

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF HOLY IMAGES



Icon of the Commemoration of the Restoration of Holy Images

March 6, 2022: First Sunday of the Great Fast		
Epistle: Heb. 11:24-26.32-12:2		Gospel: Jn. 1: 43-51
Mon., March 7	9:00	+ Mitch Linko (Telep Family)
Tues., March 8	9:00	+ Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck (Kushner Family)
Wed., March 9	6:00	Stations
Thurs., March 10	9:00	+ Joe Berta (Diane Hladick & Ernie)
Fri., March 11	6:00	Presanctified Liturgy
Sat., March 12	No Morning Divine Liturgy. 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Robert & Ilene Harris (Jule Harris)	
Sun., March 13	10:30	For Our Parishioners; Sorokousty

ARCHPRIEST DANIEL GUROVICH



In your Christian Charity, please remember in your prayers the soul of Rev. Archpriest Daniel Gurovich who fell asleep in the Lord this past Wednesday.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Father Dan (or “Danny”) as he was affectionately called by many close to him) served in the Byzantine Catholic Church before finally coming to the Archeparchy of Philadelphia in the 1980s. Initially brought on by Metropolitan Stephen (Sulyk) of blessed memory to help with the Archeparchial Tribunal for a short term, he was assigned to St. Josaphat’s Ukrainian Catholic Church

in Bethlehem, PA, where he faithfully served the people in that area of the Lehigh Valley for nearly forty years. He was well known by many clergy in the Ukrainian and Byzantine Catholic

Churches especially for his dry and sometimes biting sense of humor.

May God grant rest to the soul of his faithful servant, Presbyter Dan, and may his memory be eternal - вічна пам'ять!

PASTORAL LETTER FOR THE GREAT FAST

“A pure heart create in me, O God!”

(Ps. 50:10)

At the celebration of every matins service, we recite Psalm 50, the great penitential prayer of King David. King David was one of the most remarkable men who ever lived. He was a mighty warrior, a king, a prophet, a poet, a musician, a friend, and also a penitent. Throughout his life, David gave thanks to God for the many blessings he had received from Him. And when he sinned greatly, he prayed: “A pure heart create in me, O God!” He was aware that even his own repentance was a gift from God.

The most beautiful aspect of King David was not his many accomplishments and talents, but his simple and straight forward heart. The prophet Samuel said about him: “the Lord has sought out a man after His own heart and appointed him ruler of his people.” (1Sam 13:14)

Jesus is often called by the title “Son of David”. In his simplicity of heart, David was an appropriate ancestor of our Lord, because Jesus says to us: “Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of

heart, and you will find rest.” (Mt. 11:29) In Matthew’s Gospel, we read that when his enemies plotted to kill him, Jesus withdrew peacefully, and the evangelist goes on to say that this was a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah regarding the coming Messiah: “He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench.” (Is. 42:3)

What a beautiful virtue it is to have a simple and compassionate heart! The depraved heart is never simple. It is always grasping, always manipulative, always putting on an act. The depraved heart is never satisfied, never happy with itself, and habitually angry at the happiness and success of others.

But the simple heart is compassionate and is able to “rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep” and St. Paul writes. (Rm. 12:15) The simple heart is never lonely but finds companionship in everyone.

The time of Great Lent has lost its appeal and its relevance to many

in our modern society. Could it be because Great Lent is so simple, and the world now is so complicated? We are bombarded by information from all over the world that comes to us on our smart phones in the palm of our hand. They are constantly dinging with texts and alerts and updates, informing us of the latest piece of news that can't be missed, always accompanied by enticing advertisements to buy something to fulfill our desires.

Lent, on the other hand, is so very simple. Lent means giving things up instead of acquiring more things. It starts with the simple idea of giving up food. From there we can simplify other things in our life as well. We can turn off the twenty-four-hour news channel, switch off the cell phone for part of the day, and stop checking things online.

And with this extra time, what might we do? For starters we might spend time with the One who is most important, the One who made us and watches over us,

the One who desires us so lovingly.

We can read holy scripture and the lives of the saints. We can pray in church and at home. We can and must pray for our own conversion. We can pray for those we love and those in need. We can pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, because our peace-loving ancestral homeland has been forced yet again to defend herself against those who desire to enslave and destroy her. And we can pray for the conversion of those who harbor evil intentions for Ukraine.

God tells us in holy scripture that we cannot give ourselves a simple heart, only He has the power to do that for us. So, during this time of Great Lent let us beg God for a simple heart, a heart that does not deceive, a heart that is not greedy, a heart that rejoices in the good of others and weeps at their misfortunes, a heart that is pure and simple. Together with King David, let us pray: "A pure heart create in me, O God!"

+Borys Gudziak (Archbishop of Philadelphia)

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM (author & Eparch of Stamford)

+Benedict Aleksiychuk (Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago)

+ Bohdan J. Danylo (Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma)

+Andriy Rabiy (Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia)

IDENTITY - PART 4

How do we become a baptized Priest? We become a baptized Priest because of our anointing at Baptism.

So meaningful and rich is the rite of anointing at the Mystery (sacrament) of Baptism that, since along with a Prophet only a Priest and a king in the Bible were anointed, we can, therefore, say that at the most meaningful rite of anointing at Baptism we become not only a baptized Prophet, but also a baptized Priest. St. John Chrysostom, the great Father in the early Church said, "You were made a Priest at Baptism." and St. Augustine, another great Father in the early Church states, "All Christians are Priests."

If that is the case, then, how do we

live out our baptismal priesthood? We do so, above all by active participation in the offering of the Divine Liturgy in union with the community and with the ordained ministerial Priest. We display our baptismal priesthood by giving an example of personal prayer, devotional prayer, family prayer before an icon corner in the home, by making our home a domestic church, by living out the liturgical year with all of its Feast days. Living out our lives in such a way we can truly say with St. John Chrysostom that we were made a Priest at baptism.

by Fr. Walter J. Wysochansky
Part 4 of 5

SPIRITUAL REGULATIONS FOR THE GREAT FAST

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstinence from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the following are the minimal Lenten regulations today:

Abstinence from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of the Great Fast and on Good Friday.

Abstinence from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional to abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the

Great Fast.

Everyone should receive the Holy Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist during the period from the onset of Great Fast to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday.

The Fasting and Abstinence regulations are not binding on persons 60 or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe the fasting and

abstinence regulations.

All the faithful are urged to attend the Lenten services such as the Presanctified Liturgy, and the Commemoration of the Deceased (Sorokousty).

Such good deeds as almsgiving,

visitation of the sick, Bible reading and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life are most earnestly recommended to all the Faithful. This year, families are especially urged to pray together in the mornings and evenings.

DONATE TO HUMANITARIAN AID FUND FOR UKRAINE

The Metropolia of the Ukrainian Catholic Church that covers the territory of the United States invites you to make donations to the Humanitarian Aid Fund for Ukraine. This can be done as follows:

Write a check to the “Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia” and send it to the office at 810 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia PA 19123. Please write on the check “Humanitarian Aid Fund for Ukraine.”

You can also write a check to St. Cyril’s Church, leave your donation in the Collection Box, or drop it off at the Parish Rectory. All funds collected

at the Parish will be transferred to the Philadelphia Metropolia.

You can donate on the Philadelphia Archdiocese’s website www.ukrarcheparchy.us, and click on Donate through PAYPAL and select “WAR VICTIMS AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN UKRAINE.”

There are no small or large donations. But your donation can change someone’s life for the better. The Lord God will repay the happy donor a hundredfold. Pray for the people of the war victims! May the Lord bless you and our brothers and sisters in Ukraine!

LENTEN FOOD SALE

This year’s menu has some additional delicious options: pizza from Roseanna’s and pierogy from Little Spuds. Soups prepared by the chef of Bistro on the Hudson restaurant. BellaRose Food Truck will be offering several menu items. The flyer is attached to the bulletin. Due to the prohibitive cost of postage,

we will not be mailing the flyers, but are asking everyone to help distribute them. Please take some flyers to give to neighbors, take some to your workplace, your beautician’s shop, dentist’s/doctor’s office, etc. With everyone’s help, we can make this a very successful fundraiser.

ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by Eureka Hose Company No. 4 will be held Saturday March 5th at the Fire Station, 717 East Grant St., Olyphant. The Dinner will consist of pasta, meatballs, salad, dessert, bread and butter. As of now the Dinner will

be take out only due to Covid-19. Dinner will be served from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be obtained from any member or at the door the day of the Event. Proceeds will help offset expenses and firefighting equipment.

PIGS IN THE BLANKET DINNER

The Shopa Davey VFW Post 6082 in Peckville, PA, will be sponsoring a fundraiser of "Pigs in the Blanket" this Sunday, March 6, 2022. TAKEOUT ONLY, serving from 11:00 am to

3:00 pm, or until sold out. Open tot he public and tickets are \$12.00 per dinner. Available at the post at 123 Electric St., Peckville.

ST. JOSEPH DAY BREAKFAST

The Women's Society of St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church on North St. Frances Cabrini Avenue, West Scranton, is sponsoring its annual Takeout St. Joseph Day Breakfast, Sunday, March 20, 2022. Our abundant meal includes Eggs, scratch pancakes, Home Fries, Olives, HoneyBaked Ham & Breads.

9am-1pm. Adults \$10.00 and children age 6-10 \$6.00. Our fragrant St. Joseph Bread available in two loaf packages for \$5 until sold out. Tickets at the door. Pre-order preferred 570-468-0529, rectory 570-343-6092 or melkite.scranton@gmail.com. More info on facebook or melkitescranton.org.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of March 2022 is Team #3:

Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky, and Cheryl Matuszewski.

Sunday Collection for Feb. 26 & 27, 2022: \$

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Triumph of the True Faith

In one of the old churches of Istanbul, Turkey (formerly Constantinople), the local people had the habit of coming in and bowing to the back wall of the spacious church. No one knew why people did this, since the sanctuary was at the other end of the church. When the old church was renovated it was discovered that concealed beneath the centuries-old layers of drab plaster and paint was a beautiful icon of the Mother of God. Further investigation into the matter confirmed that the people had a local custom of revering the sacred icon - even after it had been covered over with plaster by the non-Christian people who had custody of the church for many years.

Perhaps it is that the radiance of the Holy Images of Christ, His Blessed Mother and all

the saints cannot lay concealed even under layers of plaster and centuries of persecution! On this day the Church celebrates the restoration of icons (first instituted in 842 AD) and the end of the Iconoclastic Heresy which raged for many years in the early church.

Once blessed, an icon becomes a sacred object and a meeting place between God and man. Each icon is a "window into Heaven" and a reflection of the radiant light that emanates from God. Therefore, when we pray before an icon of Christ it is as though we are standing before the Lord Himself. The same can be said of the holy images of all the saints. Let us remember, too, that we are also living icons of Christ and our light must shine upon others!