

St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral

Patriarchal Stavropigia of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Kyivan Patriarchate

Bulletin for Sunday, April 25, 2021

PALM SUNDAY



Hosanna!

“They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A massive crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed were shouting:

‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’” Matthew 21:7-9

Palm Sunday -- the triumphal entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem -- is one of the 12 great Feasts of the liturgical year and heralds the start of Passion Week. The Passion of Christ is the story of Jesus Christ's arrest, trial and suffering. It ends with His execution by crucifixion. The word “Passion” comes from the Latin word for suffering.

In the Highest!



SUNDAY VIGIL CANDLES LIT TODAY

1. For the health of my mom, Ellen Hanavin, on her Birthday! We love you! Dawn & Ron xoxoxo
2. For the health of our granddaughter, Adalee Angela, on her 10th Birthday! Love, Mimi & Pop xoxo
3. For the health of our grandson, Weston Robert, on his 6th Birthday! Love, Mimi & Pop xoxo
4. For the health of Ellen Hanavin, on her birthday, Love, Judy, Tom and Family
5. For the health of Ellen Hanavin, on her birthday, Love, Barbara and George Latsios
6. For the health of Alexandra and Lloyd Bennett, on their anniversary, Love, Mom, Dad, Anastasia and Kirk
7. For the health of Lloyd Bennett, on his birthday, Love, Tom, Judy, Anastasia and Kirk
8. For the health of our dear friend and dedicated Church Treasurer, Ellen Hanavin, on her birthday, offered by Susan Guz
9. For the health of Ellen Hanavin, on her birthday, offered by the Sisterhood
10. Many more years to Ellen Hanavin on her birthday, offered by Mike, Marcia and Zach O'Connor
11. In memory of our parents, Helen and Stephen Sameruck, Love, Barbara and George Latsios

Father Bohdan's Sermon – Sunday, April 18, 2021
Mark 10:32-45

FOR EVEN THE
SON OF MAN
CAME NOT TO BE SERVED
BUT TO SERVE OTHERS
TO GIVE HIS LIFE
AS A RANSOM
FOR MANY.
Mark 10:45

In today's Scripture reading, Jesus talked to his Disciples and foretold about things that would happen to Him: His entrance into Jerusalem – that we celebrate next Sunday, Palm Sunday -- His crucifixion, His resurrection. The Disciples responded that they wanted to be part of His glory, that they were qualified, they were ready. They were NOT what Jesus' response, and that was a great surprise to the Disciples. It is not enough to be book smart or recite Bible verses by heart. As Jesus told His disciples -- those men who were the closest to Him, hanging on His every word, witnessing the miracles, following Him -- even THEY, the disciples, did NOT possess the qualifications to sit on either side of Jesus and be guaranteed a reward in Heaven. And they were stunned and greatly disappointed to learn this.

But Jesus taught them a great lesson – and for us a lesson in life – and a lesson in faith. He said: "Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...." Jesus teaches us that we must serve others in order to lead. And being a good leader is a measure of greatness. So, do not crave power and attention. Do not look for worship and adulation. Do not even wait for someone to say THANK YOU to you. Serve for the glory of serving. For, as Jesus taught His disciples – AND US -- we now know what it takes to be great. AMEN.

CHURCH COUNCIL

- Thomas J. Hanney, President
- Susan Guz, Vice-President
- Ellen Hanavin, Treasurer
- Frank Borriello, Secretary

ST. NICHOLAS PATRIARCHAL CHOIR

- Eve Edwards, Soprano
- Nancy Stott Trauger, Alto
- Nathaniel McEwen, Tenor
- Anthony Sinigaglio II, Bass
- Susan Guz, Choir Director

CLERGY

V. Rev. Father Bohdan Zhoba, Rector

V. Rev. Father Oleksii Kacharai

St. Nicholas Patriarchal Stavropigia Orthodox Cathedral
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stnicholaseoc.org

V. Rev. Bohdan Zhoba, Secretary
Vicariate of the UOC-KP in the USA & Canada
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uockpusa.org

Cell: 215-479-1010

Church Office: 215-922-9671

Vicariate Office: 215-922-2062



**CONFESSIONS
will be heard on:**

- **FRIDAY at 7:00 pm**
during
**Pre-Sanctified
Liturgy**
- **SATURDAYS at**
5:00 PM at
Vespers
- **LAZARUS**
SATURDAY
at 9:00 AM
- **HOLY SATURDAY**
at 9:00 AM

and
- **SUNDAYS at**
9:00 AM before
Divine Liturgy

Schedule of Services

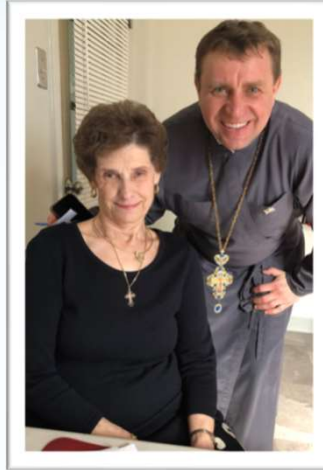
Friday, April 23	7:00 pm: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Saturday, April 24 LAZARUS SATURDAY	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm: Vespers & Blessing of Pussy Willows
Sunday, April 25 PALM SUNDAY	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy, followed by "Potato Pancake" Fellowship Lunch in the Church Hall
Wednesday, April 28	6:30 pm: Holy Unction Healing Service
Thursday, April 29 HOLY THURSDAY	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 6:30 pm: Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels
Friday, April 30 HOLY FRIDAY	3:00 pm: Vespers 6:30 pm: Funeral Service and Procession with Plaschanitsa
Saturday, May 1 HOLY SATURDAY - Sunday, May 2 EASTER-PASCHA	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, followed by Blessing of Baskets in the Sanctuary at approximately 10:30 am 11:30 pm: Matins, Procession, Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of Baskets and Agape Breakfast in the Church Hall at approximately 1:30 am, Sunday, May 2
Monday, May 3 BRIGHT MONDAY	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy and Procession
Saturday, May 8	5:00 pm: Vespers
Sunday, May 9 ST. THOMAS SUNDAY MOTHER'S DAY	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy and Akathist to the Holy Theotokos, followed by Blessing of the Graves at Oakland Cemetery
Saturday, May 15	5:00 pm: Vespers
Sunday, May 16	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy
Saturday, May 22	5:00 pm: Vespers
Sunday, May 23	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy
Saturday, May 29	5:00 pm: Vespers
Sunday, May 30	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy

**CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE
BUILDING FUND
2021**

- **Patricia Walker**
- **Anna Kuliasha**
- **Colleen Philipp**
- **The Borriello Family, In Memory of David Patterson**
- **The Murphy Family, In Memory of our
Mother/Mom-Mom, Lillian Fox**
- **In Memory of Tatiana (Tina) Fedec**
- **Cassandra and Ray McNulty**

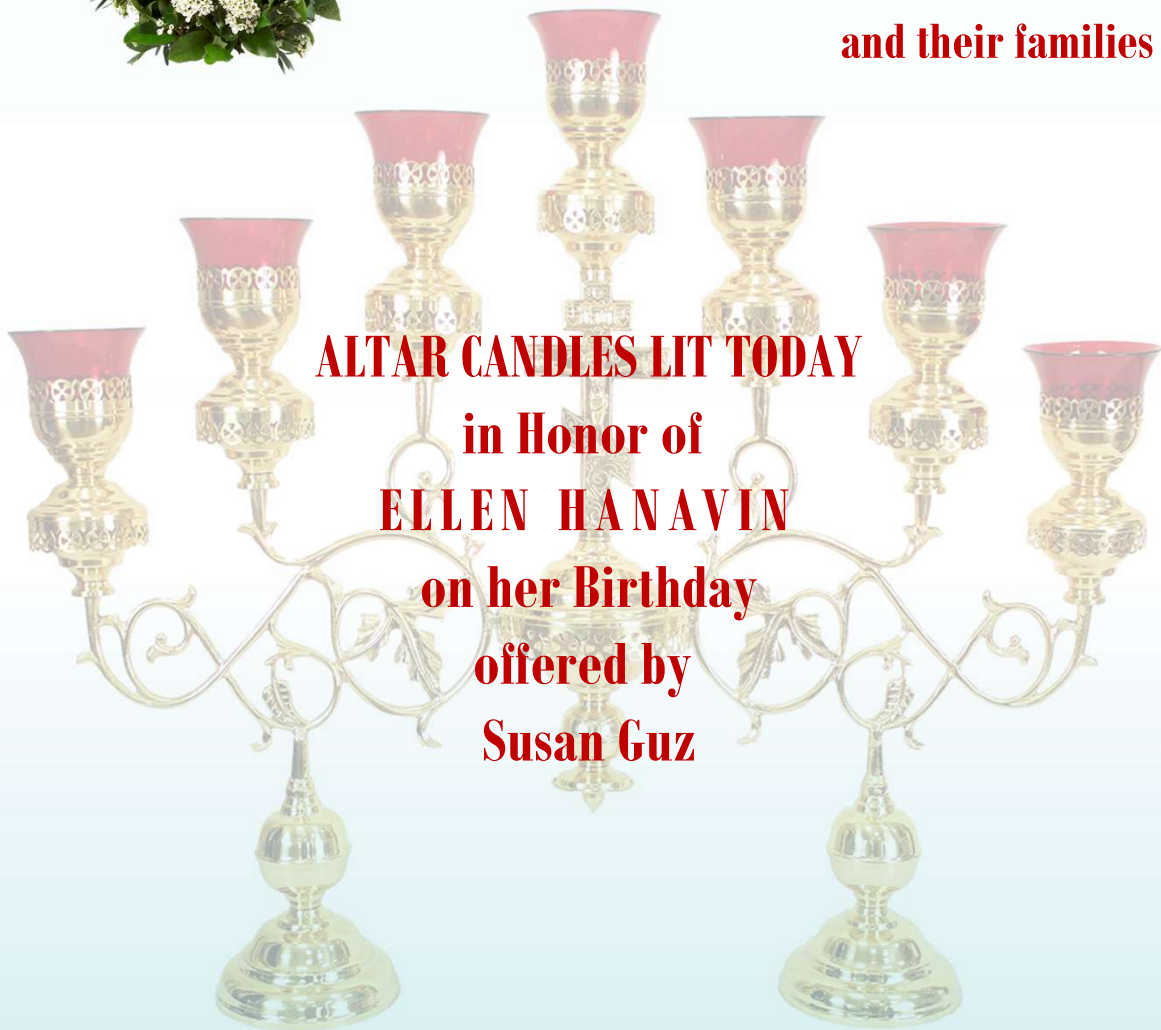
This Week's Bulletin is Co-Sponsored

by
Dawn Healey
for the Health
and Happiness
of my mother
ELLEN HANAVIN
on her Birthday!



Ellen and Father Bohdan

by
Barbara & George
Latsios
for the Health
and Happy Easter
to our Clergy
FATHER BOHDAN,
FATHER OLEKSII
and Choir Director,
SUSAN GUZ
and their families



ALTAR CANDLES LIT TODAY
in Honor of
ELLEN HANAVIN
on her Birthday
offered by
Susan Guz



ANNUAL VIGIL CANDLES LIT AT EVERY SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Sunday Vigil:	\$2
Analog Candles:	\$25
Altar Candles:	\$35
Annual Vigil:	\$100
Bulletin Sponsor:	\$25

1. +The Repose of the soul of Carol Dantinne, offered by David Dantinne, Jr. and Family. exp. 11/1/21
2. +The Repose of the souls of George and Barbara Wohar, offered by Barbara McMonigle and Family. exp. 11/1/21
3. +The Repose of the souls of John and Helen Guz; John and Mary Dzwonczyk; Paul and Anna Guz, offered by daughters/granddaughters Patricia Walker and Susan Guz. exp. 12/31/21
4. +The Repose of the souls of Helen and Michael Zaruba, and Christina and Christopher Natale. May Their Memory Be Eternal. Offered with love by Daughter/Sister/Aunt, Marcia O'Connor. exp. 10/1/21
5. +The Repose of the souls of All Members of the Sisterhood Fallen Asleep in the Lord, offered by the Sisterhood of the Pokrova. exp. 10/13/21
6. +The Repose of the souls of the Boljarevich Family, Anastasia (Nancy) Yarosh, Helen Kon, Helen and John "Whitey" Horbacz, Harry Mason, Sophie Gamble, Michael Zaruba and John Martin. PERPETUAL
7. +The Repose of the soul of my beloved husband, our devoted father and grandfather, Jack Kavchok. May his memory be eternal! Offered with love, Diane, John, Michael, Melissa, Makenzie, Riley and Kylie. exp. 8/1/21
8. +The Repose of the souls of Emil and Helen Levchenko offered by daughter, Ellen Hanavin. exp. 12/31/21
9. +The Repose of the souls of Irina and Michael Sierp, Konstantin, Olga, Lydia and Juris Teterski, Richard Boswell, and the health of all living members of the Teterski, Sierp, Boswell and Lis Families, offered by Susan Lis. exp. 9/18/21
10. +The Repose of the soul of our mother and grandmother, Helen Marx, offered by Victoria, Frank, Christopher, Stephanie, Julia, Nicholas, Krissy, Nathan and Morgan Borriello. exp. 4/19/22
11. +In memory of John and Susan Stetsuk, offered by Susan Isaac. exp. 12/31/21
12. +In memory of Paul Stetsuk, offered by Susan Isaac. Exp. 12/31/21
13. +In memory of Vera, Richard and Paul Wienckowski, offered by Susan Isaac. exp. 12/31/21
14. +In memory of Evelyn Atlee, offered by the Borriello Family. exp. 12/31/21
15. +In memory of Nadia Borriello, offered by the Borriello Family. exp. 5/31/21
16. +In loving memory of our mother, Lillian Fox, offered by Renee Murphy, Gail Osborn & Families. exp. 9/1/21
17. +In loving memory of our sister, Karen Niehoff, offered by Renee Murphy, Gail Osborn & Families. exp. 9/1/21
18. +The Repose of the souls of the Kowal Family: Andrew, Paraskeva, Andrew, Catherine, Susan, John, Nionila, Anna, David, Franklin Shultz and Edward Barrett, offered by Drew Kowal. exp. 11/1/30
19. For the health of Mykhailo, Tetiana, David, Svitlana, Vitaliy, Marina, Viktor, Ilona, Bogdan, Oleksandra, Maksym, Volodymyr, Halyna, Victoria, Mykola, Father Bohdan Zhoba and his family, Veronika, Tetiana, Oleksander, Diana-Olga, Hrustyna, Dimitriy, Diana; and +In memory of Mykhailo, Yaroslav, Anna, Petro, Bohdan and Hanna, offered by Michael, Tetiana and David Kuchmiak. exp. 12/31/21
20. For the health of Viktor, Oksana, Volodymyr, Anna-Diana, Vasyl, Maria, Mykhailyna, Anna, Olga, Mykola, Marianna, Oksana, Olga, Roman, Olga, Iryna-Olesia, Bohdan, Volodymyr. +In memory of Anna, Sophia, Volodymyr, Joseph, Petrunelia, Vasyl, Maria, Pavlo, Maria, Petro, Stepan, Anna, Stepania, Vasyl, Maryna, offered by Oksana and Victor Voloshnovskyy. exp. 9/1/21
21. +The Repose of the souls of Stephen and Helen V. Sameruck, offered by Barbara Latsios, Judy Hanney and families. exp. 10/25/21
22. +The Repose of the souls of Mary and Gregory Buckley. Memory Eternal. Offered by the children and grandchildren of the Buckley, Janoczkin and Wojnarowicz Families. exp. 12/20/21
23. +In memory of newly-departed Alice (Lesya) Orlan, our beloved "Forever Friend," offered by Dorothy Chelak and Family. exp. 1/24/22
24. For the health of Vasyl, Paraska, Roman, Oksana, Andriy, Volodymyr, Orusya, Maria, Vitaliy, Taras, Anatoliy, Olga, Anna, Ivan. +In memory of Paraska, Vasyl, Ivan, Vasyl, Evdokia, Maria, Paraska, Oksana. Offered by the Khanas and Petriv Families. exp. 3/1/22

EASTER VIGILS

250 VIGILS

representing your prayers for your loved ones

illuminated the Sanctuary on Easter last year.

It was a beautiful, inspiring sight.

With your help, we can have 300 vigils burning brightly this year when we enter the front doors at midnight on Easter Sunday, May 2, and proclaim CHRIST IS RISEN!



Diane Kavchok will be contacting you by email for any revisions to your Easter vigil list. We encourage you to add names to your list. Vigils are only \$2 each. To our new parishioners: please contact Diane by email, kavchokd@aol.com, if you would like to have vigils published in the Easter edition of our Bulletin – and see your vigil lit on Easter morning.



INVITATION TO:

ALL PARISHIONERS, FRIENDS & FAMILY

**You are invited to a Potato Pancake Brunch
on PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 25, following
Divine Liturgy in our Church Hall.**



**This is a long-standing tradition at
St. Nicholas Cathedral and we hope you will join us.**



On Saturday,
April 17, 2021,
Father Bohdan
blessed the home
of the O'Connor
Family.

GOD
BLESS our
HOME



*"Grant, O Lord, a prosperous
and peaceful life, health and
salvation, and the furtherance
of all good things to all Your
servants -- Marcia, Michael
and Zachary -- who dwell
herein, and preserve them for
many years."*



THE SCRIPTURE READING
FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021
PALM SUNDAY



PRIEST: Let us attend! Peace be unto all!

READER: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone: Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord!
God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

CHOIR: Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

READER: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!
Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord!

CHOIR: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The reading is from the Philippians.

PRIEST: Let us attend!

READER: Brothers...Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. **(Philippians 4:4-9)**

PRIEST: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

READER: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! **CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

READER: Sing to the Lord a new Son, for the Lord has done marvelous things!
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

CHOIR: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

PRIEST: Let us attend. Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always. Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: Hosanna! "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!" The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. **(John 12:1-18)**

CHOIR: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.



The Tomb in 2019



EASTER FLOWERS

In preparation for Holy Friday, the Tomb of Jesus will be set up in the Sanctuary Holy Thursday night, April 29, following the Holy Passion service of the reading of the Twelve Gospels.

A variety of seasonal, potted, flowering Easter plants will decorate the Tomb. This year, instead of pre-ordering, you will be able to select from the plants and take one or more home after Divine Liturgy on Bright Monday, May 3 – FOR A SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$15.

BASKETS of fresh cut flowers, however, will still need to be pre-ordered. Please give your basket order to Ellen Hanavin in the Candle Room. The baskets are \$40 each and are beautifully arranged by our florist for decades, Carroll's Flowers.

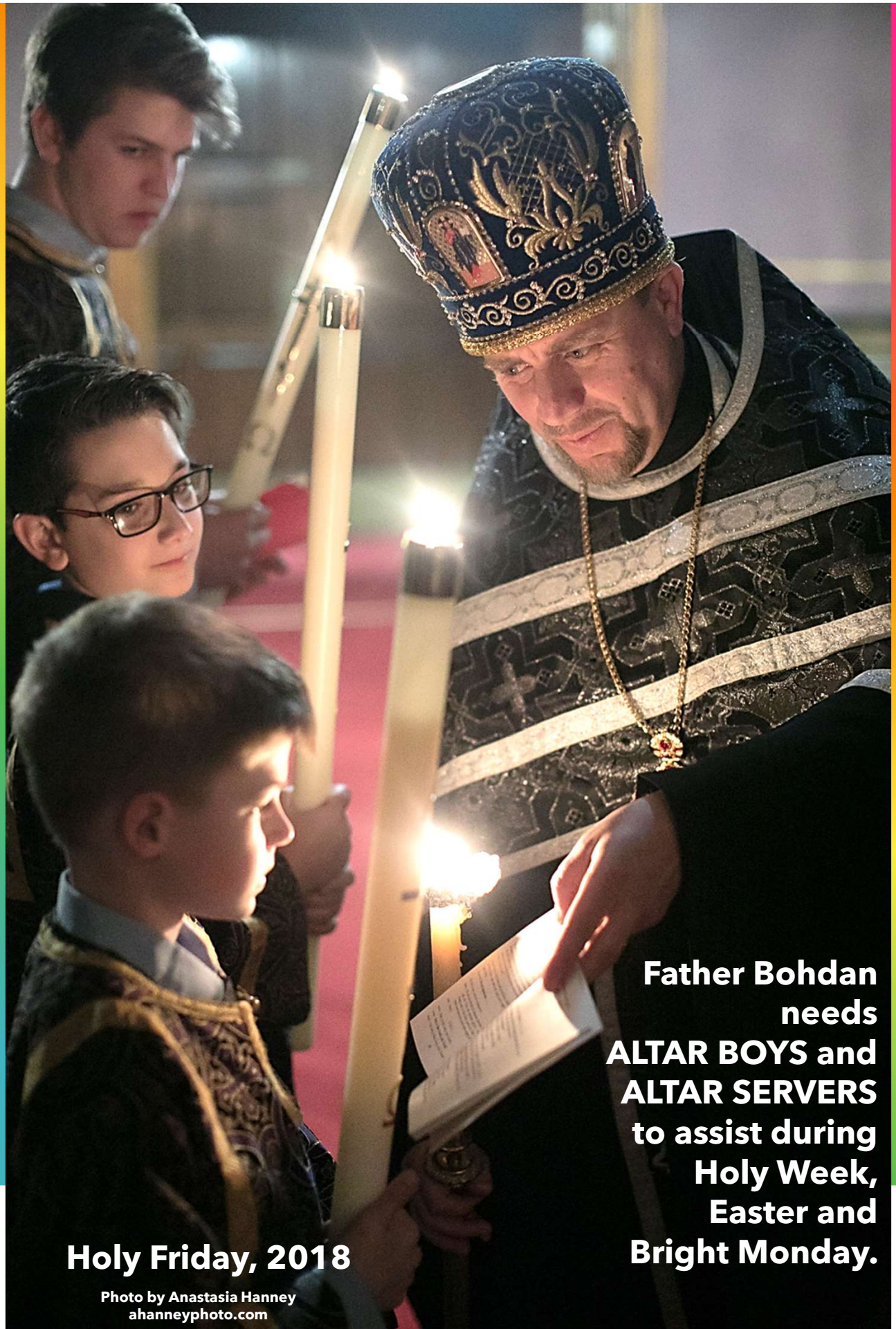
ANNUAL ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE

2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

*Our annual **Endowment Fund Drive** begins simultaneously with the start of Lent. It is customary to give alms -- a charitable gift -- during Lent. What better beneficiary than our beloved St. Nicholas Cathedral to ensure its future!*

Please pick up a PINK envelope from the Candle Room and give generously. You can also give online on our website. Go to stnicholaseoc.org; click the DONATE tab at the bottom of the home page; scroll down and click "Endowment Fund." THANK YOU!

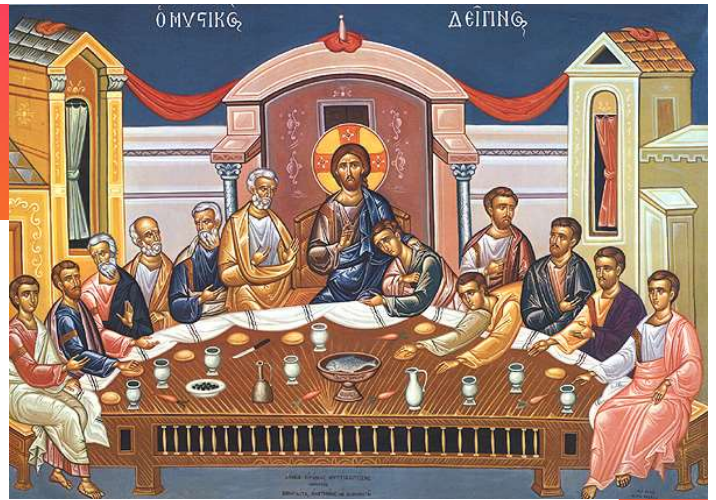


**Father Bohdan
needs
ALTAR BOYS and
ALTAR SERVERS
to assist during
Holy Week,
Easter and
Bright Monday.**

Holy Friday, 2018

Photo by Anastasia Hanney
ahanneyphoto.com

Preparing for Holy Week and Easter



We need 12 MEN to hold the large pillar candles on Holy Thursday night, April 29, beginning at 6:30 PM, during the reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels. Ten parishioners have volunteered....we need TWO more. Please let Father Bohdan or Tom Hanney know if we can count on YOU to participate in this solemn service. At the conclusion, please stay to help set up the tomb in the center of the Sanctuary. THANK YOU!

Please remember our homebound parishioner:
Ms. Anna Kuliasha
St. Martha Center
470 Manor Avenue
Downingtown, PA
19335



Email sneoc100@gmail.com
to contribute information to this
Bulletin.

Info **must be received by noon on
WEDNESDAY** to be published in
the Sunday Bulletin.
Publisher: Susan Guz
Editor: Fr. Bohdan

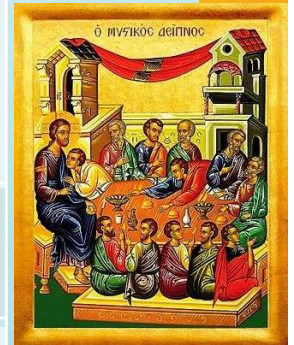
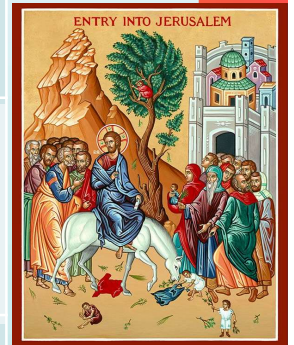
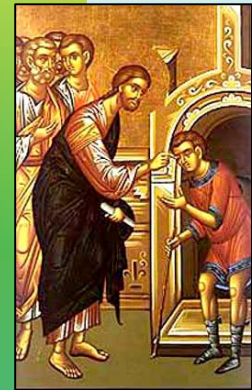
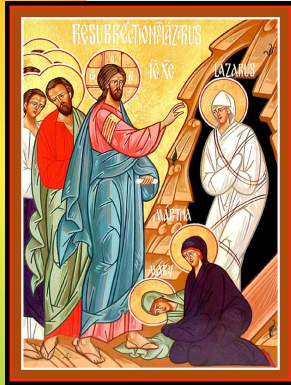


We will be passing the basket following Divine Liturgy on Sundays to collect donations for the AGAPE BREAKFAST, early Easter morning at approximately 1:30 AM, May 2, in our Cathedral Hall, organized this year by Vicki Borriello and Marcia O'Connor. If you want to bring your favorite Pascha dish, PLEASE SIGN THE SHEET IN THE CANDLE ROOM. And of course, we will be accepting cash donations, too! THANK YOU!

Holy Week is the week from the conclusion of Great Lent on Lazarus Saturday, April 24, to the celebration of Pascha-Easter, May 2. Special services are offered during Holy Week leading us through the events in the last week of Christ's life to his death and Resurrection.

We welcome you to St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral to worship and pray with us during this most solemn week leading up to the glorious Resurrection of Christ.

Holy Week



Saturday, April 24 LAZARUS SATURDAY	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 5:00 pm: Vespers and Blessing of Pussy Willows
Sunday, April 25 PALM SUNDAY	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, followed by "Potato Pancake" Fellowship Lunch in the Church Hall
Wednesday, April 28	6:30 pm: Holy Unction Healing Service
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Friday, April 30 HOLY FRIDAY	3:00 pm: Vespers 6:30 pm: Funeral Service and Procession with Plaschanitsa
Saturday, May 1 HOLY SATURDAY	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, followed by Blessing of Baskets in the Sanctuary at approximately 10:30 am
Saturday-Sunday, May 1-2 PASCHA-EASTER	11:30 pm: Matins, Procession, Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of Baskets and Agape Breakfast in the Church Hall at approximately 1:30 am
Monday, May 3 BRIGHT MONDAY	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy and Procession

"The Cathedral Swing"

In an interview with Father Bohdan, he explained that in order to graduate from the Theological Academy, seminarians must complete a course called "Practical Theology."

It is in this class that they are taught to swing the censer – also known as a thurible or kadylo – a vessel that burns incense on lighted charcoal during worship services.

In order to pass the Practical Theology course, the students must successfully swing the censer in a 360-degree circle, which means that at one point in the circle, the censer is completely upside down. To make this more challenging, the kadylo is filled with water and if one drop is spilled during the 360-degree circle, the student does not pass the test.

This 360-degree swing is known as "The Cathedral Swing" and apparently only done by an Archpriest or Bishop in a Cathedral. Now that St. Nicholas is officially a Cathedral, Father Bohdan has promised that he will perform "The Cathedral Swing" on EASTER – but with incense, of course!

Come see this priestly feat on the Feast of Feasts!

The Orthodox Church uses incense -- a very ancient practice -- to help us engage more of our senses during the church service. It also reminds us that God is listening to us and that our prayers are lifted up "as incense." Bishops, priests and deacons are the only people who can incense the church.



NEW ROOF: Progress Report

Friday, April 16: Shingles are delivered and stacked on the roof.



Monday, April 19: The crew removes the old shingles and polyurethane coating on the north side of the building.





Monday, April 19, 2021

Huge blue tarps surround the building to catch the old shingles and polyurethane coating.



By end of day on Monday, April 19,
the clouds rolled in and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the roof
was stripped down to the tar paper.





And this is what the roofers found beneath stagnating pools of water trapped under the polyurethane coating that failed as a proper roof for the last 4 years: **rotted wood around the entire perimeter of the roof**. All areas will be repaired, and a membrane and topcoat applied before the new shingles are installed.

DISASTER AVERTED!

Looking ahead...

SUNDAY, MAY 9

This will be a busy day:
ST. THOMAS SUNDAY,
BLESSING OF THE GRAVES
AT OAKLAND CEMETERY and
MOTHER'S DAY.



In anticipation, please send your
Mother's Day vigil confirmations/requests
to Diane Kavchok, kavchokd@aol.com.

***We need your responses by May 3 so that your
vigils can be published in the May 9th Bulletin.
THANK YOU!***

*Mother's
Day*



On the following pages is an inspiring and informative interview: Patriarch Philaret speaks to a reporter from *Delegate Magazine* on April 19, 2021. St. Nicholas Cathedral and Father Bohdan are mentioned. (highlighted in yellow).

"Want to win, hold on to the truth"-

Patriarch Philaret

4/19/2021

Interview with Patriarch of Kyiv and All Rus-Ukraine Philaret by Oleksandr Hnydyuk for Delegate Magazine



You overcame the coronavirus last September. At a respectable age. You turned 92 this year. How are you feeling? I know that you are actively working and serving more than young bishops.

I must say that I really feel young. You see, I serve continuously, I work all day without breaks. So I can only thank God for giving me strength. And once it gives strength, you have to work.

You have spent more than thirty years fighting for autocephaly. Today you criticize Tomos for autocephaly. They even left the OCU [Orthodox Church of Ukraine]. Many do not understand why this happened? Can you clarify the situation?

I feel that they do not understand why they asked for a Tomos, they received it, and the Patriarch suddenly left the Church for which he fought to get a Tomos. What is the reason? The reason is that the Tomos was given, but not the one that other churches have. Other churches have complete independence from the Patriarch of Constantinople, and we have been given a Tomos in which our dependence on the Patriarch of Constantinople has been recorded. We do not need such "independence" with dependence. We want to have complete independence. And what is our dependence on the Patriarch of Constantinople? First, that the UOC was given the name not by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, but by the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Many people think: "Well, what's the difference: the UOC or the Orthodox Church of Ukraine?" And there is a difference. It is that this name limits the activities of the autocephalous church to the territory of Ukraine, and Ukrainians living outside Ukraine, no longer subordinate to the leadership of this church. And we wanted the Ukrainian diaspora to belong to the UOC, just as the diaspora of other churches belongs to their own churches. For example, does the Russian Church have its own diaspora around the world? It has. Bulgarian has, Romanian has, Serbian has. That is, all churches have their diaspora outside their canonical territory, and we, Ukrainians, are forbidden, and Constantinople has appropriated this diaspora. Therefore, we do not agree with this Tomos and left the church that accepted and obeyed this Tomos. Because it follows that in Ukraine today one part is dependent on Moscow, although it has autonomy and independence in management, is Metropolitan Onufriy, and the other part is headed by Metropolitan Epiphanius, having Tomos, i.e., autocephaly, dependent on the Patriarch of Constantinople. And we want to have our own independent church. I want to draw attention to why the Patriarch of Constantinople did not give the UOC a Tomos in the status of a patriarchate, but only a metropolitanate, and he fought for it very actively. The reason is that the patriarchate is a truly independent church, because the patriarchate

cannot be part of another patriarchate, and the metropolis can. Therefore, one Ukrainian metropolitanate belongs to Moscow, and the other, with the status of autocephaly, is subordinated to the Patriarch of Constantinople. Realizing this, we have come out and maintain the status of patriarchy, full independence, and we believe that this church will win in the future.

Metropolitan Epiphanius was your disciple. He became the head of the OCU not without your help (at the Unification Council in December 2018), and then a certain conflict arose. Why did this happen?

I want to make a digression. In the IV century the holy father Gregory the Theologian was known, and he had a disciple Maximus Cynic. He raised him and brought him to the bishop. And when this Maximus became a bishop, he decided to overthrow his teacher Gregory the Theologian and become the patriarch of Constantinople. And then they began to ask Gregory the Theologian, how did it happen that you raised him, and he wants to overthrow you and take your place? And Gregory said: "I am not God and did not know what was going on in the soul of this Maximus Cynic." Similarly, I did not know what was going on in the soul of Metropolitan Epiphanius. If I had not supported him, he would never have become not only the head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. He would never have been the Metropolitan of Kyiv. But I did not know what he was like. And now he showed his insides, like Maximus Cynic.



Is it true that when Tomos was brought to Kyiv in January 2019, you were not invited to the ceremony of receiving him in Sofia, Kyiv?

It's true. And I want to add why we have such a relationship with Metropolitan Epiphanius. Because thanks to me he became the head, and, becoming the head, left me completely. He never served with me, did not communicate with me, did not ask for advice. Did he think that he could do without the Patriarch? And most importantly, he renounced the status of patriarchy. And because he renounced this status, I left this church and now retain the Ukrainian Patriarchate. I believe that patriarchy has a future.

As you said, according to Tomos, the OCU has lost the right to take care of the Ukrainian diaspora, so the parishes must pass to Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. Are there any parishes left with you? What is their position?

All the parishes that exist in Europe are subordinate to me as Patriarch. That is, after leaving the OCU, I restored the UOC of the Kyiv Patriarchate, but did not restore it by my order, but convened the Local Council on June 20, 2019. That is, there was a supreme governing body of the Local Orthodox Church, which had bishops, though few, but there were those who remained faithful to me, the clergy and the laity. We restored and continued the existence of the UOC-Kyiv Patriarchate. And because we are a patriarchate, we left this OCU. I repeat, today there is one metropolitanate subordinated to Moscow, another in the status of autocephaly, which is under the influence of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, and a third church, which is a truly independent Ukrainian church.

The current topic is the events in the United States. The Kyiv Patriarchate has its parishes in America, and the OCU forbids them from having a Tomos position. Tomos handed them over to the Patriarch of Constantinople. Are you planning to pay a pastoral visit to the United States? And what are the further prospects for the development of UOC-KP parishes in the United States?

Since the Kyiv Patriarchate exists, all Ukrainian parishes in Europe have remained part of the Kyiv Patriarchate. In the United States, the vast majority of parishes remained in the Kyiv Patriarchate, mostly, but some parishes found themselves outside the church. Why do I say "outside the church", because they do not have the right to be part of the OCU, that is, the church headed by Metropolitan Epiphanius, because in Tomos it is clearly stated: "limited to Ukraine", and they are outside Ukraine. And so these parishes found themselves outside the church. They do not have a bishop. And where there is none, there is no church. But the vast majority of parishes in America belong to the Kyiv Patriarchate, i.e., the Kyiv Patriarchate has parishes in Ukraine, Europe and the United States.

I am not planning a trip to the United States yet, because now there is a coronavirus, and everyone knows that moving from one country to another is problematic. So, given such conditions, I did not plan [a trip] in the near future. But online we communicate and hold a conference with the clergy who remained in the Kyiv Patriarchate. That is, we have connections with parishes, we have cooperation, but at a distance. The Vicariate of the UOC-KP in the United States, headed by Archpriest Bohdan Zhoba, is active. The main Cathedral of the Kyiv Patriarchate is located in Philadelphia.

You once met with current US President Joe Biden in Washington. What is your impression of communicating with him?

If he had not been worthy, if he had not been an intelligent man, he would not have become President of the United States of America. And so he has these qualities, so the American people elected him president. I had a very pleasant impression from meeting him. The man is open. And most importantly, he treats Ukraine and the Ukrainian people well. And this is

very important for us at a time when Ukraine is actually waging an undeclared war with Russia. For his activities aimed at supporting Ukraine, I presented Joe Biden with the Order of the UOC-KP of St. Prince Volodymyr. I pray for Biden because he asked for it himself. The fact is that after the visit Biden wrote me a letter asking me to mention him in prayer. He wrote it by hand. He also admitted that it was a great honor for him to be awarded the Order of the Kyiv Patriarchate.

Recently, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky and Metropolitan of the OCU Epiphanius invited Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople to visit Kyiv this year and take part in the celebration of the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence. Representatives of the UOC of the Moscow Patriarchate are categorically against. What is your attitude to the arrival of Patriarch Bartholomew in Ukraine?

We have our position on this and even expressed it in a special statement. We are convinced that this visit should be filled with a real historical mission and weight, and not just a trip. The episcopate, clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate will once again be happy to welcome Patriarch Bartholomew as a guest on Ukrainian soil if he presents Tomos during his visit to grant the Ukrainian Orthodox Church patriarchate status. This will be a long-awaited act of justice and will ensure the real autocephaly of our Church. Only in the status of a patriarchate will the Ukrainian church be able to fully fulfill its mission of spiritual care over all Ukrainians living in Ukraine and abroad. Our Church addressed the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelensky and representatives of the Ukrainian authorities with a request to raise before Patriarch Bartholomew on the eve of his visit the issue of granting a new Thomas, which would fully correspond to the historical place and significance of the Ukrainian Church in world Orthodoxy. This will contribute to the true independence of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the consolidation of society and the unification of all Orthodox Ukrainians under one Patriarchal omophorion.



You were born and raised in Donbass. How do you see the fate of the territories occupied by Russia? Will they return to Ukraine?

Of course, they will return, because this is Ukrainian land. And the proof that Donbass is Ukrainian land, not Russian, is villages. There is not a single non-Ukrainian village in Donbass, there is not a single Russian village in Donbass. Well, if there are no Russian villages, only Ukrainian ones, then whose land? Ukrainian. And since Donbass is an industrial region, at the end of the 19th century people from all over the Russian Empire and then the Soviet Union began to come to work in factories, mines, and factories. Therefore, Donbass was settled by the Russian population. But they do not have the right to own Ukrainian land on Ukrainian soil. For example, there are many Ukrainians in Canada, even a Ukrainian who was the Prime Minister of Canada. We cannot say that, since there are many Ukrainians in Canada, Canada needs to join Ukraine. So why does Russia want to join Ukraine because that there are many Russians? This will not work. The Ukrainian people will not allow this. When the war in Donbass began, Galicians did not want to go there to defend Ukraine, Ukrainian land, they said, let the Easterners defend their own land. I then turned to them, to the Galicians, and said: if you want to live peacefully in Galicia, then go and defend Galicia in the Donbass. And if you do not defend Galicia in the Donbass, then Putin will come to you tomorrow, and you will fight in Galicia, defending your homes. And they listened. And since then, the volunteers have gone east. And we will return those areas. Not all of Donbass, only a third of the districts are subordinated to these so-called republics, and through them to Russia. I believe that the time will come when they will be forced to leave this territory. Ukraine was and will be united. I have no doubt about that. Besides, we are not alone. Europe with us, with us the United States, which supports us in this. Russia cannot resist such a force. Russia will fight for a while, and then will be forced to leave. Because this war has economic consequences, and the whole world will see what happens in Russia. It is not profitable, because it entails an economic downturn. Therefore, we will live until the time when Russia will be forced to leave Donbass, and the current leadership will be forced to return to a single Ukrainian government.

What are your current contacts with the authorities? Do you meet with the President, the Prime Minister, the ministers?

I met, but now I do not meet. Why? Because Metropolitan Epiphanius, together with former President Poroshenko, deregistered the Kyiv Patriarchate, illegally, without my knowledge. And since we are not registered now, the President cannot meet with us either, because he is told that we seem to exist outside the law. That is why we are now trying to restore the registration of the Kyiv Patriarchate through the courts and through various figures, state and public. Recently, the court ordered the State Bureau of Investigation to initiate criminal proceedings against representatives of the former government involved in the illegal deregistration of the Kyiv Patriarchate. I hope we will achieve this. Because we defend the truth, and the truth always wins. He who does not follow the path of truth will sooner or later be cast out.

The question of the Patriarchal residence selected by Epiphanius. Is it true that the building where we are now and which you built in the 1970s, Metropolitan Epiphanius has now rewritten for himself without your consent?



Tell me, does the person who re-registered this property of the Kyiv Patriarchate have a conscience at the OCU? Besides secretly, without my knowledge. I believe that this person is unscrupulous. This is the worst when a person loses conscience. We will fight, and I believe we will win. Our property is ours and will be ours. And he is only ashamed, this will be the result of his actions. Two people committed this crime: Epiphanius and former President Poroshenko. Poroshenko is a deceiver, and Epiphanius is unscrupulous. And where there is truth, there is God, and where there is God, there is victory. Want to win, hold on to the truth, and God will be with you. And He will help you win. And if you do not keep the truth and God, you can temporarily celebrate victory, like the Soviet Union, which celebrated its victory for 70 years, living a lie, and then disintegrated in an instant, because the truth still won. So it will be here.

In general, in your opinion, how should two very important institutions - the church and the state - interact, and should this happen at all? (As we can see from the example of neighboring Poland, the state maintains very close ties with the church and takes a rather conservative position on this).

The state must take care of its own affairs, and the church, which is separated from the state, must take care of its own. But since the church is within the state, and the same people belong to both the state and the church, there must be interaction. The church should promote the establishment of the state, and the state should promote normal church life. Not interfering in each other's affairs but interacting. Because it is often said that you are separated from the state, and then why do so and so. For example, when the war in Donbass started, our army was disarmed and there was no one to defend it, we, as a church, appealed to the people to help, but also to raise funds and help the army. Then they gathered this volunteer movement, and the army became combat-ready. But the church has not and should not interfere in state policy. We are on this road. We do not interfere in the policy of the state, but we cooperate in the development of our Ukrainian state.

Today, Ukrainians, like the rest of the world, are experiencing the consequences of the corona crisis. I am sure that it is important for millions of Ukrainians to hear certain instructions from you on how to get through this, of course, difficult period.

The question is very complicated. Because, you see, the coronavirus has turned the world upside down, everything has changed. We can't say when it will end. Because it depends first of all on God. God has allowed such trouble, but the cause of this trouble is ourselves - the people. For their sins, for their lies. We created all this and now we are reaping what we have sown. Now it needs to be fixed. And to correct means to live in truth, to love one another, to help, to live in peace and harmony, not to incite enmity. And the Lord, seeing our good intentions, will stop it.

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