UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX WORD
УКРАЇНСЬКЕ ПРАВОСЛАВНЕ СЛОВО

His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONY

His Eminence
Archbishop DANIEL - Consistory President

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This icon depicts Christ, Jesus Christ the Great Hierarch, recreating the
symbolic naming of Jesus Christ, based on the Old Testament prophecy,
“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek” (Ps.109: 4),
commented by the Apostle Paul as follows “being designated by God a
high priest after the order of Melchizedek” (Hebrews 5: 10).

The icon depicts Christ as the Great High Priest for us in Heaven and on
Earth. St. Paul in his Epistle to the Hebrews, states, “Seeing then that
we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus Christ
the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not a high
priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but
was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore
come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and
find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Christ is depicted wearing the robes of an Orthodox bishop – the miter,
and stole (omofor) decorated with crosses of bishops as they vest in
church during the Divine Liturgy. Christ, the Great High Priest of His
Church on earth, is holding an open Gospel Book in His left hand and blessing with His right hand.
GREETING FROM SEMINARY RECTOR

+ANTONY,

BY THE GRACE OF GOD

METROPOLITAN OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Christ is amongst us!

As Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Acting Rector of Saint Sophia Theological Seminary, I join with my Christ-loving brother in the Episcopacy His Grace Bishop Daniel in offering prayers of thanks giving for benefits, known and unknown which have been given to the Seminary during its thirty-five years of service in preparing spiritually, intellectually and pastorally those who have been called by our Lord and Good Shepherd Jesus Christ, to follow Him, to be His closest friends and instruments and channels of His saving grace to all people, especially to those who form the family of God of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

As the Seminary commences its Academic Year we would be remiss if we did not remind those who pray and study in its sacred precincts that they are called to intimate relationship with Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God. This relationship produces spiritual maturity and gives rise to that which the Orthodox Christian world in general and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in particular is in need of in this 21st century, namely Orthodox priests-pastors who are men of prayer, models of holiness, men in love with and devoted to the Gospel of life, which they are called upon to love and proclaim in season and out of season and the Eucharistic Christ Whom they with trepidation hold in their hands at every Liturgy and distribute to the faithful who approach with awe, faith and love.

Throughout the Seminary’s almost 4 decades devoted to prayer and study, Christ our true God sent forth His new apostles, new witnesses, new heralds who as Deacons, Priests and Bishops continue to preach the Kingdom of God and repentance.

May the Master of the Harvest, Christ our True God, the Way, Truth and Life, continue to bring forth from St. Sophia Seminary, spiritual fruit - vocations of quality, who by His love will enhance the vineyards into which He will send them.

With the assurance of our prayers, love and paternal support,

+ Antony

Metropolitan and Seminary Rector
With an eye to perceiving the present and future needs of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the late Patriarch Mstyslav had the foresight to establish our St. Sophia Seminary at our church center complex in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. Seeing that the education provided by seminaries of different jurisdictions, both in the United States and Canada, did not fit all of our particular needs, a seminary that would be truly our own was the logical solution. In 1975 our seminary was duly instituted and the white mansion at the corner of Davidson and Easton Avenues became our permanent home. Being in close proximity to Rutgers University, New Brunswick Theological Seminary and Raritan Community College provided additional educational resources for those who wished to complete their undergraduate degrees.

Over the years, St. Sophia graduates have become priests and deacons, and have served our church well. People sometimes wonder why there is often a time lag between seminary student days and ordination. Let us remember that seminaries are where vocations are tested and proved. One might be a very good student of high moral fiber, who yet discovers that the life of a priest is not for him. Unsuitable candidates, also are weeded out in the process. Because one must make the heavy decision of being married or not before an ordination takes place, there is often a delay of a year or so, or more. Despite delays and small graduating classes, the seminary has fulfilled its promise over these many years.

Our seminary not only is charged with the duty of educating and providing worthy candidates for the priesthood and diaconate of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church, both here and also abroad, but also trains religious workers. In the fall of 1996 a modest roster of two students expanded to four for the spring and increased to fifteen the next fall. Even with some attrition, the promise of thirteen solid students, for the fall 1998, is a very heartening development. Our student body is comprised of Ukrainian -Americans, converts, as well as students from Brazil, Ukraine and Rumania. Like other Orthodox Theological Schools in North America, we now accept women who wish to pursue an education in Theology. Ann Stoll, besides excelling in her studies has worked with our Youth Ministry department in our Consistory.

All students take the core of subjects necessary to give a solid theological foundation. Ukrainian language, church history, Kievan Chant, and our unique Ukrainian cultural history are also stressed, so as to fully prepare our candidates to serve the needs of our Ukrainian Orthodox faithful. For those who do not have proficiency in the English language, a year of intensive study precedes the theological studies.

As prayer life is at the heart of a seminarians day, the services in the chapel are both a joy and an education in themselves. Twice a day, services in the morning and evening provide some spiritual feeding as well as giving opportunity for familiarity with hours, vespers, compline, midnight office and other services of the daily cycle. To sing Vespers or a Divine Liturgy in the St. Andrew Memorial Church is also a valuable experience. At times students...
visit parishes as the hierarch makes his parochial visitations. Not only does this provide practice with liturgical services, but it gives exposure to practical parish life.

Classwork and study is but one focus of daily seminary life. A work-study program provides some financial remuneration for specified jobs around the seminary. Our students are also exposed to College chaplaincy and many other areas of practical pastoral service through the Field Education Program. Hopefully your future priests will already be familiar with sick calls and have developed a good bedside manner and a host of other requisite skills long before ordination and a parish assignment takes place.

The seminary wants to give the general public access to Orthodox theology and has instituted both a fall and a spring lecture series, which has had good response from Orthodox of a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Through the Orthodox Inter-Seminary Movement, our students have met with seminarians of different Orthodox seminaries and have forged bonds of friendship and cooperation.

We have an especially close fraternal relationship with St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg and recently have had visits from two professors from this Canadian Ukrainian Orthodox institution. As time goes on, and as we participate with other schools, St. Sophia and our whole diocesan center here in South Bound Brook has raised in the favorable perception and estimation of Orthodox of other jurisdictions.

Like the Ukrainian Orthodox League, our seminary has applied for membership in Syndesmos, an international fellowship of youth movements and theological seminaries throughout the world. Already we have been invited to participate in Syndesmos events happening in various parts of the world. This year, Ann Stoll, who attends our seminary, was privileged to attend a Syndesmos-sponsored Women’s Conference and Youth training session at Makarios Orthodox Seminary in Nairobi, Kenya. As the only North American delegate along with two Orthodox women from Finland and one from Albania, our seminary got some worldwide recognition.

When our foreign students graduate, Brazil and Ukraine will be the beneficiaries of students with solid Orthodox theological training in the Ukrainian Orthodox tradition.

Our own American students, bearing their Licentiates in Sacred Theology will be ready to meet the challenges of parish life as a new millennium dawns.

A diocesan seminary can be the barometer of the health of the church as a whole. When we have but few native American seminarians, it can mean, either that our parishes are not nurturing our youth or that, by comparison, priesthood in our church is perceived as not being an honored or worthwhile endeavor compared with jobs in the world. In order to keep providing worthy clergy for our church we must have more candidates. We are very serious about the training of our seminarians and we hope that not only are you praying for people to heed the call to serve the Lord, but that you are busy nurturing and giving needed encouragement to those who are interested.

When you receive an appeal for the support of St. Sophia’s, YOUR SEMINARY, we hope that you will be generous. This institution will not have a future, if our faithful do not give their financial and moral support to it. In the last appeal, 500 very generous families gave their support through donations, but this number is indeed small when you consider that the mailing appeal went out to some 10,000 families of our diocese. It is hoped that this small review of the seminary and its life will attract your interest and will spur you on to give some support in the future. If you know someone who has shown any interest in seminary education, please direct them to us so that we might be able to set up an interview.

-Archbishop Daniel
Academic Dean
Have you ever driven south on RT 287 in New Jersey, taking Exit 10 towards South Bound Brook, NJ and wondered what goes on inside the imposing white colonial mansion, or considered what goes into the formation of an Orthodox priest, while passing by a sign on the corner of Davidson and Easton that reads – ST. SOPHIA SEMINARY?

The UOW staff went searching for answers to these questions last month, when we spent a day at St. Sophia’s Seminary in South Bound Brook, NJ, where about 30 seminarians learn about faith and how to share it throughout the Metropolia of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and the world.

Sunshine streams through the glass windows and into the narrow Chapel of Three Holy Hierarchs.

It is 6:45 a.m. at St. Sophia’s Seminary in South Bound Brook, NJ.

Clutching liturgical prayer books, seminarians close their eyes during Morning Prayer. This will be repeated twice before the sun sets, as praying together is essential to the formation of men in the midst of years of discernment and study before committing and qualifying for the Holy Priesthood.

In the next few chapters we will try to show and explain to our readers a typical day in the life of a seminarian of the Church, observing priest instructors and talking to the professors, students, and staff of St. Sophia Seminary.

The quest for eternal truths, it seems, requires long days and many years…

The apostles spent three years close to Christ the Savior, preparing for when they would be sent out in His Name. They spent time with Him, they were taught by Him, and they were formed into a small community centered on Him. Today the Church uses special places of formation called seminaries to prepare men for the Holy and Sacred service and ministry of Priesthood.

The purpose of the years at the seminary is to relive, in a way, the experience of the Twelve. If you are accepted for priestly formation, you are likely to be in a seminary for up to six years. There you will spend time in prayer, you will study, you will gain experience in various pastoral situations and you will be part of a community.

A seminary is a “residential college” run by the Church where students and staff (both priests and laypeople) live together in a community of faith. During his time in the seminary, each student, in cooperation with their bishops, priests, instructors, and brother seminarians, tries to discover God’s will for him, and whether the Lord is calling him to be a priest. The purpose of the formation in seminary is not simply to train someone to do priestly things, but to form the whole person and also to enable the student and his local bishop to make a mature decision as to whether priesthood is for him.
The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA has one seminary in the United States of America that prepares candidates for the Holy Priesthood for the US, South America, Australia, Europe and Ukraine. During the times of Soviet dominion of Ukraine, the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA struggled through their ability to bring over to the United States of America clergy from Ukraine that would serve the needs of Ukrainian Orthodox faithful in Diaspora. In 1972, due to vision of Metropolitan Mstyslav and members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League, a Seminary was formed in the jurisdiction of the UOC of the USA. Since its establishment the Seminary has educated over 100 clergymen of the Church and provided theological education to various men and women of the Church.

The_seminary_building_includes_living_quarters_for_the_seminarians, an enormous refectory, a computer lab and a large kitchen. However, in order to have more room for intellectual work and study, the faculty of the Seminary utilizes the classrooms of the Ukrainian Cultural Center as well as the Seminary Library classrooms. The entire campus of St. Sophia Seminary is spread throughout the spiritual center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

The intellectual formation of our seminarians is accompanied by a thoroughly human formation, which includes general culture, priestly manners, and an extensive amount of daily practical work in the house and around the outside grounds. This combination is very efficient for the complete education of mind and body which we want to give our seminarians. A purely intellectual formation is never sufficient for a priest. His personality would certainly remain insufficiently formed, if it did not include a profound prayer life and the humility to accept practical duties and fulfill them well...

Morning prayers conclude at 8:15AM. Seminarian Yaroslav Bilohan, a second-year theology seminarian heads to the kitchen for a glass of orange juice.

His first class today is Spoken English, taught by one of the instructors of the Seminary. Classrooms have huge windows and at least an icon in each of them, some two. Classes typically begin and end with prayer, such as the Our Father.

Instructors often lead roundtable discussions or teach from a lectern. The six seminarians of the morning class come to class with pen and notebook, while sitting in front of desktops set for online Spoken English language classes and interactions with pronunciations, grammar, etc. Yet, there is a moment and time for a surprise quiz or a lengthy exercise-test.

“I prefer to write by hand,” the 24-year-old Subdeacon Mykola said. “It’s faster.” From a small Ukrainian village outside of Kalush, Ivano-Frankivsk region, Mykola Zomchak is one of 30 seminarians at St. Sophia’s. He is one of nine that are from Ukraine who came to the US to study Theology and prepare themselves for the service of love in the Name of Christ. The other 21 men and women hail from nine other U.S. states and come to St. Sophia’s once a month or once a semester for an extended period of classes. During the regular class time of the seminary, the part-time students study from home, communicating with their instructors via internet, Skype, Facebook, etc. Modern means of communication and technology seem to open new horizons for education and interaction, once utilized properly.

Life in Seminary

Although priestly formation in the seminary is seen in its totality as a single experience, it can be broken down into the four main areas listed below:
Pastoral Experience
Our Lord prepared to sent out His disciples during their three years with him (Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-10). The same happens to those preparing for the pastoral ministry today. From the beginning of their formation, students are sent out for various pastoral experiences so that they can develop pastoral skills and learn a great deal about themselves and the priestly ministry.

Pastoral experience, (which is a bit like work experience in schools), would include visiting the elderly and the sick, at home or in hospital. There would also be opportunities to spend time in primary and secondary schools, in youth groups, in prisons, and with the disabled. Parish pastoral visiting, calling from house to house and developing the vital ministry of presence of being with people, would also be available. Once or twice a year students may spend an extended period of several weeks or months in a parish or other pastoral placements. Pastoral training in the seminary also includes work in preaching, counseling, spiritual direction and catechetical instructions.

Formation
A priest is a public figure and people must have confidence in him. He must also have confidence in himself. It is important that those who will serve as priests be rounded, balanced individuals who know what their gifts, talents and weaknesses are. No one would expect someone who had just entered seminary to be good at everything. One of the opportunities that seminaries provide is space and time for growth as a person. Living in community with others helps with this. If there are particular issues that an individual needs help with (for example having the confidence to stand up to speak in front of others) then this is all part of seminary formation.

A priest also needs to commit himself to the specific demands of priesthood, including humility, simplicity of life and obedience to his archpastors. It is important for someone preparing for the Holy Priesthood to spend time coming to a mature understanding of these aspects of the sacred calling…

It is 11:55am… The entire student body is in the dining room. In front of them is a deliciously prepared luncheon – the product of the labor of love of Pani Maria Morozovsky. She has been with the Seminary for the last 7 years, cooking and practically acting as a “mother” to all St. Sophia Seminary students. Steaming pot of soup is being passed from one seminarian to the next, making sure that each one in the attendance of this day’s luncheon gets a serving (or two…or three) of the Lord’s Gift on the table of Agape meal.

Well, it is 1pm and classes resume. The student body will continue with their formal instructions until about 4PM. At 5:30 - Vespers is served, which is followed by a formal dinner with Archbishop Daniel or one of the Seminary’s instructors. As soon as the dinner is finished, each of seminarians assumes his chores around the building: cleaning the classrooms, washing dishes, preparing the chapel for the next day of services, etc. Later in the evening students enjoy their personal time (often spent in a small gym of the Seminary, where the physical strength of the equipment is tested by St. Sophia’s athletes), and preparation of the homework assigned by the instructors. The next common activity in the building is once again in the Three Holy Hierarchs Chapel – the Evening Prayers are chanted at 10PM; at 11:00 lights are out in the first floor of the building – students once again enjoy their personal time and prepare to rest for the evening.

The seminary is a place of discernment.
A man enters seminary to dedicate himself to finding his vocation, to discern whether God is calling him to the Holy Priesthood or to be a faithful, holy lay man.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel who serves as Academic Dean of the Seminary states that “seminary is a community established by the hierarchs and the Church to offer to those called by the Lord to serve as Apostles the possibility of reliving the experience of formation which our Lord provided for the Twelve … Such an experience demands of the Twelve … a detachment that in some way is demanded of all the disciples, a detachment from their roots, from their usual work, from their nearest and dearest. The seminary is called to be … a continuation in the Church of the apostolic community gathered about Jesus Christ, listening to his word, proceeding towards the Pascha experience, awaiting the gift of the Spirit for the mission of service…”

Like the priest, the seminarian must ever be aware of his rootedness in and with the People of God- a sense of belonging: God takes us from the midst of his people and sends us back to them…”

One of the graduates of St. Sophia Seminary, who now serves as the Dean of Students, Fr. Vasyl Pasakas states that “the seminary community is not merely a residence; rather, it exists as a vibrant Christian community. Seminarians live, work, study and pray together, building friendships and fraternity and offering support to one another. The experience of the seminary community plays a significant role in the personal and spiritual growth of seminarians … The give-and-take between those who share the priesthood as a common vocation … provides mutual support, promotes tolerance and fraternal correction, and gives an opportunity for the development of leadership and talent among seminarians.”

Finally, Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Perkins, one of the professors of St. Sophia Seminary speaks of the seminary experience, “it is tempting to think of seminary as a college that is augmented with services and pastoral training, but this is incorrect, even for our distance learners. Everything we do and teach here has Christ at its center and is grounded in Holy Orthodoxy. It is the kind of intimate Christian fellowship that is largely unavailable outside of monasteries. Everyone here wants nothing more than to grow closer to God through Christ, and to share the Gospel with others. For distance learners (who come here at least once a semester) and alumni, visiting the seminary is a pilgrimage to a place where they find peace, refreshment, and loving fellowship. There is something special that happens when people who are completely dedicated to God and the Church gather together. St. Sophia’s is a special place where the boundaries between heaven and earth grow thin; of
course, that is most true of our chapel – a place where that boundary disappears completely every Divine Liturgy. Not everyone who comes here will become a priest, ordination is not the primary purpose of seminary... it is one of many wonderful side-effects, the greatest is the glorification of God and the equipping of His saints to proclaim the Gospel.”

Thus, seminarians must, therefore, learn the joys and sorrows, the difficulties and hardships, as well as the peace and happiness of true Christian community life. Community life is an achievement dependent both on God’s grace and the consistent serious efforts of its members. Every aspect of community life is important for discernment and formation.

The Professor of the Seminary – Very Rev. Fr. Stephen Hutnick often reflects on the academic requirements of the spiritual formation of the students:

1. A deepening and appreciation of their understanding of the classics of Orthodox theology.
2. An enriched curriculum which blends doctrinal teachings, moral and ethical training, and a strong grounding in pastoral theology and practicum.
3. An appreciation and love of the Ukrainian and Slavic traditions of the Orthodox Church.

All of us are called to serve Christ; all of us are called to proclaim the Gospel and lead others to perfection through The Way of Holy Orthodoxy. All of us; lay leaders, music directors, chanters, teachers, choir members, ministry members, and anyone seeking a closer union with God and a greater understanding of their Church and Holy Orthodoxy – both men and women! – will benefit from seminary instruction.

St. Sophia’s keeps costs low and has programs designed to meet most schedules. We have dedicated lay and clergy instructors, wonderful facilities, and a God-loving student body... all we are missing is you! Apply today! We can help you discern your calling (all of us have one) and equip you to fulfill it.

Contact the Vocations Director of the Seminary, Fr. Theophan Mackey (fr.theophan.mackey@gmail.com), or visit our website (http://stsuots.edu) to find out more and receive an application.
NEW ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINS WITH OUTDOOR DIVINE LITURGY

On Saturday, September 12, 2020 - after months of eerie silence due to the pandemic, the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA burst to life, as the hierarchs, clergy, faithful and students marked the start of the new Academic Year at St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary. To ensure the safety of those gathered and in accordance with social distancing restrictions, the Divine Liturgy took place outdoors, next to the Three Holy Hierarchs Seminary Chapel.

With the final preparations underway, the altar cloths and banners joyfully billowed in the breeze, as the birds happily chirped in the pine trees overlooking the serene scene. Mothers called their children, who had been laughing and running around in the lush green grass, to their sides as the clergy, who had traveled from neighboring regions, exited the chapel door and took up their positions marking the beginning of the service. The seminarians began to quietly sing, their voices merging softly with the birds, carrying on the breeze across the Metropolia property.

With His Eminence Metropolitan Antony (Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA) in attendance and joining in prayer, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, (Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy). Concelebrating him were: V. Rev. Volodymyr Muzychka (St. Volodymyr Cathedral, New York, NY); V. Rev. Yurij Siwko (St. Andrew Memorial Church, So. Bound Brook, NJ); V. Rev. Stephen Hutnick (St. Nicholas Parish, Dover, DE, Holy Trinity Mission, Whalleyville, MD, & Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Wilmington, DE); V. Rev. Vitaliy Pavlykivskiy (All Saints Parish, New York, NY); V. Rev. Stepan Bilogan (Sts. Peter and Paul UOM, West Islip, NY); Very Rev. Fr. Milorad Orlic (St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, Elkins Park, PA); Rev. Vasyl Pasaks (Nativity Blessed Virgin Parish, South Plainfield, NJ); Rev. Vasyl Shak (St. Panteleimon Parish, Brooklyn, NY); Rev. Oleg Kravchenko (St. Mary Assumption Parish, Northampton, PA) and Rev. Sviatoslav Hot (Holy Ascension Parish, Maplewood, NJ). Praying with them were V. Rev. Peter Levko (St. George Parish, Yardville, NJ) and V. Rev. Todor Mazur (Holy Trinity Cathedral, New York, NY) who had arrived after completing their parish duties.

The church bells rang, as Archbishop
Daniel ascended the dais and stood upon the orletz beginning the Divine Liturgy. His Eminence was served by seminarians Andrii Vatrich, Mykola Stefanyk, and Matvii Blyzniuk, while the other seminarians Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan, Subdeacon Myroslav Mykytyuk, Maksym Zhuravchyk, Pavlo Vysotskyi, Andrii Akulenko along with Subdeacon Volodymyr Piskarow (St. Nicholas Parish, Troy, NY) composed the choir.

As the faithful intently listened, Vladyka Daniel loudly read the Gospel Reading from Matthew 231-12 which was prefect for the start of the new Seminary Semester, as Christ taught His Disciples and the multitudes gathered to shun earthly titles and glory, but, instead to nurture humility.

His vestments glowing in the late summer sunshine, Archbishop Daniel turned to face those seated before him, and those watching the LIVE video broadcast, and gave a sermon reiterating the words of Christ, instructing everyone, especially the seminarians, to not put too much importance in worldly aspirations, titles and successes; but, to put all their effort into nurturing humility and serving others.

Vladyka shared the advice his mother, Halyna Zelinsky, had given him at his episcopal consecration.

As wheat sprouts it reaches heavenward in search of strength from the sun, and nourishment from the rain.

When it has ripened and is ready for harvest, the shoot bows its head low, gets cut, ground into flour, and is finally used to nourish humanity.

So, a man who has been preparing and training to join the priesthood, and
episcopal ranks, has been growing over the years in wisdom and strength from God above. However, once consecrated needs to bow low in humility, and be willing to nourish the flock entrusted to him, shunning earthly titles and fame.

As the seminarians, the future clergy of the Church, listened intently and mulled over his words, Archbishop Daniel concluded his sermon and the Liturgy joyfully continued beneath the blue sky and white clouds.

Having said the Lord’s Prayer the faithful gathered on the lawn watched intently as His Eminence proclaimed “Holy Things are for the holy!” As the choir responded “One is Holy! One is the Lord Jesus Christ!” everyone intently watched for usually the Royal Gates would be closed at this point, and the Curtain drawn. However, today’s outdoor service permitted the laity to gaze upon that which is usually hidden… and they were amazed.

As His Eminence Metropolitan Antony approached to partake of the Holy Eucharist, the sun seemed to brighten, and a rainbow appeared over the altar. People stood in awed silence, as the clergy communed, and then approached in fear and love to join them at the Lord’s banquet table.

Having concluded the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop Daniel took a moment to introduce the visiting clergy, as well as the seminarians, specifically pointing out the three new gentlemen who had just arrived from Ukraine to join the seminary student body.

With spirits uplifted, and smiles hidden behind masks, the faithful happily made their way around the seminary building to the outdoor seating area to enjoy a light communal lunch of grilled burgers and hotdogs. With public safety their priority, the seminarians took charge of preparing plates with food and serving the widely dispersed individuals.

The afternoon waned with the sounds of prayer being replaced with laughter and chatter, as after a long separation the faithful once again were able to meet and share their love for one another. One by one, having satiated their spiritual and physical hunger, the people began to disperse to their own homes. As if joining in the final goodbyes that were shouted out of open car windows, the geese that had been peacefully grazing on the green lawn began to honk loudly before taking wing themselves.

The day’s celebration will leave those who were present, as well as those who joined via mobile devices with lifelong joyous memories.

May the Lord bless the hierarchs, clergy, and seminarians of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theologica Seminary with many years!

Text by Elizabeth Symonenko

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ST. SOPHIA SEMINARY, PLEASE VISIT - WWW.STSUOTS.EDU
Unprecedented times called for unprecedented measures as administrators and faculty, under the guidance of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Rector of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary of the UOC of the USA met for the first time since the beginning of the Fall Semester of 2020-2021 academic year via conference call and video streaming session to address key academic issues and institutional business during the school's Faculty meeting on September 5, 2020.

Amidst concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, Archbishop Daniel provided an update on the Unified COVID-19 Standards for Faculty and Students of St. Sophia Seminary.

Further in his remarks as Academic Dean, the Archbishop provided the latest update on administrative life of the Seminary.

“...We are scheduled to begin our classes on the 8th of September, following months of preparations for the re-opening due to COVID-19 pandemic.

As you may have already noticed on the web site of the Seminary, the State of New Jersey, from which we hold license to operate, has mandated regulations for ALL NJ schools to submit a Plan for Re-Opening: https://www.ctsnots.edu/news_200629_1

Our Seminary staff work collectively and produced a plan for re-opening, which was approved by the NJ Office of Higher Education: https://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/colleges/schools_alfa.shtml

At this time, 24 students enrolled in three academic programs of St. Sophia Seminary.

I am happy to report that three new students from Ukraine (Andriy Akselenko, Matvii Blyzniuk and Mykola Stefanyk) have received their F-I status, visas were issued and they arrived to the US on September 4, 2020.

Seminary’s US Department of Homeland Security (SEVIS) application for Recertification has been submitted and formally acknowledged with recertification for the next 2 years.

St. Sophia Seminary received ASSOCIATE Membership status with the Association of Theological Schools (The Commission of Accrediting). In addition, we just received approval from the US Department of Commerce (following rigorous verification process) to register our Seminary in the WEB Domain for Academic Institutions that are Approved by the US Department of Education. As such our new Seminary web site is listed as: www.stsuots.edu

As you can see, the COVID-19 pandemic did not slow us down. On the contrary, due to the availability of time, we were able to accomplish the above-mentioned results.

I am truly grateful to His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, for his encouragement and leadership through this process. Moreover, I am grateful to the TEAM that worked tirelessly to file these successful applications: Fr. Theophan Mackey, Fr. Vasyl Pasakas, Fr. Ivan Synyrs’ky, Elizabeth Symonenko, Natalia Honcharenko.”
Vocations Director of the Seminary – Rev. Fr. Theophan Mackey, provided an update about the enrollment of Part Time Students and introduced the faculty that will offer instructions during the Fall Semester of the Academic Year.

The Dean of Students of St. Sophia Seminary – Rev. Fr. Vasyl Pasakas, presented the latest academic and liturgical schedules of the Seminary for Metropolitan’s approval.

Dobrodijka Oksana Pasakas – librarian of Metropolitan John Theodorovich Seminary Library, offered the latest information about the Library operations and new COVID-19 regulations for book borrowing and the academic research projects.

Mrs. Natalia Honcharenko, coordinator of Human Resources of the Seminary addressed vital regulations as they pertain to NJ State and Federal Laws.


In conclusion of the meeting, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony offered his gratitude to the faculty and staff of St. Sophia Seminary for their dedication and service in providing excellent academic theological education to the next generation of spiritual leaders of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora.

NEW STUDENTS IN 2020

Let me introduce you to the newest seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary of the UOC of the USA: Matvii Blyzniuk from Lutsk, Ukraine; Andrii Akulenko from Berestechko, Ukraine and Mykola Stefanyk from Sniatyn, Ukraine. May God bless them in their academic and spiritual achievements!

Знайомтесь із найновіншими семінаристами Свято-Софіївської Української Православної Богословської Семінарії УПЦ США: Матвій Близнюк із Луцька; Андрій Акуленко із Берестечка та Микола Стефанік із Снятини. Божого їм благословення та успіхів в навчанні та духовному формуванні!

Мирного та благословенного НОВОГО ЦЕРКОВНОГО РОКУ усім із каплиці Святих Трьох Святителів Свято-Софіївської Української Православної Богословської Семінарії УПЦ США

Lord, O Lord, look down from heaven and visit this Your vineyard and strengthen it, for You have planted it with Your own right hand. May your hand be upon these sons of man whom You have called to Yourself.

Господи, Господи, спосіблень з неба й подивись на виноградник очей, і утвердий його бо його насадила правиця Твоя. Нехай рука Твоя буде на синах людських, яких Ти покликав до Себе.
1. Where are you from?
I am from the Lviv region, Ukraine.

2. What are your favorite hobbies?
I am interested in different kind of sports. I also love to sing and take photographs.

3. What is your favorite food?
My favorite food is dumplings and borscht.

4. If you've visited both countries, what is the biggest difference you've noticed between Ukraine and the United States?
The biggest difference I felt when I came to the United States of America is when I started to communicating with people. I have found that Americans have a lot of new ways of thinking which is sometimes very different from how Ukrainians view things. This revelation is a great pleasure for me because I have learned a lot of good things that I never had realized before.

5. What is your favorite American custom/tradition?
Halloween is my favorite tradition. It's great to watch how people, parents, and children wear different costumes, and go to every house, in order to celebrate this holiday which honors All Saints.

6. Who is your favorite saint, and why?
My favorite saint is John Chrysostom. He is a saint who has left for us a legacy of knowledge and by his personal life’s example he has attracted a great number of people to Christianity.

7. When did you first discern your calling?
A great influence on my decision was made by my father, who is a priest. At a young age, when I was a child, I helped him in his ministry, sang in the church choir, served at the altar. It was that experience, along with the paternal image of the spiritual leader, that made me want to become a priest.

8. What one moment/event during your studies at St. Sophia Seminary has been the most memorable to this point?
Attending our parishes, as for me, is one of the most memorable events. We are able to gain experience of various church services, improve our English, and are able to better understand how Ukrainian parishes in America exist and preserve our Ukrainian traditions for future generations.

9. Which course have you found to be most interesting and why?
In my opinion, it was English. I have spent a lot of time learning a foreign language so I find it a very interesting and useful course.

10. Why did you choose St. Sophia Seminary to complete your studies?
I decided to continue my studies at St. Sophia’s Seminary because it is a great opportunity for us as seminary students to receive a theological education and find our vocation as priests here in the United States of America to help and serve people.

11. Please give a word of advice to everyone who is returning "back to school".
I wish you to spend this semester with faith, hope, love, and prayers so that the Lord will help us with all our needs, which we will ask and care for us at every moment of our lives.
1. Where are you from?
I am from Ukraine, Lviv

2. What are your favorite hobbies?
I like to put together electronics devices by hand, also I like to listen to music.

3. What is your favorite food?
I don’t really have any favorite foods, but I like spicy food.

4. If you’ve visited both countries, what is the biggest difference you’ve noticed between Ukraine and the United States?
Due to the fact that America has a lot of nationalities and embraces different cultures, for me the most noticeable and at the same time surprising aspect is how different religious faiths are present and clearly expressed in America, and how they coexist in one society.

5. What is your favorite American custom/tradition?
I do not have a favorite custom yet, as I am still getting acquainted with American society.

6. Who is your favorite saint, and why?
For me, the Image of St. Nicholas is the embodiment of humanity, kindness and high moral values. Saint Nicholas is an example of mutual assistance and care - helping the destitute, the poor and the sick. He combines - faith in a miracle and the desire to create this miracle, for those who need it.

7. When did you first discern your calling?
I had been thinking about the priesthood since I was a child, but I made the final decision to attend a seminary at university.

8. What moment/event during your studies at St. Sophia Seminary has been the most memorable to this point?
The most memorable experience for me is how we all worked together, dedicated time, and effort to record the Seminary Christmas CD.

9. Which course have you found to be most interesting and why?
As for me, I like dogmatic theology. This subject helps to better understand all aspects of our Faith, which for the future priest, is necessary for further service and preaching to people about the Orthodoxy.

10. Why did you choose St. Sophia Seminary to complete your studies?
Given the current challenge of society, to become a good priest, you need to first work a lot at your spiritual growth. It is necessary to have good mentors who will adequately prepare you for the difficult life path of serving God and people. It is precisely such spiritual mentors and teachers that can be found in this seminary, where my choice for training fell. It is here, in the seminary, the priest mentors can prepare the students, educating them about the Omnipotent God. This knowledge will help the future priests carry the joyful message of Christ, and shine with His Light in this turbulent world. It is here, in a society that unites various people, of varying ethnic backgrounds, that the instructors, have faced great challenges, and have priestly experience, that they in turn will pass onto their students, the future priests. Studying in St. Sophia Seminary, I can understand the depth of the priesthood that is so necessary for serving God and people in this modern world.

11. Please give a word of advice to everyone who is returning “back to school”.
I want to wish everyone a successful school year, good health, happiness, inexhaustible energy, and inspiration for learning. May the All-Merciful Lord help and strengthen you in all your endeavors.
1. Where are you from?
I am from Ternopil region, Ukraine.

2. What are your favorite hobbies?
My favorite hobbies are playing soccer, listening to music, and traveling.

3. What is your favorite food?
My favorite food is sushi.

4. If you've visited both countries, what is the biggest difference you've noticed between Ukraine and the United States?
The biggest difference, that I’ve noticed between Ukraine and the USA is the people in America are more friendly and sincere. They are always happy to help you even without knowing you, which unfortunately is not the case in Ukraine.

5. What is your favorite American custom/tradition?
My favorite tradition is the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, I like it and I respect the country for remembering and teaching children about God.

6. Who is your favorite saint, and why?
My favorite saint is the Apostle Paul because I admire his missionary work, faith, and devotion to Jesus Christ and all people.

7. When did you first discern your calling?
I first realized I wanted to become a priest when I was a young child, and I first saw how my grandfather sincerely and devotedly served the Divine Liturgy.

8. What one moment/event during your studies at St. Sophia Seminary has been the most memorable to this point?
The most memorable moment for me was at All Saints camp when I was improving my English and spending time with children.

9. Which course have you found to be most interesting and why?
So far the most interesting course has been English. It requires much studying, but, is interesting, and is helping me develop a greater understanding of the USA, and therefore, has become a very important part of my life.

10. Why did you choose St. Sophia Seminary to complete your studies?
I was already studying in a seminary when I decided to enroll at St. Sophia Seminary. The main reason is that I would like to become a priest and serve the people of America.

12. Please give a word of advice to everyone who is returning "back to school".
I wish you to spend this new semester in prayer and in the hope of God. Work hard and to make every effort to become worthy servants of the Lord.
My name is Victoria Swindle and I was a summer intern for the St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Library, through the Office of Youth Ministry Internship Program. I am currently a senior at the University of Pittsburgh studying toward a Bachelor’s Degree in Information Science and a minor in Museum Studies. Completing an internship in a field of study of what you are currently studying in school is starting to become a popular trend and necessary in education. I saw this summer as an opportunity to help people have an easier way of getting to the information and rich history of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Due to the safety precautions and shut down in New Jersey because of Covid-19, my internship was slightly adjusted and I was able to complete some tasks as part of “Intern-at-Home”. During the month of June, I researched about the current periodicals the library has in the collection remotely from my home in Pittsburgh. After analyzing the safety of working physically at the St. Sophia Seminary Library I was fortunate to start on site at the end of June and early July. During my time I had Dobrodijka Oksana Pasakas as a spectacular mentor and supervisor. We were able to discuss the importance of getting the information and resources the library has to offer out to the students, faculty, and the faithful. One of my assignments was to organize and digitize both the Ukrainian Orthodox Word and the UOL Bulletin in the Library’s collection. By having this new format of the publications, the stories that are told can now have a new life. After analyzing the Library’s collection, I noticed that the library is missing a number of physical copies of the UOL Bulletin. If you or someone you know has copies of the Bulletin and would like to donate them to the Library’s Collection, please download the donation form on the St. Sophia Library website or contact Librarian Dobrodijka Oksana Pasakas at oksana.pasakas@gmail.com.

I will always remember this learning experience I had at the St. Sophia Seminary Library. When scanning the editions of the Ukrainian Orthodox Word and the UOL Bulletin, I was thinking about the importance of my work. These publications are records of how the Ukrainian Orthodox Church developed and how the publications were a way of communication to the faithful. It was and still is a way that people knew what was going on in the numerous churches all around the United States.

I want to thank His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and His Eminence Archbishop Daniel for giving me the blessing to do this work at the Library. I also want to thank Librarian Dobrodijka Oksana Pasakas along with the staff of Consistory for allowing me this wonderful opportunity. I encourage any high school or college student to reach out to The Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, because this internship was a fantastic way to give back to Christ’s church and gaining valuable skills.
Your Eminence Archbishop Daniel,

The Prime Hierarch of the UOC of the USA, Metropolitan Antony, along with the Council of Metropolia, members of the Consistory, clergy, faithful and the student body of St. Sophia Theological Seminary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA express their sincere greetings and assurance of prayers for His Eminence Archbishop Daniel on the occasion of His Birthday.

We thank Almighty God for your ministry to the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

May God grant you many blessed and healthy years in the service of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA!

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Ваше Високопреосвященство, Архієпископ Даниїл, 

Первоїєрарх УПЦ США Митрополит Антоній, разом з Радою Митрополії, членами Консисторії, духовенством, вірними і студентським корпусом Свято- Софійської духовної семінарії Української Православної Церкви США висловлюють ширі вітання і запевняють у молитвах Його Високопреосвященство Архієпископа Даниїла з нагоди дня його народження.

Ми дякуємо Всемогутньому Богу за ваше служіння вірним Української Православної Церкви в США.

Нехай Бог дасть вам багато благословених та здорових років на службі нашої Святої Української Православної Церкви в США!
As the sun rose on the chilly Autumn Day at the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, the clergy and faithful of the Church began to gather to pay tribute, and to honor, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony as he celebrated his 35th anniversary of Episcopal Consecration.

The patio of the St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary Chapel of the Three Holy Hierarchs was transformed into an outdoor Altar, and worship area. The dome of the church was replaced by the dome of the heavens, the columns of the nave were replaced by the majestic tree trunks with their far reaching branches, which scattered their leaves upon the scene as if blessings from heaven.

Concelebrating with His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the UOC of the USA, was His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy, as well as a number of local clergy who drove for hours to join the celebration.

The Divine Liturgy began as the clergy emerged from the side door of the chapel and stood beneath the trees, the warm sun glowing about them. The seminarians of the St. Sophia Seminary sang the responses, joined occasionally by the birds in the trees.

The Liturgy flowed as if on angels’ wings, with the day’s Gospel being read explaining about the conception and birth of St. John the Forerunner of Christ. The Metropolitan continued by earnestly praying for all his flock, all who are sick with Covid-19, and especially for all those who have had an impact on his life over the past 35 years of his Episcopal service, both living and reposed in the Lord, especially his mother, Dorothy, who passed away a few years ago.

As the Liturgy was served, a slight breeze teased and played with the clergy’s vestments, and the cloths covering the tables, lending an air of the surreal to the scene. The feeling of awe was amplified as the brightly colored falling leaves danced in the air as they descended seemingly from the heavens to twirl around the clergy and land at their feet.

As the seminarians sang, the clergy partook of the Holy Eucharist, followed by many of the faithful that regardless of the pandemic made their way to the celebration.

Upon the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony took a moment to express his heartfelt greeting and gratitude to those who had joined in his celebration. His Eminence explained that over the years he has relied upon the Grace of the Holy Spirit to help him through his ministry. He reiterated that he has not accomplished anything through his own efforts and will, but, through the Grace of God, he has been able to simply do that which the Lord expected of him, allowing him to touch the lives of those entrusted to him.

Vladyka Antony thanked God for permitting him to once again stand and serve before His altar, for the first time in 6-months, due to the pandemic. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, the gathered clergy, and the faithful standing on the lawn, and joining via mobile devices, for taking the time and joining him for this milestone occasion in his life.
His Eminence continued by stating that the sacrifice offered today was not to celebrate his anniversary, but, it was the universal sacrifice of Christ’s Holy Church which is offered every time Liturgy is served, not for our own glory or satisfaction, but, for God, who entrusts us to stand at the altar even though He has hundreds of thousands of angels before His Throne who could serve, and yet, he entrusts us to be here and serve the clergy and the faithful of His Church.

Metropolitan Antony reminded us of just how good God is to each of us. The Lord has allowed that we serve Him and to show His love to all those around us. Sometimes we are weak, however, we have a great opportunity before us, and we must always be mindful of our responsibilities to others, and before God.

His Eminence once again thanked Archbishop Daniel for his lovely greeting, and for all the greetings that he posted online received from various parishes and individuals. Reading them humbled him, and brought him to tears, with a renewed realization of the great responsibility God has bestowed upon him.

Vladyka Antony concluded his reflective words by asking everyone to pray for him and the Church today and in all the days and years to come.

Archbishop Daniel stepped up to express his own heartfelt greetings, and those of the clergy and faithful of the Church, stating that 35 years ago in the very church they were gazing upon, St. Andrew Memorial Church, Metropolitan Antony received his consecration, being called not only to be a priest, but, a bishop, and an apostle of Christ.

35 years later these same people, who had gathered for the consecration, gather today for the celebration, to once again proclaim “Axios”!
Vladyka Daniel stated that 19 years ago in that same church, he also received the consecration of priesthood through Metropolitan Antony’s hands.

Archbishop Daniel than presented His Eminence with a photo album of Metropolitan Antony’s consecration 35 years ago, gifted by Maureen and Bill Cornman.

As Vladyka Daniel concluded his greeting, the seminarians came up to greet their beloved Metropolitan, gifting him flowers and warm words of respect and honor. Having thanked them for their greeting, Metropolitan Antony gave them some words of advice, that when they get lectured, or advised, it is not to hurt them, but to make them better and to help them become great priests one day. They are here, at the seminary, not only to study, but to discern if they have a true calling to serve Christ as a priest in His Church. He asked that they pay attention to everything they do, how they do it, what they say, and how they say it. Everything matters.

Having given his blessings to the seminarians, His Eminence was then greeted by the various clergy and faithful who despite the pandemic, social distancing restrictions, and face masks, had decided to make an effort to join the celebration in person.

Having accepted the warm greetings of many, bestowed his blessings upon them all, everyone once again cried out AXIOS! WORTHY! ГІДНИЙ!

May Christ our God shower His Eminence Metropolitan Antony with good health, happiness and many more blessed years serving in His Vineyard!

Eis polla eti Despota!

Text by Elizabeth Symonenko
Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan
We, the Members of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, gathering for our first digital meeting on October 6-7, 2020, offer the perennial message of Christian hope and spiritual encouragement to our clergy and faithful, and all persons of good will, in these unprecedented times of the current global health crisis, political division, and social strife.

The Coronavirus pandemic has affected every human being in the world with some form of trauma: loss of life, debilitating illness, separation from loved ones, financial hardship, or emotional fatigue. And yet, it remains true that through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Through these tragedies, health care workers who have sacrificially cared for the sick, first responders and essential workers who have never ceased to provide for those in need, parents who have had to manage every aspect of their children’s education and care from home, those who are without employment and those who are facing financial struggles, and clergy who have maintained the spiritual and liturgical lives of their parishes—all bear witness to the power of love and goodwill to provide solace in these troubled days. At the same time, this health crisis and the energy required to shoulder it have also given rise to an unhealthy increase of polemical opinion related to questions of science, medicine, and civil and ecclesiastical directives. As often happens when human passions erupt, such polemics have infected other areas of society as reflected in the rise in this country of racial tensions, ideological clashes, and political polarization. We remind all that, as Orthodox Christians sojourning in this land, we are not called to base our lives upon the ephemeral convictions that are common in the realm of politics, economics, or ideology. Rather, we are called to “set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Col. 3:2), placing our trust in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and doing His Holy Will through our efforts to fulfill His life-giving commandments.

In our present circumstances, trying to hold a sensible middle ground between opposing forces of faithless reason on the one hand and spiritualized folly on the other is the greatest challenge of our time. As Orthodox Christians we are called to follow the high “road, [for] I will turn aside neither to the right nor to the left” (Deut. 2:27). Saint Jerome teaches that the high way or royal way is the way of the One who declares, not only that “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” but also “Your ways are not like my way” (Commentary on Isaiah). This means keeping our eyes on Christ and His sacrificial love for the entire world and being humble about our own particular opinions is the time-tested way to walk along the path worthy of the Christian calling.

Certainly, our present physical separation from one another and spiritual isolation from the divine services have complicated our ability to navigate these troubled waters. It is not fitting for us, as Orthodox Christians, to add to the burdens of our brothers and sisters either by condemning them or by appeasing them with insincere flattery. Rather, we ought to honestly fulfill the law of God by bearing one another’s burdens, as the Holy Apostle Paul reminds us (cf. Gal. 6:2).

This means that we are called to an authentic life of patient obedience, sincere humility, genuine compassion, and sacrificial love even towards those with whom we differ. This is not an easy task for human beings to accomplish, but by grace and by the power of the Cross, we who are weak are made strong through Christ. With that grace, let us boldly give expression to Christ-like love and Christ-like humility in a world where many are unable to see anything beyond their own opinion. With that power, let us steadfastly remain faithful to the Tradition of the ancient Church in a land of modernity, uncertainty, and confusion. As a guide, let us “lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven” (Lam. 3:41) and make our own the words of the Psalmist who cries out: “O God, thou art my God; I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee, my flesh faints for thee, as in a dry and weary land where [there is] no water” (Psalm 63:1).
On Saturday October 24th, at 11am EST the 86 clergymen of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America gathered together, via Zoom, for their Annual Clergy Conference.

The conference was initiated by His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONY serving a moleben to Our Lord Jesus Christ and prayers for the gathered clergy and the following meeting.

Following the moleben, His Eminence Metropolitan DANIEL introduced His Eminence Archbishop JOB of Telmessos who is the permanent representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the World Council of Churches and the Dean of the Institute for Orthodox Theology Higher Studies at Chambésy, Switzerland.

Archbishop JOB presented to the gathering on three interrelated issues which arise for the clergy of our church. Is it proper to pray with non-Orthodox Christians? How do we receive non-Orthodox Christians into the Orthodox Church? And what are the limitations of mixed marriages, Orthodox with non-Orthodox? The common thread which ran through these questions and their answers, was the fact that although Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations are separated from the Orthodox Church, they have not officially be deemed heretical or anathematized by a Church Council, only in the polemical writings of individuals. Faith in and adherence to the dogma of the Holy Trinity is common ground we can work from with people in these heterodox groups. After his presentation, Archbishop JOB then answered the questions of the gathered clergy.

His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONY announced that the Church of Cyprus had, that morning, recognized the autocephaly of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ukraine.

Following that, Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon, director of the Consistory Office and Youth Adult Ministry for the UOC of USA presented. She spoke of the needs
of the youth in our churches, the need for connection and the struggles they are having with the current restrictions under the Covid-19 pandemic. She stressed the need for face-to-face meetings whenever possible, and the use of electronic media when it is not. Our children need their priests and spiritual fathers to be accessible to them, especially in these trying times.

The hierarchs then announced the new clergy positions in UOC of USA.

- Father Yuri Bobko at Saint Peter and Paul Parish in Lyndora, PA
- Father Samuel Seamans at Holy Apostle Thomas Mission in Mountain Home, AR
- Father Svitoslav Hot at Holy Ascension Parish in Maplewood, NJ
- Father Stepan Bilogan at Saints Peter and Paul Mission in West Islip, NY
- Deacon Theodore Brinegar at Saint George Mission in Alamogordo, NM

The hierarchs then reiterated their instructions on inclusions in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. During the litany of fervent supplication, the two petitions for youth, found on page 219, should be inserted and read. After the litany of fervent supplication, the prayer during the Corona Virus pandemic should be read.

The conference ended with prayer and a blessing by His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONY for the health and well-being, physical and spiritual, of all of the clergy and people of the UOC of USA.

*Photos by Fr. Vasyl Pasakas*

*Text by Fr. Theophan Mackey*
A strong majority, thirty-eight, of the fifty-one canonical Orthodox Bishops in the United States of America began their two-day meeting today to discuss Orthodox Christian Unity in the country. The meeting, which took place online due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, was the first since the transition of the chairmanship to Archbishop Elpidophoros.

In his opening remarks, The Archbishop stated, “we have all faced tremendous trials and tribulations, but we do so in the joy of the Holy Spirit, Who is the root of our authority and the fruit of our labors on behalf of the People of God ... we are the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the USA, Hierarchs who represent disparate communities, but One People of God. Our oneness is a gift, a blessing that is not ours to refuse. There is so much that we can do together for the sake of all our faithful.” Read the full address here.

Furthermore, the august body adopted the 2021 budget, re-elected Metropolitan Gregory as Secretary and Archbishop Michael as Treasurer, and passed a number of motions set forth by the Executive Committee, the Committee for Agencies and Commissions, Affiliated Ministries and Associations, and the Committee for Youth. More detailed information pertaining to said motions will soon be released.

Finally, recognizing the youth as the future of the Church, the Assembly of Bishops declared 2021 the Year of the Youth. A number of initiatives are expected to be launched that will bring together Orthodox Youth from across the nation.

Tomorrow, October 7, 2020, the Bishops will re-convene to discuss their Strategic Vision for the Assembly.
REMEMBER YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Let him know:
That you are grateful for his prayers
That you are nurturing your Faith
That you are praying for him also

- Archbishop Daniel

У ЦІ ДНІ ПАМ’ЯТАЙТЕ СВОГО МІСЦЕВОГО СВЯЩЕННИКА
Дайте йому знати:
Що Ви вдячні за його молитви
Що Ви плекаєте свою віру
Що Ви молитесь за нього також

- Архієпископ Даниїл
Starting **September 7**  
7-го вересня

Join the seminarians of  
St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological  
Seminary of the UOC of the USA  
for the Daily Prayers via Facebook

**7:00 AM**  
Morning Prayers

**9:00 PM**  
Evening Prayers

Приєднуйтесь до щоденної молитви із семьинірками Української Православної  
Семінарії св. Софії на Фейсбукі

**7:00 ранку**  
Ранішні Молитви

**9:00 вечора**  
Вечірні Молитви

facebook.com/uocofusa  
facebook.com/stsuots
Anniversaries are important occasions for remembrance and for recognizing our need for healing. The 19th anniversary of the attack on the people of the United States of 09/11/2001 was prayerfully observed at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, NJ on Friday, September 11, 2020.

The Spiritual Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in South Bound Brook, NJ is a prayerful memorial itself to the numerous victims of atrocities to Ukrainians throughout the world. The clergy and faithful of the Metropolia Center often gather together to pray for the victims of unjust wars, conflicts and invasion attacks that have taken place in the ancestral Ukraine and in the US.

Nineteen years ago today, the steps of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church were covered in the lit candles. Those memorial lights were brought and placed in front of the church by the local residents of South Bound Brook/ Somerset, NJ. However, 19 years later, a new generation of Ukrainian-Americans has grown. Our children learn about the Terrorist Attack of 9/11 from their textbooks and documentaries. That is why, the spiritual leadership of the Church continues to organize annual Memorial Services at the church in memory of the lost victims of 9/11.

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, on September 11, 2020, the day of commemoration of the beheading of Holy Prophet John the Baptist, the faithful of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, NJ gathered for Divine services led by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel and Very Rev. Fr. Yuriy Siwko, Rev. Fr. Vasyl Pasakas and Rev. Fr. Sviatoslav Hot in order to commemorate the lost victims of September 11, 2001 tragedy and pray for the those that continue to live their lives in the post 9/11 environment.

Speaking prior and after the service, Vladyka Daniel reflected on the Gospel narrative for the day, but he also shared with those in attendance the prayerful memories of the very first Orthodox Memorial services at Ground Zero in 2001, which were led by His Eminence Metropolitan (Archbishop) Antony on behalf of the clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

“Today’s prayer service provides a small way for our church family to never forget the tragic events of 9/11,” said Archbishop Daniel. “A day which has forever changed not only our nation, but our world. Through prayer, we can hopefully memorialize those who lost their lives, provide some sort of comfort to their families, and to remind all that through prayer we can overcome violence and hate.”

Reflecting on the tragedy and sharing the sentiments of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, Archbishop Daniel stated: “… Nineteen years after the still almost incomprehensible terrorist attack upon our nation on 9/11/01 the emotion and horror still weigh heavily upon each and every citizen of our United States of America. We still hear daily references to some aspect of a moment in history that forever changed the course of American life. Sometimes the references relate to positive consequences of an evil act, but more often we are further offended by
the negative side effects of man’s ability to hurt and destroy his fellow man…

We offer the first prayer we shared with you nineteen years ago as a guide for your personal prayer: “Lord God, Lover of Mankind, bless our God-protected nation, the United States of America, and forgive those who hate and wrong us. Do good to those who do good and grant all our people safety, health, salvation and eternal life. Visit those who continue to suffer from the terrorist attack upon our nation and heal them. Guide those in our armed forces; in our fire, police and rescue services and in our government. Upon those who have asked us, unworthy though we are, to pray for them, have mercy.

Remember our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and friends who have fallen asleep in the Lord under the most horrific of circumstances and grant them rest where the light of Your Face shines in a place where there is no more pain, nor sorrow, nor suffering. May their memory be eternal before Your Throne.

Remember us, O Lord, your humble, sinful and unworthy servants and enlighten our minds with the light of Your Knowledge and guide us in the way of your Commandments, through the prayers of our Most-Pure Lady, the Birth-Giver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, and of all Your Saints, for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.”

The liturgical services of the day served those in attendance as a reminder that even though the attacks of 9/11 are far behind us, the lives lost will never be forgotten… Memory Eternal!

*Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan*
19 Years Later... WE REMEMBER and HONOR...

Dearly beloved clergy and faithful entrusted to our pastoral care,
GLORY BE TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!

It is difficult to believe that we have come to mark the 19th Anniversary - a memorial date of the loss of nearly 3,000 human beings in the World Trade Center – the symbol of American business success and promise.

Nineteen years after the still almost incomprehensible terrorist attack upon our nation on 9/11/01 the emotion and horror still weigh heavily upon each and every citizen of our United States of America. We still hear daily references to some aspect of a moment in history that forever changed the course of American life. Sometimes the references relate to positive consequences of an evil act, but more often we are further offended by the negative side effects of man’s ability to hurt and destroy his fellow man.

So much, in fact, is still written and debated about every facet of that late summer day – in newspapers, on television and perhaps too soon on the movie theater screens – that we are loath to add to it all. Ours is, once again, and for all time to come to call upon you as the faithful of our Holy Church to take time out of your busy day – sometime during this month of September, to pause and say a prayer for those who perished and most especially a prayer for those who survived – not only escaping from the buildings – but also for the family members and close friends of those who perished.

We offer the first prayer we shared with you 19 years ago as a guide for your personal prayer: “Lord God, Lover of Mankind, bless our God-protected nation, the United States of America, and forgive those who hate and wrong us. Do good to those who do good and grant all our people safety, health, salvation and eternal life. Visit those who continue to suffer from the terrorist attack upon our nation and heal them. Guide those in our armed forces; in our fire, police and rescue services and in our government. Upon those who have asked us, unworthy though we are, to pray for them, have mercy.

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May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with each of you as we pass through this commemoration and all it brings to mind. You are in our continued prayers.

+ ANTONY, Metropolitan
+ JEREMIAH, Archbishop of the South American Eparchy
+ DANIEL, Archbishop
“We have been here for seventeen centuries and we always will be.”

(Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and New Rome, His All-Holiness Bartholomew I, concerning the opinion that the conversion of St. Sophia (Holy Wisdom) Church into a mosque – once again – might be an unbridled attempt by the Turkish government to force the remaining Christians in the country to finally leave and abandon their historical rights and prerogatives).

This day’s broadcasted video and sound of the first Muslim worship service in Hagia Sophia Church, in spite of the expectation of it, was a shock to the physical, mental, emotional and most of all, spiritual essence of people of faith throughout the world and in particular, 300 million Orthodox Christians. In a senseless act designed expressly for the political self-preservation of the present Turkish government, the history of not only Christianity but also of the nation’s international relationships is denigrated almost beyond comprehension.

Just across the beautiful public garden square from Hagia Sophia is the Blue Mosque – another huge building that was built as an attempt to recreate Hagia Sophia to prove that the abilities of Muslim architects and builders possessed equal talents. The effort was not successful, and the completed project is far from an equal to the Great Church of Holy Wisdom. The missing element in the construction plan and process was precisely the Holy Wisdom of God in the Holy Trinity, which inspired the hearts, minds and souls of the builders of Hagia Sophia. The nation of Turkey has over 3,500 active mosques, which begs the question of why the necessity of returning Hagia Sophia to active status as a mosque.

We call upon the great spiritual, political and social leaders of nations throughout the world to make their thoughts known about this senseless act and to demand that the decision be overturned by the Turkish leadership. Even more, we demand that Holy Wisdom Cathedral – a UNESCO site – actually be returned to its rightful owners – the Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and New Rome as the center of its administration and service and the proper liturgical worship center for His All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew I and his successors, along with all Orthodox Christians throughout the world, in perpetuity.

May God in the Holy Trinity through Holy Wisdom – Jesus Christ himself – open the minds and hearts of Turkish government leaders to the understanding of the futility of their poorly considered political decisions and lead them to positive reconsideration and actions that will enhance peaceful co-existence amongst all mankind. Regardless of their decision in this regard, His All-Holiness’ firm belief as expressed above, is real, truthful and will stand forever.

With prayers,

+Antony, Metropolitan of the UOC of the USA

+Daniel, Archbishop of the UOC of the USA
ХРАМОВЕ СВЯТО В ПАРАФІЇ ПОКРОВИ ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ М. НЬЮ-ХЕЙВЕН, КОННЕКТИКУТ

В суботу, 17 жовтня, 2020 року з нагоди храмового свята і на запрошення настоятеля протоієрея Олександра Яцківа та парафіяльної громади, Високопреосвященний Владика Даниїл звершив Божественну літургію в храмі Покрови Пресвятої Богородиці в м. Нью-Хейвен, Коннектикут.

Цього погожого сонячного ранку, після прохолодної дощової ночі, до церкви поспішили вірні, щоб спільно піднести свої молитви за мир і лад у всьому світі за відступлення пандемії коронавірусу та небесний покров Матінки Божої.

Його Високопреосвященству співслужили: протоієрей Олександр Яцків (настоятель храму Покрови Пресвятої Богородиці м. Нью-Хейвен, Коннектикут), протоієрей Микола Андрійчук (настоятель храму Святого Луки м. Варнес, Нью-Йорк), протоієрей Степан Білоган (настоятель храму Святих Петра і Павла Нью-Йорк), протоієрей Віталій Павликівський (настоятель храму Всіх Святих Нью-Йорк) ієрей Мирон Коростіль (настоятель храму Успіння Пресвятої Богородиці м. Джонс-Сіті, Оклахома), протодиякон Антоній Швець (Нью-Брітен).

Чудовий хоровий супровід Архієрейської Літургії здійснювали семінаристи духовної семінарії святої Софії УПЦ в США (м. Саунд-Банд-Брук, Нью-Джерсі).

Зі словом проповіді до вірних звернувся Високопреосвященний Владика Даниїл. Повчальне архіпастирське слово торкнулося серця кожного присутнього на богослужінні, а також до всіх, хто доєднався до молитви онлайн через мобільні пристрої з різних куточків світу.

На завершення Божественної Літургії архієпископ Даниїл подякував всім за спільну молитву, побажавши миру і Божого благословення для кожного. У свою чергу о. Олександр Яцків висловив слова вдячності за архипастирський візит і духовну опіку над громадою церкви.

Після Літургії звучало Многоліття Владиці та вірним.

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan
PROTECTION OF THE BIRTH-GIVER OF GOD UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH:
NEW HAVEN, CT CELEBRATES THEIR PARISH FEAST DAY

On the sunny Saturday morning of October 17th, regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic, the faithful of the Protection of the Birth-giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox Parish in New Haven, Connecticut, gathered to welcome His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, as he joined them to celebrate their Parish Feast Day.

As parish pastor, V. Rev. Oleksandr Yatskiv approached the narthex to greet his hierarch, he was flanked on either side by clergy who had traveled to join in the celebration. Among these were V. Rev. Mykola Andrushkiv of St. Luke Parish, Syracuse, NY; V. Rev. Stephen Masliuk of St. Mary Protectress Parish, Bridgeport, CT; V. Rev. Stepan Bilogan of Sts. Peter and Paul UOM, West Islip, NY; V. Rev. Andrii Pokotylo (along with Protodeacon Anthony Szwez) of St. Mary Parish, New Britain, CT; V. Rev. Vitaliy Pavlykivskiy of All Saints Parish, New York, NY; and Rev. Myron Korostil of St. Mary Dormition Parish, Jones City, OK.

Having been warmly greeted by the church board members, and the parish children, Vladyka Daniel entered the nave and accepted Fr. O’leksandr’s kind greeting, taking a moment to contemplate the priest’s request that the archbishop remember in his prayers the parishioners of the parish, all those who suffer from the Coronavirus infection locally, in Ukraine, and throughout the world, and pray for the safety of all who defend the borders of their homeland. Promising to do so, His Eminence accepted the cross presented to him, and holding it high, blessed all those present before proceeding into the nave.

His Eminence’s white vestments glowed, as he was surrounded by the blue of not only the clergy but of the numerous seminarians of the St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary who had joined the celebration.

The Gospel Reading was from the Gospel according to St. Luke (10:38-42; 11:27-28), retelling the time when Christ was visiting the two sisters of Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Martha was exasperated because she was doing all the serving, while her sister Mary sat, seemingly idly, at the feet of the Lord, listening to His words. Christ stated that of the two, Mary had made the wiser choice.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel in his sermon expounded on this choice, stating that while both sisters’ actions were important, Mary chose more wisely… because we are not composed of just flesh, but, of spirit. Therefore, while Martha was caring for the “body” by preparing the meal, Mary was feeding her soul. Having had her soul nourished, Mary would then be more able and efficient in caring for the physical needs of others.

Vladyka continued by emphasizing that while we are all rightfully wearing masks to keep ourselves, and other safe from infection, we often get in the habit of not recognizing the people around us as people. We no longer smile at each other, we don’t look in to the eyes of others, we simply go about our business without acknowledging the people around us. His Eminence instructed us as Christians, that we are to pause and see the people behind the mask, who are still created in the image of God. We are to smile with them, if not with our hidden lips, then with our eyes. We are to speak to them, greet them, and help them, as before. Nothing has changed in our Christian responsibilities.

Archbishop Daniel gestured towards the icon of the Protection of the Mother-of-God, which was being celebrated that day, and reminded people that she appeared in numerous locations throughout history to protect the population from onslaught and massacre… however, she appeared only when the faithful had gathered, either in churches, or in prayer, and begged for God’s mercy. In other words, we need to play our part. We cannot simply sit back and expect the Theotokos to intercede before her Son for us, without us first asking, and not just asking at the spur of the moment, but, with the way in which we live our lives. We must always act as the Christians we are, otherwise, there is no point in running to God during a crisis, if we have ignored Him all our lives.

Just prior to the recitation of the Creed (I believe…), His Eminence paused and addressed the faithful, instructing them that in the ancient Church, at this point people would exchange the kiss of peace with each other, allowing them to make their final gestures of peace and forgiveness, as they proclaimed their faith, and prepared for the Eucharist. With this in mind, and realizing that social distancing must be observed due to the pandemic, His Eminence asked that those on the right side simply turn toward those on the left, and both sides of the aisle bow down before the other in a sign of respect and love for each other. With that protodeacon proclaimed “Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess…” and Archbishop Daniel watched as his flock followed his instructions, and humbly turned to each
other and bowed, at which point His Eminence returned to the altar to also bow before the Lord in prayer.

With the conclusion of the sermon, the Divine Liturgy continued, ebbing, and flowing, with prayer and petitions rising to the Lord. As the faithful approached and partook of the Holy Eucharist, a sense of happiness and peace engulfed the parish. It was in this overwhelming feeling of joy that the Liturgy concluded.

Before dismissing everyone, His Eminence took a moment to thank everyone from joining—the parishioners, guests, and clergy who had traveled to join the celebration. He also took a moment to acknowledge all those who had joined over their mobile devices via Facetime, sending warm greetings to those in Ukraine, Canada, Australia, South America, and from all over the world.

As people approached to simply bow before the offered cross, Vladyka gave each one a prayer card by which to remember this happy occasion. The many faces, even though hidden by masks, shown eyes that were smiling, as the faithful took to heart archbishop’s advice, and they took the time to recognize and acknowledge the people around them. As the joyous sounds of soft conversations, and muffled laughter receded, His Eminence closed the Royal Gates, with a final nod to all the viewers.

The celebration continued well into the afternoon, as the people gathered for a light lunch, to share stories, to reminisce, and to make new memories. With such love and joy evident in the faithful, the Protection of the Birth-Giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox Parish in New Haven has a bright future to look forward to.

*Photos: Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan*
Philadelphia, the “City of Brotherly Love”, lived up to its name on a chilly weekend in October, as the parish of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral celebrated their 94th anniversary, the Feast Day of the Protection of the Mother-of-God (Pokrova), as well as the 25th anniversary of Priesthood of Very Rev. Fr. Taras Naumenko.

The celebratory weekend began on Saturday, October 10th, by focusing on the youth, who will lead the parish into the future. Arriving early in the morning was His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, the Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, accompanied by the seminarians of the St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary, from South Bound Brook, NJ.

His Eminence was warmly greeted upon his arrival by parish pastor Fr. Taras Naumenko, and the parish children, who had gathered to spend the day with their bishop. Having made introductions, and bestowing his blessings, His Eminence took the time to get to know each of the children. To help break the ice, Vladyka brought along his special bishop’s staff, carved of wood with the head of an American Bald Eagle at the top. The children eagerly came forward to get a good view of it, to touch it, and to get a chance to hold it.

Having made their acquaintance, Archbishop Daniel joined the youth who had sat down upon chairs organized in a circle on the outside lawn, in order to maintain social distancing during the pandemic. His Eminence took this opportunity to educate the youth by giving them a heartfelt talk, planting the seeds of faith in the fertile soil of their young souls. He then took the time to answer any questions they might have for him. It was amazing to see so many children sitting so quietly and focused so deeply upon the words that were being spoken to them.

The remainder of the afternoon was filled with outdoor games, a luncheon, and then various crafts which were completed at tables set up on the lawn. The youth created wreaths, painted angels, and created artful canvas masterpieces. It is important to reach others, and to reflect God in all actions. Therefore, each “fun” activity was used to plant more seeds of faith. As the children were busy in the fun of the project, they were also learning about Orthodoxy, various symbolisms, and in unity… and most importantly they were building strong bonds of friendship with the other youth of their parish, which would last them into adulthood as they took over the future responsibilities of growing the parish.

As the sun began to set, and a chill breeze began to blow the orange leaves from the surrounding trees, everyone gathered the supplies, cleaned their areas, folded up their chairs, and retreated indoors to put into action, what they had learned.

As the children’s cheeks began to warm back up, they made their way into the nave of the church and lit candles before joining the prayers of the Vespers service. They all quietly stood and listened to the words spoken by His Eminence as he prayed for good health and peace in the
world, and for them, the children, that they should grow strong in the Faith, remain steadfast, and serve the Lord all their days.

As the seminarians sang their final prayers, His Eminence turned to the youth and as each one approached to receive his blessing, he handed each child one of the decorated angel statuettes that he had personally signed, with hopes that these decorative sculptures would remind them to pay close attention to, and hear the voice of their true guardian angel who is with them at all times, and guides them throughout the day. With angels in hand, hope in their hearts, and smiles on their faces, the youth of the parish joined their parents as they departed for their homes, waving one last goodbye to His Eminence and promising to see him in the morning for church.

The children kept their promise as the next morning, Sunday, October 11th, they were first in church, gathering on the entryway steps awaiting to greet His Eminence Archbishop Daniel as he arrived once again at their parish, to celebrate their 94th anniversary.

Arriving with a smile on his face, and hug for the gathered children, Archbishop Daniel accepted the warm greetings of the parish board, youth, and parish organizations, and proceeded into the nave to accept the warm welcome from parish pastor Fr. Taras Naumenko. Joining Fr. Taras were a number of local clergy, and the St. Sophia Seminarians.

As His Eminence stood in the middle of the church, the Divine Liturgy began, as more and more people in masks arrived and filled the space, careful to respect the social distancing restrictions.

At the Small Entrance, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, who was present at the service, stepped out to give a few words of praise the parish priest, and to exclaim “Axios” as today marked the 25th anniversary of Priesthood of Very Rev. Fr. Taras Naumenko. In honor of this great milestone, Fr. Taras was presented with the ecclesiastical miter bestowed upon him in the middle of the church, surrounded by his parishioners, by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel.

The Sunday Reading was from the Gospel of Luke 5:1-11, where Christ seeing Simon Peter and the other fishermen cleaning their nets after a night of fishing, boards Simon’s boat and asks that he cast off from the shore so He can preach to the people who had gathered to hear Him. Having taught the crowd, Christ instructs Simon to cast his nets into the sea. Simon, and experience professional fisherman, explains that they have been fishing all night and caught nothing, but, out of respect for Christ, he will do as instructed, and he throws his nets into the Sea of Galilee, doubting that he will catch any fish. However, to his surprise fish do get caught in his net, so many that he calls his friends, James and John, the sons of Zebedee to come help him bring in the catch. They are all amazed by the success, and Simon falls to his knees before Jesus stating that he is unworthy before Him. At this point Christ instructs them to leave their nets, and follow Him, becoming fishers of men.

The large catch of fish numbered 153, representing all the species of fish, and symbolizing that the Church has room for all races and ethnicities of men. In his sermon, Vladyka Daniel expounded upon the Gospel Reading stating that while Christ initially called the first 12 Apostles, He continues to call new Apostles each day, and that we are simply often too burdened by life and other responsibilities to hear His call. Sadly, if we do hear Him, we often choose to ignore Him, because what He asks is inconvenient to our lives. His Eminence implored us all to nurture silence in our lives, so that we can discern the still quiet voice of God, and that we be strong enough to answer His call and follow Him.

Vladyka reached over the took up a fishing rod, emphasizing that we are all called to be fishers of men… not tomorrow, or next week, but, today, right now. We are to take every opportunity to be a good Christian, and to “catch” men by our kindness, mercy, and generosity. His Eminence asked that we look beyond the masks on people’s faces, to see the person beneath. He continued with a short retelling of how he had taken his car to the local carwash the previous day. At this particular carwash the driver must exit his vehicle and enter the building to pay, while the car is taken through the wash by workers. As he was walking towards the door, Vladyka caught sight of the elderly man walking behind him, so as he reached the door, he paused, opened the door, and allowed the man to pass through before him. The gentleman was so moved by this seemingly inconsequential occurrence that he thanked His Eminence, stating “I cannot remember the last time anyone held the door for me”. Archbishop voiced his sadness at hearing this statement. Have we as a society become so callous that we cannot even hold doors for each other anymore?

In conclusion Vladyka Daniel instructed those listening in the church, and via mobile devices, to be an example of Christianity by searching out opportunities to serve others – holding doors, carrying bags, smiling, and greeting one another. Every little mundane task, can be used to spread the light of Christ to others, brighten their days, and bring them closer to God.

The remainder of the Liturgy flew as if on angels’ wings, with the choir singing beautifully, praising the Lord. Many of
the faithful approached to partake of the Holy Eucharist, returning to their spots refreshed and renewed. With smiles hidden behind masks, their shining eyes betrayed their inner joy.

As the service concluded, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, joined His Eminence Archbishop Daniel in congratulating Fr. Taras with his 25th anniversary, and the parish faithful with their 94th anniversary celebration. With blessing bestowed upon them, the faithful broke out in song, loudly singing “Mnohaya Lita”.

As the final chords of faded into silence, they were replaced by quiet, yet joyful banter, as the faithful retreated to the parish hall to enjoy a light lunch, giving them an opportunity to spend time with their hierarchs, and catching up with their friends and parish family from whom they have been isolated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

May God grant many years to V. Rev. Taras Naumenko and Dobrodijka Laura, and to the faithful of the parish, as they continue to spread the word of Christ, and grow their congregation, by serving their local community.

*Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan and Wolodymyr Katolik
Text by Elizabeth Symonenko*
THOUGHTS ON A FESTIVAL DAY

Devastated! Heart broken is not usually words you start an “encouraging article” with to tell a story to people. Our Sr. UOL Chapter was beginning to prepare for our Annual Pysanky sale which involves ALL the church organizations not just the chapter. Not only do we look forward to it, so does the City of Carnegie and the entire Pittsburgh area! Calls and requests about pysanky, pysanky workshop and the sale start coming in at Thanksgiving. The various supplies had been ordered and were already arriving, pysanky dyes had been made, pysanky writing sessions started, workshops scheduled, and publicity distributed and then…….. STOP!!!

Here comes the Covid-19 Pandemic and halts EVERYTHING! Seriously?!? We must even stay away from church? This is a joke, right? Apparently NOT a joke!

What do you mean we have to decide about postponing or canceling the Pysanky Sale? It is an event that is has been held and was started by our parents and founders of our chapter for 52 years!!!? The sale has gone on through lean times, good times, rain, snow, and sunny days. Unimaginable! Unthinkable! Devastating!! Getting a text with a of our picture of our banner with the words “CANCELED”, just broke your heart, let alone a flyer with the same words. Asking the question, “Do I REALLY have to post this picture / publish these words to the public?” Unfortunately, yes, I had to, we had to. Tearfully, we all did what we needed to do to get the word out that our beloved Pysanky Sale was canceled. We did try to reschedule it, holding out hope before the devastating cancelation had to occur. We still held out hope of some sorts. Maybe we can combine the pysanky sale with another event later in the year? Calls, texts, emails came in from people. Are you still having? Rescheduling? How about this? Maybe that? Well if we are not doing in person church services, we should not do anything, right? Right. Devastated. Why have a meeting? What can we do? Our UOL meetings were held, and business was wrapped up and what to do about the upcoming year, budget and more hard decisions were made. As with everything going on surrounding the pandemic and its shutdown and rules, no events could be held. Our UOL chapter like most organizations, function on events that either serve or are fundraisers. So, what do we do? What can we do? Our main items cannot be conducted, and we are unable to provide to other organizations our donations because our fundraisers have not held. Depressing and devastating.

I remember telling someone on ASC Committee, that well, yea, this is bad we cannot have camp. We are always saying we are “too busy” to do certain things that need done. Maybe we use this time to do all those things we are “too busy” to do normally. Let us see what happens, at least we can say we tried. Then I saw those words stare back at me. I remember thinking, the chapter could turn things around too while we wait for things to open again or we could do things differently.

Our UOL Executive Board met and looked at our normal meeting agenda items. We reviewed our list of projects and items and said, yes or no to what could be done. Stopped to think if any item could have an “out of the box” fix, utilization or be done differently. We also thought about new things
that could be done to help others or support parishioners or members of the community. The updated agenda was taken back to our members at a meeting and more thoughtful discussion held. A small specific food drive to support a couple St. Martin’s families was organized and published. The food drive was so successful that just after two weeks the flyer had to be removed from the bulletin. We then brainstormed on another idea, that was sparked from one of the UOL Conventions speeches, a “UOL Guardian Angel Program”. While we were addressing these items as a chapter, somethings were happening in the world.

The Covid-19 Pandemic was getting a little better, restrictions were slowly being lifted or modified. We were back “IN” church again and small events were starting to happen. The chapter members asked and wondered, would it? could it? be possible to hold our annual food festival in September? Questions were asked. Research was done. Online sessions attended. Online meetings held. Maybe this can work?

So, on the most unlikely of days in the year, September 11th, we started our Ukrainian Food Festival with a Panahyda for the Victims of the Terror Attacks on this day 19 years ago. While in one respect, we may have messed up by having our Festival on this day according to our church calendar but after what I saw today with the people, I am not so sure. On a day that has such difficult and hard memories, we were able to provide the community with a little bit of unity, some faith, some hope, and some fellowship even if just for a few moments. “PEROGIES!! Yes please!”; “Hi, how are you?”; “Nice to see you?”; “We are SO glad you are having this”; “We have missed this!”; “I know you said you are not giving church tours, but can we please see the church?” The cars stopped and people got out to place their orders, some sat and ate, some talked then went home. People phoned their orders in ahead, but still stopped and talked or bought baked goods all pre-packaged for grab and go. Our Basket Raffle was also set up so they could participate safely, which they did. The flow of people and light conversations started at 11 am and continued through 7 pm. No major “pile up” of people, of course we had our safe distancing signs, but it was a steady flow. The people in the community appreciated it and our efforts and a lot of them will be coming back for day 2, Saturday. Despite everyone wearing face masks, the people were smiling and happy! Our small band of chapter members and friends provided something special to those who visited us, even though they thought they were only coming for perogies. Like Fr. John said to us before we started, “Let us show them Christ in us”.

From a chapter that was devastated by not being able to hold its main annual fundraising event, through Christ and hope we made it through and were able to hold our 2nd main annual fundraising event – modified, with smiles on our faces and warmth in our hearts. Our members, my friends and family since forever are amazing! Are we perfect? No. Do we always get along? No. But we always pull together for the love of Christ and our church and community and we support each other. Thank you to all and Fr. John and Matreshka Laryssa for their guidance and continued support during these troubled times! Here is to many more “out of the box” UOL ideas and future events”.

Author: Chris Mills


Bevziuk, Eva baptized and chrismated on August 15, 2020 in St. Andrew Memorial Church Church, S. Bound Brook, NJ. Child of Mykhailo Bevziuk and Halyna Melnyk. Sponsors: Vitaliy Silvar and Ivanka Yasinka. Celebrated by Rev. Vasyl Shak


Efimov, Mark baptized and chrismated on March 22, 2020 in St. Andrew UOC Church, Boston, MA. Child of Andrey Efimov and Iana Mashina. Sponsors: Alexander Ponomarenko and Daria Rogozina. Celebrated by V. Rev. Roman Tarnavsky.


Rapko, David Arkady baptized and chrismated on March 10, 2018 in St. Nicholas Pro-Cathedral Church, Lakewood, OH. Child of Volodymyr Kovalchuk and Yaryna Rapko. Sponsors: Andrei Kogut and Alla Macievska. Celebrated by Fr. Dennis Kristof.

Rapko, Ella Elena Paulina baptized and chrismated on July 15, 2019 in St. Nicholas Pro-Cathedral Church, Lakewood, OH. Child of Volodymyr Kovalchuk and Yaryna Rapko. Sponsors: Ilia Davydov and Nataliya Yarka. Celebrated by Fr. Dennis Kristof.


Romaniv, Maksym baptized and chrismated on September 5, 2020 in St. Andrew Memorial Church Church, S. Bound Brook, NJ. Child of Stepan Romaniv and Iryna Makogin. Sponsors: Vasyl Romaniv and Roksolana Horokhovianka. Celebrated by Rev. Vasyl Shal.


Sapat, Michele Macrina baptized and chrismated on June 6, 2020 in St. Anthony's Church, Las Cruces, NM. Child of Michael Dupre and Joanne Cosentino. Sponsors: and Elizabeth Brinecar. Celebrated by Fr. Gabriel Rochelle.


Segal, Leonid Llani baptized and chrismated on July 18, 2020 in St. Andrew Memorial Church Church, S. Bound Brook, NJ. Child of Yevgeny Segal and Olga Skoryk. Sponsors: Viktor Segal and Irina Kramar. Celebrated by Rev. Vasyl Shal.


Beighley, Richard of Allentown, PA on May 6, 2020 at the age of 74 years, officiating clergy Fr. Michael Kochis of St. Vladimir Parish, Ambridge, PA.

Bentley, Carol Z. of Elverson, PA on June 11, 2020 at the age of 77 years, officiating clergy Fr. Nicholas Dilendorf of Holy Ghost Parish, Coatesville, PA 19320.

Dudar, Simon of Kerhonkson, NY on June 27, 2020 at the age of 96 years, officiating clergy Fr. Yuriy Bazylyvsky of St. Volodymyr Mission Parish, Kerhonkson, NY 12446.

Estes, Jr, Matthew of Coatesville, PA on April 17, 2020 at the age of 51 years, officiating clergy Fr. Nicholas Dilendorf of Holy Ghost Parish, Coatesville, PA 19320.

Ivanova, Loudmila G. of Edmond, OK on March 14, 2020 at the age of 92 years, officiating clergy Rev. Myron Korostil of St. Mary Dormition Parish, Jones, OK 73049.


Kremposky, Susan E. of Allentown, PA on May 20, 2020 at the age of 57 years, officiating clergy Rev. John Charest of St. Mary Pokrova Cathedral Parish, Allentown, PA 18102.

Kurynow Sr., Victor of Hamilton, NJ on April 7, 2020 at the age of 87 years, officiating clergy Fr. Zinoviy Zharsky of Holy Trinity Parish, Trenton, NJ 08610.


Manson, Dean of Whiting, IN on April 7, 2020 at the age of 73 years, officiating clergy Rev. Vasyl Sendeha of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Palos Park, IL 60464.

Nazar, Joseph J. of Pittsburgh, PA on April 24, 2020 at the age of 66 years, officiating clergy Fr. Oleg Kravchenko of Holy Assumption Virgin Mary Parish, Northampton, PA 18067.


Rabky, Ann of Whitehall, PA on March 27, 2020 at the age of 93 years, officiating clergy Fr. Richard Jendras of St. Mary Pokrova Cathedral Parish, Allentown, PA 18102.

Samijenko, Wolodymyr ( Walter ) of Brooklyn, OH on March 15, 2020 at the age of 82 years, officiating clergy Fr. J. Nakonachny of St. Vladimir Cathedral Parish, Parma, OH 44134.

Samodin, Vera A. of North Port, FL on May 21, 2020 at the age of 94 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. Evhen Kumka of St. Michael’s & George’s Parish, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

Seip, Lynn Toby of Coatesville, PA on June 12, 2020 at the age of 66 years, officiating clergy Fr. Nicholas Dilendorf of Holy Ghost Parish, Coatesville, PA 19320.

Sitka, Darlene of St. Paul, MN on June 16, 2020 at the age of 92 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. Evhen Kumka of St. Michael’s & George’s Parish, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

Sitka, William of St. Paul, MN on May 24, 2020 at the age of 97 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. Evhen Kumka of St. Michael’s & George’s Parish, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

Stanyaslavyi, Bohdan Oleh of Minneapolis, MN on April 28, 2020 at the age of 67 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. Evhen Kumka of St. Michael’s & George’s Parish, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

Stepaj, Helen of Brooklyn, NY on February 24, 2020 at the age of 96 years, officiating clergy Fr. Richard Jendras of St. Mary Pokrova Cathedral Parish, Allentown, PA 18102.

Vdovyyuk, Evgeniy of Sloan, NY on March 21, 2020 at the age of 82 years, officiating clergy Fr. Yuriy Kasyanov of Holy Trinity Parish, Cheektowaga, NY 14227.

Zbuidin, Anna of Catasauqua, PA on April 12, 2020 at the age of 97 years, officiating clergy Fr. Richard Jendras of St. Mary Pokrova Cathedral Parish, Allentown, PA 18102.

Sholudko, Olha of Lakewood, OH on July 6, 2020 at the age of 90 years, officiating clergy Fr. J. Nakonachny / Fr. M. Hontaruk of St. Vladimir Cathedral Parish, Parma, OH 44134.

Sitka, Stanislav of Falls Church, VA on March 14, 2020 at the age of 94 years, officiating clergy Fr. Richard Jendras of St. Mary Pokrova Cathedral Parish, Allentown, PA 18102.
may god grant to them many happy and blessed years!

is Eminence Metropolitan Antony (Consecrated as Bishop) 10/6/1985

V. Rev. Vitaliy Pavlykivskiy 08/04/02
V. Rev. Steve Repa 08/07/83
V. Rev. Mykola Fylyk 08/11/91
V. Rev. Petro Siwko 08/17/87
Rev. Andrei Kulyk 08/17/97
V. Rev. Ivan Lymar 08/25/01
Evhen Kumka 08/28/90
Rev. James Cairns 09/09/17
V. Rev. Yuri Siwko 09/23/82
Ihumen John Henry 09/23/90
V. Rev. Ivan Petrouchtchak 09/24/95
V. Rev. Roman Tarnavsky 09/27/78
V. Rev. John W. Harvey 09/27/74
V. Rev. Taras Naumenko 10/01/95
Rev. John Charest 10/01/17
Rev. Borislav Kroner 10/09/10
V. Rev. Bohdan Kalynyuk 10/14/89
Rev. Silouan Rolando 10/18/09
Rev. Paisius McGrath 10/28/06
V. Rev. Richard Hawrish 10/30/82

“Priests have received a power which God has given neither to angels nor to archangels. It was said to them: ‘Whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever you shall loose, shall be loosed.’ Temporal rulers have indeed the power of binding; but they can only bind the body. Priests, in contrast, can bind with a bond which pertains to the soul itself and transcends the very heavens. Did [God] not give them all the powers of heaven? What greater power is there than this? The Father has given all judgment to the Son. And now I see the Son placing all this power in the hands of men. They are raised to this dignity as if they were already gathered up to heaven.”

(St. John Chrysostom)
July 1959 - PROTOPRIEST PETRO BILON
24th 1963 - PROTOPYRESBYTER VOLODYMYR BUKATA
26th 1965 - PROTOPRIEST OLEHUSCHENKO
3rd 1968 - PRIEST PETRO WYSZNEVSKYJ
25th 1968 - PROTOPRIEST NICHOLAS CHARISHCHAK
5th 1973 - PROTOPRIEST PETER STELMACH
5th 1974 - PROTOPRIEST HRHYORI CHOMYCKYJ
25th 1975 - PROTOPRIEST SEMEN IWASZCZENKO
1st 1976 - PRIEST JOHN STEPHEN PETRAKANYN
4th 1979 - HIEROMONK YOJNENALI POPH
21st 1979 - PROTOPRIEST PETER MELECH
13th 1980 - DEACON MIKOLA CHALY
27th 1980 - PRIEST MIKOLA WARENK
1981 - PROTOPRIEST WASYL UMANEC
22nd 1985 - PRIEST NICHOLAS MALUZYNKY
3rd 1986 - PRIEST JOSEPH SIMKO
28th 1991 - PROTOPRIEST PETER NITISHAN
2nd 2010 - PROTOPRESBYTER NICHOLAS METULYNSKY
28th 2011 - PROTOPRESBYTER NICHOLAS METULYNSKY
25th 2012 - PROTOPRESBYTER PETER HOTROVICH

September

21st 1953 - PROTOPRIEST LEON KUSHNIR
3rd 1954 - PROTOPRIEST MYKHALJO KASHUBA
27th 1960 - PRIEST TIMOTHY MACAR
24th 1966 - PRIEST MIKOLA RYBACHUK
30th 1969 - PROTOPRIEST VOLODYMYR LEWYTSKYJ
23rd 1971 - PROTOPRIEST ANANII MIROSHCHENKO
23rd 1972 - PRIEST MIKHAIL KHABROK
12th 1974 - PROTOPRIEST DAMIAN OLGIN
18th 1974 - PROTOPRIEST ANTONI STAROSKINO
21st 1983 - PROTODEACON MIKHAIL OLGVH
2nd 1984 - PROTOPRESBYTER MICHAEL YARISH
14th 1986 - PROTOPRIEST ANDRIY KIST
24th 1988 - PRIEST IHOR ZBOTANIW
10th 1990 - ARCHIMANDRITE ADAM BURHA
27th 1991 - PROTOPRESBYTER NICHOLAS LEDYREH
29th 2008 - PROTOPRIEST JOHN KRESTIK
Apple Dumplings

Ingredients for double-crust pie pastry:
2½ cups all-purpose flour
½ tsp. salt
1 cup cold butter
1/3 to 2/3 cup ice water

In a bowl measure out the all-purpose flour and salt; cut in cold butter until crumbly. Gradually add ice water, tossing with a fork until dough holds together when pressed. Shape into a 1-inch-thick square; wrap in plastic. Refrigerate 1 hour or overnight.

Ingredients for filling:
6 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and cored
½ cup butter
¾ cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
3 cups water
2 cups white sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:
Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).
Butter a 9x13 inch pan.

On a lightly floured surface, roll pastry into a large rectangle, about 24 by 16 inches. Cut into 6 square pieces. Place an apple on each pastry square with the cored opening facing upward. Cut butter into 8 pieces. Place 1 piece of butter in the opening of each apple; reserve remaining butter for sauce. Divide brown sugar between apples, poking some inside each cored opening and the rest around the base of each apple. Sprinkle cinnamon and nutmeg over the apples.

With slightly wet fingertips, bring one corner of pastry square up to the top of the apple, then bring the opposite corner to the top and press together. Bring up the two remaining corners, and seal. Slightly pinch the dough at the sides to completely seal in the apple. Repeat with the remaining apples. Place in prepared baking dish.

In a saucepan, combine water, white sugar, vanilla extract and reserved butter. Place over medium heat and bring to a boil in a large saucepan. Boil for 5 minutes, or until sugar is dissolved. Carefully pour over dumplings.

Bake in preheated oven for 50 to 60 minutes. Place each apple dumpling in a bowl and spoon some sauce over the top.
UOL Thanksgiving Project

November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving in the U.S. and also the month we commemorate the victims of the Holodomor. The UOL National Executive Board has decided that our yearly recommended Thanksgiving Project will focus on bringing a greater awareness of the Holodomor while helping the hungry in our own communities now and in the future. Here are the UOL project recommendations:

Conduct a food drive at your parish collecting non-perishable foods and donate them to a local food bank, or have a pop-up food drive at your parish with Thanksgiving-related foods to distribute to the community. Have your advertising and, if possible, label the food donations with the following message:

In 1932, 10 million people perished in an artificial famine in Ukraine. We pray no one ever goes hungry again. #Holodomor #UkrainianGenocide #NeverForget

The UOL website has this text formatted for a sheet of 30 labels (1” X 2 5/8” each) if you’d like to download it for printing.

Send photos of your Thanksgiving project participation to UOL Publicity Commission at recsecretary@uolofusa.org and we will post it on the UOL’s Facebook/Instagram pages, Website and in our UOL Bulletin.

If you cannot support a food drive, please consider a fund-raising drive and send the donations to a local food bank or Soup Kitchen.

Let’s remember the innocent victims of the Ukrainian Holodomor, honor their memory, and help those in need within our own community at this time of giving!
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Vocations Director 575-915-6535
E-mail seminary@stsuots.edu
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December 18, 2020

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18 грудня, 2020
NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS
У ЛИСТОПАДІ СВЯТКУЄМО

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

7
Demetrious Memorial Saturday
Димітрівська поминальна субота

8
Holy and Glorious Great-martyr Demetrius of Thessalonica
Вмч. Димітрія Солунського

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

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

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

26
St. John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople
Свт. Іоана Золотоустого, архієп. Константинопольського

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

29
Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew
Апостола і євангеліста Матвія
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November 7

Due date for mailing in ornaments
Time to Trim the Tree
December 18

Thanksgiving Day
November 26

Saint Nicholas Day
Sv. Mykolaj
December 19

Start of Advent
St. Philip’s Fast
November 27

Christmas at the Seminary
VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENT
December 19

Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple
December 4

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