

MEATFARE SUNDAY



Icon of the Last Judgment

February 23, 2014

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE – TONE 7

THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR POLYCARP, BISHOP OF SMYRNAL

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 2

SATURDAY, MARCH 1 – THE VENERABLE MARTYR EUDOKIA OF HELIOPOLIS

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MARCH 2 – SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE. THEODOTUS, BISHOP AND MARTYR

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for all parishioners

Today is **Stewardship Sunday**. All pledge forms that were placed in the basket will remain on the altar during the Great Fast. If you did not bring your form today, please bring it next week or mail them to the parish church this week and it will be added to the basket.

“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...” Matthew 5:44

Love your enemies, easier said than done, no doubt. But, remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from “me” and moves it towards God and others. It allows us to have a little more empathy for “our enemy”. When we pray for others, even “our enemies”, maybe it softens their hearts as well.

UCARE LUNCHEON

On Sunday, March 9, a luncheon will be served after the Divine Liturgy. Cost: Free-will donation for UCARE. The Luncheon will be prepared by youth of our community. UCARE’s primary focus is to aid orphaned Children in Ukraine.

SHEVCHENKO COMMEMORATION

Mark the Date: House of Ukraine invites you to commemorate Taras Shevchenko on Sunday, March 9 at 1:00 PM in our church hall.

Today is our first “**Soup’s On**” Sunday. On the last Sunday of each month we will have a soup lunch available. A freewill offering is asked with the proceeds going to pay the mortgage. If you would like to volunteer to provide the soup for a future Sunday, please talk to Olga Miller or Olena Bankston.

Looking Ahead:

- ❖ March 2nd – Cheesefare Sunday – Cheesy Pot-Luck followed by Forgiveness Vespers
- ❖ March 3rd – The Great Fast Begins
- ❖ March 15th – 2nd All Souls Saturday
- ❖ March 22nd – 3rd All Souls Saturday
- ❖ March 23rd – Sunday of the Holy Cross
- ❖ March 25th – Annunciation

Please consider adding "donate blood" to your "to-do" list – you'll save 3 lives! Today the demand for blood is increasing while blood donation levels are decreasing. The GIFT OF LIFE is a present that cannot be bought and wrapped. An hour of your time can give someone a LIFETIME.

Did You Know??

- A donation is one unit. The average person has 10-12 units.
- The body begins replenishing the lost fluid and red cells at once after donating.
- Blood has a shelf life of 42 days and donors can give only every 56 days. As a result, there is a critical lapse between the time when blood expires and donors can donate again.

February 23, 2014

Holy Priest-Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

Polycarp, this great apostolic man, was born a pagan. St. John the Theologian converted him to the Faith of Christ and baptized him. In his childhood, Polycarp became an orphan and according to a vision in a dream Callista, a noble widow, took him as her own son, raised and educated him. From his childhood Polycarp was devout and compassionate. He strove to emulate the life of St. Bucolus, then the Bishop of Smyrna, as well as the holy Apostles John and Paul, whom he knew and heard. St. Bucolus ordained him a presbyter and before his death, Bucolus designated him as his successor in Smyrna. The apostolic bishops, who gathered at the funeral of Bucolus, consecrated Polycarp as bishop. From the very beginning, Polycarp was gifted with the power of working miracles. He expelled an evil spirit from the servant of a prince and through prayer stopped a terrible fire in Smyrna. Upon seeing this, many pagans regarded Polycarp as one of the gods. He brought down rain in times of drought, healed illnesses, discerned, prophesized and so forth. He suffered during the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius. Three days before his death, St. Polycarp prophesized: "In three days, I will be burned

in fire for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ!" And on the third day when the soldiers arrested him and brought him to trial, he cried out: "Let this be the will of the Lord my God." When the judge counseled him to deny Christ and to acknowledge the Roman gods, Polycarp said: "I cannot exchange the better for the worse!" The Jews especially hated Polycarp and endeavored to have Polycarp burned alive. When they placed him bound at the stake, he prayed to God for a long while. He was very old, grey and radiant as an angel. The people witnessed how the flame encircled him but did not touch him. Frightened by such a phenomenon, the pagan judges ordered the executioner to pierce him with a lance through the fire. When he was pierced, so much blood flowed from him that the entire fire was extinguished, and his body remained whole and unburned. At the persuasion of the Jews, the judge ordered Polycarp's lifeless body be incinerated according to the custom of the Hellenes. So the evil ones burned the dead body of the lifeless one whom they could not burn while alive. St. Polycarp suffered on Great and Holy Saturday in the year 167 A.D. (*Prologue of Ohrid*)

Hold me worthy, O Lord, to behold your mercy in my soul before I depart from this world; may I be aware in myself at that hour of your comfort, along with those who have gone forth from this world in good hope.

Open my heart, O my God, by your grace and purify me from any association with sin.

Tread out in my heart the path of repentance, my God and my Lord, my hope and my boast, my strong refuge, by whom may my eyes be illumined, and may I have understanding of your truth, O Lord.

Hold my worthy, Lord, to taste the joy of the gift of repentance, by which the soul is separated from cooperating with sin and the will of flesh and blood. Hold my worthy, O Lord, to taste this state, wherein lies the gift of pure prayer.

O my Saviour, may I attain to this wondrous transition at which the soul abandons this visible world, and at which new stirrings arise on our entering into the spiritual world and the experience of new perceptions.

St. Isaac the Syrian



METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA

Ukrainian Catholic
827 North Franklin Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123-2097
Phone (215) 627-0143 Fax (215) 627-0377
ukrmet@catholic.org

No. 125/2014 O

This Number Should be Prefixed to Your Reply

Office of the Metropolitan

Statement of Metropolitan Stefan Soroka on the Violence in Ukraine

Throughout the world, people are watching in horror at the surreal scenes of violence and brutality on the streets of Kyiv and other cities throughout Ukraine. The images of confrontation and killing, of widespread fires and billowing smoke against a darkened night sky, and the winter air punctuated by the staccato sounds of gunfire and explosive devices are seared in many of our hearts and minds.

During these troubled times, may we all be inspired with the words of the Psalmist: “May the Lord give strength to His people; may the Lord bless His people with peace.” (Psalm 29:11).

As people of faith, it is times as these, when we raise our voices in prayer to Almighty God. “May the Lord strengthen His people with courage and fortitude as they endure the suffering and mourn the loss of their loved ones. May He strengthen His people in Ukraine and guide them to a peaceful resolution of this conflict and open their minds to dialogue and reconciliation. May they end the divisive violence and restore tranquility to their nation.”

As followers of Jesus Christ, all of us should reflect on the emphasis of Our Lord on peace in His teaching and in His actions. Our Lord taught us on the Mount, “Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” Before the Last Supper, He told His disciples, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” (Jn 14:27). And after His resurrection, He greeted His disciples with the words: “Peace be with You. (Jn 20:19).

When we gather in prayer as a parish family, we begin the Divine Liturgy with the words “In peace let us pray to the Lord” and continue with prayerful petitions for peace. And several times during the Divine Liturgy the celebrant blesses the faithful with the words of Our Lord, “Peace be with all.” And as we leave our churches we hear the words, “Let us go forth in peace.”

During these troubling and disturbing times, as many are thinking about family and friends in Ukraine or others are filled with anxiety about the events in their ancestral homeland, we implore our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to grant us His peace. May His peace enable us to be not afraid. (Jn 6:20)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we raise our voices in fervent prayer, may the Most Holy Mother of God extend Her protective mantle over the people of Ukraine. And may the Lord bless Ukraine and the whole world with His peace.

+Stefan Soroka

Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians
Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States

February 20, 2014



METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA

Ukrainian Catholic
827 North Franklin Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123-2097
Phone (215) 627-0143 Fax (215) 627-0377
ukrmet@catholic.org

No. 125/2014 O

This Number Should be Prefixed to Your Reply

Office of the Metropolitan

Звертання Митрополита Стефана щодо Зростаючого Насилля в Україні

Цілий світ спостерігає та дивиться з жахом на світліни насилля та знущань, які відбуваються на вулицях Києва та інших міст України. Ці картини протистояння та вбивств, широкопоширених вогнів та чорні стовпи диму на виді темного нічного неба, зимове повітря пронизане страхітливими звуками пострілів та вибухових приладів вже закарбувалися в багатьох наших серцях та пам'яті.

У ці непрості часи, нехай нам пригадаються слова Псалмопівця, “Нехай Господь народів своєму дасть силу, Господь благословить народ свій миром” (Псалом 29:11).

Саме в такі часи, ми як християни і люди віри в Бога, повинні знести свої голоси в молитві до Всевишнього Бога з проханнями, “Нехай Господь зміцнить людей своїх у мужності та відважності тепер як вони терплять і оплакують загибель своїх рідних. Нехай Він підтримає людей в Україні і поведе їх до мирного вирішення цього протистояння та відкриє їхні серця до діалогу та примирення. Нехай закінчиться цей розбрат і насилля та прийде спокій нашому народові.”

Як учні і послідовники Христові, всі повинні задуматися над наукою Христа про мир у Його повчаннях та ділах. Наш Господь вчив нас у Нагірній Проповіді, “Благословенні миротворці, бо синами Божими назвуться.” Перед Тайною Вечерею, Він говорив своїм учням, “Мир залишаю вам, мій мир даю вам” (Йоан 14:27). А також після свого Воскресіння, Він привітав апостолів словами, “Мир вам!” (Йоан 20:19).

Кожного разу як ми збираємося в церквах на відправу, Служба Божа завжди розпочинається словами, “В мирі, Господеві помолімся” та продовжуємо молитовними проханнями за мир. І навіть пізніше під час Служби Божої, священослужитель благословляє декілька разів словами, “Мир всім”. І наприкінці, перед заамвонною молитвою і як закінчити Службу Божу, він заохочує, “В мирі вийдім”.

У цей страшний і неспокійний час коли ми хвилюємося за народ України, особливо за наших рідних, близьких та знайомих, і сповнені страху та переживань, припадьмо і закличмо до Господа нашого Ісуса Христа подати нам миру. І нехай цей Його мир забере від нас страх! (Йоан 6:20)

Мої дорогі брати і сестри у Христі, як ми молимося наполегливо і нескінчено, нехай наша Пресвята Божа Мати простягне свій омофор над нашим українським народом. І нехай Господь Бог благословить Україну та весь світ і запанує мир, Його мир!

+Стефан Сорока
Архиєпископ Філадельфійський для Українців
Митрополит для Українців-Католиків в Сполучених Штатах Америки

February 20, 2014

An e-mail from Michael Petrovych, Professor of Liturgy at the Ukrainian Catholic University and father of Justin Petrovych who is studying here in San Diego.

Dear friends,

A lot has changed these past few days:

The day before yesterday saw an unprecedented escalation in sniper fire, killing about 35-45 unarmed demonstrators, which was the last straw that provoked the "defense" branch of the demonstrators to reply with firearms.

This took the gov't forces by surprise and they temporarily retreated.

The president, playing the "good tsar" or "the idiot", announced a day of mourning for the dead, but the next day there were another couple of dozen casualties.

The president was not appearing in public for several days, and by some miracle parliament ordered the gov't forces out of the city, which really happened.

The protesters, having sent back to their homes 60-70 of the fallen in coffins, responded that if the president did not resign the next morning they would storm the presidential administrative center. The president still did not appear in public so parliament (where, again, miraculously, a re-shuffling of the majority happened) voted a return to a parliamentary (not presidential) regime. Nobody knows where the president is, but he is allegedly hoping to rally forces in the pro-Russian provinces bordering with Russia, where shooting is still continuing.

This morning Lviv had funeral services for our deceased – one was a 17-year old who just arrived at the Kyiv Maidan Square an hour before a sniper got him; another was a lecturer of history at our university, engaged to marry next month.

As they carried out the coffin of the lecturer after the service, the hundreds of people present started singing the national anthem and other patriotic songs, chanting "Heroes do not die!"

I could not keep myself from crying a flood of tears, not so much because of the hurt of the tragedy (I barely knew the victim), but simply realizing the immense power these seemingly senseless and powerless deaths were having to sweep away the whole criminal clan called the presidential administration and ruling party.

And I have no doubt it will happen and is happening. And strangely, part of my uncontrolled emotion was because I would have gladly been in his place, if I had no family I was responsible for, realizing this death probably did more to change Ukraine for the better than I did in the past 20 years... a thought which strangely, does not depress, but empowers me to do my job better.

Thanks for bearing with this sharing,
Michael

What are Meatfare (2/23) and Cheesefare (3/2) Sundays?

These are the final days we partake of meat and dairy products, respectively, until Pascha. During the week before Great Lent, called Cheese-week, though we aren't partaking of meat anymore, dairy products are permitted on every day, including Wednesday and Friday. This week is given to help transition us into the Great Fast.

Questions Regarding Keeping the Fast?

If you have any questions about fasting this Great Lent, for the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, or health concerns, or perhaps something else that is on your mind, please consider talking to Fr. James.

The Rite of Forgiveness – Sunday, March 2nd

The day before the start of the Great Fast is called Forgiveness Sunday, for on this day we ask each other's forgiveness, remembering that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another.

The First Week of the Fast: Clean Week – March 28th

There are services offered during the week, which help us enter into the unique character of the Lenten season. These special services include the Great Canon of Repentance and the Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts. Be sure to rearrange your schedule to receive the grace offered during this holy week. Let us make a good beginning!

Memorial Saturdays

On Saturdays during the Great Fast we remember those who have departed this life before us in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Memorial services will be offered during which the names of our departed family members and friends are commemorated. If you have not yet submitted a list for commemoration, please see Fr. James.

Please Note:

When you are away, please don't forget that the church still relies on your contributions. Our bills do not go on vacation. Your absence on any Sunday does not negate your obligation to support your home parish.

Sunday offering for February 16

Amount	Number
\$5.00	1
\$6.00	1 (loose)
\$10.00	3
\$20.00	5
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	1
\$75.00	1
\$100.00	2
\$200.00	1
\$250.00	1
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$1296.00	

Parishioner Total: \$1261.00
Visitor Total: \$35.00

Average / parish household (42): \$30.76
Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00
Deficit: **(\$864.00)**

Pastor:

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

Pastoral Council:

Frank Avant: (760) 805-1667

Vladimir Bachynsky:

(619) 865-1279

Mark Hartman: (619) 446-6357

Luke Miller: (858) 354-2008

Jeanine Soucie: (718) 674-4529

Social Committee Chairpersons:

Olga & Michael Miller:

(858) 483-3294

Finance Committee:

Bohdan Knianicky: (619) 303-9698

Frank Avant: (760) 805-1667



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston
frjames@mac.com

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

I was Hungry

You see, my beloved, there is no excuse for it. They knew what they had to do in this world. But greed and ill-will prevented them, so they laid up for themselves not treasures for the future but the world of the dead. Neither were they condemned because of the active wrong they did, nor did the Lord say to them: depart from me, you wicked, because you committed murder or adultery or theft. But instead: because I was hungry and thirsty in my servants, and you did not minister to me. If those who did no wrong are thus condemned, what must be said of those who do the works of the devil? Will not the prophecy of blessed David come upon them: "The wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous?" Not that they will not rise, but that neither in judgment [nor in] the congregation of the righteous do they deserve to enter. They will stand, however, so that from

punishment they may enter into punishment." And they will go into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Whatever will be is everlasting. Sinners will have everlasting punishment; and the righteous, everlasting life.

St. Epiphanius the Latin

Do you wish to honor the body of Christ? Do not ignore Him when He is naked. Do not pay Him homage in the temple clad in silk, only then to neglect Him outside where He is cold and ill-clad. He who said: "This is my body" is the same who said: "You saw me hungry and you gave me no food" and, "Whatever you did to the least of my brothers you did also to me." ... What good is it if the Eucharistic table is overloaded with golden chalices when your brother is dying of hunger? Start by satisfying his hunger and then with what is left you may adorn the altar as well.

St. John Chrysostom