



**ST. PETER & ST. PAUL  
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**105 CLIFTON AVE  
ANSONIA, CT 06401  
Rectory Phone 203-734-3895  
Church Hall 203-732-2414  
Fax 203-732-3191  
Fr. Ed Cell 413-218-6404**



*Leaders of the Apostles and teachers of the world, pray to the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.*

**Web Site: [www.stspucc.org](http://www.stspucc.org).  
Very Rev. Archpriest Edward Canon Young, Pastor**

**April 10, 2022**

Palm Sunday: The Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem *квітня Неділя ВХІД ГОСПОДНІЙ В ЄРУСАЛИМ.*

**Epistle Phillipians 4: 4-9 Gospel John 12:1 - 18 Tone Sheet**

**DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**WEEKDAYS:** MONDAY-FRIDAY 10:00AM

**SATURDAY:** Not Now! 4:00PM (Vigil Sunday-Eng.)

**SUNDAY:** 8:30 AM (Ukr.) & 10:00 AM (Eng.)

**Confessions are heard before each Divine Liturgy:**

**Saturday** 3:00PM to 3:30 PM  
**Sunday** 8:00AM to 8:30AM and  
9:30AM until 10:00AM

**Religious Education** – Saturday 10:00AM – 11:00AM  
Call Alice O'Doy @203-734-3055 for more information.

**Preservation** – Please use the form in church vestibule, mail it to the church or bring it to Bob Jaskilka, Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

**Address or Name Change/New Phone Number** –  
Please update your records. See Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. to update this info.  
Returned checks are subject to a **\$35.00 fee**.

**Bulletin Notices** – Notices for the bulletin must be **in writing** by Wednesday @6PM to be included in that week's bulletin.

**Parish Council** meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month @7:15pm in the church hall.

**Rectory Office Hours - Thursday 10AM – Noon**  
*or by Appointment on other days*

**\*\*\*\*Please Note \*\*\*\***

**Mass Offerings, Sorokousty  
Mother's Day, Father's Day  
Checks must be made out to the Fr. Young  
not the Church ! Thank You...**

**Baptism** Arrangement for baptism is to be made personally at the Parish Office. Please call rectory for an appointment.

**Marriage** – Arrangements for marriage are to be made at least **6 months prior** to the Wedding date. Please call rectory for an appointment.

**Sick Calls** – To arrange for Sacraments for the elderly and sick at home, please call Parish Office Fr. Young at 203-734-3895, **Please advise the rectory of any hospitalization.**

**In your Estate planning** – Remember Sts. Peter & Paul Church in your will.

**Stewardship** - "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). All Catholics, should give generous support—time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances—to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church

**Special Share in the Eucharist \*- Bread & Wine**

offered for a week, month, or year. Donations: one week - \$20.00 Donors/intentions will be listed.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr or Fr. Edward Young

**Eternal Light** \*- offered to light for a week \$10.00.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

**Virgin Mary's Lamp and Sacred Heart Lamp\*** also available for offering! Offered to light for a week is 10.00, each.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

**All start on Monday to Sunday!**

**\*Offering must be made when dates are reserved!**

A Welcome to St. Peter and St. Paul Parish to all who are worshipping with us today. If you are over twenty-one years of age and have not yet registered, have moved or will be moving, or have a new telephone number, please fill out the form below. Each household must be registered at St. Peter and St. Paul and every adult receives a set of stewardship envelopes. Registration also entails an annual dues to the parish. If a parishioner is not registered, it is difficult for church authorities to issue him or her a sponsor certificate, reference, or any other certification.




Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Please come down to the Basement to be properly registered after or before liturgy)

**Verses from Palm Sunday Vespers:** Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us together, and we all take up Your Cross and say: “Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.” Today the Word and co-eternal Son of God the Father, whose throne is in heaven and whose footstool is the earth, humbles Himself and comes to Bethany, seated on a dumb beast, on a foal. Then the children of the Hebrews, holding branches in their hands, praise Him saying: “Hosanna in the highest: blessed is He that comes, the King of Israel

*Bread and Wine Offering- None Offered*

4/9	<u>Lazarus Saturday</u>	9:30 AM 10:00 AM 3:00 -4:30 PM	Children Confessions Children Liturgy with Sermon by Fr. Bohdan Confessions - Fr. Bohdan
4/10	Sunday	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	<b>Palm &amp; Flowering Sunday</b> Pro Populo (For All Parishioners) <b>За Всіх Парафіян</b> + Antoinette “Toni” Jaskilka req. by Robert Jaskilka
4/11	Great & Holy Monday	10:00 AM	+Adele Comcowich
4/12	Great & Holy Tuesday	10:00 AM	+John & Anna Comcowich
4/13	Great & Holy Wednesday	10:00AM	+Janet Comcowich
4/14	Great & Holy Thursday	6:30 PM	<b>11:00 AM Great Holy Thursday Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great and the ceremony of the Washing of Feet AT St Basil Seminary in Stamford CT</b> 6:30 PM Passion Gospels
4/15	Great and Good Friday	10:00 AM 12:00 Noon -2:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 – 8:00 PM	<b>Holy &amp; Great Friday, Strict Fast from Meat &amp; Dairy Products - <u>Строгий Піст без м'яса та набілу</u></b> 10:00 A.M. The Royal Hours SIXTH HOUR 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M. <i>Confession</i> 3:00 P.M. VESPERS of GREAT FRIDAY Procession with Holy Shroud ПОЛОЖЕННЯ ПЛАЩАНИЦІ 6:00 PM to 8:00 P.M. <i>Confession Church will be closed at 8:00 PM</i>
4/16	Great & Holy Saturday	9:00 AM	<i>Liturgy of St. Basil the Great</i> <b>Blessing of Paschal Foods - Blahoslovennia pasok [Out Doors near the Garage]</b> 3:00 pm (In English), 4:00 pm (in Ukrainian) <i>Church will be closed at 8:00 PM</i> Confessions will be heard after each of the blessings of Easter Food
4/17	Sunday <u>Resurrection of Our Lord, Свята Пасха – Воскресіння Христове</u>	6:30AM 7:00AM 8:00AM 10:00 AM	<b>NADHROBNE / НАДГРОБНЕ ПРИ ГРОБІ</b> (Removal of the holy shroud to the altar) <b>7:00 AM PROCESSION &amp; RESURRECTIONAL MATINS ОБХІД ХРАМУ / ВОСКРЕСНА УТРЕНЯ</b> <b>8:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY / ВЕЛИКОДНІ СЛУЖБИ БОЖІ</b> GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY <i>Blessing of the ARTOS after the Ambon Prayer.</i> <b>10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY</b>

ETERNAL LIGHT		<i>In loving memory of +Stephania Cirkot by Carol Stumpf</i>	
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LAMP		<i>In loving memory of +Stephanie Cirkot, +Mary Nyscot &amp; +Mary Cirkot by Carol Stumpf</i>	
SACRED HEART OF JESUS LAMP		<i>In loving memory of +Cirkots, +Nyscots &amp; +Stumpf Families by Carol Stumpf</i>	
<b>BREAD &amp; WINE OFFERING RESERVED DATES</b> 4/18/22-4/24/22 5/2/22-5/8/22 6/6/22-6/12/22 7/4/22-7/10/22 7/11/22-7/17/22 8/1/22-8/7/22 9/5/22-9/11/22 10/3/22-10/9/22 10/10/22-10/16/22 11/7/22-11/13/22 12/5/22-12/11/22	<b>ETERNAL LIGHT LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES</b> 4/18/22-4/24/22 4/25/22-5/1/22 5/2/22-5/8/22 5/9/22-5/15/22 5/23/22-5/29/22 5/30/22-6/5/22 6/27/22-7/3/22 7/18/22-7/24/22 8/8/22-8/14/22 9/5/22-9/11/22 12/5/22-12/11/22	<b>BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES</b> 4/18/22-4/24/22 5/2/22-5/8/22 5/9/22-5/15/22 5/16/22-5/22/22 5/23/22-5/29/22 6/27/22-7/3/22 7/18/22-7/24/22 8/1/22-8/7/22 8/8/22-8/14/22 8/15/22-8/21/22 9/5/22-9/11/22 10/3/22-10/9/22 11/7/22-11/13/22 11/14/22-11/20/22 11/21/22-11/27/22	<b>SACRED HEART OF JESUS LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES</b> 5/2/22-5/8/22 5/9/22-5/15/22 6/6/22-6/12/22 6/27/22-7/3/22 9/12/22-9/18/22 11/4/22-11/20/22 12/19/22-12/25/22

**2022 & Past Church Dues (Blue Book) (Kollekta)**

During Lent & every Saturday & Sunday dues current & past will be collected in the church hall after 8:30 AM & 10AM Sunday Liturgies.

Please bring your dues book to the church hall *dues will not be collected in the rectory* Back on January 25, 2005 the Parish Council voted to increase the yearly dues to \$75.00 per member. This is the first increase since 1998. The number of upcoming projects that are needed to keep the church building in good repairs, such as painting, doors, walls, fixing the roof, warranted this increase. **Do not place dues in your weekly envelope offering!**

**Please remember - this is not our church but YOUR church!**

*Please fulfill your responsibility to your Church!!*

**Friendly Reminder - 2022 & Past Church Dues** are due during lent to support your church to pay our obligations to keep the church running such as salaries; electricity; oil ; gas; water ; and continual maintenance; repair of the church, rectory and cemetery; insurance ; chancery fees; and telephone just to name a few.

**At Divine Liturgy and All other Divine Services:** In the month of October Father Edward took part in the Catholic Deanery meeting for our area. The Catholic Parishes are following the Mask mandate of their cities. The City of Ansonia has no Mask mandate, Father Edward spoke personally with the mayor. Therefore, Masks are not required though those who feel safer wearing a Mask should continue to do so. Social distancing must continue to be followed. The priest must use a mask while giving out Holy Communion.

**(But at this time it may be wise to think about wearing a Mask Fr. Ed)**

**Volunteers needed for Our 125th Anniversary**

The parish will be celebrating Our 125th Anniversary in June 2022.

A committee needs to be formed to discuss ideas for this event.

If your interested please contact Bill Platosz [platosz@hotmail.com](mailto:platosz@hotmail.com) or Scott Walker [sjawalk@aol.com](mailto:sjawalk@aol.com) There has been the First meeting but more assistance is need. Thank you

**The next Organizing Meeting for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint Peter and Saint Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church:** will be **April 12** at 6:30 PM in the church hall. This is a very important moment for our parish. We must recall those pioneers who sacrificed such much to establish this parish and build this magnificent church. We call all who will honor memory of our forefathers and foremothers in faith. We ask you to please come out and join in this important work. God Bless and Protect.



**Today**

**Sunday, at 9:30 AM** there will be the Recitation of the Holy Rosary of Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. One of the intentions for our prayers will be for our parish, as we prepare to celebrate our 125th Anniversary as a Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church here in Ansonia, Connecticut.

**Special Donation Church Upkeep & Restoration Fund**  
**Goal \$50,000 –Donated to Date \$21,376 – 42.8% to go \$28,624**  
**Donations this week - \$0.00**

**HELP NEEDED:** THE PARISH IS IN NEED OF A TREASURER. IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE IN BOOK KEEPING, BUSINESS OR ACCOUNTING PLEASE CONTACT SCOTT WALKER AT [SJJAWALK@AOL.COM](mailto:SJJAWALK@AOL.COM) OR 203-735-8385



**ST. PETER & ST. PAUL UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**"LET'S SHOW PRIDE IN OUR PARISH  
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS**

**TEE SHIRT SALE \$25.00 EACH**

**BLUE WITH YELLOW LOGO**

**S,M,L,XL 7 2XL 48 SHIRTS ORDERED**

**WE WILL BE ABLE TO ORDER MORE SHIRTS**

**UPON REQUEST CONTACT SCOTT WALKER AT [SJJAWALK@AOL.COM](mailto:SJJAWALK@AOL.COM) OR  
203-735-8385**

**Church Donation** of \$100.00 in memory of our Mom +Eugenia Zaniowak Luetters by Richard Luetters & Annmarie Adomatis

**Church Donation** of \$100.00 in memory of +Szkuat, +Swetz, +Pelepczuk, +Horbal & +Phillips families by Linda Campagna

**Church Fundraiser- Ukrainian Floral Wreaths:** Ukrainian Floral Wreaths are



available for purchase both before and after Sunday Liturgies in the church hall. Large Wreath - \$40  
Small Wreath - \$30 Any questions call -  
Lucy Kuncik 203- 924- 0295,  
Jean Walker 203- 751-5646  
or Audrey Sokol 203-605-4727.

**GOOD FRIDAY AND HOLY SATURDAY VIGIL 2022:** With these two Great Days of our Salvation that of Pascha: therefore: once again calls upon us all, and who revere the Sacred Traditions of our Ukrainian Catholic Parish, that there is a faithful guard at the Tomb of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. We request men, women and teenagers of good Faith please signup to keep watch at our Lord's Tomb. There will be a signup sheet in church with times for the watch. God Bless and protect you faithful.

**Good Friday** After the Procession on Great and Holy Friday: a great love is shown, devotion and adoration, the faithful approach the "Plaschenytsia" on their knees, make the Sign of the Cross and kiss all five wounds of Christ pictured on the Holy Shroud. During this time, members of families and church organizations take turns keeping vigil as guards of honor at the Holy Tomb of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Holy Saturday** is a day of continued fasting and abstinence and is the final day for the faithful to prepare their souls for Easter by making



a good confession if they have not already done so. During this time, the parishioners visit the "Plaschenytsia" to worship and kiss the wounds of Christ. And the faithful and organizations take turns keeping vigil as guards of honor at the Holy Tomb of our Lord Jesus Tomb. In many places, including the United States, the traditional blessing of Easter foods ("Sviachnia") is done Holy Saturday.

## The Orders from Boczynsky can be picked up after Good Friday Vespers which will be after 4:30 PM

### FLOWERY PALM SUNDAY

**EPISTLE - PHILIPPIANS 4: 9 ~ GOSPEL - JOHN 12: 1-18 TONE FOR THE FEAST**



**On Palm Sunday**, it becomes clear that the Savior Who enters Jerusalem today is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He is the Passover Lamb whose death and resurrection will conquer death itself. This Messiah, this One who is truly anointed to save His people and the whole world, will be rejected by the leaders of the Jews and crucified under the authority of the Romans. And when He is lifted up upon the Cross, He will draw all who believe in Him - Jew, Gentile, male, female, rich, poor, all nations, classes, and races - to the life of a Kingdom that transcends this world and our petty divisions.

Jesus Christ will not reign as a soldier, a politician, or a rich man, but as a Suffering Servant, a slaughtered lamb, a despised victim of torture and capital punishment. The crowds are right on Palm Sunday to welcome Him as a conquering King in Whom God's promises will be fulfilled. But they misunderstand what kind of King He is and how He will conquer. For He rules from a cross and an empty tomb; instead of killing Roman soldiers, He kills death by allowing

Himself to be killed; in the place of a magnificent stallion fit for a king, He rides a humble donkey that would impress no one.

The crowd is right, "Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel." They shout "Hosanna," which is a plea for God's salvation to come upon the earth. In Holy Week, what had been cloudy becomes clear; the truth is out in the open and we cannot ignore it any longer. Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. He is our Champion, our Savior, our King, yet in His humility and love, the incarnate Son of God suffers on the cross as the lowest of the low in order to bring us to the heights of heaven and the joy of life eternal through His empty tomb.

And this week we journey with Him to that cross, becoming participants in His passion. Like Lazarus, we sit at table with Him. Like Mary, we anoint Him for burial. Like those gathered in Jerusalem, we welcome Him with palms and praises. Like the disciples, we eat the Passover with Him; like His mother Mary the Theotokos, the other faithful women, and the Apostle John, we kneel before His cross. Like Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, we bury Him. And like the stunned myrrh-bearers and the doubting apostles, we will marvel at the unspeakable joy of His resurrection. For what looks like complete failure is actually total triumph, as we will see in the early hours of next Sunday.

Holy Week is the climax of Jesus Christ's life and of ours, too. For He goes to the cross for us; He dies and rises for our salvation, to bring us into the unending joy of eternal life, to defeat our ancient foe. So it's time to

lay aside our usual distractions, excuses, and obsessions, and enter into the passion of our Lord by worshiping Him in the services of the church, as well as in every thought, word, and deed this week. If we can't attend literally every service, we can all pray at home, read the Bible passages for Holy Week, and give less attention to the world and more to God.

It's time to embrace the great mystery of our salvation, of our Savior's infinite love and mercy, and thus share already in the blessedness of the Kingdom of Heaven. Holy Week is the time to enter into the Light that shines brightly even from the terror of the cross and the darkness of the tomb. Yes, our Savior has endured all these evils for us purely out of love; and He will soon rise over them triumphantly. As He hung on the Cross dying, this Messiah prayed to the Father for the forgiveness of the religious and civilized people who thought that killing Him was a godly and patriotic thing to do. We cannot understand that kind of love rationally, which is precisely why we need Holy Week. We need to enter into the deep mystery of our salvation so that we will not reject our Christ in His Passion, but instead follow Him faithfully. That is how we will prepare to embrace the unfathomable joy of His great victory from the depths of our souls throughout this blessed week.

On Palm Sunday, it is clear who Jesus Christ is: The Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. How will we respond to Him as He goes to the cross for us? Hopefully, with the fear of God and faith and love, we will draw near and not abandon or disregard Him.

**"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel. Hosanna in the highest!"** (Excerpt from <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/>)

**CATECHISM - CHRIST OUR PASCHA - TODAY'S EPISTLE / GOSPEL LESSON :**

**SALVATION:** Page 20, Section 32-33; Page 59, Section 158

### **Holy Week Begins**

***The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Matthew 21:9***

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, which is also called Blossom Sunday, or Willow Sunday in the Ukrainian Byzantine Tradition. This is because Ukrainians hold pussy willow branches during the liturgy, this a beautiful symbolic spring and new birth for the use of pussy willow branches. During the winter willow trees appear to be dead, but in the spring the plant again shows signs of life! It a natural icon of the resurrection, found in nature. During this Sunday we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. It is a reminder to us that Jesus freely and willingly chose to suffer His passion and death. In Jewish culture, palms were used to greet important people. They symbolize joy and feasting. Even amid our preparation of Great and Holy Week we have cause to celebrate. We bring our palm/willow branches home as a sacramental sign as a reminder that our own lives have been made new in Christ. Use yours to adorn a cross or icon in your home.

**Great Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday** The next three days hold the morning service Matins of the Bridegroom in common. An interesting fact about Byzantine Matins is that it includes the Lesser Doxology (Glory to God in the Highest...), During Holy Week, the matins liturgy expresses the themes for each of these days. The tone is still Lenten in nature, and Wednesday is the last day we say the Prayer of Saint Ephraim.

On Monday we commemorate the themes of the Patriarch Joseph and the barren fig tree. We consider Joseph's innocent sufferings at the hands of his own brothers and of the Egyptians as a prefiguring of Christ's Passion. The fig tree cursed by Jesus reminds us of our need to repent and bear the fruits of the Spirit in our own lives. Passion Tuesday we contemplate the theme of judgment through the parable of the Ten Virgins and of the Talents. Are we prepared for the wedding banquet? Are we using the amazing wealth God has invested in us through the death of His only begotten Son? Or do we waste the Life that is in us?

Passion Wednesday focuses on the foils of Judas and the woman who anoints the feet of Jesus. Judas betrays Jesus, and then refuses to believe in the mercy and forgiveness offered by God. The sinful woman comes to Jesus in her sinfulness and receives his mercy. We remember that we are sinful but recognize that God's mercy is greater. No sin is unforgivable, save the rejection of God's mercy.















**Holy [Passion] Thursday** This day, rather like Palm Sunday, takes on a more celebratory nature than the other days of Lent and Holy Week. The mystery of the Last Supper and the **Institution of the Eucharist** captivates us as we continue following Christ's journey to the Cross.

**Great and Good Friday** We enter into the mystery of Christ's Passion in a unique way on Good Friday. His very death is what redeems us. Byzantine Catholics celebrate the Great Vespers of Entombment. Instead of veneration of the Cross, we venerate the tomb. We use a *plashchanytsja*, or shroud, which is a full size icon of the body of Jesus Christ. The priest processes one times around the church with this shroud. At this time we commemorate the faithful women, and Joseph, who carried and accompanied Jesus to his burial site. We contemplate this great mystery, singing, "The Noble Joseph took down Your most pure Body from the Cross; anointing it with spices, he wrapped it in a pure linen shroud, and placed it in a new tomb." An all-night vigil follows this service. The community takes turns keeping watch at the

tomb, and kissing the shroud, through to the Saturday's Divine Liturgy of St. Basil.

### Holy Saturday (the Great Sabbath)

This day Byzantine Catholics enter into the mystery of Christ's victory of death itself. We celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with Vespers. This commemorates Christ's descent into Hades, and the great Harrowing of Hell. The Good News is not known to those living, but Jesus goes to proclaim his salvation to the dead. Icons of this event include Jesus standing over a chasm, bringing Adam and Eve up out of hell. The sorrow of those living is paralleled by the joy of those who were in hell, making this a unique day of fasting and celebration. Blessed bread is given to the faithful. This bread helps sustain the community as we await the resurrection.

HOLY MONDAY	HOLY TUESDAY	HOLY WEDNESDAY	HOLY THURSDAY	HOLY FRIDAY	HOLY SATURDAY	PASCHA
						
<p>Today, the Church remembers Joseph, from the Old Testament who was so beloved by his father that his own brothers betrayed him out of jealousy. But he was led forth again with great glory and was honored as a king. He became lord over all Egypt and a provider of wheat for all the people. His life symbolizes the betrayal, Passion, death, and glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>Today remember the parable of the 10 virgins, which Jesus told as He was coming close to His Passion. This story teaches us that we should not be careless in our lives, but should know Him, and be prepared for the end at every moment, like the wise virgins, so that we may meet our Bridegroom, lest He come suddenly and the doors of heaven be shut to us.</p>	<p>Today, the Church services retell the act of the woman who anointed Jesus' head and feet with very precious myrrh, and wiped them with her hair to prepare Him for burial. We also remember the betrayal of Judas who was greedy for the cost of the myrrh and sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. This is why we fast on Wednesdays.</p>	<p>Today, Christ blessed the bread and the wine, and gave us the Mystery of Holy Communion. He washed the feet of the disciples as an example of humility. After, Christ went to the Mount of Olives, in anguish to pray alone and was arrested by soldiers, spit upon, mocked and judged to death on the Cross. The disciples all scattered, and Peter denied Him three times.</p>	<p>Jesus, wearing a crown of thorns carried His cross to Golgotha, where at the third hour, He was crucified with two thieves. One cried out, "Remember me, O Lord, when Thou comes in Thy Kingdom." Christ was pierced in the side and water and blood poured forth. A great earthquake shook and darkness covered the Earth. He was laid in tomb.</p>	<p>Although the Jews had the tomb sealed, early in the morning, the women bearing spices went to anoint Christ. They found the tomb empty and an Angel cried out "He is not here. He is Risen! Go proclaim it to the disciples!" In His death He destroys the gates and bars of Hades, and made His light to shine where only darkness reigned!</p>	<p>After Christ passed all of Saturday in the grave; He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, according to the Hebrew calculation, began after sunset on Saturday. We begin to celebrate at midnight that "Christ is Risen!" Every Sunday during the year is celebrated as the day of Resurrection For Orthodox Christians!</p>
						



UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH SVIATOSLAV SHEVCHUK  
MAJOP ARCHBISHOP OF KYIV-HALYCH  
EASTER PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

Most Reverend Archbishops and Bishops, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers,  
Venerable Brothers and Sisters in Monastic and Religious Life, Dearly Beloved Laity in Christ of the  
Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church  
*Christ is Risen!*

*You have descended into the depths of the earth, O Christ, And have broken the eternal  
bonds which held the captive, And like Jonah from the whale on the third day,  
You arose from the tomb!*  
Ode 6, Paschal Canon

Beloved in Christ!

This year we approach the Pascha of Christ in the midst of particular challenges, suffering, cruelty, indignities, and ruin. For our people, in Ukraine and abroad, it would seem that the cross of our Lord was abruptly thrust upon our shoulders from the very beginning of Great Lent, and we have already been carrying it not for a day or two, a week or two, but continuously, day and night. For us, Holy Friday has become our daily bread, our everyday reality, and we do not know when the glorious day of victory over evil, hate, and violence will come. However, precisely today our Lord calls on us to have no doubt in the victory of light over darkness, life over death, truth over falsehood, and He assures us of His love and grace. From Him, our Risen Savior, we draw strength in the midst of our suffering today. He is the source of our hope. Therefore, together with the apostle Paul, we say today: "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair... For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh" (2 Cor. 4:8,11). In that spirit with confidence, we greet one another with the victorious salutation: Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!

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*You have descended into the depths of the earth, O Christ...* In His suffering and death on the cross, Christ descends into the depths of our fallen human nature. Accepting the worst cruelty- betrayal, unlawful condemnation, mockery, spitting, strikes in the face, scourging, and killing (see Mk. 10:33-34), the Son of God takes upon Himself all the consequences of human sin. He touches the furthest distance from God, the worst human downfall, the greatest defacement of dignity, for which mankind was created. Possibly, this week in the context of war, when we read or listened to the Passion Gospels, we especially felt and experienced all that our Lord underwent for our salvation. At the same time we have become aware of how human nature remains fallen, how the devil continues to control human beings, who have no God in their hearts. He who sows hatred and instigates war against one's neighbor, opposes the Almighty. All war is a clear manifestation of the ruinous, murderous action of the devil, for only the evil one is able to spread fear and carry death in such a manner, is able to inflict such wounds, and destruction, and pain, and loss. And even when the path to recovery and healing of trauma may seem distant, closed, or unpassable for those suffering, we must remember that with the Risen Christ there is nothing that cannot be conquered or healed.

The war of Russia against Ukraine is the latest war of a prison of nations that seeks to reestablish itself before our very eyes. The occupier once again brings to us chains, with which entire generations of our ancestors were fettered. The chains that bound the arms of Cossacks who built Saint Petersburg. The chains that for centuries bound the intellectual and ecclesial life of Ukraine. The chains of serfs, chains of the Holodomor, chains of millions of deported and exiled Ukrainians, whose bones are strewn across the vast Siberian expanse "to the ends of the earth." The ideologues of Russia's war against Ukraine state openly that our existence is a mistake of history- one that must be rectified precisely through "eternal bonds of death and destruction. This is a war against the very right of the Ukrainian people to its own history, language, and culture, to its own independent country, its own existence. From a spiritual perspective it has become clear how our aggressive neighbor is unable to cast aside his false idols and how in them he continues to pursue his greatness at our cost. With his cruise missiles, bombs, and artillery shells, he seeks to instill fear, to drive us into the depths of the earth and non-existence, to bind us with eternal chains. And precisely in those underground shelters a miracle takes place- one of common prayer, selfless help of neighbor, unbroken spirit, and of demonstrating the power of the presence of God.

*And have broken the eternal bonds which held the captive...*

Our traditional icon of Christ's Resurrection is the icon of the Descent into Hades. On it we find depicted the dislodged doors of hell and the broken chains of sin. The Resurrection of Christ is a feast of victory- victory of life over death, of Divine truth over diabolical falsehood, of love over hate. One of our soldiers wrote on his helmet the following prayer: "God, if I am killed on the field of





battle take me into paradise, for I have already been in *hell!* In His resurrection Christ emerges not only from the empty tomb, but from the depths of hell and from deadly captivity for humankind. He emerges not alone, but by taking our forebearers Adam and Eve by the hand, he leads all humanity out of the bonds of death. He takes the hand of our soldiers and volunteers, our civilian population, who have seen the hell of Russian occupation-he takes the hand of Ukraine and leads it to resurrection, filling it with the paschal joy of the victorious hymn, "Christ is risen! Today, when Ukraine is defending itself against an insidious foe, more than ever we are called to spiritual warfare, remembering that evil can only be overcome by good. Saint Paul reminds us that we must be cautious, so that in the midst of the horrors of war we remain human and not fall into the devil's trap of malice and hate: For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery ... For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself' (Gal. 5:1,14). And then he encourages each of us to open up to Divine grace and allow the Holy Spirit to bear His life-giving fruit: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law*" (Gal. 5:22-23). Pascha is the feast of the victory of love over hatred, of joy over sorrow, of peace over war, of patience over panic, of kindness over anger, of faithfulness over betrayal, of gentleness over unrest, of self-control over voracity. Pascha is the victory of spirit over flesh, of truth over mendacity, of life over death. Christ rose from the tomb in order to raise up and grant victory to those, who have been swallowed up by death, slavery, and degradation, as once was Jonah by the whale. *And like Jonah from the whale on the third day, You arose from the tomb!* What an irony it is that the enemy planned to celebrate his victory in the capital city of Kyiv in three days! He thought that he would quickly swallow up an entire people, but his insidious plans were broken by the heroism of our armed forces. It is Christ, risen on the third day from the tomb, who grants us who believe in His resurrection, faith in victory over hell and death. St. John Chrysostom, in his paschal sermon, notes that the enemy of the human race "took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen. Similarly, our enemy took what he saw, but fell because of what he failed to see - the power of the spirit, faith, and love of our people! Our victory, the victory of Ukraine, flows from the power of the risen Christ, who leads us out of the depths of the horrors of war and death, who breaks the eternal bonds and victoriously leads us to life. To celebrate the Pascha of Christ in a time of war is to already taste our victory. Let us have no doubt! The one who brings death is destined for defeat because Ukraine is celebrating Pascha! Again, John Chrysostom, echoing the words of the Apostle of the Gentiles (see 1 Cor. 15:55), proclaims: "O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. *Voskres Khrystos*, and the demons are fallen. *Anesti Khrystos*, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life flows freely." The one who sought to enslave us by death is already defeated, for his main weapons of colonization and aggression have been destroyed by Christ Himself through His death on the cross and glorious Resurrection. Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ! Today I extend to all of you my fatherly and brotherly embrace, and share with you the joy of Pascha. I embrace all who fight on different fronts-spiritual and physical, especially our unbreakable soldiers, our dedicated pastors, and tireless volunteers. I embrace with paschal JOY all who have been forced to leave their home and even their native land, and pray for your speedy return in a time of peace, which will surely arrive. I embrace in prayer all the wounded, so that in your suffering you feel the support, love, and gratitude of an entire nation, but especially-God's grace and constant love. I greet all who all over the world support and assist Ukraine, in efforts both great and small. As a world community we have shown ourselves to be like a beehive, where each of us senses in spirit what he or she must do in the face of danger. I embrace those who are in occupied territories, in areas of military engagement-those who do not have the possibility to prepare an Easter basket and who sing "Christ is risen!" under the roar of cannons and exploding shells. In the hope of the resurrection, I cry and weep with all who lament their dead, from the ranks of the armed forces, and from the civilian population. May each of us today sense hope in a bright future in peace and harmony, for the Resurrection of Christ is the source of peace. May the rich symbolism of our traditional pysanka remind us that the Risen Lord is the source of heavenly gifts, of joy, goodness, victory, and eternal life.

I embrace with a fatherly love all the clergy, religious, and faithful in Ukraine and throughout the world, and sincerely wish you all a blessed Easter feast, a tasty sharing of our traditional blessed egg, and a Paschal joy that is full of light. The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***Christ is risen! – Truly, He is risen!***



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