

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Icons Show the Human Face of God

In recent months my Sunday reflections have frequently focused on our Christian brothers and sisters of the East. Wishing as it were to embrace their rich tradition of faith in a single glance, today I would like to refer once again to the sense of mystery which is apparent in their icons. The East and the West vie with each other to put their art at the service of the faith.

But from the East, where icons had to be defended with bloodshed in the iconoclast crisis of the eighth and ninth centuries, comes a particular call jealously to preserve the religious nature of this art. It is based on the mystery of the Incarnation, in which God chose to assume a human face. In the last analysis, sacred art seeks to transmit something of the mystery of that face.

This is why the East firmly insists on the spiritual qualities which must characterize the artist, to whom Simeon of Thessalonica, the great defender of Tradition, addresses this important exhortation: "Teach with words, write with letters, paint with colors, in conformity with Tradition; the painting is true, as is the writing of books; and the grace of God is present in them, because what is represented there is holy."

By contemplating icons in the whole context of liturgical and ecclesial life, the Christian community is called to grow in its experience of God, and to become more and more a living icon of the communion of life between the Three Divine Persons.

Pope John Paul II

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

Ἡ ἀναθήλωσις τῶν ἁγίων εἰκόνων



Icon of the Holy Images

****All bingo equipment and supplies were donated by the Fundraising Committee.**

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.

MOLEBEN PRAYER SERVICE FOR UKRAINE

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 430 N. 7th Ave. in Scranton, will host a special Moleben Prayer Service for Ukraine this Tuesday, February 24th, beginning at 6:00 pm. This is the anniversary

of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Very Rev. Archpriest Teodor Czabala will be the Guest Speaker and there will be a short film about Ukraine in Church. Please join us to commemorate this sad occasion

Jesus repeatedly instructed his disciples and the people to whom he preached to "Stop judging that you may not be judged" (Mt. 7:1) He would ask why we look at the splinter in another person's eye and not the wooden beam in our own eye. Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone! Quick judgments are often revealed through the occasional use of inappropriate words

or swearing. Jesus told his disciples that "on the day of judgment, people will render an account for every careless word they speak" (Mt. 12:36). We ought to set aside any careless use of words. Setting aside our tendency to judge others while realizing our own huge imperfections is a necessity before welcoming the Lord into our hearts.

SPIRITUAL REGULATIONS FOR THE GREAT FAST

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstention 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:

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

Abstention 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 Abstention 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 Pre-sanctified 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. Families are especially urged to pray together in the mornings and evenings.

