

Св. Покрови Українська Католицька Церква
St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Ukrainian Church



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Pastor: Fr. Petro (Peter) Bodnar

DIVINE LITURGY:

SUNDAY: 9:00 a.m. (Ukrainian) **SUNDAY** 10:30 a.m. (English)

SATURDAY : 4:00 pm (English)

Confession: Before Divine Liturgies 9:00 am and 10:30 am on Sundays or anytime upon request.

Baptisms & Marriages: By prior arrangement (at least 1 year before the marriage date), through the parish office.

Visitations & Anointing of the Sick: Please notify the office if a member of your family is in need of a visit.

4th Sunday of the Great Lent

Epistle: **Hebrews 6:13 – 20** see explanation on page 522

Gospel: **Mark 9:17-31** see explanation on page 106

Propers for the Divine Liturgy: *Tone 8*

Prayer Intentions March 7- 15

Saturday: 4:00 pm For health & blessings of Jean Gaba – B. Spak

Sunday: 9:00 am John & Anna Jarema (Panakhyda) – D.B. Zelenchuk
10:30 Parishioners

Wednesday: 4:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday: 4:00 pm Prayers for the deceased - Sorokousty

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. +Andrea Yuriy – Greg Yuriy

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. +Julianna Hrobelsky (anniv) Metro Mary Kozak
10:30 a.m. For Parishioners.

Great Lent – according to the Julian Calendar starts on Monday, March 15, 2021.

O God, be merciful to me a sinner. (Luke 18:13)

Even before he uttered his prayer, the tax collector's gestures revealed what was in his heart: he stood at a distance, beat his breast, and lowered his eyes (Luke 18:13). He knew that he was a sinner in need of God's mercy, and so he humbly approached God and asked for it.

Does Jesus want us to stand at a distance and lower our eyes when we go to church tomorrow? Probably not, but through this parable, he does show us how pleased he is by an attitude of humility and genuine repentance. And the first step in cultivating such an attitude is to understand that we are sinners in need of God's mercy.

This is where an examination of conscience comes in. It's a helpful tool that can lead us to honestly reflect on the ways we have fallen short. As we do this, the Spirit will stir up in us a genuine desire to seek God's mercy. In this issue, we have included one on the inside front cover.

Examining our conscience can keep us from drifting away from the Lord, not only in serious ways, but also in more subtle ways. Just as a boat may gradually drift off course if the captain doesn't pay attention, we can slowly drift away from the Lord without a regular review of our lives. That's what happened to the Pharisee in Jesus' parable—he didn't see how the sins of pride and self-righteousness were affecting his relationship with God.

It can be painful as we carefully review our actions to discover where we have gone off course. But the Holy Spirit is gentle and kind. Even as he convicts us of our sin, he reassures us that God loves us and wants nothing more than to forgive us. He also helps us see just how much we need his help to grow in loving God and his people.

So make it a point to get to Confession at least once during this Lenten season. And when you go, come to the Lord with an honest and humble heart, just as the tax collector did. Don't shy away from admitting your need for your Savior. God has an ocean of mercy waiting for you and is ready to forgive all your sins.

"Jesus, 'be merciful to me a sinner' (Luke 18:13)."

All divisions, schisms are a wound on the Body of Christ. The Church is united not because of the ability of people to unite, but because of one God - Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit - who calls everyone to unity in the Church of Christ. In these words, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Father and Head of the UGCC, explained what it means to believe that the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

First of all, His Beatitude Sviatoslav spoke about the divine origin of the Church. According to him, it is the fruit of the action of the Holy Spirit, the third person of God.

In essence, the Church is not so much a structure as a community of people "called by God, redeemed by the Blood of Christ, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit." "When we say that we are going to church, it means first of all that we are going to create a community, whom our Heavenly Father convenes on a certain day, and especially on Sunday," the UGCC Head said.

His Beatitude then explained the significance of the four marks that characterize the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

“Christ founded one Church. It is the sacrament of the unification of the whole human race... The Church is united not because of the ability of people to unite, but because of the one God - Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit - who calls everyone to unity in Christ's Church.”

He also mentioned the reason for the division of the single Church into different denominations. According to him, this is a sign of man's sin against the action of the Holy Spirit, and all divisions and schisms are a wound on the Body of Christ.

Similarly, the Church of Christ is holy, as His Beatitude Sviatoslav explained, not because all who belong to the community of God's people are saints, but because in that community, in that Body of Christ, there is only one saint - the Lord God. "The holiness of God is the source of the holiness of the Church," he added.

Speaking about the catholicity of the Church, His Beatitude noted that it is a Church for all, a universal Church, which calls to unity all peoples, different cultures and languages in different parts of the globe. "The catholicity of the Church can be seen when we gather together around the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, when Christians gather together in their local Councils, or when bishops from all over the world gather together in the Ecumenical Council," he said in the catechesis.

Separately, the Head of the UGCC explained the importance of the ministry of the Bishop of Rome, who is a servant of the unity of the Catholic Church.

Explaining the fourth characteristic of the Church, her apostolic nature, the Father and the Head of the UGCC emphasized that the Church not only preserves the memory of the apostles, their faith and the teachings they received from Jesus Christ. She passes it on undamaged and undiminished to this day and will do so until the end of the age.

In addition, the Head of the Church stressed the importance of the laity, who are the largest part of the Church community.

“Lay people are believers who have been baptized, received the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation, and whose mission is to preach the Word of God in this world through their life. His Beatitude Sviatoslav also added that the bishops should serve "so that the laity may be comforted by the fullness of the graces of the Holy Spirit.”

"May the Church of Christ, one, holy, catholic, and apostolic, be the source of our salvation," His Beatitude Sviatoslav wished, recalling the phrase of St. Cyprian: ‘He cannot have God for his father who has not the Church for his mother.’”

We invite you to a fascinating spiritual journey through the Nicene-Constantinople "Symbol of Faith" together with the Father and the Head of our Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav! Join us every Saturday at 9 pm on the [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#) of "Zhyve Television"!

**«Поки ще є час, шукаймо Христа, присутнього в кожній
потребуючій людині», – Блаженніший Святослав у**

неділю про Страшний суд

**Бог шанує свободу кожної людини. Хто під час земного життя не прийме відкриті
обійми милосердного Отця, заперечить, не побачить або зневажить Христа,**

присутнього в кожній стражденній людині, той добровільно відкине запрошення бути спадкоємцем Царства, до якого нас запрошує Господь. На Страшному суді вже не буде часу змінити думку і життя. Тоді для того, хто не прийняв і відкинув Боже милосердя, буде плач і скрегіт зубів. Пояснив Блаженніший Святослав, Отець і Глава УГКЦ, у проповіді під час Божественної Літургії в Патріаршому соборі Воскресіння Христового у М'ясопусну неділю, яка також зветься неділею про Страшний суд.

Глава Церкви звернув увагу, що сьогодні сцена відкритих Божих обіймів представляється нам у Євангелії від Матея як момент остаточного завершення історії людства. «Ми сьогодні чуємо про другий і славний прихід Господа і Спаса нашого Ісуса Христа, про момент, коли воскреснуть померлі, коли перед обличчям слави Господньої будуть зібрані всі народи. Цей момент, який описує євангелист Матей, буде моментом остаточного відкриття істини про кожного з нас. Це буде момент, коли ми побачимо Боже милосердя, але водночас і Божу справедливість», – пояснив проповідник і зауважив, що, хоч у людській свідомості дуже часто милосердя і справедливість розділені, у Бога милосердя є справедливим, а справедливість є милосердною.

На його переконання, остаточним виявом найвищої Божої справедливості буде момент відкриття найпотаємніших думок і життєвих рішень кожної людини.

За словами Блаженнішого Святослава, не так віра чи виконання релігійних обрядів, як конкретні діла людини стосовно ближніх є тими ознаками, за якими всі люди будуть розрізнені на Страшному суді.

Глава Церкви пояснив, що кожне наше діло залишає знак на нашій душі. «Кожен наш вчинок, добрий чи поганий, скеровує наше життя праворуч або ліворуч відносно остаточного стояння перед обличчям Божим у другому і страшному Його приході», – сказав він.

Блаженніший Святослав підкреслив, що християни чинять милосердні діла любові, служіння ближньому в ім'я Ісуса Христа як акт своєї віри. «Його ми бачимо в кожній потребуючій людині, незважаючи на те, до якої церкви вона ходить, вірить у Бога чи ні. І саме Йому [Ісусові Христові. – Ред.] ми прагнемо послужити. Цим ми відрізняємося від державних соціальних служб або філантропії безбожників чи невіруючих», – сказав Глава УГКЦ.

«Сьогоднішній євангельський уривок про завершення історії є для нас, християн, доброю новиною, бо ми, живучи на землі, ще перед завершенням історії маємо час для добрих вчинків. Ми ще маємо час змінити сторону, на якій можемо опинитися. Моментом, у якому ми можемо змінити стояння з лівиці на правицю, є покаяння, – підкреслив Предстоятель УГКЦ і додав: – Отож, поки ще є час, шукаймо Христа, присутнього у потребуючій людині. Збираймо ті ознаки на своїй душі, які на Страшному суді приведуть нас у стояння по правиці. У цю неділю ми молимося як християни: "Господи, дозвожь кожному з нас, що стоїмо у храмі, на завершення історії стати по Твоїй правиці"».