



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

**105 CLIFTON AVE
ANSONIA, CT 06401**

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Very Rev. Archpriest Edward Canon Young, Pastor

November 8, 2020

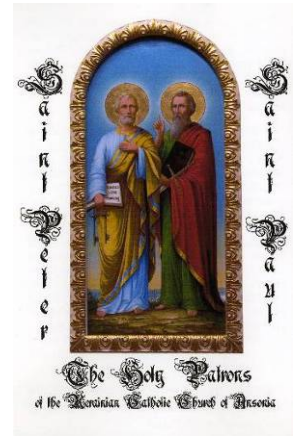
8 November 2020 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost,

Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers of Heaven

Epistle: Ephesians. 2: 4-10

Gospel: Luke 8: 41-56

Tone: Sheet



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.

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 3rd 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 _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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






A Prayer for Veterans Day: God of mercy we ask for blessings on all those who have served their country in the armed forces. We ask for healing for the veterans who have been wounded, in body and soul, in conflicts around the globe. We pray especially for the young men and women, in the thousands, who are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan with injured bodies and traumatized spirits. Bring solace to them, O Lord. May we pray for them when they cannot pray. Have mercy on all our veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Bring peace to their hearts and peace to the regions they fought in.

Bless all the soldiers who served in non-combative posts. May their calling to serve continue in their lives in many positive ways. Give us all here present today creative vision to see a world that, growing weary with fighting, moves to affirming the life of every human being and so moves beyond war. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, I trust in You!

Bread and Wine Offering - In loving memory of +Andrew Dutkanych, Jr. by Deborah Lester

11/07	Saturday		No Liturgy
11/08	Sunday	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Pro Populo (For All Parishioners) - За Всіх Парафіян +MICHAEL, MARY, TIMONTHY, ANNA Smerznak
11/09	Monday		No Liturgy
11/10	Tuesday		No Liturgy
11/11	Wednesday		No Liturgy
11/12	Thursday		+Brenia, Fetzko & Horney Families
11/13	Friday		+HILARY, MARTHA, ANNA, ERNEST, JOHN, LACEY, PRIEST SIMEON, SISTER LEONARD KEVIN, STEPHEN, ANN, LYNDA, JULIUS, HARRY AND MARY FETZKO FAMILY
11/14	Saturday		No Liturgy
11/15	Sunday	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Pro Populo (For All Parishioners) - За Всіх Парафіян +Walter Aquino 1 st Annivesary req. by Roman & Lee Gebuza

ETERNAL LIGHT		<i>In loving memory of +Andrew Dutkanych, Jr. by Deborah Lester</i>	
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LAMP		<i>In loving memory of +Andrew Dutkanych, Jr. by Deborah Lester</i>	
SACRED HEART of JESUS LAMP		<i>In loving memory of +Andrew Dutkanych, Jr. by Deborah Lester</i>	
Bread and Wine Offering Reserved Dates 12/7-12/13/20 12/14/20-12/20/20 12/21/20-12/27/20 1/04/21-1/10/21	Eternal Light Offering Reserved Dates 11/16/20-11/22/20 11/23-11/29/20 12/7/20-12/13/20 12/14/20-12/20/20 12/21-12/27/20 1/4/21-1/10/21 1/11/21-1/17/21	BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 11/23/20-11/29/20 11/30/20-12/06/20 12/14/20-12/20/20 12/21-12/27/20	SACRED HEART OF JESUS LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 11/23/20/11/29/20 11/30/20-12/06/20 12/7/20-12/13/20 12/21/20-12/27/20

2020 & Past Church Dues (Blue Book) (Kollekta)

During Lent & every Saturday & Sunday dues current & past will be collected in the church hall after the 4:00 PM Vigil and 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!!

******Notice ****** The Ladies room **is closed for renovation** till further notice. Mens's bathroom will be used by everyone.



2020 STAMFORD CHARITIES DIOCESE APPEAL

The month of October continues the Stamford Diocese Charities Appeal for **2020**. This fund provides support for many programs in the Diocese as indicated in the Sower. Our offering reminds us that we are members of a greater body of the Church that operates beyond the barriers of our local parish and that each one of us has a role to play in the Church's mission of evangelization and sanctification. Please note: that at this time our seminary in Stamford is growing and needs your support.

You have received by mail your request for support.

Please help this fund as you have in the past.

Please do not send your donation to Stamford!!! Do not use Paypal !!!

There will be collectors to take your donation for 2020 in the church hall or mail it in to church !

Donations \$5,050.00 or 72.1% to go \$1,950.00 This week \$250.00.

ROBERT		JASKILKA	\$100.00	
MICHAEL R.	&	MARIA	TELEP	\$150.00

The 2020 Stamford Diocesan Charities Appeal form has been sent. Please make checks payable to: "The Byzantine Rite Diocese of Stamford" and send or bring your donation to the church.

Cash is acceptable form for payment.

Do not use Paypal for your donation !

Since every parish in the diocese has been assessed a target for this campaign, **please do not send your gift directly to Stamford.** Our parish needs to be properly credited to meet its goal of seven thousand dollars. We have met our goal over the last nine years and have not had to put any additional strain on our parish's treasury. While many of our regular contributors have fallen asleep in the Lord, it is even more essential that every parishioner consider such diocesan programs as vocations, religious education, evangelization, and stewardship worthy of personal charity. This Year 2020 because of Covid-19 we are beginning the Charities Appeal in September which is later than other years. Hopefully now by God's grace as Autumn approaches we all will be blessed with good health in our homes and our community.

TWENTYTHIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Epistle - Ephesians 2: 4-10 ~ Gospel - Luke 8: 41-56 - Tone 6

Sometimes we think that everyone has to approach God in exactly the same way. After all, we are Christians. The Divine Liturgy and other services are set; they don't change and are celebrated in the Church around the world. Our beliefs were defined through ancient councils. Our spiritual practices have been passed down over the centuries by countless generations. The Holy Spirit has preserved our Church in a unity that is unique among Christians. But that unity doesn't mean complete uniformity in the sense that we all must or should do exactly the same thing. We are all distinct, free persons; and it's as such that we will find God's blessing and salvation in our lives.

We read in today's gospel passage about two very different people who approached Jesus Christ in different ways. One was Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue. He was an upstanding man in the Jewish community. His position indicates that he had a good reputation and was thought to be a righteous man. The other person was very different. She was a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years, and had spent all her money on treatments that did not work. Not only was she now poor, she was also considered unclean because of the flow of blood. She was isolated: anyone who had physical contact with her would also become unclean. She could not even enter the Temple or have a normal social life. She had been treated for twelve years as though she was cut off from God and everyone else.

Jairus sought out the Lord and asked Him to heal his daughter, who was dying. But the woman - whose name we do not know - could not bring herself to do even that. She knew her place: a poor, isolated, unclean woman not worthy of the attention of the Messiah. She couldn't ask Him to lay hands on her for healing, for that would make Him unclean also. She was surely embarrassed to discuss her medical condition with Him in the midst of a large crowd. All that she could find the courage to do was to reach out anonymously and touch the hem of His clothing. She had enough faith, enough hope, and enough courage to do that. And when she did, she was healed. She had not made Him unclean; instead, He had made her well.

This story shows the tremendous mercy of Our Lord. This woman had not said a word to Christ and had not even identified herself to Him. She was probably too afraid and humble to do those things. But she did what she could, reaching out to Christ in faith. The Son of God knew who had touched Him, of course, but asked who it was in order to give her an opportunity to confess her faith, to make

clear to herself and to those in the crowd that our Lord's healing mercy extended even to her, that His mercy overcomes all the uncleanness and misery of those who come to Him in humble repentance.

At different times in our lives, we will all identify with this woman. Perhaps we have a long-term struggle, a weakness or cross that we have borne for years. Perhaps we wrestle with some deep embarrassment or humiliation in our lives that we are afraid to acknowledge even to God, let alone other people. Maybe we have done or suffered something that makes us feel unclean or unworthy in our relationship. Maybe we can't find the words to express our pain even to God in prayer, much less to others. We may feel cut off from the Lord and separated from family and friends.

Jairus approached Jesus Christ differently, openly asking Him to heal his dying daughter. But his faith is then put to a very hard test. For the girl dies, but the Lord says that she is only sleeping. Everyone ridicules the Savior for this. But Jairus somehow believed the astonishing word of the Lord: "Do not be afraid; ; only believe, and she will be made well." This healing was not as simple as Jairus had hoped. He was probably was used to getting what he wanted. But just as Abraham's faith was tested by the command to sacrifice Isaac, his faith is tested when - to all appearances - his daughter is dead and gone. It is one thing to heal the sick, but quite another to believe that someone can raise the dead. But probably with a great deal of fear and all kinds of doubts going through his head, Jairus believes. He trusts as best he can. And through his faith, the Lord works a great miracle.

People are different. We have distinct personalities, occupations, interests, and spiritual strengths and weaknesses. But we can all have faith. When we open the wounds and sorrows of our lives to Christ as best we can, He will hear us. And He will respond in the way that is best for our salvation, for our growth in holiness. No two people have exactly the same journey to the Kingdom. No two people pray, fast, give alms, forgive, or serve in precisely the same way. Jairus and the woman with the flow of blood were very different people who approached Christ differently. But the one constant factor is the mercy of our Lord, which extends to all who call upon Him from their hearts with humble trust. *(Excerpt of homily of Father Philip LeMasters)*

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

FAITH: Page 74, Section 203

HOPE: Page 64, Section 175 - 177, Page 140, Section 407; Page 158, Section 463



FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL - NOVEMBER 8:

In most Eastern Christian Churches, November 8th is the Feast of St. Michael and all heavenly hosts. The name given to the feast day is: The Synaxis of Holy Archangel Michael and all Angelic Powers. Archangels are God's special messengers during times of great importance in the history of salvation and in events affecting the human race. There are three (3) named archangels: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. The name Michael refers to "Who is like God?" phrased as a rhetorical question, expressing disdain against the prideful angels he fought against. St. Michael will defend all who love God, and defeat all who spread the darkness of evil. Knowing the assaults on the Church continue from all directions and in many forms, this prayer along

with other devotional prayers for protection, such as our Byzantine prayers to our Most Holy Theotokos, are truly needed across all time periods of history. Both the Mother of God and St. Michael hold significant protective roles for all faithful, religious, and our Church.

Prayer to St. Michael: St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle, Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, By the power of God, Cast into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Mnohaya Lita to all named Michael, Michelle, Michalena's et al !

FEAST OF ST. JOSAPHAT – BISHOP AND MARTYR - NOVEMBER 12: On the day of his martyrdom, Nov. 12, Roman Catholics and Eastern Catholics remember St. Josaphat Kuntsevych, a bishop and monk whose example of faith inspired many Eastern Orthodox Christians to return to full communion with the Holy See. Patron of Church Unity, St. Josaphat, pray for us

FEAST OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM - NOVEMBER 13: Our father among the saints John Chrysostom (347-407), known as “golden mouthed”, Archbishop of Constantinople, was a notable Christian bishop and preacher from the fourth and fifth centuries in Syria and Constantinople. He is famous for his eloquence in public speaking, his philanthropy, his denunciation of abuse of authority in the Church and in the Roman Empire of the time, and for a Divine Liturgy attributed to him.

FEAST OF HOLY AND ALL PRAISEWORTHY APOSTLE ST. PHILIP - NOVEMBER 14: On the day after Peter's call, when about to set out for Galilee, Jesus met Philip and called him to the Apostolate with the words, "**Follow me**". Philip obeyed the call. St. Philip, Pray for us! Pray for Vocations !

NOVEMBER 15 - BEGINNING OF THE PHILIP FAST - PLYPIVKA: The 40-day period before the Nativity (Christmas), comparable to Advent in the western Church, is also a time of recommended fasting, known as Philip's Fast, begins at the feast of St. Philip, also known as the Nativity Fast. **Note** - The Philip's Fast which begins after the feast of St. Philip, is a 40 day period of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the Nativity/Theophany cycle of the Church year. It was once a period of strict fasting which has now been abrogated in favor of voluntary fasting and works of penance - fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 - VETERANS' DAY: Veterans Day honors all of those who have served our country in war or peace — dead or alive. Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day founded on November 11, 1918) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans, that is, persons who have served in the United States Armed Forces, a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace.

This day is celebrated in other countries as well that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I - "**the war to end all wars.**" President Woodrow Wilson in his message to his countrymen on the first Armistice Day remarked "**To us in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service, and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations.**"

Let us not forget all those who have fought for the freedoms we so cherish and enjoy.

Eternal Memory !

!



PHILIP FAST PARISH PROJECT FOOD DRIVE

This year has proved to be a challenging time. As a parish community we have been Blessed through the Grace of God during these difficult days.

Shortly we will begin to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord. On November 15, we will begin the prayerful fasting period of the **“Philip Fast / Pylypywka”**. Along with our daily prayer and fasting during the Fast period we should be mindful of those less fortunate, those who continue to suffer during this time. ***(Please check out our Bishop’s post-synodal message “You will be left with one thing - what you gave to the poor!” at <https://docs.ugcc.ua/1490/>) This is on our parish web site in both Ukrainian and English***

This year we will be doing a ‘daily’ collection, starting with the first day of the Philip Fast, November 15, and following the calendar leading up to a few days before Christmas Eve (December 21). Each day you are asked to put aside an item dried food items and canned goods. At the end of each week you may bring your selection to Church where they will be held until we prepare all donations for delivery to Assumption Parish here in Ansonia for their food pantry.

We sincerely hope each and every one will participate in this daily collection project. If for some reason it is too difficult for your collecting items daily, we ask that you help in any way you can.

**Holodomor The Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, of 1932–33
Bring food as you would feed those who are dying from the
Famine- Genocide. Also food as if you were feeding those
in 1947 dying because of Akcja Wisla. I know that there
are those in the parish who suffered personally.**

We seek to direct our gaze to the suffering poor man, the UKRAINIAN Greek Catholic Church bishops

in a post-synodal message

In the first part of the message, the bishops recall that Heavenly Father Himself, in whose heart the poor have a special place, through the prophet Isaiah, calls us to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke, to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood.

The bishops see the example of the Good Samaritan, which is worth following, as relevant in this context.

"In order not to turn our hearts away from the suffering brothers and sisters who are close to us, we want, imitating the merciful Samaritan, to stop before human misery and bow over it in the gesture of merciful and compassionate love that the Lord infuses into our souls by His Spirit," reads the message.

In the document, the bishops of the UGCC, following the Holy Father Francis, gave an open list of pain and suffering, which, as they say, from centuries to the present is supplemented by specific and painful experiences of each nation, each family, and each person:

- the poverty of those who suffer - physically, morally, or mentally;
- the poverty of the marginalized, lonely, rejected, and ignored by society;
- the poverty of victims of abuse of power and influence;
- the poverty of those who are exploited for profit and trampled upon by the distorted logic of power and money;
- the poverty of those doomed to exile, persecution and torture, and prisoners;
- poverty of victims of war, conflicts, terrorism;
- poverty of those who are deprived of freedom, rights, and dignity;
- the poverty of illiteracy and ignorance that keeps millions of young minds and souls in the dark;

- the poverty of intellect and culture, which offers a low-level surrogate, instead of elevating a person to the heights of the spirit;
- poverty of spirit, closed to God's reality, deprived of the light of faith and knowledge of Christ the Savior;
- the moral poverty of those immersed in sin and enslaved by disordered desires;
- poverty of the unemployed who are deprived of medical and basic social care;
- poverty of refugees, migrants, migrant workers, homeless people, etc.

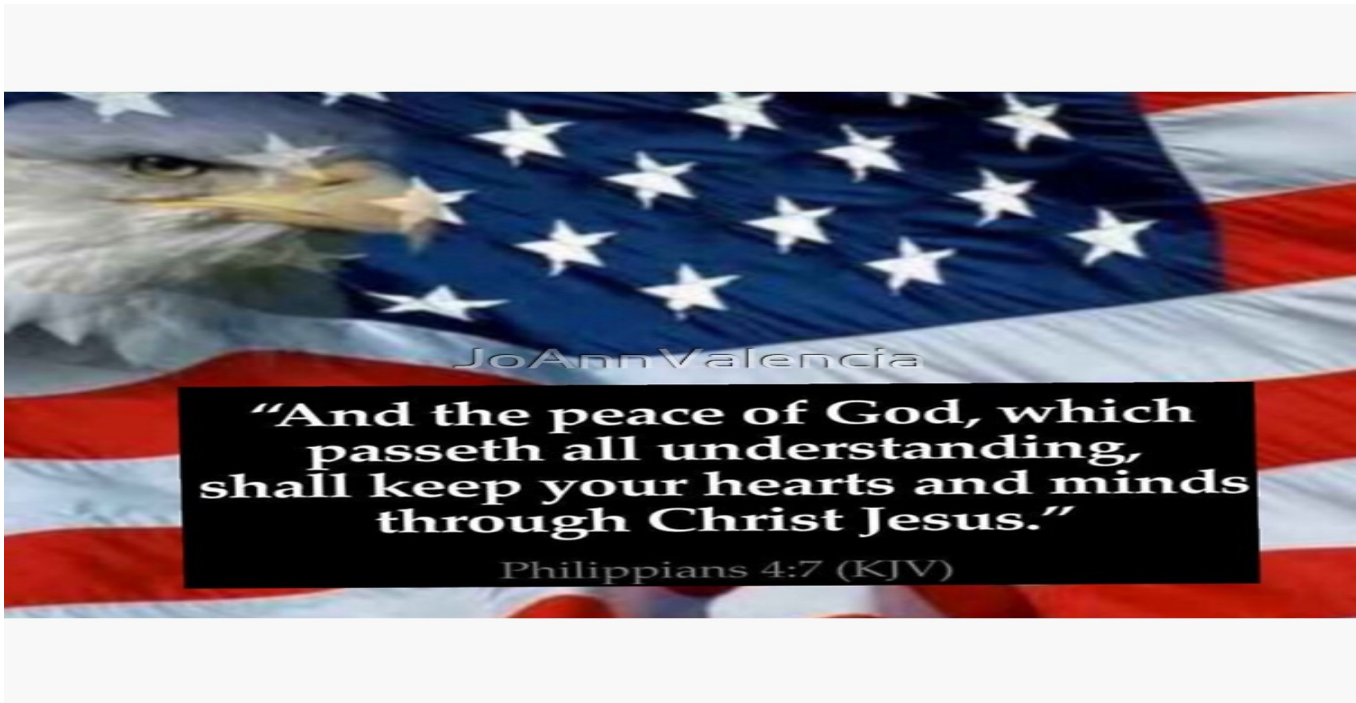
Contemplating these many manifestations of poverty, the bishops recall the invitation of the Holy Father to recognize in the faces of the poor of this world the present Christ, in order to lean over them and extend a hand of compassion and help, to pour the oil of consolation and merciful love on the wounds of humanity.

The full text of the Message of the Synod of Bishops of the UGCC "You will be left with one thing - what you gave to the poor!" can be found here: <https://docs.ugcc.ua/1490/>

Thought for Today:
Dear Veterans,
Those of us who have not served
will never fully understand
the sacrifices you've made
both in times of peace and of war.
We will never fully understand
what you were required to do
or how you were able to do it.
We will never fully understand
the depth of your scars.
But what we can offer you is this:
We see you.
We recognize your humanity.
And we send you Love
that is gentle, patient and healing.
With Blessings and Gratitude,
we ask that you remember you are loved.
Thank you.



<p>CUTTING EDGE LANDSCAPING, LLC</p>		<p><i>Little Angels Home Care LLC</i></p> <p>Providing: Elderly Care, Hourly, Companion, Live-in Caregivers, Weekends Reg.# HCA0000732</p> <p> Ewa Grzymala</p> <p>240 Myrtle Street • Shelton, CT 06484 203-278-1436 www.littleangels-homecare.com E: littleangelshomecare48@yahoo.com</p> <p>We take Long Term Life Ins. & State Cases</p>
	<p>WAKELEE MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME John S. Zaleski Director Virginia K. Hylwa Administrator</p> <p>203.734.1490 <i>Parishioners Serving Parishioners Over 80 Yrs</i></p> <p></p>	
<p>Support those who advertise in our bulletin!</p>		<p>Support those who advertise in our bulletin!</p>
<p>For your AD info, message Call 203-734-3895 or YoungE8073@aol.com</p>		<p>For your AD info, message Call 203-734-3895 or YoungE8073@aol.com</p>





**PHILIP'S FAST (PYLYPIVKA)
PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A.**



**PHILIP'S FAST (PYLYPIVKA) PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE
U.S.A. TO OUR CLERGY, HIEROMONKS AND BROTHERS, RELIGIOUS SISTERS, SEMINARIANS
AND BELOVED FAITHFUL,**

Glory to Jesus Christ!

St. Philip's Fast or Pylypivka is about to start. It is a joyful 40-day fast, which begins on November 15, the day after the feast of the apostle St. Philip, and lasts until December 24, Christmas Eve. This fast is meant to prepare us spiritually for the great and solemn holyday – the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the time given to us to deepen our understanding and awareness of God's mystery – the Incarnation of the Son of God and the coming of the Messiah, the King of Peace, Emmanuel and the Light of the world. It is time for us to find and rediscover true joy of the Nativity of Our Lord through prayer, meditation, and acts of charity, not like it is in the artificial atmosphere of Christmas parties, buying and exchanging gifts and enjoying specially prepared holiday delicacies.

We may think that the coming of Christ is a completed event and a historical fact of the past, and the anticipation of His coming is only symbolic for us. It is not! Christ always comes to us. He is constantly born spiritually in the heart of every person who believes and expects Him. He comes to us in prayer and the Holy Mysteries, especially in Holy Confession and Communion. Today He comes to be with us and among us.

This year, St. Philip's Fast and the understanding of the coming of Christ and His presence among us takes on a special meaning and significance for us. In the midst of the relentless COVID-19 pandemic, the suffering of many from this deadly illness, often resulting in the sad and tragic loss of family members and friends, political discord and instability, riots, wars and human rights abuses around the world, we are thirsty for a deep awareness and conviction that Christ the Lord is truly present among us and that His grace is life-giving and necessary.

St. Philip's Fast recalls for us the Old Testament and the world, which froze in anticipation of the coming of Christ, the Light of the world. We will hear readings from the books of the ancient prophets Nahum, Habakkuk, Daniel, and Isaiah, who prophesied of His coming eight centuries before He was born. They wrote that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, about the escape of the Holy Family to Egypt and the return to Nazareth, about His healing of the sick, about His rejection by the chosen people, about His betrayal and taking thirty silver pieces by one of the apostles, about His crucifixion among robbers, about His side being pierced, about His Resurrection and Ascension to Heaven. Later, the holy evangelists, while writing the Gospels inspired by the Holy Spirit, will include these prophecies to show us that Jesus Christ is the Messiah that everyone expected and that He is truly the Son of God.

The story of salvation does not end with the coming of Christ over 2,000 years ago, but it continues to this very day. We are all awaiting His second coming, which He Himself prophesied, and it will be very different from the first. When Christ comes a second time, everyone will recognize Him. During His first coming, He was not loved but was rejected. When He comes a second time, all the tribes will acknowledge Him as Lord. During His second coming, He will also be accompanied by the angels. During His first coming, He entered the world as a helpless baby in the manger. When He comes a second time, He will come as the King of kings and Lord of lords. That is why the expectation of the coming of Christ is not and cannot be symbolic, but is a completely genuine event – He will come a second time.

During the Christmas fast, let us prepare spiritually for His coming. Create a prayer corner in your home and display an icon of the Nativity of Christ, meditating daily on the mystery of the coming of the Messiah. Let us receive the Mysteries of Holy Confession and Holy Communion during these days, especially if we did not have the opportunity to do so during Great Lent. Let us abstain from meat on Fridays, overeating and excessive use of the Internet. Let us be generous with our time and talents and serve the poor and disadvantaged as much as we can. Let us reconcile with those whom we have offended and those who have offended us. Let us always be aware that Jesus Christ will come a second time as our Lord and Judge, though “of that day and hour no one knows.” (Matt. 24:36).

May you and your family be blessed by Our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, whose joyful Nativity in the manger of Bethlehem we patiently await!

+**Borys Gudziak**, Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States

+**Paul Chomnycky, OSBM**, Eparch of Stamford

+**Benedict Aleksiychuk** , Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago

+ **Bohdan J. Danylo**, Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma

+**Andriy Rabiy (author)**, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

November, 2020



Let us journey towards
the Feast of the Nativity
with joyous hearts!
Fast not only from food,
but also from hatred and fear.
Bring forth goodness
and kindness to all.
Forgive. Be generous.
In all things, give glory to God.