



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIZER

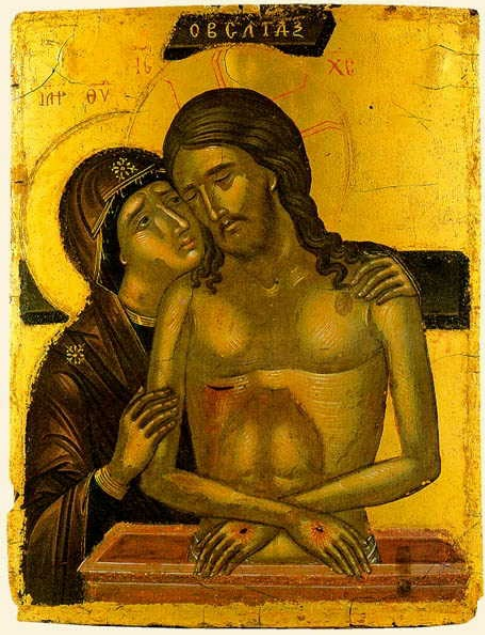
Українська Католицька Парохія

Березень 2023 March

Parish Newsletter | Парафіяльний вісник

Volume 1 | Issue 7

Serving San Diego County & Southern California Since 1960



Parish Information:

Divine Liturgy:
Every Sunday at 10:30 AM

Sunday Liturgy Address:
3266 Nutmeg St.
San Diego, CA 92104

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 3116
La Mesa, CA 91941

Parish Administrator:
Fr. Yurii Sas - О. Юрій Сас
Cell: (917) 224-0904
pastor@stjohnthebaptizer.org

Confessions:
Before and after each service or by
appointment

Website and Social Media:
www.stjohnthebaptizer.org
[/stjohnthebaptizersandiego](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnthebaptizersandiego)
[@stjohnthebaptizer](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnthebaptizer)

Future Church Address:
9308 Carlton Oaks Dr.
Santee, CA 92071

About Us:

We are a Ukrainian Catholic parish community serving God and neighbor in San Diego County and Southern California since 1960. Our parishioners come from all walks of life and backgrounds yet together we are united by a common cause: living our faith in Jesus Christ.

Church Calendar | Церковний календар

March 5: Second Sunday of Great Lent, St. Gregory of Palamas
6 березня: Неділя 2-га Великого посту, Св. Григорія Палами

March 12: Third Sunday of Great Lent, Veneration of the Holy Cross
12 березня: Неділя 3-тя Великого посту, Хрестопоклонна

March 14: St. Benedict (Our Bishop's Name Day)
14 березня: Прп. Венедикта (Іменини нашого владики)

March 19: Fourth Sunday of the Great Lent: St. John of the Ladder
19 березня: Неділя 4-та Великого посту, Преп. Івана Ліствичника

March 25: Annunciation of the Mother of God
25 березня: Благовіщення Пресвятої Богородиці і Приснодіви Марії

March 26: Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, St. Mary of Egypt, Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel
26 березня: Неділя 5-та Великого посту, Преп. Марії Єгипетської, Собор архангела Гавриїла

Lenten Calendar | Календар Великого посту

Every Monday/Кожного понеділок at 8:30 pm: Вервиця | Rosary on Facebook Messenger Group "Вервичка Сан Дієго"

Every Wednesday/Кожного середи at 7:30 pm: Хресна дорога | Way of the Cross – Streamed on Parish Facebook Page

3/10 & 3/24 at 6:00 pm: Хресна дорога | Way of the Cross at Land in Santee

3/17 at 6:00 pm: Хресна дорога | Way of the Cross at Carmel Mission Park

**PRAY
FOR
UKRAINE**

Highlights from Recent Parish Life

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023		
Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD) Adapted by Fr Vitalii Stashkevych (BCC) for the Gregorian Calendar		
SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week JANUARY 29 TH	 Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 5 TH	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 12 TH FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesehare FEBRUARY 19 TH FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1 ST Sunday of Lent FEBRUARY 26 TH	 SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2 ND Sunday of Lent MARCH 5 TH	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3 RD Sunday of Lent MARCH 12 TH	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4 TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 19 TH	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5 TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 26 TH	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2 ND GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 7 TH	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 9 TH NO FASTING!	 HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

+ Successful and widely attended Parish "Sviat Vechir"/Christmas Eve Holy Supper at the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park.

+ New Mission Community is established in Orange County which is served by our parish. Fr. Yurii Sas celebrated the first Divine Liturgy on Saturday, January 7th in Dana Point. Liturgies are now held on the first Saturday of each month.

+ Parish children and youth did "Kolyada" – singing of traditional Christmas Carols house-to-house on Saturday, January 7th. For the first time in many years!

+ The Arroyo and Sementsiv family welcomed baby Roman into their family who was baptized and chrismated in February.

+ On Sunday, February 26th our parish hosted House of Ukraine's memorial to remember all those killed by Russia in their horrific, genocidal invasion of Ukraine.

Building Project Update – Early March 2023

Monday, October 24th we submitted our Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to the City of Santee, which was deemed complete. + Wednesday, November 23rd the City of Santee came back with their comments. + In December, our designated city planner Chris Jacobs retired and we were assigned new city planner, Michael Payne. + In mid January, the day-to-day of our application process was subcontracted to Reina Schaeztl of Interwest in Orange County. + We have decided to keep the top height at 25 feet in order to not file a height variance. Our original plans had height at 28.5 feet. + Reina has determined we do not need to file a parking variance as our parking is set by environmental requirements due to the drainage ditch on the west side of the property. Do not need parking variance due to enviro requirements in relation to storm drain. + We decided on a "serving kitchen" as opposed to a "commercial kitchen." A commercial kitchen would be restaurant grade and require grease traps, extra plumbing, much large square footage, etc. A serving kitchen will easily fulfill our parish needs. + The City will provide labels to notify neighbors of our project. We have to notify within a 300 feet radius. A title company will provide the official list. + Our parish signed a contract with Architect Steve Murray who is in Riverside. Services he is providing: construction drawings, engineering drawings, plumbing plans, electrical plans, Title 24 compliance documents. We also signed another contract with designer Bob Latsko. Bob is an architect but not in the State of California. He is doing all the design work which Steve will turn into construction documents. + The Georges received the first set of drawings this past week from Architect Steve Murray. + Our civil engineer Jose Gomez and Landscape Architect Sean Clarke are making tweaking for our resubmittal of the CUP. + We are planning to resubmit our CUP the week of March 20th. + We are tracking to break ground early Summer – God willing!

Lenten Letter of the Ukrainian Catholic Hierarchy of the USA - 2023

“Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean” (Mt. 8:2)

For the people of the ancient world, the most dreaded disease was undoubtedly leprosy. It was an incurable and pervasive disease that slowly spread over the body, covering it with painful, unsightly ulcers and condemning all who contracted it to horrible suffering and death. It was a merciless illness that honored no boundaries, ravaging the lives of everyone it touched: male and female, young and old, educated and illiterate, saints, and criminals, rich and poor alike. It was literally impossible to move beyond its reach.

But perhaps the most feared aspect of leprosy was that it condemned those afflicted to live out their lives in isolation, separated from normal society, from their families and friends. Because the disease was so contagious, lepers were driven out of their homes and forced to live in colonies, far from populated areas so that they could not infect anyone else. Those with leprosy truly suffered what could be termed a living death.

Because of this people were mortally afraid of lepers and strove to keep them as far away as possible. In fact, if a leper happened to encounter a healthy person at any time, he was obliged to cry out: “Unclean, keep away”, in order to warn them not to approach.

Jesus must have encountered lepers many times during the course of his public life as an itinerant preacher. Fortunately for us, one of these encounters is recorded in the Gospels, and this chance meeting of Jesus with the leper holds deep meaning for us today and opens new horizons of hope and opportunities of healing.

We see that Jesus did not react like everyone else when he encountered this leper on the road. He did not turn away in fear and revulsion, he did not avoid him or ignore him as others did. Rather, he approached him, looking at him with love, treating him with the dignity of a child of God.

And the poor leper, overcome with disbelief and joy that anyone would address him in such a manner, dropped to his knees in front of Jesus and said: “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” And we read in the Gospel that Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man and said, “I am willing. Be clean!” (Mt. 8:3)

Is it not true, that we are very similar to this leper we see in the Gospel? Is it not true that our bodies, like his, are covered with sores, not necessarily physical sores, but wounds of the soul: sin, pride, jealousy, lust, hatred? And is it not also true that this spiritual disease has isolated us from each other and most importantly from God? Is it not true that many times, like the leper, we cry out to Jesus: “I’m unclean! Stay away! You cannot help me!”

Thankfully, we, as a Church, are entering a special time of the liturgical year that is designed especially to help us break down the barrier that our spiritual leprosy has erected between ourselves and God: the time of Great Lent.

How? By means of the spiritual tools and treasures the Church offers us during Great Lent: the unique liturgical services that we celebrate together in our churches, a more intense personal prayer regime, fasting from that which separates us from God, good works and acts of service to our neighbor, and, above all, the Holy Mysteries of Penance and the Holy Eucharist.

During Great Lent, Jesus approaches all of us who are sickened with the leprosy of sin and pride, much as he approached the leper on the road. And even though we may protest that we are unclean, that we are unworthy, or unable to change, Jesus knows differently. He knows that with but a touch of his hand, we will be healed.

Therefore, in the blessed weeks of Great Lent that lie ahead, let us cry out as did the leper: “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean!” Let Jesus approach us and allow His hand to touch the spiritual wounds which cause us so much pain and misery: the wounds of pride, lust, envy, and every other vice, and especially the spiritual and emotional wounds caused by the bloody war in Ukraine. Let us return from the isolation of our sinfulness to the loving embrace of the Father.

As we embark upon these blessed days, we your hierarchs in the United States, impart upon you the blessings of the Holy Spirit for a fruitful and blessed Lent as we journey together towards Pascha.

+Borys
Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia

+Benedict
Bishop of Chicago

+Paul, author
Bishop of Stamford

+Bohdan
Bishop of Parma

Пастирське послання ієрархів Української Католицької Церкви США на Великий Піст - 2023

«Господи, коли захочеш, зможеш мене очистити» (Мт. 8:2)

Без сумніву, для людей стародавнього світу проказа була найстрашнішою хворобою. Це була невиліковна та поширена хвороба, яка поступово поширювалася по тілу, покриваючи його хворобливими, бридкими виразками та прирікаючи всіх, хто заразився, на жахливі страждання та смерть. Це була безжальна хвороба, яка не зважала на кордони і руйнувала життя всіх, кого торкнулася: чоловіків і жінок, молодих і старих, освічених і неписьменних, святих і злочинців, багатих і бідних. Втекти від неї було неможливо.

Проте, мабуть, найстрашнішим аспектом прокази було те, що вона прирікала хворих на ізоляцію, відокремлення від нормального суспільства, від родини і друзів. Оскільки хвороба була дуже заразною, прокажених виганяли з їхніх домівок і змушували жити в колоніях, далеко від міст і сіл, щоб вони не могли нікого заразити. Хворі на проказу справді були живими мерцями.

Через це люди смертельно боялися прокажених і прагнули тримати від них осторонь. Якщо прокажений випадково зустрічав здорову людину, він був зобов'язаний крикнути: «Я нечистий, тримайся подалі», щоб попередити не наближатися.

Ісус, мабуть, неодноразово стикався з хворими на проказу впродовж свого публічного життя подорожнього проповідника. Одна з цих зустрічей описана в Євангелії, і вона глибоке значення для нас сьогодні, бо відкриває нові горизонти надії та можливості зцілення.

Коли Ісус зустрів на дорозі прокаженого, Він не відреагував так, як усі інші. Він не відвернувся зі страхом і відразою, не уникав, не ігнорував. Навпаки, Він підійшов, дивлячись на хворого з любов'ю, віддаючи йому належне гідності дитини Божої. І бідолашний прокажений, радіючи, що хтось так до нього звертається, долаючи недовіру, упав навколішки перед Ісусом і сказав: «Господи, коли захочеш, зможеш мене очистити». І ми читаємо в Євангелії, що Ісус простяг руку, доторкнувся до чоловіка і сказав: «Хочу, очисти́ся!» (Мт. 8:3)

Ми схожі на цього прокаженого, якого ми бачимо в Євангелії, чи не так? Чи не правда, що наші тіла теж вкриті виразками, не обов'язково фізичними: гріхом, гордістю, заздрістю, похиттю, ненавистю? І чи не правда, що ця духовна хвороба ізолювала нас один від одного, а головне від Бога? Чи не правда, що ми часто, як прокажений, кричимо до Ісуса: «Я нечистий! Тримайся подалі! Можеш допомогти!»

На щастя, ми, як Церква, входимо в особливий час літургійного року, призначений спеціально для того, щоб допомогти нам зруйнувати бар'єр, який наша духовна проказа поставила між нами та Богом — час Великого Посту.

Як це відбувається? За допомогою духовних інструментів і скарбів, які Церква пропонує нам під час Великого Посту: унікальні літургійні богослужіння, інтенсивніший режим особистої молитви, піст від того, що відділяє нас від Бога, добрі діла та служіння ближньому, а насамперед Святі Тайни Покаяння і Пресвятої Євхаристії.

Під час Великого посту Ісус наближається до нас, хворих на проказу гріха і гордині, так само, як Він підійшов до прокаженого на дорозі. І навіть, якщо ми відмовляємося і кричимо, що нечисті, негідні або не можемо змінитися, Ісус знає, що лише одним дотиком його руки ми будемо зцілені.

Тому протягом благословенної седмиці Великого посту, до якого ми наближаємося, взиваймо, як прокажений: «Господи, коли захочеш, зможеш мене очистити!» Дозвольмо Ісусові наблизитися до нас і дозвольмо Його руці торкнутися духовних ран, які завдають нам стільки болю і горя: гордості, пожадливості, заздрощів і всіх інших пороків, а особливо духовних і емоційних травм, спричинених кровопролитною війною в Україні. Повернімося від ізоляції наших гріхів до люблячих обіймів Отця.

Входячи в ці благословенні дні, ми, ваші єпископи в Сполучених Штатах Америки, уділяємо вам благословення Святого Духа на плідний і благословенний Великий піст, яким ми разом мандруватимемо до Великодня.

+Борис,
митрополит Української Католицької Церкви у США
архієпископ Філадельфійський

+Венедикт
єпископ Чиказької єпархії святого Миколая

+Павло, автор
єпископ Стемфордської єпархії

+Богдан
єпископ Пармської єпархії святого Йосафата

Head of Ukrainian Catholic Church reflects on one year of a ‘sacrilegious war

Adapted from Cindy Wooden – CNS, as published in America Magazine

ROME (CNS)—With the first anniversary of Russia’s large-scale invasion of Ukraine just days away, the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church spoke about gratitude and powerlessness in the face of a “blind, absurd, sacrilegious war.”

Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, major archbishop of Kyiv-Halych, spoke with a small group of reporters in Rome by Zoom Feb. 20 from Kyiv, a city he has left only a couple of times and only for a few days in the past year.

Like many Ukrainians who refuse to leave or have returned even to heavily damaged homes, the archbishop said, “I have a psychological difficulty in abandoning Kyiv. Everyone asks me to come for this conference or that visit, but I can’t leave Kyiv for more than a week. I am afraid something will happen” if he does leave.

Perhaps that is for the best, he said. “A bishop must live in his see.” As the archbishop was being interviewed, U.S. President Joe Biden was visiting Kyiv.

A year ago, as it appeared Russia was about to invade, all the embassies in Kyiv—except for those of the Vatican and Poland—moved operations to western Ukraine or to Poland, the archbishop said. “A year later, they’ve all returned and now the president of the United States has come.”

Archbishop Shevchuk said he obviously could not comment on the political or military importance of the visit of Biden or other world leaders, but “speaking in the name of common citizens, we feel like we have not been forgotten and abandoned.”

“It’s a great consolation that you have not abandoned us,” he said. “The Russian army condemned us to death. This solidarity, shown in the visits, gives us hope that the sentence will not be carried out and that we are able to survive, defend ourselves and build a free and democratic country.” A year after Russia started its all-out attack on Ukraine, Archbishop Shevchuk said he felt “joy and gratitude” that Ukraine is still there, that the Ukrainian church has found myriad ways to support the people and that Catholics around the globe have shown their solidarity, including concretely by sending aid.

But, he said, he also has experienced a great sense of impotence. “For the first time in my life, I’ve seen how modern weapons are able to destroy everything: life, cities, even the environment,” he said. “And in the face of this use of blind violence, the whole world has shown itself to be impotent.”

Yet, the archbishop said, “I am proud of my bishops, priests, monks and nuns who have seen Christ present in those people wounded by the war. We truly have met the living Christ in those who are hungry, without a home, without anything.”

Tens of thousands of people have turned to the church for material and spiritual help, he said. “They trust us completely; they have placed their lives completely in the hands of the church, and when I think about their total trust, it moves me. And I say, ‘Lord, give me the faith to entrust myself to you like these people are entrusting themselves to their pastors.’”

Father Vitaliy Zubak and St. Joseph Sister Darija Panast were injured by Russian artillery fire while delivering aid in late January, the archbishop said, but they are recovering. And, he said, a small community of Incarnate Word priests are still in a Russian-occupied town—the archbishop would not say which for their safety—where they live “clandestinely. It’s a miracle that they are still there. They cannot exercise their ministry, but they are there praying.”

The Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religions has identified about 500 churches, synagogues, temples and mosques that have been destroyed or heavily damaged in the fighting. Most of those are in eastern Ukraine where there were not many Catholics, Archbishop Shevchuk said.

The Ukrainian Catholic cathedral in Donetsk “is damaged, but still standing, although there are no priests left,” so no services are held inside, he said. Another 16 churches belonging to Eastern-rite Catholics have been damaged or destroyed.



Parish Accounting

2022 SUNDAY BASKET COLLECTION DECEMBER 2022

Dec. 4: General: \$541; Building: \$0; Coffee: \$112 (\$653)
Dec. 11: General: \$1,174; Building: \$290; Coffee: \$327 (\$1,791)
Dec. 18: General: \$4,495; Building: \$300; Coffee: \$125 (\$4,920)
Dec. 25: General: \$3,013; Building: \$1,490; (\$4,403)
Dec 2022.: General: \$9,223; Building: \$2,080; Coffee: \$564
Total Sunday Basket December 2022: \$11,867

2022 TOTALS*

General Fund: \$72,706; Building Fund: \$26,963; Coffee: \$5,887
Total 2022 Sunday Basket Collection: \$105,916
*Official totals to be produced by Parish Financial Council

JANUARY 2023

January 1: General: \$681; Building: \$210; (\$891)
January 8: General: \$1,076; Building: \$450; Coffee: \$101 (\$1,627)
January 15: General: \$624; Building: \$200; Coffee: \$120 (\$944)
January 22: General: \$970; Building: \$200; Coffee: \$90 (\$1,260)
January 29: General: \$847; Building: \$480; Coffee: \$83 (\$1,410)
January 2023.: General: \$4,198; Building: \$1,540; Coffee: \$394
Total Sunday Basket January 2023: \$6,132 (January 2022: \$5,967)

FEBRUARY 2023

Feb. 5: General: \$1,076; Building: \$650; Coffee: \$116 (\$1,842)
Feb. 12: General: \$1,030; Building: \$200; Coffee: \$110 (\$1,340)
Feb. 19: General: \$1,037; Building: \$300 (\$1,337)
Feb. 26: General: \$1,314; Building: \$1,370; Coffee: \$91 (\$2,775)
February 2023.: General: \$4,457; Building: \$2,520; Coffee: \$317
Total Sunday Basket February 2023: \$7,294 (February 2022: \$6,648)

May God reward your generosity! Ми дякуємо вам за вашу підтримку!

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support for Ukraine!

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Our parish thrives because of the love and generosity of parishioners, visitors, and friends of the parish. We invite you to join us as we begin our building project, serve our parishioners, and welcome new refugees from Ukraine so that our parish continues its 60+ year ministry in Southern California.

Join us on Sundays! If you're unable to be with us for Liturgy, we are grateful for your support through checks at our mailing address: PO Box 3116, La Mesa, CA 91941.

We're also on PayPal and Venmo
(@StJohnBaptizerUCC).



COMPLETE DOMESTIC & FOREIGN REPAIRS

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