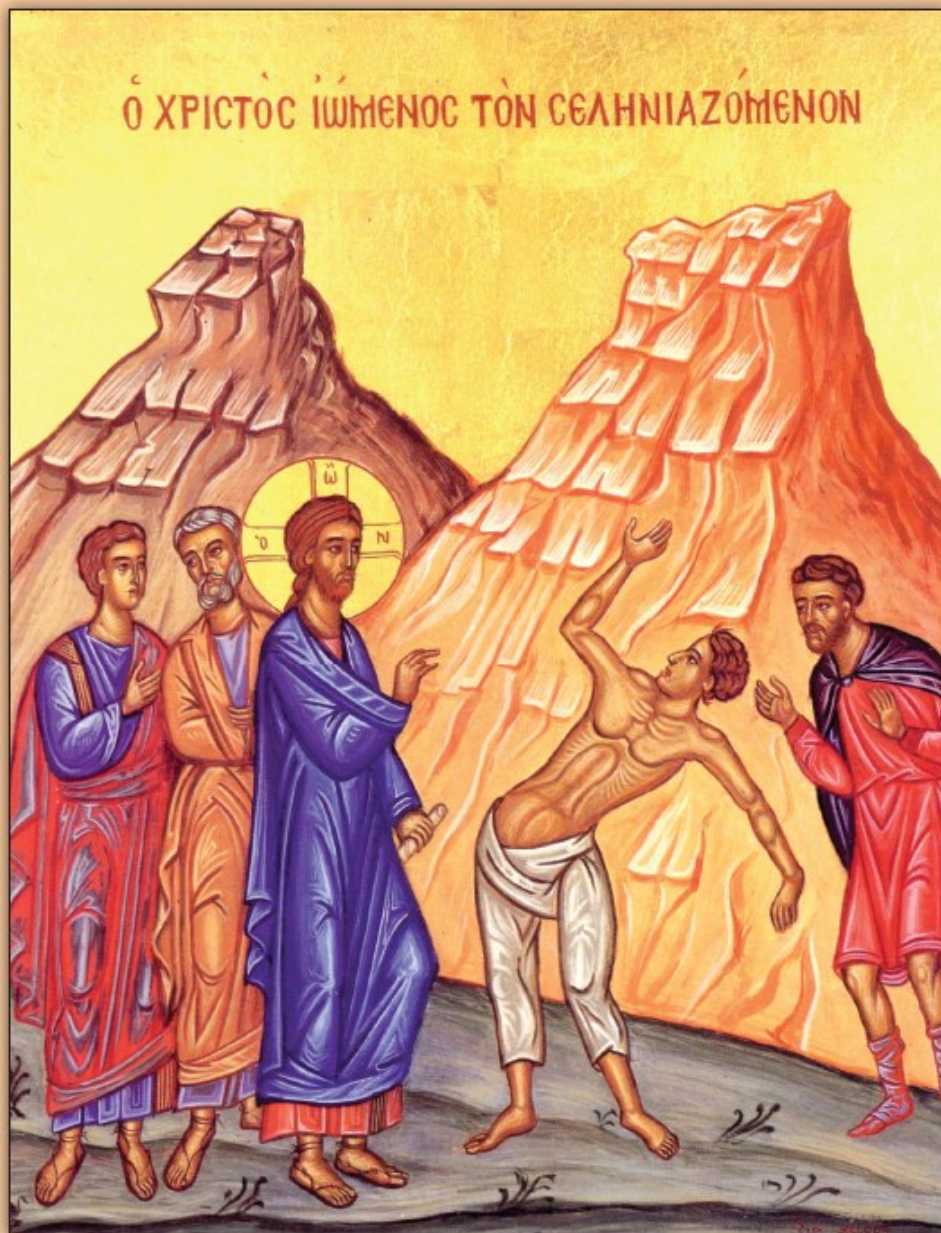


FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS



*Icon of Healing the Boy with a Demon*

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

### [THE GREAT FAST/ВЕЛИКИЙ ПІСТЬ]

- Sat, March 9th:** **4th All-Souls Saturday/Sorokousty; of the Commemoration of the 40 Martyrs of Sebaste**  
9:00 am: Matins for the Deceased/Sorokousty.  
4:00 pm: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Eng.); Intention for +Christine Hanas (3rd/9th Days).  
*11:59 pm: Move Clocks Forward 1 Hour for Daylight Savings Time.*
- Sun, March 10th:** **The Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast; of St. John Climacus**  
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Ukr.). Intention for God's Blessings on Our Living and Deceased Parishioners.  
4:00 pm: Lenten Sunday Vespers.
- Mon, March 11th:** **The Patriarch Sophronius of Jerusalem**  
No Divine Services
- Tue, March 12th:** **The Venerable Confessor Theophanes**  
*6:30 pm: Moleben for Peace in Ukraine; St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Northampton, PA.*
- Wed, March 13th:** **The Commemoration of the Translation of the Relics of the Patriarch Nicephorus**  
6:00 pm: Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Lenten reflection of the Book of Proverbs to Follow in the Church Hall.
- Thu, March 14th:** **The Venerable Father Andrew of Crete**  
5:00 pm: The Great Canon of Andrew of Crete [Matins with Prostrations]  
*6:00 pm: Class—Ukrainian Language for English Speakers, St. Josaphat Rectory Classroom.*
- Fri, March 15th:** **The Martyrs Agapius and His Companions**  
6:00 pm: Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts; Lenten reflection to follow in the Church Hall.  
*Kiffle Sale—Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, West Easton, PA.*
- Sat, March 16th:** **Akathistos Saturday**  
9:00 am: Akathist to the Mother of God.  
4:00 pm: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Eng.); Intention for God's Blessings on Our Living and Deceased Parishioners.  
*Kiffle Sale—Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, West Easton, PA.*
- Sun, March 17th:** **The Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast; of St. Mary of Egypt**  
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Eng.). Intention for Health and God's Blessings on Adrian Stryskiy on the Occasion of His 90th Birthday, by Family.  
4:00 pm: Lenten Sunday Vespers. Intention for +Roman Kokolskiy (3rd/9th Days) by Father Paul Makar.

### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Tickets for the upcoming Easter Dinner/Sviechene, scheduled for Sunday, April 14th, 2024, are now

on sale. To purchase tickets, please see David Kadingo, or ask any Tryzub member.

2. UAV Post 42 will be having their annual Easter Kobasa/Meat sale along with UNWLA Branch 91 having their annual bake sale on Palm Sunday, March 31st, 2024. More information is in the bulletin; sign up sheets to order are in the vestibule of the Church. Thank you for your patronage!
3. The Ukrainian Catholic/Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of the Lehigh Valley will have their next weekly Moleben for Peace in Ukraine on Tuesday, March 12th, at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Northampton, PA, at 6:30 pm. All are encouraged to come and pray with us.
4. Holy Ghost Parish will be having a spring Kiffle sale on March 15th and 16th, 2024. We will be selling apricot, raspberry, and walnut kiffles at \$12.00 per 1/2 pound. To place orders, either use the sign up sheets in the back of the church, or call JoAnn at 610-509-3155, or by emailing food-sales@holyghostucc.com no later than Sunday, March 10th, 2024. WE ALSO NEED HELP WITH KIFFLE MAKING!! We will start making Kiffles on Tuesday, March 12th, through Friday, March 16th. Every little bit of help you can provide, even just for coming for an hour or two to roll kiffles and help bake them goes a very long way; for more information, contact St. Josaphat Rectory.
5. As we get closer to Easter, if you or your family or friends grow pussy willows, please consider donating pussy willows for blessing on Palm Sunday. Thank you!
6. Our Annual Lenten Food Drive is underway to help our poorer brethren in the greater Bethlehem area; collection boxes are placed in the vestibule and in the church hall. All food items will go to the Central Moravian Food Pantry for distribution to the needy. We thank you for your kindness and generosity for those less fortunate.



**“ A person can  
become a saint  
anywhere**

...at your work, whatever  
it may be, you can become  
a saint through *meekness*,  
*patience*, and *love*.

**Make a new start  
every day**

with *new resolution*, with  
*enthusiasm* and *love*,  
*prayer* and *silence*. ”

***Please remember to pray for the sick, for those who are shut-in, and for all those who have requested, or are in need of, our prayers:***

Anna Kapustiak  
Slava Harasymovych  
Maria Wetherill  
Rev. Paul Wolensky  
Very Rev. Roman Mirchuk

Amelia Balandovich  
Oleh Balaziuk  
Helen Karol  
Rev. John Hunwicke  
All of Our Archeparchial Seminarians

Ethel Bednarchek  
Mike Wetherill  
Nick Halibey  
Anna Smolij  
Nicholas Hanych

*If anyone knows of someone in need of our prayers, or who is sick or shut in and cannot make it to church, please contact Father Paul via email or telephone as listed on the cover of this bulletin.*

**Sunday Propers:**  
**4th Sunday of the Great Fast**  
**The Sunday of St. John Climacus**

**Troparion (8):** You came down from on high, O Merciful One, and accepted three days of burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory be to You.

**Troparion (1):** O John, our father, Godbearer, hermit of the desert and angel in the flesh, you received heavenly gifts by your fasting, vigils, and prayers; You healed the sick and those coming to you with faith. Glory be to Him Who gives you strength; glory be to Him Who crowned you; glory be to the Lord Who heals all through your intercession.

**Kontakion (4):** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen. O John, our leader and father, the Lord has placed you on high as a true guiding star lighting the ends of the earth with the truth of your virtue.

**Prokimenon (8):** Pray and give praise to the Lord our God.

**Verse:** In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel.

**Epistle (Heb 6,13-20):** *Brethren*, When God made the promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, "he swore by himself," and said, "I will indeed bless you and multiply you." And so, after patient waiting, he obtained the promise. Human beings swear by someone greater than themselves; for them an oath serves as a guarantee and puts an end to all argument. So when God wanted to give the heirs of his promise an even clearer demonstration of the immutability of his purpose, he inter-vened with an oath, so that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm, which reaches into the interior behind the veil, where Jesus has entered on our behalf as forerunner, becoming high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Alleluia Verse (8):** Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior

**Тропарі і Кондаки:**  
**4-а Неділя Великого Посту;**  
**Преподобного Івана Ліствичника**

**Тропар (8):** З висоти зійшов Ти, Милосердний, і триденне погребення прийняв Ти, щоб нас звільнити від страждань. Життя і воскресіння наше, Господи, слава Тобі!

**Тропар (1):** Пустинним жителем і в тілі ангелом, і чудотворцем показав ти себе, богоносний отче наш Іване. Постом, чуванням, молитвою небесні дарування прийнявши, зціляєш недужих і душі, що з вірою прибігають до тебе. Слава тому, що дав тобі кріпость, слава тому, що вінчав тебе, слава тому, що діє тобою всім зцілення.

**Кондак (4):** *Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові, і нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь* На висоті правдивої повздержности Господь тебе поставив, як зізвду необманну, що просвічує світокраї, наставнику Іване, отче наш.

**Прокімен (8):** Помоліться і хвалу віддайте Господеві, Богу нашому.

**Стих:** Відомий Бог у Юдеї, в Ізраїлі велике ім'я Його.

**Апостол (Євр 6,13-20):** Браття, і справді, коли Бог учиняв Авраамові обітницю, не маючи поклястися ніким вищим, то поклявся самим собою, кажучи: "Справді поблагословляю тебе щедро й розмножу тебе вельми." І він, завдяки довгій терпеливості, осягнув обітницю: люди клянуться більшим від себе, і всякі їхні суперечки кінчаються клятвою на ствердження. Тому й Бог, бажаючи дати спадкоємцям обітниці якнайсильніший доказ, що його рішення непорушне, вжив клятви, щоб двома незмінними речами, в яких неможливо, щоб Бог казав неправду, ми мали сильну заохоту, - ми, що прибігли прийняти надію, призначену нам. В ньому маємо, неначе якір душі, безпечний та міцний, що входить аж до середини за завісу, куди ввійшов за нас, як предтеча, Ісус, ставши архиєреєм повіки, на зразок Мелхиседека.

**Апостольські Стих (8):** Прийдіте, радісно заспіваймо Господеві, воскликнім Богу, Спасителеві нашому.

**Verse:** Let us come before His countenance with praise and acclaim Him with psalms.

**Verse:** Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courtyard of our God.

**Gospel (Mk 9,17-31):** At that time, someone in the crowd came to Jesus and said, "Teacher I have brought to you my son possessed by a mute spirit. Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they were unable to do so." He said to them in reply, "O faithless generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him to me." They brought the boy to him. And when he saw him, the spirit immediately threw the boy into convulsions. As he fell to the ground, he began to roll around and foam at the mouth. Then he questioned his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" He replied, "Since childhood. It has often thrown him into fire and into water to kill him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can! Everything is possible to one who has faith." Then the boy's father cried out, "I do believe; help my unbelief!" Jesus, on seeing a crowd rapidly gathering, rebuked the unclean spirit and said to it, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you: come out of him and never enter him again!" Shouting and throwing the boy into convulsions, it came out. He became like a corpse, which caused many to say, "He is dead!" But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up. When he entered the house, his disciples asked him in private, "Why could we not drive it out?" He said to them, "This kind can only come out through prayer and through fasting."

**It is truly right... (Or the Hirmos of the Feast):** In you, O Woman Full of Grace, the angelic choirs and the human race - all creation - rejoice. O Sanctified Temple, Mystical Paradise, and Glory of Virgins! He, Who is our God from before all ages took flesh from you and became a child. He made your womb a throne, and greater than the heavens. In you, O Woman Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. All praise be to you!

**Communion Verse:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia (3x)

**Стих:** Прийдімо з похвалами перед обличчя Його, і псалмами воскликнім Йому.

**Стих:** Насаджені в домі Господнім, у дворах Бога нашого процвітуть.

**Євангелія (Мк 9,17-31):** В той час сказав Ісусові один з народу: "Учителю, привів я до тебе сина мого, що має німого духа, і де тільки його вхопить, кидає його об землю так, що піниться, скрегоче зубами, дерев'яніє. Просив я учнів твоїх, щоб його вигнали, та не змогли." Він же у відповідь каже їм: "О роде невірний! Доки я буду з вами? Доки вас терпітиму? Приведіть но його до мене." І привели його до нього. Скоро дух угледів його, притьомом того затряс, і повалившись той на землю, запинився, почав качатися. Спитав же його батька: "Скільки часу, як це йому сталося?" – "З дитинства," - відповідав той. "І часто він кидає його у вогонь і в воду, щоб його погубити? Та якщо можеш, поможи нам, змилосердившись над ним." Ісус же каже йому: "Щодо того - якщо можеш, то все можливо тому, хто вірує." І вмить батько хлопчини викрикнув крізь сльози: "Вірю, поможи моему невірству!" Ісус же, бачивши, що збігається народ, погрозив нечистому духові, кажучи, "Німий та глухий душе! Наказую тобі: Вийди з нього й не входи більше в нього." І, закричавши та сильно його стрясши, вийшов з нього. І наче змертвів той, тож многі казали: "Вмер він." Але Ісус, узявши його за руку, підвів його, і той устав. Коли ж він увійшов у дім, то учні його питали його на самоті: "Чому ми не могли його вигнати?" Він відповів їм: "Цей рід нічим не можна вигнати, тільки молитвою та постом." Вийшовши звідти, проходили крізь Галилею, і він не хотів, щоб будь - хто знав. Навчав бо своїх учнів і казав їм: "Син Чоловічий буде виданий у руки людям, і в'ють його, і, вбитий, по трьох днях, воскресне."

**Достойно:** Тобою, Благодатна, радіє все творіння; ангельський хор і людський рід. Святий храм і раю духовний, похвало днів! З Тебе Бог воплотився і став хлоп'ятком - предвічний Бог наш. Твоє бо лоно він учинив Своїм престолом, просторішим від небес. Тобою, Благодатна, радіє все творіння. Слава Тобі!

**Причасний Стих:** Хваліте Господа з небес, хваліте Його на висотах. Алілуя (3x)



## THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

*Edited for the Bulletin; Compiled from Various Sources—For Local Use Only,*

### **The Venerable Father St. John Climacus (The 4th Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, March 10th, 2024)**



The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John Climacus, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. In this book the Hegumen (abbot) of Saint Katherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai bears witness to the great effort which is required for entry into God's Kingdom (Matthew 10:12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is difficult since it is "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Ephesians 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, as the Lord has said, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Saint John was born around the year 525, the son of devout and wealthy parents. He received a very good education, but at the age of sixteen, he forsook the world and went to Mount Sinai, subjecting himself to the spiritual guidance of Elder Martyrios. When he was thirty five years of age, his Elder reposed. Then Saint John entered the arena of hesychasm, visiting the monastic communities of Skete and Tabennisi in Egypt. For another forty years, he lived in a cell at Thora in the Sinai Desert, which was a two hour (5 mile) walk from the Monastery of Saint Katherine.

Aflame with indescribable longing for God, he ate everything that was permitted by

the monastic Rule, but only in very small quantities, and not unto satiety. By so doing, he overcame the vice of pride; and by eating just a little food, he humbled the stomach, which always wants more. He raised his body from death and paralysis by the remembrance of death, and he overcame the tyranny of anger with the sword of obedience.

Who can describe the fountain of his tears, which is now to be seen in very few individuals? He slept only as much as was necessary to prevent his mind from being distracted. Before going to sleep he prayed a great deal, and he also wrote books. This was how he subdued despondency. His entire life was spent in unceasing prayer, and incomparable love for God.

After writing *The Ladder* at the request of the Hegumen, John, of Raithu Monastery, and leading a God-pleasing life, Saint John Climacus fell asleep in the Lord when he was about seventy-five years old (ca. 603).

**The Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast: Tackle your Fears Head-On**  
*St. John Climacus, The Ladder of Divine Ascent [Edited for the Bulletin]*

Cowardice is a childish disposition in a proud and vainglorious soul. Cowardice is a falling away from faith that comes of expecting the unexpected. Fear is a rehearsing of danger beforehand; or again, fear is a trembling of a heart alarmed and troubled by unknown misfortunes. Fear is a loss of faith. A proud soul is a slave of cowardice, for it vainly trusts in itself, and is afraid of any sound or shadow of creatures. Those who mourn over their sins but are insensible to every other sorrow do not feel cowardice, but the cowardly often have mental breakdowns. And this is natural. For the Lord rightly forsakes the proud that the rest of us may learn not to be puffed up. Although all cowardly people are vainglorious, yet not all who are unafraid are humble, since even robbers, murderers, and rapists may be without fear.

If you yield only a little to such weakness, then this childish and ridiculous infirmity will grow old with you. Thus, do not hesitate to go late at night to those places where you usually feel afraid. As you go on your way, arm yourself with prayer. When you reach the place, stretch out your hands. Flog your enemies with the most holy name of Jesus, for there is no stronger weapon in heaven or earth. When you get rid of this disease, praise Him who has delivered you. If you continue to be thankful, He will protect you for ever.

Know that just as it is impossible to satisfy the stomach in one bout, so also it is impossible to overcome fear instantly. Actual freedom from cowardice comes when we eagerly accept all unexpected events with a contrite and humble heart. **For it is not darkness and loneliness of place that gives the demons power against us, but barrenness of soul.** And through God's providence this sometimes happens in order that we may learn by it. He who has become the servant of the Lord will fear his Master alone, but he who does not yet fear Him is often afraid of his own shadow. He who has conquered cowardice has clearly dedicated his life and soul to God.



***Confession \ Сповідь***  
*Every Saturday : from 2:45 PM - 3:30 PM*  
*Щосуботи : з 14:45 до 15:30*  
*Every Sunday: from 8:45 AM - 9:30 AM*  
*Щонеділі: з 8:45 до 9:30*

## TRANSGENDERISM IS A SIN AGAINST AT LEAST FOUR OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: FRANCISCAN PRIEST [Edited for the Bulletin]

BLOOMINGTON, Indiana ([LifeSiteNews](#)) – A Franciscan priest said that transgender ideology is an affront to at least four Commandments. “One of the most recent cultural challenges to the Sixth Commandment and to the reality and integrity of the human person is the transgender ideology,” Fr. Terrance Chartier of the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate said during [his homily](#) at the [friary](#) in Bloomington.

Lying to someone and telling them they are a different sex violates the Eighth Commandment, while helping them mutilate their body through surgery or drugs violates the Fifth Commandment, he said later in his homily. “Attempting to chemically or surgically or hormonally alter my sex is a grave sin, it’s actually a form of mutilation,” he stressed.

“As an ideology, this movement contradicts natural law and divine revelation, so to affirm it would be sinful, it would be actually a sin against the First Commandment, so a sin against the virtue of faith, against the divinely revealed truth about human sexuality,” Fr. Chartier added.

Transgenderism is “aligned with the false understanding of the human person and the false understanding of human sexuality, that’s part and parcel with the alphabet movement,” he said. “Followers of this movement believe that sexual identity, and therefore human identity, is self-defined and it’s the personal choice of the individual,” the priest said. “So, facts of nature aren’t facts unless I say that they are. That would essentially be their ideological position.”

Fr. Chartier said that “transgenderism is the latest fruit of what Pope Benedict XVI called the dictatorship of moral relativism.”

He pointed out that this movement is simply a new form of dualism, a heresy. “From the point of view of philosophy or ideas, transgenderism is actually a new form of an old heresy known as dualism,” the priest said during his homily. He said 17th-century philosopher Rene Descartes erroneously taught, the Franciscan priest explains, that “your body is just a machine, a machine in which the soul exists like a ghost, so the body is not an essential part of who you are is what he said.” Descartes told people that “the soul just inhabits it like a ghost might inhabit a haunted house. Does that maybe sound a little familiar in the sense that my body is separate from who I am, from how I identify?”

Furthermore, people who suffer from gender dysphoria should realize they are made in the image of God, and attempts to live in the opposite sex violate this idea. “Our bodies aren’t just things, they’re actually gifts from God, so my body isn’t an accident. Meaning, one, it’s not a mistake, two, it’s not something accidental or secondary to my personal identity, it actually is essential to who I am as an individual human person,” he said.

He said that discrimination against someone based on their personal struggles with their identities is a sin, like bullying and violence, but so is discrimination against people who do not conform to transgender ideology and who refuse to adhere to this ideology.

He said that if people “don’t embrace the transgender ideology” they are “made to feel like an outsider. They brand you, maybe they fire you from your place of employment, they might cancel you, people even get assaulted for standing up for the truth regarding human sexuality,” he said.

He concluded by saying that we should not affirm a gender-confused person’s choices, for it is a mortal sin for any adult to help children attempt to alter their sex. *[Pastor’s note added: We need to pray and fast for them and gently encourage those who may be suffering from this demonic influence that seeks to convince them to throw away the gifts that God has given to them through medical mutilation. Do not fear, but instead, stand firm in faith and lovingly steer and educate them so that they may embrace His Divine Image in them.]*



*Please don't leave this bulletin in the pew or in the trash when you are finished. We kindly ask you share this bulletin with your loved ones. Let your family & friends know of the spiritual treasure that God has for all people here at St. Josaphat's Church in Bethlehem!*

## *EASTER BAKE SALE*

**St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall**

**March 24, 2024**

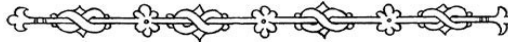
**Sponsored By**

**The Ukrainian National Women' League of America**

**Branch 91 - Bethlehem**

*Paskas (See Sign-up Order Sheet)*

*Pastries Will be Available for Sale*



### **A POETIC REFLECTION ON THE GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE**

*By Fr. Alexander Garklavs [Edited for the Bulletin]*

As seasons come and phases go, at Spring's revealing Christians grow,

The most inspiring time of year, how glorious that Lent is here!

A hundred Lents would only be a seeming moment in eternity,

For every year it's always new, restoring us as pure and true.

A sanctified, most cherished time, for stagnant souls to rise sublime,

To think of silence as a precious thing, and the comfort that true fasting brings.

Wake up, O soul! You've been asleep, now here are things you need to keep,

The golden wisdom of the ages, in Tradition and the Bible pages.

In opening my eyes and ears, and Ephrem's prayer said with tears,

I heed my judgement, Oh my soul! And ask myself, "What is my goal?"

The child I was, was meant to be, not the man who lost the key,

But doors are opened during Lent, when in contrition one can repent.

My whole being, life and dream, are only worth what I redeem,

The lost, imperfect, simple "me," is made whole on bended knee.

"O Lord, I know, for nothing's hidden, I've sinned in doing things forbidden,

Purify my soul and mind within, restore good hope, forgive my sins."

So now, my soul, let's make a start, and heal the desiccated heart,

Let's get to Church, not hesitate, and hear the Canon we call "Great."

Great lessons there from holy guides, show how humility instead of pride

Engenders love by not demanding a peace that passes understanding.



## **ANNUAL KOBASA SALE**

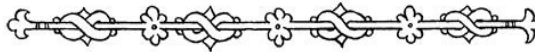
**Lehigh Valley UAV Post 42 is taking orders for Kobasa, Kobanos, Krakowska, and Beets for Pascha.**



March 17th, 2024 is the last date to place your order.  
Sign-up order sheets are available at the back of the Church, or  
For Holy Ghost Church: call Oleh at 610-570-0708  
For St Josaphat's call Matt at 610-867-4052 or Jerry at 610-730-2365

Your order will be ready for pick up after services on Palm Sunday at the church hall on March 24th, 2024.

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!***



### **GUIDELINES FOR OUR FAITHFUL, GUESTS, AND FRIENDS**

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:** Membership at Saint Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church benefits **YOU** as it enables you to participate in stewardship of your church and enjoy a fuller spiritual life. To join as a registered member, email or telephone the Rectory Office .

**THE MYSTERIES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, HOLY EUCHARIST):** Those who wish their children to receive the Mysteries of Christian Initiation must contact Saint Josaphat Rectory Office at least 6 weeks in advance of the desired Baptismal date; at least one parent must be an active registered parishioner of Saint Josaphat Church when requesting this Sacrament. Sponsors (Godparents) must provide a letter of suitability from the pastor of the Catholic Church they attend if they are not registered members this parish. Non-baptized adults who wish to be received into the faith should contact Saint Josaphat Rectory Office.

**THE MYSTERY OF CONFESSION:** Confessions are offered to all the faithful approximately 1 hour before each scheduled Divine Service, or you may make an appointment with Father Paul (or Father Andrii at Holy Ghost, West Easton) at any time.

**THE MYSTERY OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST:** The reception of the Most Holy Eucharist is reserved only for Baptized Catholic Christians whose consciences are free from mortal sin.

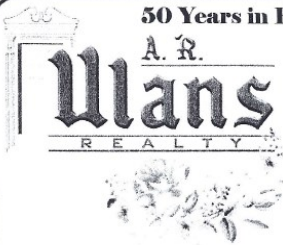
**THE MYSTERY OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK** can be administered anytime there is a case of serious illness, injury, or disease. Please do not wait until your loved one is in danger of death!

**THE MYSTERY OF MATRIMONY:** Couples who wish to marry at should contact the Rectory Office at least 6 months in advance of the desired wedding date (or as soon as they are engaged).

**FUNERALS:** Active parish membership and participation is mandatory if an ecclesiastical funeral within the Church is desired; otherwise, the funeral service will be conducted at the funeral home or the home of the deceased (**IMPORTANT—this rule does not apply to those who are sick, shut-in, or are actively supporting the parish and are registered but have moved out of the area**). In-church viewings and cremations are strongly discouraged. For inquires regarding Saint Josaphat Cemetery, contact Walter Zagwoski.

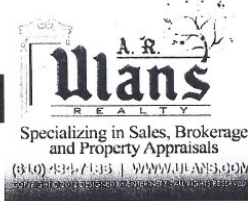
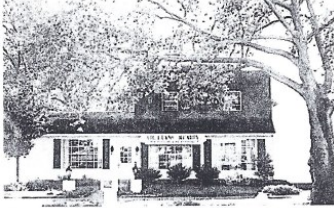
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E-Mail: [bethlehem@ukrcatholic.org](mailto:bethlehem@ukrcatholic.org)

Website: [www.stjosaphatbethlehem.org](http://www.stjosaphatbethlehem.org)

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Rev. Paul J. Makar, Pastor  
Mrs. Carol Hanych, Cantor  
Ms. Kimberly McGowan, Parish Secretary



### ***Glory to Jesus Christ! Слава Ісусу Христу!***

*We welcome you to our parish family and invite you to worship with us in a most ancient Church of the Christian East. We are happy to have you with us, and we are honored to share our Ukrainian Catholic tradition of prayer and spirituality with you, your family, and your friends. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to bring them to Father Paul or one of our parishioners. Our doors and our hearts are open to you. May God's blessings be with you always!*

### ***Journeying to Pascha***

Jesus continues today his work of healing and exorcism, and that is appropriate for this time of Lent, because Lent is a time for healing and exorcism. It is a time for us to heal the wounds of our souls – self-inflicted wounds due to our complacency and laziness and self-indulgence. It is time to get rid of those demons of our own sinful habits and anything that keeps us away from God and from living that abundant life that Christ came to give us.

We start to make our way toward Jerusalem. At the end of today's Gospel already there is the prediction of the passion, the death and the resurrection of Christ, giving a little hint in the Gospel that the course of Lent is moving now towards Jerusalem. We have gone through several weeks now of spiritual preparations, Scripture texts, prayers and activities. Now our focus is starting to turn towards Jerusalem. That will

be made more explicit in next Sunday's Gospel, but we are already getting a hint of it now.

There are only three weeks now until Easter, two weeks until Palm Sunday, when we are really liturgically accompanying Christ into the mystery of His Passion.

So it is coming soon, and we have to start turning towards Jerusalem. We have to get focused, we have to get recollected, we have to really revive our Lenten prayer and fasting so that we can make the rest of this journey and be fruitful and overcome the demons and find healing for the wounds of our souls – and go with Christ to his Passion and, through the mystery of His Cross, come to that great, transfiguring, glorious celebration of His Resurrection.

For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit  
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