natural disaster.

The children filed forward, and solemnly placed single ears of wheat atop those already placed next to the symbolic loaf of bread and lit candle located on a table before the altar. Entering last were the students of the Saint George Academy who slowly made their way to the front and somberly stood holding a poignant black banner commemorating the genocide.

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Holodomor of 1932-33, a tragedy beyond tragedies, a monstrosity made even more monstrous, by the simple fact that this event was not the consequence of some natural disaster.

Millions of people perished in this famine, caused not by a war but by ruthless decree. Travel was restricted, censorship imposed, and an entire nation began to die-from hunger, on streets, on country roads, in fields, in homes, in the thousands, and hundreds of thousands, and millions, in one of the most beautiful countries in Europe.

This horror is only a painful and ever fading remembrance in the minds of eye-witnesses and survivors. The Holodomor is a memory whose agony long since has been dulled by many years of obsessive remembering. For many Ukrainians it is very disturbing, very frightening once we start reflecting the facts, what happened in Ukraine.

This Holodomor occurred 86 years ago, Ukraine’s border has shifted, but the people have not changed; courage and spirituality have survived. What really can be done now after so many years? What can we, Americans of Ukrainian descent can do to commemorate this sacrifice, to somehow give meaning and dignity to those millions who suffered and died. As a society we can focus on the stories being shared by those who survived. We must be aware that such an atrocity must never be allowed to happen in any
segment of the world. The victims of such atrocities as the Holodomor must be memorialized.

…This horrific event was perpetrated by evil individuals who saw Ukrainians as a threat to the totalitarian regime of the time, and therefore, decided they needed to be exterminated. However, while the plan was to destroy and weaken Ukrainians, today it strengthens us in unity, common cause and a desire to not only remember those who lost their lives, but to ensure that such an atrocity is never repeated upon any nation…

His Eminence was joined by Metropolitan Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, PA; Archbishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA; Bishop Paul Chomycky and Bishop-emeritus Basil Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, CT, along with the clergy and faithful from numerous Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic parishes. The prayers were accentuated by the hymns sung by the “Dumka” Ukrainian Choir, under the direction of Vasyl Hrechynsky.

Joining the faithful were various diplomats, and members from various Ukrainian organizations. Guest speakers included Andriy Futey, President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; His Excellency Volodymyr Yelchenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations; Senator and Minority Leader of the US Senate Charles Schumer.

The participants sat quietly contemplating the words spoken by everyone who came up to the podium. Tears rolled down their cheeks as they heard retellings of horrific stories, details of how lives were lost to such cruelty and inhumanity. While we would hope history would not repeat itself, today we find Russia once again behaving with aggression towards its peaceful neighbor, Ukraine.

The Memorial Service concluded with Metropolitan Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia expressing his sincere gratitude to all the hierarchs, clergy, diplomats and guests who attended the prayer service to commemorate the Holodomor, as well as to the “Dumka” Choir for adding a sense of otherworldly beauty to such a solemn event.

As the service concluded, those present exited through the large doors, taking with them the somber mood and the realization of what they had just been commemorating. Spreading out through the streets of New York, Ukrainian descendants along with non-Ukrainian neighbors mulled over what they had heard, mumbling together in the little groups, shaking their heads in astonishment that such things could happen, and then walking off to their own homes to share what they learned tonight with their families and friends. While 10 million people lost their lives, they will not be forgotten, and their sacrifice has served to not only strengthen Ukrainian resolution, but, the resolution of the entire world to be vigilant and to intervene if such hostility should ever resurface against any nation.

Ukrainians and Americans, people of diverse background must stand together, determined that inhuman acts throughout the world should not occur as the Holodomor of 1932-33. That senseless man-made famines shall not be forgotten and that such horrors shall never be allowed to happen again.

Once again, this year marks the 86th anniversary of one of the saddest and most tragic of chronicles in the history of the Ukrainian nation and of all the genocides that have happened in the world during the twentieth century. November is an important month for Ukrainians in the United States of America, Diaspora and in Ukraine, highlighting the awareness, honoring victims of the Holodomor—the brutal artificial famine imposed by Josef Stalin and Russia from 1932-33.

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan
Thirty-four years ago, on October 6, 1985, His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONY was consecrated at St. Andrew the First Called Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, NJ as bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and has been faithfully serving the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA continually before the Lord God. Vladyka takes the verse from the Book of Psalms, “THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH!” as his personal calling and applies it in his everyday life in his service to our Church.

On behalf of the Council of Metropolia, Consistory, the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, we pray that our Lord will grant him peace, security, honor, health, and length of days rightly teaching the word of God’s truth. May God grant many years to our dear Vladyka Antony!
AXIOS! WORTHY! METROPOLITAN ANTONY CELEBRATES 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD!

On Tuesday, November 26, 2019 – the feast day of St. John Chrysostom, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA marks the 47th anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA through the laying on of hands of His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine (of blessed memory).

The clergy along with the members of the Council of Metropolia, the Consistory and the plentitude of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA offer prayerful congratulations and gratitude to His Eminence for his selfless service and exemplary ministry during the past forty-seven years.

We wish you spiritual strength, wisdom and inexhaustible assistance of our Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercession of holy prayers of your predecessor and heavenly patron - Venerable Anthony the Great - in your upcoming endeavors.

May our great Hierarch, Our Lord Jesus bless your work for the good of the Church and grant you joy and peace, strengthening you spiritually and physically for many blessed years.

May God grant you many years, Master!

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
THE CHURCH OF GREECE HAS RECOGNIZED THE AUTOCEPHALOUS CHURCH OF UKRAINE

The Hierarchy of the Church of Greece has recognised the new Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine. The Archbishop will now commemorate and include Archbishop Epiphanius of the Church of Ukraine in the Orthodox family. At today's extraordinary meeting of the Hierarchy on the Ukrainian autocephaly issue, Archbishop Ieronymos was the rapporteur on this matter.

The Archbishop's recommendation was based on the recommendations of the two competent committees of the Hierarchy.

The Hierarchy of the Church of Greece authorized Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece with the exception of seven Metropolitans who disagreed.

The seven who disagreed are the Metropolitans of Kaisariani, of Kythira, of Dryinopolis, of Mesogaia, of Ila, of Aitolia and Akarnania, and of Karystia.

The Hierarchy has decided to give effect to the decision of the Standing Holy Synod which recognizes the Ecumenical Patriarch's right to grant autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, and the right of the Church of Greece to recognize the Autocephalous Church.

According to information, the recognition will formally take place on October 19 in Thessaloniki where Archbishop Ieronymos and Metropolitan Epiphanius will possibly concelebrate the Divine Liturgy.

ЕЛАДСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА ВИЗНАЛА ПЦУ

У суботу, 12 жовтня, на позачерговому засіданні Собор Елладської Православної Церкви визнав автокефалію ПЦУ. Рішення прийнято під головуванням Глави Собoru і Предстоятеля Церкви Греції Блаженнішого Архієпископа Єроніма.

Це історичне рішення для Православної Церкви України, оскільки одна з найбільших Православних Церков світу офіційно підтвердила законність дій Вселенського Патріарха Варфоломія щодо надання автокефалії Православній Церкві України.

Hierarchs of the UOC of the USA Participate in the Presentation of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel, joined by Very Rev. Fr. Stephen Hutnick (Treasurer of the Consistory) and Fr. Vasyl Pasakas (personal assistant to the President of the Consistory) and Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Dr. Paul Micevych, George Cepynsky and Howard West represented UOC of the USA at the presentation of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine at the New York Hilton Midtown on October 19, 2019. The award was presented by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis.

Prior to the official banquet, Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel held an informal meeting with the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

Metropolitan Epiphaniy has been a strong advocate for religious freedom and a key defender of the ecclesiastical and canonical prerogatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros hailed the choice: “His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy has been a staunch defender of the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, even as its prerogatives have been challenged and even rejected outright by some, and as it has been placed under tremendous pressure from others. In Ukraine he has already provided the Solomon-like wisdom that was needed to reunify the Church, return to Eucharistic unity, and establish it as an integral member of the group of autocephalous Orthodox Churches worldwide.”

In recognizing Metropolitan Epiphaniy’s long record of defense of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, National Commander Limberakis noted: “Immediately after the successful completion of the work of the Unifying Synod which was convened in Kyiv in December 2018 and which chose Metropolitan Epiphaniy as the Primate of the autocephalous and newly unified Orthodox Church in Ukraine, His Beatitude contacted His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in order to express his...”
Dear Sirs, Archons!

Dear guests of this celebration, dear brothers and sisters, ladies and gentlemen!

First, allow me to thank you with all my heart for the great honor shown to me today by the Order of Saint Andrew in awarding me the Athenagoras Human Rights Award.

If this award were for me alone, I would hardly dare to accept it, as I do not consider myself worthy to be placed among the ranks of the eminent persons and institutions who have been so honored in the previous thirty years. However, I do accept it, gratefully, not as a reward for me personally, but as a mark of the fruition of the work of hundreds of thousands - and even millions - of Ukrainian Orthodox believers in the Motherland and in the Diaspora. The Local Ukrainian Orthodox Church, fifteenth in the Diptych of Sister Churches, is the youngest to be proclaimed, but is ancient and glorious in its history. This Church, the Primate of which I was by Grace of God elected by decision of the Unification Council held on December 15, 2018, is the fruit of the long work, efforts, prayers and struggles of many generations of God-fearing ancestors, hundreds of hierarchs, many thousands of priests, and its millions of believers.

Particularly dramatic was the fate of our Church – and the fate of our people and country – in the last century. The respected contemporary American historian Timothy Snyder titled his book describing the suffering in the twentieth century of that part of Europe centered around Ukraine “Bloodlands”. Indeed, our lands have been soaked with the blood of hundreds of thousands and even millions. Among them are martyrs for the Orthodox Church of Christ, destroyed by militant atheists. Among them are patriots who died in the struggle for national identity, for freedom and independence of their Motherland. Among them are the millions of people tortured by the Stalinist regime, decimated in one of the most brutal means devised by man, slow death by starvation through artificially created famine.

I am convinced that everyone gathered here feels as I do when I think of this suffering, these victims, and those who have given their lives for the sake of the Church, for the sake of their people and their homeland. This country, the United States of America, is not accidentally called the “land of the free and the home of the brave”; it is built on the fundamental principle that all people are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among which are the right to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. I am convinced that without this understanding - this deep Christian understanding - of freedom as a gift of our Creator, who not only confers rights but also imposes duties, America would have never become the country it did become: a light of democracy, an inspiration to enslaved peoples, and a defender of freedom in the world.

When, during one of my previous visits to the United States, I had the opportunity to visit your capital, Washington D.C., I was deeply impressed by the memorials, the memorials to Presidents Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln; the memorials to those fallen in World War II and in Korea and Vietnam; the memorial to the martyred Reverend Martin Luther King. They differ visually and recall different events in history, but are united through a common theme, engraved succinctly on the wall of one of these: “Freedom is not free”.

This idea is, in essence, deeply Christian. Our freedom - freedom not from temporary tyranny in the state or temporary enslavement by the invaders, but freedom from the tyranny of the devil, from the enslavement to sin and death - was won at a costly price. And, not just a great price, but by the highest price, the price of the life of the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ.

So when we fight for truth and for freedom, when love for our country and our people inspire us for sacrificial work and even to self-sacrifice, all this is intertwined with that to which we are called, that we are taught, and to the example given to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which is conveyed in the short words of one of the two great commandments of God: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31).
Each of us has a unique personality, but through our own experiences we can understand and relate to our fellow human beings; this is what, among other things, this commandment calls us to do. The joy of others can become ours, and the pain of others, our own pain, and in this way we can overcome the many planes of distance that separate us.

An example of this for me personally is what I have learned from Hellenic, Greco-Roman, and modern Greek history. For centuries, countless generations have been inspired by the example of Odysseus, who, despite all obstacles, finds his way to his home; by the self-sacrifice of the three hundred Spartans who were willing to stand against many thousands of invaders; by the wisdom of the ancient philosophers; by the words of the Holy Fathers of the Church inspired by Divine Grace; by the ascetic practices and example of life in prayer of the monks of Mount Athos and other monasteries; by the sermons of missionaries such as the enlighteners of the Slavs, Saint Cyril and Methodius; by the grandeur of the genius of the builders of the Hagia Sophia; by the sacrificial ministry of the Great Church of Christ of Constantinople; by the feats of the fighters for the independence of the Greek people - all of these are any invaluable treasure for all people, and, in particular, for the Ukrainian people.

Indeed, we are all brothers and sisters. As one family, we share grief and joy, help each other and wish each other good and success. As we know our own suffering and our own achievements, we better understand the suffering and the achievements of our brothers and sisters. And, thus, we are inspired by the love that is manifested in deeds.

One invaluable act of such true love was the Patriarchal and Synodal Tomos of the autocephaly of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, received on January 6 this year from the hands of His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. In full realization of how much courage would be required and how much he would suffer in the future from adversaries and lovers of lies, His All-Holiness found the courage he needed, for he was encouraged by love and by truth. We are deeply grateful to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew personally and to our Mother Church of Constantinople for all that they have done and continue to do to ensure that the Church of Ukraine can, like every other Autocephalous Local Orthodox Church, in fullness continue its life-saving ministry among its people, as an integral part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Current events reaffirm the importance of the mission of the Church of Constantinople - New Rome, and its Primate, the Ecumenical Patriarch, in World Orthodoxy. Lacking all about which the mighty people of this world brag, our Mother Church has truly become the living embodiment of the words of the Lord in manifesting a strength of God (2 Corinthians 12:9).

This June, on the day of the namesake of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, I had the spiritual joy of praying with him in Constantinople. There, I was deeply moved by his words, in which he quoted one verse, comparing the Ecumenical Patriarchate with a lamp. Winds from different directions, especially from the north, have often tried and do still try to extinguish this lamp, but it continues to burn and shine. These words the Patriarch spoke through tears, understanding as maybe none of the rest us is capable of seeing, how violent these winds are and how difficult, but essential, it is to preserve the fire and the glow of this lamp.

I am convinced that His All-Holiness is a worthy heir to the throne of the Holy Hierarchs of Constantinople: the great fighter of heresy Gregory the Theologian, the ardent defender of truth John Chrysostom, the builder of the Church under tragic circumstances Gennadius Scholarius, and the martyr for the people Gregory V. So did Patriarch Athenagoras, a statesman of the Church and society of the twentieth century, work to raise the voice of Orthodoxy amidst the tumultuous noise of the last century, and in so doing open a new page in history, bringing forth good fruits in relationships among Christians and restoring the glory and honor of the Great Christian Church of Constantinople.

Did not the mighty powers of this world stand against him? Was there not even threats to his own life? Was he not compelled to suffer unjust reproach from the brethren in faith? Was it easy for him to steer the ship of the Church and to serve the unity and canonical order of the Word Orthodoxy? We know all the challenges he overcame to be rightly proclaimed among the most prominent ecclesiastical and public figures of the twentieth century.

It is therefore truly a great honor for me to receive the award that bears the name of Patriarch Athenagoras, and not just an honor, but an impetus and call to duty, to serve God, the Church, and the congregation entrusted to me with all my might, as Patriarch Athenagoras served. There are also many challenges ahead for our Church and before me as Primate, but the example of Patriarch Athenagoras will especially inspire me from now on.

At the beginning of my speech, I mentioned the Lincoln Memorial. And the memories of that place, which – God willing - I will see again in a few days, inspire me to conclude with the following thoughts.

Your Eminence Archbishop of America Elpidophoros, our hospitable host, remembers well our acquaintance and our first meetings. Just a decade ago, we could only dream of what now is a reality: about overcoming church divisions among the Ukrainian people, about a Patriarchal Tomos and a Pan-Orthodox proclamation of the autocephaly of the Ukrainian Church, about establishing Eucharistic union with our Sister Churches. Now, all that we could only dream of then is real. And at this moment, I would like to particularly thank Archbishop Elpidophoros for all that he has done so far and continues to do for the good of Orthodoxy and for our Local Church.

When I see His Eminence, I see also Archbishop Iakovos who courageously stood for equality and freedom of all men in America and joined the March to Selma. I think of the man who led that march, a man who today has his own memorial in Washington, a man who spoke on the steps of the Lincoln
Memorial words that changed both America and the world. Words about a dream, a dream that is closer and closer to becoming true.

I also have a dream:

A dream of a day when all Local Churches - without exception - follow the canonical resolution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and recognize our Local Orthodox Church of Ukraine as their sister Church.

A dream that a Pan-Orthodox Council will take place in Constantinople - New Rome, as conceived and worked for by Patriarch Athenagoras.

A dream that the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church initiated in Crete will be continued and that such Councils will become an integral part of church life. Today, this does seem like a dream. But, the dream of our people for their autocephalous Local Church did come true. From this, we can know that the dream of renewing the unity of the fullness of Orthodoxy can also come true. I pledge, as Primate of the Church of Ukraine, to work, and call all to work, to the realization of this dream. May God help us! Thank you."

On Sunday, October 20, 2019 His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, assisted by Rev. Fr. Vasyl Pasakas, concelebrated the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral on New York City with the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Photos by www.pomisma.org
His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine was formally welcomed by the hierarchs, clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA at the Spiritual Center of the Church in South Bound Brook/Somerset, NJ on Monday 21 October, 2019.

Welcoming the Primate of the OCU on the front steps of the historic St. Andrew the-First-Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony called Metropolitan Epiphaniy's attention to the fact that it the first visit of the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine to the sacred temple of Ukrainians in the United States of America, as St. Andrew's Church is the first monument to the victims of the Artificially Created Genocidal Famine in Ukraine of 1932-1933.

Upon entering the church and blessing the clergy and faithful in attendance, both metropolitans of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (one in Ukraine and one in the United States of America) exchanged statements of spiritual joy for the opportunity that the Lord presented to the world-wide Ukrainian Orthodox community to reestablish Sacred Bond through the Mother Church of Constantinople.

Responding to the words of welcome of Metropolitan Antony, His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy expressed strong sentiments of spiritual joy and for the people of Ukraine and Ukrainians in Diaspora as they now they enjoy the most sacred union through the motherly care of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine thanked both hierarchs of the UOC of the USA for their service in the process of the formal canonical Synodal granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Moreover, Metropolitan Epiphaniy turned his attention to His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, the former Exarch of the Ecumenical Throne to Ukraine, and offered gratitude for the work that was accomplished by Vladyka Daniel, while serving in Ukraine and representing His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Assisted by Archbishop Evstratiy of Chernihiv, Metropolitan Epiphaniy presented the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA with the gifts of commemorative silver coins, honoring the historic events of granting of Tomos of Autocephaly. Moreover, an embroidered icon of the Protection of the Birth-Giver of God was presented to
the UOC of the USA, commemorating the decision of the Council of Bishops of the UOC of the USA to place the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States of America and Ukraine under the Sacred Protection of the Birth-Giver of God.

Following the visit to St. Andrew Memorial Church, the delegation of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine was treated to a walking tour of the entire 53 acres of sacred land of the Metropolia of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

The first stop was made in the crypt of the Holy Resurrection Mausoleum of St. Andrew Memorial church, where the remains of the first spiritual leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church rest – patriarch and metropolitan Mstyslav (Skrypnyk) of blessed memory. In honoring the memory of the spiritual leader of the Church in Diaspora and later in Ukraine, the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine honored the memory and service of countless hierarchs, clergy and faithful of the Church in Diaspora and Ukraine who throughout centuries prayed for the day of spiritual “freedom” and the sacred ability to pray in the tongue of the Holy Fathers and Mothers of Kyivan Rus-Ukraine.

Archbishop Daniel, assisted by the newly elected Vice-president of the Consistory Very Rev. Fr. Victor Wronskyj and Treasurer of the UOC of the USA – Very Rev. Fr. Stephen Hutnick, led the walking tour of the Metropolia Center of the UOC of the USA, while visiting the memorial grave site of the first hierarch of the UOC of the USA – Archbishop Ioan (Theodorovich); the National Ukrainian-American Veterans Monument, the main Cemetery Cross of St. Andrew’s Cemetery, which is dedicated to the numerous heroes of Ukrainian people, who died for the freedom of the ancestral Ukraine; the Ukrainian Insurgent Army memorial.

Having crossed the historic bridge to the administrative side of the Spiritual Center of the Church, Metropolitan Epiphaniy visited St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary, which this year marks 47th year of academic presence as the theological school of the UOC of the USA. Meeting the full-time students of the Seminary, His Beatitude bestowed his blessing to all students and wished them spiritual and academic excellence.

Ukrainian Cultural Center and Archives section of the building were the next stop for the delegation from the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy paid special attention to the main hall of the Cultural center, where the XXII Sobor of the UOC of the USA took place just a day prior to Metropolitan’s visit. While at the Center, Archbishop Daniel called Metropolitan’s attention to the icon of Christ the Savior (made in a mosaic style of iconography, consisting of the photographs of the youth of the Church, which was presented to His Eminence Metropolitan Antony on the 70th anniversary of his birthday).

Moreover, the Prime Hierarch of the Church of Ukraine venerated the icon of the Protection of the Birth-Giver of God – the main Sobor icon of the UOC of the USA (beautifully written by iconographer Cheryl Pituch).

Having toured the site of the entire Cultural Center, which is also a home for St. Andrew School of Religion of Ukrainian language (which consists of over 100 students) and of the dance group Barvinok, Metropolitan Epiphaniy formally entered the main administrative building – the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

Touring the administrative offices, Metropolitan Antony presented a tour of the formal portraits of all hierarchs of the UOC of the USA from the moment of the formal foundation of the Church in 1918. The portraits were painted in Ukraine by Artur Orlenov, an artist whose work Metropolitan Epiphaniy immediately recognized.

Entering the second section of the
The Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine paid special attention to the present exhibit of “Rushnyky” in the location of the temporary exhibit hall of the Ukrainian History and Education Center. Meeting the director of the Center Mrs. Natalia Honcharenko (as well as Dr. Michael Andrec - archivist; Dobrodiyka Oksana Pasakas – collections manger and Yuri Mischenko -curator of the exhibit), Metropolitan Epiphaniy presented the executives of the museum with a personal gift – a traditional “Petrykivka” embroidered towel, which immediately became of a historical value, as it was gifted to the museum by the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

The formal visit concluded with an informal reception in the Consistory building of the UOC of the USA in honor of His Beatitude and the delegation of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Meeting with the clergy and the faithful of the Church, Metropolitan Epiphaniy answered their questions and presented himself for numerous photos with the individuals in attendance. In conclusion of the visit, a special presentation was made to Archbishop Evstartiy and Dobrodiyka Oksana Pasakas – both of whom celebrated their birthday on that day. Traditional MNOHAYA LITA – GOD, GRANT YOU MANY YEARS was chanted.

Having bid farewell to the members of the community in attendance, Metropolitan Epiphaniy bestowed his archpastoral blessing before heading into the formal meeting with the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in order to reflect and to address common pastoral and ecclesiastical projects and endeavors for the Glory of God and His Holy Church.

ІЄР Архиєпископ Митрополит Київського Святого Митрополита Епіфанія, Предстоятеля Православної Церкви України, офіційно привітили ієрархії, духовенство та вірних Української Православної Церкви США в Духовному Осередку Церкви в Саут Баунд Бруці, штат Нью-Джерсі, у понеділок, 21 жовтня 2019 року.

Вітаючи Предстоятеля ПЦУ на перших сходинах історичного храму Української Православної Церкви, Святого Апостола Андрія Первозваного, Епіфаній звернувся до його Високопреосвященнішого митрополита Антонія звернув увагу митрополита Епіфанія на те, що це перший візит Предстоятелю Православної Церкви України до святого храму Українців у Сполучених Штатах Америки, оскільки Свято-Андріївська церква є першим пам’ятником жертвам штучного Голодомору в Україні 1932-1933 років.

Відповідаючи на слова вітання митрополита Антонія, Епіфаній звернувся до всієї церковної влади на зручність та сприяння єпископа Володимира, Єпископа Української Православної Церкви в Діаспорі у Сполучених Штатах Америки.

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Митрополит Єпіфаній за підтримки Архієпископа Чернігівського Євстратія вручив Українській Православній Церкві США подарунки, пам'ятні срібні монети, на згадку про історичні події надання Томосу про автокефалію. Більше того, для УПЦ США була подарована вишита ікона Покрови Пресвятої Богородиці, на згадку про рішення Собору Єпископів УПЦ США, щоб Українська Православна Церква в Сполучених Штатах Америки та України, знаходилися під Святым Покровом Пресвятої Богородиці.

Після зустрічі у Церкві-Пам'ятнику святого Андрія делегація Православної церкви України в часі екскурсії по всіх 53 акрах святої землі Метрополичого Осередку Української Православної Церкви США, відвідали визначні місця.

Спочатку зупинилися біля крипту Свято-Воскресенського мавзолею, Свято-Андріївського храму, де спочивають останки першого духовного провідника Української Православної Церкви – блаженної пам'яті патріарха та митрополита Мстислава (Скрипника). Вшановуючи пам'ять духовного провідника Церкви в Діаспорі, а згодом і в Україні, Предстоятель Православної Церкви України відвідував пам'ять багатьох ієрархів, духовенства та вірних Церкви, які впродовж століть молилися за день духовної «свободи» та святої можливості молитися мовою Святих Отців і Матерів Київської Русі-України.

Архієпископ Даниїл, а також новообраний заступник Голови Консисторії, о. Віктор Вронський та скарбник УПЦ США - син Степан Гутнік продовжили екскурсію Центром Метрополії УПЦ США, відвідали місце поховання першого ієрарха УПЦ США - архієпископа Іоана (Геодоровича); Національний пам'ятник ветеранів України та Америки, Головний хрест Свято-Андріївського кладовища, який присвячений численним героям Українського народу, які загинули за волю України; меморіал Української Повстанської Армії.

Перейшовши через історичний місток на сторону адміністративних приміщень Духовного Осередку, Митрополит Єпіфаній звернувся до студентів, які були учасниками навчального процесу в діяльності Української Православної Духовної Семінарії Св. Софії.

Наступне приміщення яке делегація Православної Церкви України відвідала були Український Культурний Центр та Архів Церкви. Блаженніший Митрополит Єпіфаній звернув особливу увагу на Головний Зал Культурного Центру, де за день до візиту Митрополита відбувся XXII Собор УПЦ США. Перебуваючи в Центрі, архієпископ Даниїл звернув увагу Митрополита на ікону Христа Спасителя (виконана в мозаїчному стилі іконографії, що складається з фотографій молоді Церкви, яку подарували Високопреосвященному Митрополиту Антонію на 70-річчя Його Дня Народження). Більше того, Предстоятель Церкви в Україні прийняв у своєму офіційному будинку учасників різних збірних, які привозили подарунки для УПЦ США у відповідь на зустріч УПЦ США зі своїм Львовським Собором.

Оглядаючи Адміністративні офіси, Митрополит Антоній показав портрети усіх ієрархів УПЦ США з моменту офіційного заснування Церкви у 1918 р. Портрети були намальовані в Україні художником Артуром Орлєновим, архієпископ Єпіфаній впізнав своїх ієрархів, які згодом стали відомими не лише в УПЦ США, але й у всьому світі усіма православними Церквами.

Увійшовши до другого комплексу...
Консисторії, митрополит Епіфаній відвідав бібліотеку семінарії Святої Софії, в якій є близько 60 000 томів богословських книг, а також іншої літератури, що висвітлюють історію України, Сполучених Штатів Америки тощо.

Предстоятель Православної Церкви України звернув особливу увагу на теперішню виставку «Рушники» у приміщені тимчасової виставкової залі Українського Історико-Освітнього Центру. Зустрівшись з директором Центру пані Наталією Гончаренко (а також з доктором Михайлом Андреєм - архівістом; Добродійкою Оксаною Пасакас – координаторкою колекції та Юрієм Міценком – куратором виставки), митрополит Епіфаній подарував керівникам музею особистий подарунок - традиційний вишитий рушник «Петриківка», який одразу набув історичної цінності, оскільки його подарував музею Предстоятель Православної Церкви України.

Офіційний візит завершився неофіційним прийомом у будівлі Консисторії УПЦ США на честь Блаженнішого та делегації Православної Церкви України. Зустрівшися з духовенством та верующими, митрополит Епіфаній відповів на їхні запитання та зробив численні фотографії з присутніми. На завершення візиту присутні подарували Архієпископа Євстратія та Добродійку Оксану Пасакас - які обов'язко відзначали в цей день свій день народження. Їм заспівали традиційне МНОГА ЛІТА.

Попрощавшись із присутніми, Митрополит Епіфаній поблагословив усіх своїм архіпастирським благословенням, і відбув на урочисту зустріч з ієрархами Української Православної Церкви США, щоб відобразити та вирішити спільні душпастирські та церковні проекти та зусилля на Славу Божу та Його Святої Церкви.

*Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan*
ARCHBISHOP DANIEL VISITS
ST. ANDREW STAVROPEGIAL
CHURCH OF THE
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
IN KYIV, UKRAINE

During the visit to Ukraine, as part of the official delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, for the celebration of the first anniversary of the Unification Council of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel celebrated the feast day of St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle and the first anniversary of the reestablishment of the Representation (Stavropégia) of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Ukraine, at St. Andrew Church in Kyiv.

Prior to the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, which was served by His Eminence Metropolitan Oleksander of Pereyaslav of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and Archimandrite Michael - the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Ukraine, Archbishop Daniel offered sincere greetings of the Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA - Metropolitan Antony, clergy and faithful of the Church to the faithful in attendance and the Exarch of the Ecumenical Throne in Ukraine. As a sign of brotherly love, Vladyka Daniel presented the Representation of the Patriarchate with the icon of the Birth-Giver of God of Mount Athos and the newly-released publication about the historic St. Andrew Cemetery of the Spiritual Center of the UOC of the USA.

Photos by pomisna.info

ARCHІЄПІСКОП ДАНИЇЛ
ВІДВІДАВ СТАВРОПІГІЙНУ
ЦЕРКВУ ВСЕЛЕНСЬКОЇ
ПАТРИАРХІЇ СВЯТОГО АНДРІЯ
ПЕРВОЗВАННОГО В КИЄВІ,
УКРАЇНА

Під час відвідин України, будучи частиною офіційної делегації Вселенської Патріархії на відзначенні Першої Річниці Об’єднавчого Собору Православної Церкви України, Високопреосвящений Архієпископ Даніїл, Правлячий Архієрей Західної Єпархії УПЦ США, взяв участь у молитовному богослуженні в ставропігійному храмі св. Андрія Первозванного, святкуючи свято Апостола Андрія Первозванного та одночасно вшановуючи першу річницю відновлення Ставропігії Вселенської Патріархії в Україні.

Photos by pomisna.info
ARCHBISHOP DANIEL PARTICIPATES IN THE LITURGICAL SERVICES AND FORMAL PROGRAMS MARKING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIFICATION COUNCIL OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF UKRAINE

Upon the invitation of His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine, the delegation of the hierarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople arrived to Kyiv, Ukraine in order to participate in the festivities dedicated to the First Anniversary of the Unification Council of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine that took place on December 15, 2018.

His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, His Eminence Metropolitan Amphiloxy, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel (Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA), His Grace Bishop Ilarion (UOC of Canada) and His Grace Bishop Maximos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of France arrived to Kyiv in order to take part in the liturgical services and formal programs of the celebration.

Following the conclusion of the Archpastoral Council of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine that took place in the historic Metropolitan’s administrative building of St. Sophia Cathedral, the delegation of the Ecumenical Throne joined the hierarchs of the OCU for the Thanksgiving Moleben service, which was served by His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy, Metropolitan Makariy of Lviv and Metropolitan Symeon of Vinnytsia. Following the conclusion of the service, Metropolitan Epiphany expressed his profound welcome to the delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and offered words of gratitude to the hierarchs, clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine for their dedication and perseverance in the process of establishment of the various programs and ministries of the Holy Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

The day concluded with the celebration of the All-Night Vigil at St. Michael the Golden Domes Monastery – that serves as the main cathedral of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.
АРХІЄПИСКОП ДАНИЇЛ ПРИЙМАЄ УЧАСТЬ В ЛІТУРГІЙНИХ БОГОСЛУЖІНЯХ ТА ВІДЗНАЧЕННІ ПЕРШОЇ РІЧНИЦІ ОБ’ЄДНАВЧОГО СОБОРУ ПРАВОСЛАВНОЇ ЦЕРКВИ УКРАЇНИ

На запрошення Блаженнішого митрополита Епіфанія Київського та всієї України, делегація Вселенської Патріархії Константинопольської прибула до Києва (Україна), для того щоб взяти участь у святкуванні, присвяченню першій річниці Об’єднавчого Собору Православної Церкви України, котрий відбувся 15 грудня 2018 р.

Високопреосвящений митрополит Емануїл із Франції, Високопреосвящений митрополит Амфілохій, Високопреосвящений архієпископ Даниїл з Української Православної Церкви США, Преосвящений епископ Іларіон з Української Православної Церкви Канади та Преосвящений епископ Максим із Грецької Православної Митрополії Франції прибули до Києва для того щоб взяти участь в літургійних богослужіннях та формальному відзначенні святкувань.

Після закінчення Архієрейського Собору Православної Церкви України, котрий відбувся в історичному будинку Митрополитів Київських Свято-Софійської катедри, делегація Вселенської Патріархії приєдналася до ієрархів Православної Церкви України на подячний молебень, котрий був відслужений Блаженнішим митрополитом Епіфанієм, митрополитом Макарієм Львівським та митрополитом Симеоном Вінницьким. Після закінчення богослужіння, митрополит Київській Епіфаній висловив свою вдячність делегації Вселенського Патріархату та одночасно вдячність усім ієрархам, духовенству та мирянам Православної Церкви України за їхню присяжію процесу становлення багатьох пастирських програм та служби Православної Церкви України.

День закінчився Всенічним богослужінням у Свято-Михайлівському Золотоверхому Монастирі, котрий служить головним кафедральним собором Православної Церкви України.

Photos by pomisna.info
ARCHBISHOP DANIEL PARTICIPATES IN THE DIVINE LITURGY AT ST. MICHAEL’S MONASTERY IN KYIV, MARKING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIFICATION COUNCIL OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF UKRAINE

Ukrainian Orthodox Christians from the Eastern and Western, Northern and Southern parts of Ukraine gathered at St. Michael's Orthodox Monastery for the formal celebration of the First Anniversary of the Unification Council of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine that took place a year ago - December 15, 2018.

Upon the invitation of His Beatitude Metropolitan Epifaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople commissioned the hierarchs of the Throne - His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, His Eminence Metropolitan Amphilochius, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel (Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA), His Grace Bishop Ilarion (UOC of Canada) and His Grace Bishop Maximos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of France - to formally represent the Patriarchate at the festivities.

While participating in the formal celebrations of the weekend, Archbishop Daniel met with His Beatitude Metropolitan Epifaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine in order to express cordial greetings of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, as the first anniversary of Canonical reunification is celebrated by the Ukrainian Orthodox Christians throughout the world.

Participating in the liturgical festivities, Vladyka Daniel concelebrated with hierarchs of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and expressed greetings to the various hierarchs and dioceses of the OCU from the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America.

In his words of welcome, Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine Epiphany reflected upon the path of the One Year Anniversary, stating that some of his main goals throughout the first year were to keep the unity of the Church and to invest in the educational and administrative development of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, while caring for the spiritual growth and stability.

Welcoming the fifth President of Ukraine His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, the Metropoitan of Kyiv offered words of gratitude to the political leader of the nation for his contribution in the process of maturing of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. President Poroshenko responded by thanking all hierarchs, the Exarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, clergy and faithful of the Church for their Faith in the process and constant intercessions for the people and nation of Ukraine.

The day concluded with a formal luncheon, celebrating not only the past but looking forward to the Many Blessed Years of ministry of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.
В першу річницю Об'єднавчого Собору і постання єдиної помісної Української Православної Церкви, 15 грудня 2019 року, Блаженністю Митрополит Київський і всієї України Епіфаній звершив Божествену літургію у Свято-Михайлівському Золотоверхому соборі.

Предстоятелю співслужили архієреї і духовенство зі всієї України, а також представники Вселенської Патріархії та монастирів Афону: Високопреосвященний митрополит Емануїл із Франції, Високопреосвященний митрополит Амфілохій, Високопреосвященний архієпископ Даниїл з Української Православної Церкви США, Преосвящений епископ Іларіон з Української Православної Церкви Канади та Преосвящений епископ Максим із Греко-Православної Митрополії Франції.

Наприкінці літургії Блаженністю владика виголосив першосвятительське слово. Митрополит Епіфаній закликав, вперш рази, за все дякувати Богу – за його милість і благодійність для Церкви і України.

Також Митрополит висловив подяку його Всесвятості Патріарху Варфоломію й представникам Вселенського Патріархату, які сприяли єднанню українського православ’я, а також п’ятому Президенту України Петру Порошенкову.

«За рік часу ми можемо засвідчити, що Господь сподобив нас великих успіхів і завдяки нашій єдності ми маємо перші визнання з боку Помісних Церков. Я переконаний, що в наступному році ще декілька Церков визнають наш автокефальний статус. Вороги займають ніколи не буде, бо Православна Церква України відбулася. Отож ми повинні національні наполегливо трудитися і нейхай Господь надихає кожного з нас», – сказав Предстоятель.

Його Блаженство також наголосив, що хоч зараз ми проходимо випробування, однак Церква постійно молиться за свій народ, за українських воїнів, які захищають наше незалежність і за тих, які вже увійшли у вічність.

«Сьогодні ми також по особливому молимось, щоб в нашій країні запанував справедливий мир», – зазначив Митрополит Епіфаній.

Далі, до Предстоятеля, духовенства та вірян Православної Церкви України з вітальним словом звернулися митрополит Гальський Еммануїл та п’ятий Президент України Петро Порошенко.

Завершилося урочисте богослужіння святковим многоліттям.

Photos by Deacon Andriy Sydor - www.pomisna.info
13 December, 2019
Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called

**Join Us in This Year's MARCH FOR LIFE**

Beloved brethren in Christ!

In 1973, the United States Supreme Court made their decision to legalize abortion in the United States. Since then, countless numbers of innocent unborn lives have been taken, mothers and fathers have been deeply wounded, and families changed forever. This societal sin has created a cultural landscape that is often called “the culture of death”. As people of faith and life, as people of God we are called to help the helpless, to assist the smallest of us.

Every year, millions of people gather at the national mall in Washington, DC for the March for Life. People from across the country and of various backgrounds and religious communities gather in order to show solidarity with the sacred responsibility to protect human life from the moment of conception to natural death.

This year, the March for Life will take place on January 24, 2020. With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel will lead a group of Ukrainian Orthodox Christians that will join other Orthodox faithful from across the country and participate in the March for LIFE. Enclosed in a flyer with the basic information about the event. We encourage the clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA to join the March for LIFE and to actively participate with Archbishop Daniel and seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in the event. In order to coordinate the participation of the clergy and faithful of the UOC of the USA, please contact the Consistory of the Church for further information (ConsistoryOPR@aol.com).

If you are not able to attend, please join us in prayer that we as a nation may stop wandering in the wilderness of the culture of death and enter into “life in abundance” (Jn 10:10) through our faith in our Savior and our proclamation of the Gospel of Life.

We march to show our solidarity with the weakest and most vulnerable of human life: the unborn. We march until justice is served and the most fundamental of all rights, the right-to-life, is restored for all persons, whether born or unborn. We march because abortion does not help women, it hurts women, exploits women, damaging both body and soul. We march because families deserve better than abortion. We march because it is our Gospel call: “whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to Me (Matt. 25:40).”
SAINT  STOCKINGS  SHEPHERDS
NICHOLAS  CHARITY  SAILORS
NATIVITY  BETHLEHEM  BISHOP
FAST  JESUS
THANKSGIVING  MAGI
Ой, хто, хто Миколая любить,
Ой, хто, хто Миколаю служить,
Тому святий Миколай
На всякий час помагай,
Миколаю.

Ой, хто, хто спішить в Твої двори,
Того Ти на землі і в морі
Все хорониш від напасти,
Не даеш йому пропасти,
Миколаю.

Миколаю, молися за нами,
Благаем Тебе зі сльозами.
Будем Тебе величать,
Ім’я Твое величать,
Миколаю.


Chernoknyzhnyy, Daniel baptized and chrismated on October 8, 2016 in St. Andrew Memorial Church Church, S. Bound Brook, NJ. Child of Alex Chernoknyzhnyy and Natalia Chernoknyzhnyy; Sponsors: Yuri Zaletsksy and Daryna Korol. Celebrated by Fr. Yuri Swko.


Gryniv, Marie (Ruslana) baptized and chrismated on October 26, 2019 in Holy Trinity Mission Church, Seattle, WA. Child of Ruslan Gryniv and Paula Marie Leal. Sponsors: Nazar Rymar and Christina Gryniv. Celebrated by Fr. Andriy Matlak.


Ilina, Olivia baptized and chrismated on October 20, 2019 in Holy Trinity Mission Church, Seattle, WA. Child of Andrii Ilin and Maria Abramova. Sponsors: Maksym Petrov and Olena Manzyuk. Celebrated by Fr. Andriy Matlak.


Keeler, Pachomy Franklin baptized and chrismated on August 31, 2019 in Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Church, Binghamton, NY. Child of Donald Franklin Keeler and Tamara Lynn Hoyer. Sponsors: and . Celebrated by Fr. Zinoviy Zharsky.


Rymar, Nichols baptized and chrismated on October 6, 2018 in Holy Trinity Mission Church, Seattle, WA. Child of Yaroslav Rymer and Gena Maxwell. Sponsors: Vladimir Rymar and Ashley Knight. Celebrated by Fr. Andriy Matlak.


Devin Grayson Blair and Anna Karina Wachuck in St. Peter & Paul Parish, Youngstown, OH, on September 28, 2019, witnessed by Edward Green and Katherine C Anderson. Celebrant: Fr. Ivan Tchopko.

Matthew Mark Estes Sr. and Sherry Lynn Hostetter in Holy Ghost UOC Parish, Coatesville, PA, on October 5, 2019, witnessed by Jason Rutledge and Tom Hanson. Celebrant: Fr. M. Danczak, Fr. N. Dilendorf.


Dobransky, Peter Michael of Endicott, NY on June 10, 2019 at the age of 70 years, officiating clergy Fr. Ivan Synevskyj of St. John the Baptist Parish, Johnson City, NY 13790.

Dovbish, Charles of Canton, OH on June 8, 2019 at the age of 87 years, officiating clergy Fr. J. Nakonachny / Fr. M. Hontaruk of St. Vladimir UOC Parish, Parma, OH 44134.

Dymavyk, Mary Louise of Minneapolis, MN on May 24, 2019 at the age of 90 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. Evhen Kumka of St. Michael’s & George’s Parish, Minneapolis, MN 55413.


Hryb, Michael of Youngstown, OH on January 2, 2019 at the age of 79 years, officiating clergy Fr. Ivan Tchopko of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Youngstown, OH 44509.

Hryna Yurcheyk, Helen of Youngstown, OH on December 31, 2018 at the age of 94 years, officiating clergy Fr. Ivan Tchopko of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Youngstown, OH 44509.

Hystic, Zelisko “Jay” of Youngstown, OH on December 20, 2018 at the age of 75 years, officiating clergy Fr. Ivan Tchopko of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Youngstown, OH 44509.
May God grant to them many happy and blessed years!

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony October 6, 1985 (Episcopacy)
His Eminence Metropolitan Antony November 26, 1972 (Priesthood)

V. Rev. Taras Naumenko October 1, 1995
Rev. John Charest October 1, 2017
Rev. Borislav Kroner October 9, 2010
V. Rev. Bohdan Kalynyuk October 14, 1989
Rev. Silouan Rolando October 18, 2009
Rev. Paisius McGrath October 28, 2006
V. Rev. Richard Hawrish October 30, 1982
V. Rev. Gabriel Rochelle November 6, 2005
Protopresb. George Hnatko October 19, 2003
V. Rev. Andrii Pokotylo November 10, 1957
V. Rev. John Nakonachny November 13, 1999
Protopresb. Nestor Kowal November 19, 1972
V. Rev. Victor Wronskyj November 21, 1965
V. Rev. Raymond Sundland December 2, 2005
V. Rev. Myroslav Turchak December 3, 1977
Protopresb. Howard Sloan December 4, 2003
Rev. Gregory Jensen December 4, 1977
V. Rev. Vasile Sauciur December 6, 1996
V. Rev. John Lyszyk December 6, 1999
V. Rev. Volodymyr Stelian December 7, 1991
Rev. Philip Harendza December 10, 1995
V. Rev. Mykola Andrushkiv December 10, 2016
V. Rev. Robert Popichak December 11, 1999
V. Rev. Oleksandr Yatskiv December 13, 1999
Rev. Paul Bigelow December 19, 2001

Protodn. Anthony Szwez October 19, 2003
Dn. Richard Jendras October 21, 2017
Dn. Paul Neal October 22, 2017
Protodn. Ihor Mahlay November 2, 1997
Dn. James Stickel December 9, 2007
Dn. Ivan Tchopko December 11, 2016
Dn. Paul M Cherkas December 29, 2013
MEMORY ETERNAL!  ВІЧНА ПАМ’ЯТЬ!

BISHOP BOHDAN (SHPILKA) – 1 NOVEMBER 1965
METROPOLITAN ANDREW (KUSCHAK) – 17 NOVEMBER 1986
ARCHBISHOP HENNADJU (SHYPRYKEVICH) – 23 OCTOBER 1973
ARCHBISHOP VSEVOLOD (MAJDAŃSKI) - 16 DECEMBER 2007

Hierarchs of the Diaspora also interred at St. Andrew Cemetery:
ARCHBISHOP IHOR (HUBA) – NOVEMBER 24 1966

OCTOBER
2nd 1952 - PRIEST STEFAN MOSIYCHUK
9th 1960 - PROTOPRESBYTER VASYL WARWARIW
22nd 1963 - PROTOPRIEST JOHN ZAYATZ
19th 1966 - PROTOPRIEST MYKOLA CZERNIAWSKY
8th 1975 - PROTOPRIEST MICHAEL KOCHANSKY
15th 1976 - PRIEST GEORGE YAHODSKY
24th 1979 - PRIEST THEODORE BORECKY
8th 1981 - PRIEST BORIS ARIJCZUK
20th 1985 - PROTOPRIEST LEW OPOKA
17th 1988 - PROTODEACON YURIJ KORSUN
16th 1992 - PROTOPRESBYTER JOHN DANYLEVICH
19th 2003 - ARCHIMANDRITE ANASTASIE
5th 2004 - PROTOPRIEST THODOSIJ DIATELOWYCZ
9th 2004 - PROTOPRESBYTER SERHIJ NEPREL
3rd 2005 - PROTOPRESBYTER THEODORE FOROSTY
28th 2006 - PROTOPRIEST MYKOLA NEWMERZYCKYJ
11th 2007 - PRIEST WOŁODYMIRYR BOROWSKY
30th 2014 - PROTODEACON JOSEPH HOTROVICH
14th 2015 - PROTOPRIEST ANATOLIY DOKHVAT

29th 1996 - PROTOPRIEST LOGHIN SHEMETYLO
21st 2008 - IHUMEN GREGORY (WOOLFENDEN)
4th 2011 - PROTOPRIEST MYCHAIŁO BORYSENKO

DECEMBER
6th 1950 - PROTOPRIEST STEPHAN PROKOPCHUK
17th 1955 - PROTOPRESBYTER WASYL DIAKIW SR.
29th 1962 - PROTOPRIEST GREGORY PYPIUK
18th 1965 - PRIEST PETRO KASIAŃCZUK
4th 1967 - PROTOPRIEST MYKOLA MOHUCHY
1st 1969 - PRIEST JURIJ SIKORSKYJ
14th 1973 - PROTOPRESBYTER OLEXIJ POTULNYCKYJ
21st 1976 - PRIEST IVAN CHUMAK
2nd 1984 - PROTOPRIEST NICHOLAS YARMOLOVICH
12th 1987 - PROTOPRIEST WASYL POKOTYLO
9th 1992 - PROTOPRIEST FEDIR KOWALENKO
22nd 1997 - PROTOPRESBYTER WOŁODYMIRYR BAZLEWSKYJ
25th 1997 - PROTOPRESBYTER NESTOR STOLARCHUK
1st 2000 - PROTOPRIEST ANDREW LASHINSKY
6th 2001 - PROTOPRESBYTER PETRO SAHADACHNY
28th 2003 - PROTOPRIEST VICTOR COOLEY
6th 2012 - PROTOPRESBYTER HRYHORI PODHUREC
9th 2015 - DEACON DAVID MASCARENAS

NOVEMBER
1st 1957 - PROTOPRIEST VLADIMIR KASKIW
19th 1963 - PRIEST JOHN JAROSHANKSI
12th 1966 - PRIEST ALEXANDER BUTKIW
2nd 1958 - MITRED PRIEST MYCHAŁO ZAPARYNIUK
25th 1968 - PRIEST TERENTY SHYMANIV
16th 1974 - PROTOPRESBYTER LEONTIY FOROSTIWSKYJ
21st 1975 - PRIEST JOSEPH MIHALY
3rd 1976 - PROTOPRESBYTER OMELAN MYCYK SR.
5th 1976 - PROTOPRIEST JOHN SHNURER
9th 1978 - PROTOPRIEST THODOSI DIATELOWYCZ
9th 1979 - PROTOPRIEST STACHY SCHADYNSKY
13th 1980 - PROTOPRESBYTER JOSEPH ZELECHIWSKYJ
9th 1983 - PROTOPRIEST NICHOLAS ANTOCHY
13th 1983 - PRIEST PETER PETRUSH
2nd 1985 - PROTOPRESBYTER FEDOT SHPACHENKO
YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS CAROLING CONCERT AT THE UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CENTER OF THE UOC OF USA

ЛАСКАВО ЗАПРОШУЄМО ВАС ДО УКРАЇНСЬКОГО КУЛЬТУРНОГО ЦЕНТРУ УПЦ США НА КОНЦЕРТ РІЗДВЯНИХ КОЛЯДОК

CAROLING FOR Christ

Коляда для Христа

1:00 PM

JANUARY 11, 2020

11 СІЧНЯ 2020

Prepare three of your favorite Christmas Carols or a short 15 min Christmas play/Vertep!

Підготуйте Ваші три улюблени колядки, або коротку сценку з вертепу!

Free admission. Вхід безкоштовний.

To register, please contact Fr. Vasyl Pasakas. Для того, щоб зареєструватися будь-ласка звертайтеся до о. Василя Пасакас. (732) 356-0090

135 DAVIDSON AVENUE, SOMERSET, NJ 08873
Praying, Fasting and Doing Deeds of Christmas Love from Now Through Christmas

Each day purchase and set aside a gift to give someone in need at Christmas.

Donate your collected items to your local shelter or soup kitchen.

Кожного дня купуйте дарунки і відкладайте для потреб інших, а на Різдво просто занесіть ваш дар до місцевої благодійної організації/кухні.

Молимось постимо та чинимо діла милосердної любові до Різдва.

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
Українська Православна Церква США
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Celebration</th>
<th>Do</th>
<th>Donate</th>
<th>Done</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Start of Nativity Fast (St. Philip’s Fast)</td>
<td>Write a list of things you are truly and deeply thankful for</td>
<td>Can of soup</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td>Write Christmas cards for military members (ASAP). Place Christmas cards/notes in UNSEALED envelopes in a larger envelope addressed to: Operation Christmas Cards at United Soldiers and Sailors of America - 700 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 2104 - Washington, DC 20003</td>
<td>Box of cereal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Leave a friendly note where someone will find it</td>
<td>Socks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tell a stranger to have a nice day</td>
<td>Ketchup</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Go to church and light a candle for someone you don’t like very much</td>
<td>Mayonnaise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Go up to a peer at work, school, or church, and spend 5 minutes speaking with them</td>
<td>Salt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple</td>
<td>Go to church this morning. Wear blue in honor of the Mother of God</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Write Christmas cards for your local nursing home</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hug someone today</td>
<td>Cocoa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Smile all day, at everyone you meet</td>
<td>Ramen Noodles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Compliment someone today</td>
<td>Canned corn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Show your loved one you care by helping make dinner</td>
<td>Macaroni and Cheese</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tell someone you like and appreciate them</td>
<td>Peanut Butter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Go through your books, and set aside a couple books to donate to the local nursing home or hospital</td>
<td>Blanket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Make someone laugh - &quot;What’s the best thing about Switzerland? I don’t know, but the flag is a big plus.&quot; - or &quot;Why do seagulls fly over the sea? Because if they flew over a bay, they would be bagels.&quot; LOL!</td>
<td>Diapers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Holy &amp; All- praised Apostle Andrew</td>
<td>Learn about St. Andrew the First Called Apostle</td>
<td>Canned beans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Go the entire day without complaining - it is harder than you think</td>
<td>Pasta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Go to church and pray for your bishops, priests, and parish family</td>
<td>Cookies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase or pick a toy to donate</td>
<td>Chocolate bars</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Great Martyr Barbara</td>
<td>Read up on the life of St. Barbara</td>
<td>Gift card</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>Write a generic Christmas card, and leave it on someone’s windshield in the parking lot</td>
<td>Pickles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Day</td>
<td>Collect all your loose change, empty your pockets and jars, and set aside to donate</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Put a happy note/card in your mailbox, for your mail carrier</td>
<td>Vegetable Oil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase a fast food lunch (or prepare lunch) and serve it to a homeless person</td>
<td>Popcorn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>Go to church and pray for the homeless, and all those who have nobody else to pray for them</td>
<td>Boxed potatoes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Do a chore for someone else</td>
<td>Canned tuna</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hold the door for someone</td>
<td>Applesauce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>St. Spyridon</td>
<td>Make Christmas cookies and share with loved ones</td>
<td>Canned fruit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thank someone and let them know they are important</td>
<td>Jello</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Allow someone to get in line before you</td>
<td>Pudding cups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Do not angry today, no matter what</td>
<td>Oatmeal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td>Leave a friendly note in a library book</td>
<td>Marshmallows</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths</td>
<td>Learn about the Prophet Daniel</td>
<td>Toy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Take a walk, and pick up litter along the way</td>
<td>Protein bars</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Place a carepackage in your neighbor’s mailbox</td>
<td>Socks, again</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Call a distant relative and let them know you love them</td>
<td>More socks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pay for someone’s meal</td>
<td>Mitten's</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shovel snow for a neighbor</td>
<td>Scarf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Go to church and to Holy Communion. Thank your priest for all he does</td>
<td>Stuffing mix</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Today is a strict fast day. Focus on prayer, kindness and not food. Go to church</td>
<td>Canned chicken</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>CHRIST IS BORN! Go to church. Smile at everyone. Be happy all day, no matter what</td>
<td>Baby wipes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Ministry
Get Involved • Grow Together

Get Involved!
Let's Grow Together

Consider utilizing your talents in growing the Church

www.uocofusa.org/offices
DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS
У ГРУДНІ СВЯТКУЄМО

4 DECEMBER - ГРУДНЯ
ENTRY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE
ВВЕДЕНИЯ В ХРАМ ПРЕСВЯТОЇ ВЛАДИЧИ ЦИ НАШОЇ
БОГОРОДИЦІ І ВСЕВІДВІ МАРИЇ

13 DECEMBER - ГРУДНЯ
HOLY AND ALL-RAISED APOSTLE ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED
АПОСТОЛА АНДРІЯ ПЕРВОЗВАННОГО

17 DECEMBER - ГРУДНЯ
GREAT-MARTYR BARBARA
ВИЩА МАРЬЯ БАБАРИНЯ

19 DECEMBER - ГРУДНЯ
ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDEROVER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA
СВЯТИТЕЛЬ МИКІЛЯ, АРХІЕПІСКОП МІР
ЛІЦІЙСЬКОГО ЧУДОТВОРЦЯ

20 DECEMBER - ГРУДНЯ
ST. SOPHIA SEMINARY GRADUATION COMMENCEMENT
ВРУЧЕННЯ ДИПЛОМІВ ВИТУСИКІВ СЕМІНАРІ

22 DECEMBER - ГРУДНЯ
THE CONCEPTION BY ST. ANNA OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS
ЗАЧАТТЯ ПРАВЕДНОЮ АННОЮ ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ

25 DECEMBER - ГРУДНЯ
ST.Spyridon the Wonderworker of Tremithon
СВЯТИТЕЛЬ СПИРИДОНА, СП. ТРИМІФОНТСЬКОГО, ЧУДОТВОРЦЯ

30 DECEMBER - ГРУДНЯ
ARCHBISHOP DANIEL'S NAMENSDAY
ІМЕНИНИ ВЛАДИКА ДАНИЇЛА

HOLY PROPHET DANIEL (600 B.C.) AND THE THREE HOLY YOUNGANS:
АНАНІЙ, АЗАРИЙ, МІСАЙЛ

DECORATE CONSISTORIOUS CHRISTMAS TREE
ЧАС ПРИКРАЩАТИ ЛЯННУ
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Get involved in the life of your Church!
The success of all Church sponsored events depends upon your active participation!

LUBA
National Mentoring Month
January

THEOPHANY
January 19, 2020

NATIVITY OF CHRIST
January 7, 2020

MARCH FOR LIFE
Washington DC
January 24, 2020

CAROLING FOR CHRIST
Ukrainian Cultural Center
135 Davidson, South Bound Brook, NJ
January 7, 2020

SAINT ANTONY THE GREAT
Feast Day
January 30, 2020

2020 NEW YEAR
(Julian Calendar)
January 14, 2020

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