

MEATFARE SUNDAY



Icon of the Last Judgment

February 8, 2026: Sunday of Meat Fare

Epistle: 1 Cor. 8:8 - 9:2

Gospel: Mt. 25: 31-46

This Weekend	4:00 pm + Loretta Kovaleski (Rosemarie Sember) 10:30 For Our Parishioners
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Mon., Feb. 9	9:00 Intention Available: See Father Nestor
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Tues., Feb. 10	9:00 + George Danylak (Leo Danylak)
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Wed., Feb. 11	9:00 Intention Available: See Father Nestor
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Thurs., Feb. 12	9:00 + Stephen & Amelia Malinchak (Jule Harris)
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Fri., Feb. 13	9:00 Intention Available: See Father Nestor
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Sat., Feb. 14	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Gene Turko (John & Mary Ann Turko)
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Sun., February 15	10:30 For Our Parishioners
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LENTEN PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE USA 2026

As we enter the holy season of Great Lent, the Church once again invites us to walk a sacred path - a path from darkness into light, from sin into renewal, from spiritual cold into the warmth of God's love. Lent can never be constrained to a certain period of time marked in red on the liturgical calendar. It is a pilgrimage of the heart, a gradual return to God, and a preparation to encounter the radiant joy of the Resurrection.

This year, however, we begin our Lenten journey while our world trembles

under instability and suffering. Political tensions, both at home and abroad, social divisions, violence, uncertainty and moral confusion surround us. Our beloved ancestral homeland of Ukraine continues to endure the illegal invasion of a brutal foreign regime, which seeks not only to conquer territory but extinguish hope and life itself. The deliberate destruction of Ukraine's energy infrastructure, now, during the coldest winter experienced for many years - leaving cities and families in freezing darkness - is a cruel attempt

to break the spirit of a people.

Yet Lent reminds us that darkness is never final, cold is never interminable. Christ Himself entered the deepest and coldest night - betrayal, suffering, abandonment, death - so that He might fill the world with unquenchable light. What Russia attempts to impose externally upon Ukraine mirrors what sin attempts internally within every human soul: to isolate, to numb, to darken, to freeze the heart.

The Church, in Her wisdom, calls each of us to recognize the cold and darkness within ourselves. Sin slowly chills the heart. Pride hardens it. Indifference leaves it numb. Fear clouds it. Resentment darkens it. Just as winter robs the earth of warmth and light, so too, spiritual negligence robs the soul of grace. We may live in affluent comfort, yet our hearts can still grow cold. We may see the daylight but continue to walk in spiritual darkness.

Lent is God's springtime for the soul; it provides the antidote for what ails us if we take on the "easy yoke" of Lenten penitential practices prescribed by the Church. Through fasting we recognize our dependence on God. Through prayer we open the doors of the heart to His light. Through repentance we allow His warmth to melt what has hardened within us. And

through good works we carry His light to those around us less fortunate.

As Ukraine suffers the literal cold and darkness brought upon it by violence, we confront the spiritual cold and darkness brought upon us by sin. And in both cases, Christ is the only true Light. When He walks towards Golgotha, He shows us that suffering united to God becomes the road to victory. When we travel along our Lenten journey faithfully, we participate in the same mystery that unites our suffering with God.

In our personal Lenten efforts, we are able also to demonstrate our solidarity with our suffering brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Many there fast not by choice but by hardship. Many pray in fear as sirens sound nightly. Many endure days and nights without warmth. When we fast intentionally, we unite ourselves spiritually with our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. When we pray sincerely, we strengthen them. When we purify our hearts, we become instruments of God's grace for our suffering people.

Therefore, let us take advantage of this holy season. Every sacrifice we make - whether freely giving up comfort, restraining harmful habits, forgiving those who offend us, intensifying our prayer life, offering a helping

hand to those less fortunate - becomes a small step leading us out of spiritual winter and into the springtime of reconciliation with God.

During this sacred time of Great Lent may our hearts be renewed, our

faith strengthened, our desire to do good revived, and our compassion deepened. And, at the culmination of our Lenten pilgrimage, may we enter unhindered into the radiant warmth and light of Pascha.

† **Borys Gudziak** (Archbishop of Philadelphia)

† **Paul Chomnycky, OSBM** (author & Bishop of Stamford)

† **Benedict Aleksiychuk** (Bishop of St. Nicholas in Chicago)

† **Bohdan Danylo** (Bishop of St. Josaphat in Parma)

TODAY IS THE SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25: 31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. Because He is a good and loving God who does not desire the death of a sinner, He calls us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). The time for repentance and forgiveness is now.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4) that sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the

hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt. 25:40).

Today is also known as the Sunday of Meat-Fare... That means that Great Lent begins next Sunday afternoon.

In this final week of preparation for the Great Lent, the traditional discipline suggests that we bid farewell to meat in our diet after today until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent. The way we decide to adapt this discipline to our own situation is a

matter of individual choice. Of greater importance is the need to formulate

a spiritual plan for the coming Holy Season.

QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR FAITH

Q: Do priests remember what we say in confession?

A: So often, people will ask if I remember people's sins from Confession. As a priest, I rarely remember sins from the confessional. That might seem impossible, but the truth is, sins aren't all that impressive. They aren't like memorable sunsets or meteor showers or super-intriguing movies... they are more like the garbage.

Q: In the cherubic hymn sung at every liturgy we sing "Let us who mystically represent the cherubim." What does it mean for us to mystically represent the cherubim? Does "us" refer to all of us assembled together at the liturgy? or those ministering

at the altar only?

A: To mystically represent the Cherubim refers to our "putting aside all earthly cares so we may receive the King of all,..." Representing the Cherubim points to those who concelebrate the Divine Liturgy (i.e. all the faithful) and who are to maintain vigilance while awaiting the Second Coming of the Lord. Thus, every celebration of the Liturgy is a celebration of the Kingdom which is to come. In the anaphora of John Chrysostom, we give thanks to our heavenly Father "who has endowed us with [his] kingdom which is to come." Being like the Cherubim ranks us with those who now anticipate and participate in the new creation.

SOROKOUSTY MEMORIAL SERVICES

In just a few short weeks, the holy season of the Great Fast (Lent) will once again be upon us. As in the past, we will honor the memory of our beloved deceased with Sorokousty Memorial Services. This is the service where Fr. Nestor reads aloud the Family names of the deceased. If

you would like your deceased family members commemorated during these services, please submit your envelope with the names clearly listed. Envelopes are included in your packet of donation envelopes. Please clearly PRINT the first names of the deceased on the front.

ON WINTER CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Winter sometimes brings stormy weather. We kindly ask our parishioners to use good judgment and common sense by not driving when conditions are dangerous. As weather varies from place to place, it may be that services will be held as scheduled, despite the fact that conditions in your area are difficult. Please prioritize your safety and that of others by assessing the situation before venturing out.

Also, wintertime is cold and flu

season. If you are truly sick, please stay home. Refrain from attending services to avoid the risk of infecting your fellow parishioners with your illness. Rest assured, God will understand your need to take care of your health and the well-being of the community.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in these matters. Let us all do our part to ensure a safe and healthy winter season.

BINGO AT THE MANOR ON MAIN

Since our Cash Bingo had to be rescheduled to Sunday, February 15th, we are asking our Parishioners and Volunteers to kindly bring baked goods and baskets to our Parish Hall on Saturday, February 14th, at 11:30 a.m. Volunteers are asked to help deliver the Bingo supplies and donated baked goods and baskets to The Manor

on Main and help set up the venue. Volunteers are also asked to come to The Manor on Main on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. to prepare the final set up.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Jule at 570-357-6171, Michaelene at 570-209-2026 or Janet at 570-561-6460. Thank you all for your help and generosity!

LIVELITURGY.COM

If you can't make it to Church and want to stream the Divine Liturgy, liveliturgy.com is a good site to

visit. They have 397 listings across 16 countries in North America and Europe.

COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States participates in a

Special Collection which supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Communism in this region fell more than 30 years ago, but the Church still struggles to rebuild after decades of oppressive rule. Under communism, religion and religious practices were openly persecuted, and atheism was actively propagated and enforced. Your support

of this collection aids those affected by the war in Ukraine and renews vital aspects of Church life throughout the region. You support Seminary programs, promote ministries and education for children and families, rebuild Churches, and renew community life. Please be generous and prayerfully consider how you can support this collection.

PYSANKY CLASSES

Learn the art of making Ukrainian Easter Eggs. Classes are February 22nd and March 1st, with two times to choose from: 12:00 and 3:00. Fee of \$25 includes all supplies. Location: St.

Cyril's Parish Hall, 207 River Street, Olyphant. For reservations call: Tammy 570-766-1919. Class sizes are limited and fill up fast.

PORKETTA SALE

Eureka Hose Co. No. 4, 717 E. Grant St., Olyphant, is sponsoring a porketta sandwich sale on March 7th from noon to 5 pm at the fire station. Tickets, priced at \$7 for two sandwiches, may be purchased from any member of

the station, Mondays from 6 to 7 pm. Patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets prior to the sale to guarantee availability. Proceeds will be used for station and equipment upkeep.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of February 2026 is

Team #2: Eugene Zinsky, John Turko, Jr., and Michael Shumek.

Sunday Collection for Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, 2026: \$

Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity.

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

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