ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME

A street sign in front of a building

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Let’s pray for peace in Ukraine Молімось за мир в Україні

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Sun. 22 Oct. (02 Oct.) 20th SUNDAY after PENTECOST. TONE 3. FATHERS of the SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (787) Apostle JAMES, son of Alphaeus (1st C) St. ANDRONICUS & his wife, St. ATHANASIA of Egypt (500). Righteous Forefather ABRAHAM (2000 BC) & his nephew LOT. Martyrs JUVENTIUS & MAXIMUS at Antioch (4th C). PUBLIA the Confessor of Antioch (360). St. PETER of Galatia (9th C).

Readings: Galatians 1:11-19 & Hebrews 13:7-16

Gospels : Luke 7:11-16 & John 17:1-13

Sunday school for youth with Fr. Oleg right after the Liturgy. The lesson is about 30 minutes upstairs in the church. For all age groups. Please stay upstairs to participate.

Liturgical Meneion & Scripture Readings

Mon. 23 Oct. Synaxis of the Saints of Volyn.

Phil. 4:10-23 Lk. 7:36-50

Tue. 24 Oct. Holy Apostle Philip of the Seventy, one of the seven deacons (1st c.).

Col. 1:1-2, 7-11 Lk. 8:1-3

10:00 AM Potatoes peeling for pyrohy

06:30 PM MOLEBEN FOR UKRAINE (Holy Protection, Allentown)

Wed. 25 Oct. St. Martin the Merciful, bishop of Tours (397).

Col. 1:18-23 Lk. 8:22-25

Thu. 26 Oct. Martyr Benjamin, deacon, of Persia (ca. 424).

Col. 1:24-30 Lk. 9:7-11

07:00-11:00 AM Pinching of pyrohy . Please volunteer

Fri. 27 Oct. St. Mykola Sviatosha, prince of Chernihiv and wonderworker of Kyiv.

Col. 2:1-7 Lk. 9:12-18

Sat. 28 Oct. Demetrious memorial Saturday.

2 Cor. 3:12-18 Lk. 6:1-10

09:00 AM Memorial Panahyda. Put your memorial lists on the table near bulletins

02:00 PM Floral Pumpkin Workshop.

05:00 PM GREAT VESPERS.

Sun. 29 Oct. 09:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY.

PROPERS FOR THE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 3: Let the heavens rejoice. Let the earth be glad. For the Lord has shown strength with His Arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the First-born of the Dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hell and has granted the world great mercy.

Tropar of the Holy Fathers, Tone 8: You are most glorious, Christ our God. You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. Through them You have guided us to the True Faith. Greatly Compassionate One, Glory to You.

Tropar to Apostle James, Tone 3: Holy Apostle James, entreat the Merciful God, to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions.

Kondak of the Resurrection, Tone 3: On this day You rose from the tomb, Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults, as Eve rejoices. With the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your Power.

Kondak of the Holy Fathers, Tone 8: The preaching of the Apostles and the doctrine of the Fathers confirmed the One Faith in the Church. In the garment of truth woven from theology on high, she rightly defines and glorifies true piety.

Glory… Kondak to Apostle James Tone 2: Let us bless James, praising him as the messenger of God, for he filled the souls of the pious with wise dogmas. Standing at the throne of glory before the Master, he rejoices with all the angels unceasingly praying for us all.

Now and ever... Kondak of the Dormition, Tone 2: Neither the tomb nor death had power over the Birth-Giver of God; she is ever watchful in her prayers and in her intercession lies unfailing hope. For as the Mother of Life, she has been translated to life by the One Who dwelt within her ever-virginal womb.

Prokimen of the Resurrection, Tone 3: Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Verse: Clap your hands, all you peoples. Shout to God with a joyful voice.

Prokimen of the Holy Fathers, Tone 4: Blessed are You, Lord God of our Fathers, praised and glorified is Your Name to the ages.

Readings: Galatians 1:11-19 & Hebrews 13:7-16

Alleluia Verses, Tone 1. The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken and summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather together to Him His holy ones, who have established His covenant upon sacrifices.

The heavens shall confess Your wonders, O Lord, and Your Truth in the congregation of the Saints.

Gospels: Luke 7:11-16 & John 17:1-13

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens. Their voice has gone out into all the earth and their words to the very ends of the world. Alleluia (3X)

- View the Joy of the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, AND the baptism of David Kravchenko at <https://www.uocofusa.org/news_230831_1>

-We received a check from Redner's Market for $213.92 for the save-a-tape program. Thank you to the parish workers who took the time to compile and record all of the receipt tapes. Thank you to all who brought their tapes to church.

- Floral Pumpkin Workshop. Outdoors if weather permitting. Saturday, October 28 at 2:00 PM. $25 per person for supplies (youth for free). For details or sign-up please call or text Pani Olha at 862-707-9763.

- Christian education on why we pray for the departed. November 5 during the coffee hour.

- Pyrohy schedule: October 26(SOLD OUT), November 9, November 30, December 7, December 21. First come, first served (until we reach 300 dozen). Please volunteer for peeling, running, cooking/mashing, pinching and clean-up.

- The UOL meeting is on November 5th following Divine Liturgy.

- Parish Board meeting is on November 1st at 6:30 PM.

- Church School is every Sunday: Mrs. Mary Ost (Preschool/ Elementary) 8:55-9:20 AM. Mrs. Karen Osmun (Secondary) at 8:45-9:15 AM. Welcome all children and youth.

- Parish outing to the Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster – Mary Ost booked tickets for the Miracle of Christmas Show at 3 pm on December 28. Please let Mary know by November 1 if you go or sign up downstairs. Youth are free.

- Register–We will have 2 Christmas pysanky workshops on November 4, 2023 (There are only 3 remaining spots for the workshops!). Participants will write 2 Christmas-themed eggs that will have a gloss coating, holder and ribbon. $35 per person. If you want to attend this unique hands-on workshop, contact Jessie Hnatow at jessie.hnatow@gmail.com or text her at 610-428-8389.

- Virtual Bible Study Day - every Wednesday via Zoom: №1 Pan-Orthodox at 12 PM. Meeting ID: 576 301 6482. Passcode: 238492. №2 with a professor of Saint Sophia Seminary Fr. Demetrios at 7 PM. Ask Fr. Oleg for the link.

- For Food Bank: baby foods, canned potatoes, and meats, tuna, pasta, sauces, mac. & cheese.

ANNIVERSARIES:

28 Oct…Howard & Linda Winters …John & Jennifer Grason

BIRTHDAYS:

26 Oct…Howard Winters

28 Oct…Sandra Park

МНОГАЯ ЛІТА! MANY YEARS!

NECROLOGY:

Ukrainian civilians and soldiers, killed in the Russian invasion.

Newly departed Volodymyr Shevchuk

22 Oct…Theodore Minnich ’69

25 Oct…Vladimir Zarayko ’16

26 Oct…Mary Krill ’97

27 Oct…Wasyl Kochenash ’37, Janice Swauger ‘13

ВІЧНА ПАМ’ЯТЬ! MEMORY ETERNAL!

PRAYER FOR THE HEALTH & SALVATION OF THE AFFLICTED: Ukrainian soldiers and civilians, wounded during the Russian aggression, Paul Kochenash, Helen Crayosky, Barbara Grason, Rosemarie Pypiuk, priest Vasyl Dovgan, Matthew Vitushinsky, Nadine Savitz, William Savitz, Nicholas Alexander, Vladimir Krasnopera, Tom Petro Jr., William Leszczuk, Mary Berger, Jessica Meashock, James Osmun, Zachary Y. Siyufy, Ruslana Reznik, Lubov Slonova, Raisa Melnychuk, Vasyl Beizyn, Volodymyr Hranat, Ihor Broda, Matthew Barber, Debi Hutnick, Eric Hewko, Phil O’Brien, child Charlie, Juliana, Shirl Merolli, Kirk Swauger, Stephanie Donnelly, Danny Berro, child Alexandria, Elizabeth Pastushenko, Philippe Chasseuil, Aaliyah Osmun, Brendan Phillips, Adam Hewko, Andrew Thaxton, Susan Ferretti, Judy Albright, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Joann Hoodmaker, Norman Betrous, Robert Zarayko Jr.

ORTHODOXY AROUND THE WORLD

Metropolitan Epiphaniy consecrated a new center for rehabilitation at the Rivne Regional Clinical Hospital for wounded Ukrainian soldiers.

Bishop Chrysostom of Western Tanzania consecrated the new St. Nicholas Mwanzas Orthodox College in Bukomba, Tanzania.

The Synod of Constantinople canonized Nun, Mother Gavrilia (1897-1992) known as the “Ascetic of Love” for her care of the sick & poor.

On Oct. 8th the Primate of the Autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church consecrated the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary in Pryluky, Diocese of Chernihiv.

The 30th anniversary of the uncovering of the incorrupt relics of Hierarch & Wonderworker John (Maximovitch) was celebrated in Joy of All Who Sorrow Cathedral in San Francisco where his incorrupt relics repose.

Metropolitan Epiphaniy consecrated the new Church of the Resurrection in the village of Halytsia, Diocese of Chernihiv.

On Oct. 8th the Cherkasy Diocese celebrated the Synaxis of the 114 saints of the Cherkasy land in Archangel Michael Cathedral.

As of the beginning of 2023, at least 494 religious structures, religious educational institutions, and shrines have been destroyed, damaged, or looted by Russian occupiers in Ukraine, according to the Institute for Religious Freedom.

Youth Patron Saints of UOC of USA: St. Christina and St. Julian. With the Blessing of the Council of Bishops, the Offices of Youth & Young Adult Ministry offered the youth of the UOC of the USA the opportunity to prayerfully choose a patron saint for the youth of our church. The program was designed to give our youth the opportunity to learn about teenage saints of the church and use their voice in selecting one of them to intercede on their behalf with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Youth from across the USA raised their voices to choose St. Christina and St. Julian to intercede on their behalf. We got an Icon of these saints from the Hierarchs.

St. Christina and St. Julian pray to God for our youth!

Is the Veneration of Images Justified? The honor paid to the image is in reality paid to its prototype, that is to say, to what the image represents. Thus the Jewish people revered the Tabernacle because that, much more than the rest of creation, was an image of God. The making and the veneration of images are not a novelty. They are based on a very ancient tradition. God made the first human being as an image of himself. Abraham, Moses, Isaiah and all the prophets saw God, not in his true being, but in his image. The burning bush was an image of the Mother of God. When Moses wanted to approach, God said to him: 'Put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' [Exod. 3:5] If the ground on which Moses saw the image of the Mother of God was holy, how much more holy will the image itself be!

Story. Many years ago, when I was young, a business associate of my father’s died under particularly tragic circumstances, and I accompanied my father to the funeral. The man’s widow and children were surrounded by clergy and psychiatrists trying to ease their grief and make them feel better. They knew all the right words, but nothing helped. They were beyond being comforted. The widow kept saying, “You’re right, I know you’re right, but it doesn’t make any difference.” Then a man walked in, a big burly man in his eighties who was a legend in the toy and game industry. He had escaped from Russia as a youth after having been arrested and tortured by the czar’s secret police. He had come to this country illiterate and penniless and had built up an immensely successful company. He was known as a hard bargainer, a ruthless competitor. Despite his success, he had never learned to read or write. He hired people to read his mail to him. The joke in the industry was that he could write a check for a million dollars, and the hardest part would be signing his name at the bottom. He had been sick recently, and his face and his walking showed it. But he walked over to the window and started to cry, and she cried with him, and you could feel the atmosphere in the room change. This man who had never read a book in his life spoke the language of the heart and held the key that opened the gates of solace where learned doctors and clergy could not. (by Harold S. Kushner)

Who’s Afraid of Halloween?  (By an Orthodox priest, Fr. Mark Sietsema)

I have a confession to make. And it’s a bad one … When I was a kid … I used to get dressed up for Halloween! And it was not always something innocent either, like an astronaut or a cowboy. Once I was even a ghost! Worse yet, I would go door-to-door with my brothers and say “Trick or treat!” Idolatrous! Occultic! Satanic! Over time, of course, this demon-glorifying activity caught up with me. Look at me now. I dress in black almost every day …

Of course you see the problem here. If not, you will very soon start reading about it in the paper again. Many people of churchy persuasions object strenuously to the observance of Halloween. Every year we read letters to the editor that run as follows: “Halloween is the worship of the devil! Halloween comes from heathen roots! Trick or Treat comes from an ancient pagan custom: the Druids would go from house to house seeking a virgin to sacrifice! If you complied and handed over your family’s virgin, they left outside your door a jack-o-lantern with a candle inside … fueled by human fat! If you did not comply, a terrible trick would be played on you! The Catholic

Church perpetuated the pagan legends with its Feast of All Saints. If you let your kids celebrate Halloween, you expose them to the possibility of demonic possession!”

Well, good Orthodox Christian, what should our Church make of this controversy? Is Halloween something we Christians should shun like the Black Mass? Don’t the facts about Halloween’s origins prove that it is an abomination?

No. First of all, none of these “facts” are true. It’s all fiction. We know almost nothing about the culture and practices of the ancient Druids, except what little the Romans had to say. (Mind you, these are the same Romans who also used to say that Christians hold secret orgies where they sacrifice babies and eat them — so let’s be careful about how much credence we give them.) The Romans invaded Britain in 43 B.C. There they found a number of Celtic tribes, which the Roman legions subjugated with relative ease.

Now, you need to know that the Romans were not what you would call “culturally curious.” They had little interest in the ways of the conquered Britons. Generally, when there is interaction between the conqueror and the subject, the conqueror picks up and uses the local names for rivers, hills, and the like. For instance, our state is full of names from the native languages of the Indians: Michigan, Mackinac, Saginaw, Escanaba, Kalamazoo, and Washtenaw. However, we find almost no use of the Celtic place names by the Romans. The Romans did not come to Britain for kaffee-klatsches, but for plundering and pillaging. Under the Roman sword the Celtic place names perished with the Celts, as did any certain knowledge of Celtic or Druidic customs (like what kind of fat they used in their candles).But what if the stories about pagan Halloween were true? Does that prevent us from making a fun day out of the Thirty-First of October? Or do pagan origins damn a thing forever?

I would hope that as Orthodox Christians we would know better than to say that. We borrowed an awful lot of useful things from ancient pagan cultures. Our musical system of eight tones? From the pagan Greeks.

And our iconography is an obvious adaptation of Egyptian funerary art: the portraits painted on Egyptian coffins look just like the faces in our icons. Christmas, we all know, is a retooling of the Roman celebration of the winter solstice, the Feast of Sol Invictus (the Invincible Sun-god). And many, many Christian churches were built atop pagan shrines and holy places, the most famous example being the conversion of the Parthenon (a temple built in honor of Athena the Virgin Warrior) to a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Even Protestants with their Puritan impulses and their “just the Bible” mentality have to contend with borrowings from pagan sources in the Scriptures. For example, chapters 22-24 of the Book of Proverbs are almost certainly a translation of the older Egyptian advice guide The Instruction of Amen-em-Opet. Elsewhere in the Bible different titles given to God such as El Elyon “God Most High” and “the one who rides on the clouds like a chariot” (Psalm 104:3) are originally epithets for the pagan storm god Baal.

What’s my point? You can’t judge a custom by its origins. What counts is one’s intention in the here and now. And let’s be honest: modern Halloween for you and me has nothing to do with virgin sacrifice or black magic. It’s about having fun in a costume and eating things your dentist wouldn’t approve of.

“Well!” the anti-Halloween crowd would reply, “Halloween teaches kids that they can get something for nothing!!” But is that so bad? To my ears that sounds awfully close to the Christian idea of grace!

“Yes, yes, but we shouldn’t teach our kids that it’s OK to threaten someone with vandalism if they don’t fork over something you want!” Well, let’s look at this from another perspective. Maybe Halloween holds a nice little life lesson: you give a little to get a little. The Book of Proverbs speaks often of the power of gifts. If we all practiced the spirit of Halloween — being prepared always to give small kindnesses to those around us — what a wonderful world we would have.

Again, let’s be honest: no one was ever possessed by the devil because he or she dressed up for Halloween passed out licorice, or read a Harry Potter book. Our modern lives have way too many other avenues for temptation to enter, and these things are the real cause of our spiritual problems: pride, gluttony, hatred, materialism, and ignorance.

This may be the only pro-Halloween article by a clergyman you read this year. Actually, this piece isn’t so much pro-Halloween as it is anti-superstition and anti-paranoia. American Christianity is too much titillated by thoughts of demons, based on a mythology of evil that has more to do with pagan folklore than the sober statements of Scripture. Such superstition gives all Christians a bad name.

That’s why I’m not afraid of Halloween, and I see no problem with Orthodox Christians having fun at costume parties. After all, why would anyone want to learn more about Jesus Christ and his message, if being a Christian means forever being a spoilsport and a killjoy? If you believe in one God, if you trust Him, then accept his protection and don’t live in fear of demonic bogeymen. The real battle with the devil is fought in the heart, not in front of the Harry Potter bookstore.

Some people drink too much on New Year’s Eve. Should that stop you and me from enjoying a glass of champagne? Some people eat too much at Thanksgiving. Should that stop us from having our turkey with all the trimmings? Some people spend too much at Christmas. Should that stop us from exchanging gifts?

Some people go overboard on the spooky side of Halloween. It’s not too hard to avoid that for your family. Skip the horror movies. Don’t revel in gore. Don’t profane death. Don’t indulge in occult practices… But don’t be paranoid or superstitious either! (Fr. Mark Sietsema is the Priest at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lansing, MI)

Additions in Ukrainian

Євангеліє від Луки 7:11-16. 11 Після цього Ісус пішов до міста, що зветься Наїн; і з Ним ішло багато учеників Його і безліч народу. 12 Коли ж Він підійшов до воріт міста, саме виносили померлого, єдиного сина у матері, а вона була вдова; і чимало народу йшло з нею з міста. 13 Побачивши її, Господь змилосердився над нею і сказав їй: не плач. 14 І, підійшовши, доторкнувся до мар; ті, що несли, зупинилися, і Він сказав: юначе, тобі кажу, встань! 15 І мертвий сів і почав говорити; і віддав його Ісус матері його. 16 І всіх охопив страх, і славили Бога, кажучи: великий пророк постав між нами, і Бог відвідав народ Свій. 17 Така чутка про Нього розійшлася по всій Юдеї і по всьому тому краю.