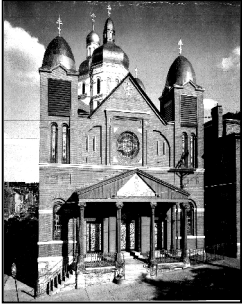


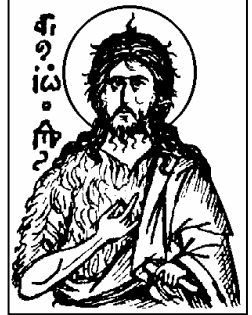
Vol. 54, No. 10

MARCH 9, 2008 AD



**PARISH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Ukrainian-Byzantine Rite



"Catholic" comes for the Greek words for "according-to-the-whole"

"Rite" means "One of the twenty-one Eastern Catholic Sister Churches, who are simultaneously in Communion with the Church & Pope in Rome, while living from out of their own distinctly non-Roman (non-Latin), & yet equally Apostolic Tradition or Theological, Spiritual, Liturgical & Canonical Heritage."

Continued from the cover PAGE



Icon of the Feast of the Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

In the general spirituality of our Byzantine Church, "feastdays" not be celebrated during the weekdays of the Forty days of the Great Fast (Lent). There are only a few exceptions to this rule, such as the Finding of the relics of St. John the Baptist and the memory of the Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste. If these should occur on a weekday of Lent then the Presanctified is celebrated on the eve and on the day; if on the Fifth Sunday, then the usual propers for St. Mary of Egypt are omitted.

ЧИТАННЯ ІЗ СВЯТОГО ПИСЬМА:

НИНІ: 9 березня, 2008 р.Б.: П'ЯТОЇ НЕДІЛІ ВЕЛИКОГО ПОСТУ, КОЛИ ЗВИЧАЙНО ТВОРИМО ПАМ'ЯТЬ СВЯТОЇ Й ПРЕПОДОБНОЇ МАТЕРІ НАШОЇ МАРІЇ, ЄГИПЕТСЬКОЇ, АЛЕ З ОГЛЯДУ НА ПОЛІЕЛЕЙНЕ СВЯТО СВ. 40 МУЧЕНИКІВ, ПАМ'ЯТЬ ПРО СВ. МАРІЮ ВІДПАДАЄ. **На Вечірній Літургії: П'ЯТОЇ НЕДІЛІ:** Книги Буття Читання 48:8-22; Книги Пророка Даниїла Читання 3:13-28; Книги Плачу Єремії Читання 1:1-11; **СВ. 40 МУЧЕНИКІВ:** Книги Пророка Ісаї Читання 43:9-14, Книги Мудрости Читання 3:1-9; Книги Мудрости Читання 5:15-6:3; **На Утренній Літургії: НЕДІЛЬНЕ РЯДОВЕ:** Від Івана святого Євангеліє Читання 20:11-18; **СВ. 40 МУЧЕНИКІВ:** Від Луки святого Євангеліє Читання 21:12-19; **На Божественній Літургії (св. Василя Великого): П'ЯТОЇ НЕДІЛІ:** до Євреїв послання святого апостола Павла Читання 9:11-14; та від Марка святого Євангелія читання 10:32-45; **СВ. 40 МУЧЕНИКІВ:** до Євреїв послання святого апостола Павла Читання 12:1-10; та від Матея святого Євангелія читання 20:1-16; **За-амвонна Молитва:** # 17 або # 58.

НАСТУПНОЇ НЕДІЛІ: 16-го березня, 2008 р.Б.: ПРАЗНИК В'їзду Г.Н.І.Х. в ЄРУСАЛИМ, ПОПУЛЯРНО Т. ЗВ. «КВІТНА» АБО «ВЕРБНА» НЕДІЛЯ. **На Вечірній Літургії:** Книги Буття Читання 49:1-2 та 8-12; Книги Пророка Софонії Читання 3:14-19; Книги Пророка Захарії Читання 9:9-15; **На Утренній Літургії: ПРАЗНИЧНЕ:** Від Матея святого Євангеліє Читання 21:1-11 та 15-17; **На Божественній Літургії (св. Івана Золотоустого):** до Филипп'ян послання святого апостола Павла Читання 4:4-9; та від Івана святого Євангелія читання 12:1-18. **За-амвонна Молитва:** # 19 або # 20 або # 21.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

TODAY: March 9, 2008: On the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast (Lent), we would normally commemorate our holy and venerable Mother, Mary of Egypt, but this year it coincides with the Polyeleos rank Feast of the Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste so the memory of St Mary is omitted: At the Vespereal Liturgy: for the 5th Sunday of Lent: GENESIS 48: 8-22; DANIEL 3:13-28; JEREMIAH, i.e. Lamentations 1:1-11; or for the Holy 40 Martyrs: ISAIAH 43:9-14; WISDOM 3:1-9; WISDOM 5:15-6:3; At the Matinal-Orthros Liturgy: for Sunday:

JOHN 20:11-18, and/or for the Holy 40 martyrs: LUKE 21:12-19; **At the Eucharistic Liturgy (of Saint Basil the Great): for 5th Sunday of Lent:** HEBREWS 9:11-14 and MARK 10:32-45; and, for the Holy 40 Martyrs: HEBREWS 12:1-10 and MATTHEW 20:1-16; **Amvon Prayer:** #17 or #58.

NEXT SUNDAY: *March 16, 2008: The Feast of the Entry of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, popularly called "Flowery", "Willow", or "Palm" Sunday*): **At the Vespereal Liturgy: for Palm Sunday:** GENESIS 49:1-2, 8-12; ZEPHANIAH 3:14-19; ZECHARIAH 9:9-15; **At the Matinal Liturgy: for Palm Sunday:** MATTHEW 21:1-11, 15-17; **At the Eucharistic Liturgy (of Saint John Chrysostom): for Palm Sunday:** PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9 and JOHN 12:1-18. **Amvon Prayer:** # 19 or # 20 or # 21.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT:

USUALLY FEAST OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT

MARCH 8TH & 9TH

Tone 8. Matins Gospel 8. Bright vestments. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. For this year only, the Typikon directs that the Liturgical Propers for our holy Mother Mary of Egypt be replaced with Propers for the Polyeleos rank **Feast of the Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste (321-323) in Armenia**; meanwhile, the remembrance of holy Mary of Egypt, holy Caesarius, doctor of medicine and youngest brother of St. Gregory the Theologian, and holy Martyr Urpasianus of Nicomedia is omitted or transferred.

At our parish: SATURDAY EVENING (all English)

MARCH 8TH

Div. Lit. at 5:00 PM + William Swiderski

(Ed and Vera Moore)

At St. John's Ukr. Catholic Church, McKees Rocks:

LENTEN MISSION (RENEWAL) WITH BISHOP NICHOLAS SAMRA:

6:00 PM Confessions; 6:30 PM – DIVINE LITURGY

At our parish: SUNDAY MORNING

MARCH 9TH

Div. Lit. at 8:00 AM (English & Ukrainian / Sermon in English)

God's Blessings on Parishioners

(Fr. Ivan Chirovsky)

Div. Lit. at 10:30 AM (Old Slavonic & Ukrainian / Sermon in Ukrainian)

+Les Zaliszczuk

(M/M Thomas Mathews)

At St. George's Ukr. Catholic Church, Northside:

CONCLUSION OF LENTEN MISSION (RENEWAL)

WITH BISHOP NICHOLAS SAMRA:

9:30 AM Confessions; 10:00 AM – HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY

At St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church:

4:00 PM – PARASTAS LITURGY: +Fr. Deacon Michael Levy
Visitation in church from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM.

Every year we mournfully commemorate the Lviv Pseudo-Sobor of March 8-10, 1946, in which the brutal destruction of the Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church in Eastern Galicia (Halychyna) in Ukraine, with subsequent destruction thereof in the Lemko and Nadsianina, Transcarpathia, and Presov regions, was enacted by the Stalinist regime with the explicit cooperation of the leadership of the Russian Orthodox Patriarchate of Moscow, which unfortunately continues until today to refer to and celebrate this event as "joyful reunion" rather than the "spiritual rape" that it was. MAY THE LORD HAVE MERCY ON US ALL.

WORSHIP SERVICES & PARISH EVENTS IN THIS COMING WEEK

SIXTH MONDAY OF LENT - DARK (PURPLE) VESTMENTS **MARCH 10TH**
(abstinence from meat and dairy encouraged) The Holy Martyr Quadratus (Codratus, Kindrat) and Those with Him (249-51) in Corinth.

10:00 AM FUNERAL LITURGY: +Fr. Deacon Michael Levy

Afterwards all are invited to attend the agape meal in the upper church hall.

Those who wish to do so may travel to Parma, Ohio, for the interment at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church Cemetery at about 4:00 pm.

SIXTH TUESDAY OF LENT – DARK (PURPLE) VESTMENTS **MARCH 11TH**
(abstinence from meat and dairy encouraged) Our Holy Father among the Saints Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (638); The passing of our father among the saints, Euthymius, archbishop and miracleworker of Novhorod (1458).

SIXTH WEDNESDAY OF LENT – DARK (PURPLE) VESTMENTS **MARCH 12TH**
(abstinence from meat and dairy encouraged) The Holy Martyr Conon of Isauria (2nd century); Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophanes of Sigriana (817); Our Holy Father among the saints, Gregory the Dialogist, Pope of Rome (604); Our father among the saints, Cyrus, bishop of Alexandria (6th century); Our venerable father Simeon, the New Theologian (1021).

SIXTH THURSDAY OF LENT – DARK (PURPLE) VESTMENTS MARCH 13TH

The Transfer of the Relics of Our Holy Father Nicephorus, Patriarch of Constantinople (847); The holy priest-martyr Alexander of Tiverius; the holy martyr Alexander of Macedonia (305).

SIXTH FRIDAY OF LENT – DARK (PURPLE) VESTMENTS MARCH 14TH

(ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT IS OBLIGATORY; from dairy - encouraged). Our Venerable Father Benedict of Nursia (547); The holy martyr Alexander, priest of Pidna; The holy faithful prince Rostislav (1167), called "Michael" in baptism, of Kyiv, Ukraine; Veneration of the icon of the Blessed Mother, "Feodorovskaya," painted by St. Luke.

7:00 PM PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY (bright vestments)

+Stephen Sawczak.....(M/M Peter Wiatrowski)

FEAST OF THE RAISING OF LAZARUS (LAZARUS SATURDAY) MARCH 15TH

BRIGHT VESTMENTS. THE SERVICE FOR THE SAINT(S) IS OMITTED: Holy Martyr Agapius and the Six Martyrs with Him at Caesaria in Palestine (284-305): Timolaus, Alexander, Alexander, Romel, Dionisius and Dionisius.

9:30 AM +Anastasia Olchowy (Pyptyk Family)

SUNDAY MORNINGS: WEEKLY PRAYERS TO THE THEOTOKOS

Do you pray at home, using the personal & devotional prayer form of the Latin/Roman Rite Marian Rosary? Some parishioners do the same at home. But we also gather for a Communal & Liturgical (Byzantine Rite) contemplation upon these same mysteries, in the Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God, our Heavenly Ladder of Mystical Height. We do this at about 7:15-7:50 on every Sunday morning. Everyone is welcome to join us.

FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE**OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY) MARCH 15TH & 16TH**

Tone of the Feast. Matins Gospel of the Feast. Bright (green) vestments. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. The Typikon directs that the Liturgical Propers are only those of the the Lord's Feast. The Propers for *Holy Martyrs Sabinus & Papas (284-305); holy martyr Julian of Anazarbus (305); holy priest-martyr Alexander, pope of Rome (119); Our ven. Fr. Serapion, archbishop of Novhorod (1516)* are either omitted or transferred.

SATURDAY EVENING (all English)

5:00 PM +Gerald J. Bacasa, Jr.

MARCH 15TH

(Family)

SUNDAY MORNING

9:30 AM God's Blessings on Parishioners

MARCH 16TH

(Fr. Ivan Chirovsky)

**11:00 AM – Catechism classes will include
the making of Ukrainian Easter Eggs**

The Great Disturber Tells Us to Serve?

Fr. Deacon Michael Levy, Doctor of Chemistry – отець диякон, д-р Михайло Лівий

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast (Great Lent)

The world says that we are great according to the *POWER* that we exercise over others. For some, the more authority we have to dominate, the greater we are. "But it shall not be so among you," said Jesus. The world says that we are great according to the *POSITION* we hold. *In corporate life for many, the greater the position, the greater the person.* "But it shall not be among you," said Jesus. The world says that we are great according to the *POSSESSIONS* we have. Our greatness is measured for some by where we live, the size of our house, the kind of car we drive, what we wear, the amount of money we have. "But it shall not be so among you," said Jesus.

But if greatness is not to be found in position, in power, in possessions, where then is it to be found? Jesus says: ...Whoever would be great among you must be your servant... In a single sentence Jesus reverses the values of this world! Jesus reverses the whole scale of values and says, "The greatest of these are those who serve." Why does the Lord Jesus place so much emphasis on the importance of serving? That is because Christianity is love in action, selfless love. It is love going out to serve. It is love sacrificing itself. The greatest example of such humble service was Jesus. Once - when no one else was willing to wash the disciples' feet as was the custom,- Jesus knelt down and washed their feet. It is so hard to imagine that God Who is the Creator washed the feet of His creatures. What humility, what love!

When God chose to come to earth, He chose to come in the form of a man, in the form of a servant. Jesus could have come to us as some great ruler, king or conqueror. Instead, He chose to humble Himself, He chose to suffer, and He chose to die a horrible death on the cross. Jesus chose to be the servant and yet He was God. He also chooses to humble Himself even more by transforming Himself into the very food that sustains us and gives us eternal life in the Holy Eucharist. As our loving Lord showed us, so also must we serve others. By doing this we serve Him. By doing this we show the world that there is light, the light of Christ that illuminates all of the darkness.

My dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ and honored readers! As many of you already know, our beloved Father Deacon Joseph Michael Levy, Ph.D fell asleep in the Lord in the early morning hours of Thursday, March 6, 2008. Faithful to the very last hours with us (for he sent his church bulletin reflection to our parish office by email just 25 hours before he was to be born to eternal life), he was born to life in this world as the second son to Joseph and +Emilia Levy on April 21, 1958, in North Olmstead, Ohio. He was raised in Parma, Ohio where he attended elementary school at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic

Parish School, high school at Byzantine Catholic High School, and graduated from St. Anthony of Padua Catholic High School in 1976. Father Deacon Michael earned his Bachelor



of Science and Master of Science degrees in chemistry from Cleveland State University. He went on to earn two Doctorate degrees, one in Organic Chemistry and one in Analytical Chemistry from Case Western Reserve University while working full-time as an analytical chemist for the Standard Oil Company (later British Petroleum) in Cleveland, Ohio. He was ordained to the diaconate in the Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church on April 30, 1995 and served in that capacity in various parishes, primarily at St. Andrew UCC in Parma, Ohio and St. John the Baptist UCC in Pittsburgh, PA. He was actively involved in various eparchial programs, most notably organizing the Acolyte Conventions. He is survived by his wife, Frances Anne, of almost twenty-eight years, his two sons

Joseph Henry and Michael Joseph, his daughter, Theresa Emily, his brother Bohdan Joseph and his Father, Joseph. Extending our deepest sympathy to the family, we commend his spirit -- that of a beloved husband-soulmate, father, son, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, teacher, servant, and friend -- to your prayers. Please pray, my brothers and sisters in Christ, not only that "my brother and fellow minister" may find the healing rest in the Lord which he so honorably deserves for his many years of service-diakonia, but also that his loved ones may find strength to move on, despite the darkness and pain of this "Michael-sized crater" which has so suddenly opened up into their lives. No one else can ever fill that hole again. But the love of our Lord is able to heal the effects of holes. Just as Jesus allowed the scars of His resurrected Body to touch up against the still opened scars of heart, feelings and mind of the doubting Thomas and thus produce the miracle of healing and saving faith, so also may this scar, though yet fresh, painful and unhealed, be permitted to be touched up against the scars of the Risen Lord and thus become in the future a source of the great light of faith and example of dedicated service for the many whose hearts were touched by this faithful servant of God. *Sotvori Yomoo, Hospodi, Vichnooyoo Pamyat' - Grant Him, O Lord Eternal Memory!*



Fr. Ivan, Pani Matka Mariyka and the entire Chirovsky Family.

Sunday, March 9, 2008: 3:00 – 6:00 pm – Visitation; 4:00 pm – Parastas Liturgy;
Monday, March 10, 2008: 10:00 am – Funeral Liturgy - all three to be held in the church.

There will be an "agape" meal in our upper church hall after the Funeral Liturgy and then those who wish to do so may travel to Parma, Ohio for interment (circa 4:00 pm) at the Parish Cemetery of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 7700 Hoertz Road, where his mother, Emilia, of blessed memory, was also buried on Aug 1, 2006.

The normal parish Office Hours which would occur on Monday, March 10 are transferred to Tuesday, March 11.

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On March 9, in the Byzantine Churches, we celebrate the memory of the Holy Forty martyrs of Sebaste. In the year 313 St Constantine the Great issued an edict granting Christians religious freedom, and officially recognizing Christianity (and all other non-Roman religions, as well) as equal with paganism under the law. But his co-ruler Licinius was a pagan, and he decided to stamp out Christianity in his part of the Empire. As Licinius prepared his army to fight Constantine, he decided to remove Christians from his army, fearing mutiny. One of the military commanders of that time in the Armenian city of Sebaste (Sevastia) was Agricola, a zealous champion of idolatry. Under his command was a company of forty Cappadocians, brave soldiers who had distinguished themselves in many battles. When these Christian soldiers refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, Agricola locked them up in prison. The soldiers occupied themselves with prayer and psalmody, and during the night they heard a voice saying, "Persevere until the end, then you shall be saved." On the following morning, the soldiers were again taken to Agricola. This time the pagan tried flattery. He began to praise their valor, their youth and strength, and once more he urged them to renounce Christ and thereby win themselves the respect and favor of their emperor. Seven days later, the renowned judge Licius arrived at Sebaste and put the soldiers on trial. The saints steadfastly answered, "Take not only our military insignia, but also our lives, since nothing is more precious to us than Christ God." Licius then ordered his servants to stone the holy martyrs. But the stones missed the saints and returned to strike those who had thrown them. One stone thrown by Licius hit Agricola in the face, smashing his teeth. The torturers realized that the saints were guarded by some invisible power. In prison, the soldiers spent the night in prayer and again they heard the voice of the Lord comforting them: "He who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live (John 11:25). Be brave and fear not, for you shall obtain imperishable crowns." On the following day the judge repeated the interrogation in front of the torturer, but the soldiers remained unyielding. It was winter, and there was a severe frost. They lined up the holy soldiers, threw them into a lake near the city, and set a guard to prevent them from coming out of the water. In order to break the will of the martyrs, a warm

bath-house was set up on the shore. During the first hour of the night, when the cold had become unbearable, one of the soldiers made a dash for the bath-house, but no sooner had he stepped over the threshold, than he fell down dead. During the third hour of the night, the Lord sent consolation to the martyrs. Suddenly there was light, the ice melted away, and the water in the lake became warm. All the guards were asleep, except for Aglaius, who was keeping watch. Looking at the lake he saw that a radiant crown had appeared over the head of each martyr. Aglaius counted thirty-nine crowns and realized that the soldier who fled had lost his crown. Aggias then woke up the other guards, took off his uniform and said to them, "I too am a Christian," and he joined the martyrs. Standing in the water he prayed, "Lord God, I believe in You, in Whom these soldiers believe. Add me to their number, and make me worthy to suffer with Your servants." Then a fortieth crown appeared over his head. In the morning, the torturers saw with surprise that the martyrs were still alive, and their guard Aggias was glorifying Christ together with them. They led the soldiers out of the water and broke their legs. During this horrible execution the mother of the youngest of the soldiers, Meliton, pleaded with her son not to persevere until death. They put the bodies of the martyrs on a cart and committed them to fire. Young Meliton was still breathing, and they left him to lay on the ground. His mother then picked up her son, and on her own shoulders she carried him behind the cart. When Meliton drew his last breath, his mother put him on the cart with the bodies of his fellow sufferers. The bodies of the saints were tossed in the fire, and their charred bones were thrown into the water, so that Christians would not gather them up. Three days later the martyrs appeared in a dream to St. Peter, Bishop of Sebaste, and commanded him to bury their remains. The bishop together with several clergy went to the lake during the night where they found them to be glowing in the water. They gathered up the relics of the glorious martyrs and buried them with honor. There is a pious custom of baking "skylarks" (pastries shaped like skylarks) on this day, because people believed that birds sing at this time to announce the arrival of spring. Forty "skylarks" are prepared in honor of the Forty Martyrs.

Normally on the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast we would commemorate Saint Mary of Egypt but due to the occurrence of the feast of the Holy 40 Martyrs on this Sunday this year, the commemoration of St Mary is omitted.

On March 9, in the Latin Rite, the traditional pre-Vatican II calendar also celebrated the Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste. However, the revised calendar of 1969 does not mention them. Rather, there is an optional memorial for **Saint Frances of Rome** (or *Francesca Romana*) (Rome, 1384 – Rome, March 9, 1440), who like many Italian saints, was born of wealthy parents. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "With her husband's consent St. Frances practiced continency, and advanced in a life of contemplation. Her visions often assumed the form of drama enacted for her by

heavenly personages. She had the gift of miracles and ecstasy, (as) well as the bodily vision of her guardian angel, had revelations concerning purgatory and hell, and foretold the ending of the Western Schism. She could read the secrets of consciences and detect plots of diabolical origin. She was remarkable for her humility and detachment, her obedience and patience[.]". Francesca had turned part of the family's country estate into a hospital. On the feast of the Assumption, August 15, [1425], she founded the Oblates of Mary, a lay congregation of pious women, attached to the church of S. Maria Nova in Rome, but neither cloistered nor bound by formal vows, which on July 4, 1433 received the approval of Pope Eugene IV. The group became the Oblates of the Benedictine Congregation of Monte Oliveto, headquartered in the nearby Tor di Specchi. She died in 1440 and was buried in that church. On May 9, 1608 she was canonized by Pope Paul V, and in the following decades a diligent search was made for her remains. They were found on April 2, 1638 and reburied on March 9, 1649. Again, in 1869, the body was exhumed and this time exposed to the veneration of the faithful in a crystal coffin. The church of Santa Maria Nova is usually now referred to as the church of Santa Francesca Romana. In 1925 Pope Pius XI declared her the patron saint of automobile drivers. Her feast day is celebrated on March 9, the date of the first translation of her remains.

ACOLYTE ASSIGNMENTS

5:00 PM — SATURDAYS

Joseph & Michael Levy; Richard Vargo; Richard Sawczak

ACOLYTE ASSIGNMENTS

8:00 AM — SUNDAYS

Abby & Drew Buckholt; Antony Chirovsky; Joseph & Michael Levy

ACOLYTE ASSIGNMENTS

10:30 AM — SUNDAYS

Alex & Andrew Hodowanec; Mark Rad

LECTOR ASSIGNMENTS FOR MARCH

FEAST OF 40 Martyrs of Sebaste: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Hebrews 9:11-14 and Hebrews 12:1-10

Saturday, March 8, 2008 – 5:00 PM – Stephanie Vargo

Sunday, March 9, 2008 – 8:00 AM – Joan Hess

FEAST OF CHRIST'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY)***Philipians 4:4-9***Saturday, March 15, 2008 – 5:00 PM – Joanne GiancolaSunday, March 16, 2008 – 9:30 AM – Steve Zinski***FEAST OF RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (PASCHA-Passover)******Acts 1:1-18***Saturday, March 22, 2008 – 3:00 PM – Bob CaseySunday, March 23, 2008 – 8:00 AM – Irene Borodycia***THOMAS SUNDAY******Acts 5:12-20***Saturday, March 29, 2008 – 5:00 PM – Kathy DrapalaSunday, March 30, 2008 – 9:30 AM – Joan Hess**NEW PARISH WEB SITE**To see our new parish web site please go to <http://stjohnspittsburgh.com/>**CONFESSION, COMMUNION, ANOINTING & SICK CALLS**

The bare minimum to remain a Catholic in good standing is to receive Holy Communion once a year between the First day of the Great Fast (February 4, 2008) and Ascension Thursday, inclusive (May 1, 2008). **However many people don't realize that they truly should not be permitted to receive Holy Communion unless they have first been sufficiently prepared to do so.** Do we receive Confession when we are in a state of serious sin? Have we read the Examination of Conscience (booklets are in the pews) to find out what makes a sin a serious sin in the first place? Do we pray the Church's Rule of Pre-Communion Prayers (booklets are in the pews)? Do we realize that asking to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick presumes that we have already first received the Sacraments of Confession and Communion? Do we realize that Confession on Saturday evenings and on Sunday mornings is an exception to the rule, a concession of the Church for the sake of those who are in a dire emergency? Should we regularly put the priest into the uncomfortable position of having to listen carefully to a Confession, when he is distracted that he has to begin a Divine Liturgy within the next half hour? It may be convenient for the penitent, but is it considerate of the rest of the community? Perhaps making arrangements to come when both parties are free to pay full attention to the seriousness of the Sacrament would be better? Simply put: Sunday is a time for celebration and therefore its very character precludes it from being a "normal" time for Repentance and Confession. Weekday times for Presanctified Liturgies, Divine Liturgies, Parastases, etc are listed in the church bulletin. One can always ask for

Confession before or after these services with less pressure on the priest and community. Our parish has over 20 people who are either on the sick call list, or shut-ins, whom our pastoral staff tries to visit on a regular basis. You may contact Sr. Olga (724) 266-5578, if all you wish is to receive Holy Communion. If, on the other hand, you wish to discuss a matter of church order, which only the priest can answer, or if you wish to partake of the Sacrament of Confession or the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, then you must make arrangements with our pastor, Fr. Ivan Chirovsky, by calling Cathy Sawchak at the Church Office on Mondays or Fridays between 9:00am and 1:00pm.

PRO-LIFE MESSAGES

Planned Parenthood performed 264,943 abortions in 2005, an amount equaling nearly 20% of all U.S. abortions. Abortion procedures make up nearly a third of Planned Parenthood clinic income. While the number of abortions has declined substantially in the U.S., Planned Parenthood's share of the nation's abortion business has steadily increased, making it the largest abortion chain in the country as well as the nation's biggest abortion advocate. NRL News, December, 2007. *"That this nation may emerge from the Culture of Death to fully embrace the Culture of Life, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy."*

A LENTEN PRO-LIFE PRAYER (modified for use in Byzantine Rite)

O Father of all mercy, we thank you for this season of grace and light. We know that sin has blinded us. Draw us ever closer to you, in prayer and penance. Give all your people a clearer understanding of the profound dignity of every human life, including the children in the womb. As we prepare to celebrate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ, strengthen our joy in the fact that life has already conquered death. As we prepare to renew the promises of our own Baptism and Chrismation at this Passover (Pascha) of our Lord from death to life, grant that we may live more faithfully as the Children of God and the People of Life. Through the grace and mercies of Your Only-Begotten Son, with Whom You are Blessed, together with Your (+) most Holy, Good and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN WE SAY:

"I am maturing in LIVING THE CHURCH'S LIFE"? or

"I am learning how to "LIVE THE SACRAMENTS"?"

Like the physical growth of our bodies, or the development of our emotions and minds, our growth "in life, in faith and in spiritual understanding" also comes in overlapping stages:

STAGE 1. Our "Everyday Time" is interrupted now and then by "Church Times". "When do I have to go to church?" is a big deal at this "spiritual baby" stage of Christian development. This is done when – if we are able to – we go to Church on Sundays and not on all of the 12 major Feastdays, but only some of them, which are

called "holy days of obligation". Also, very important at this stage are the questions, "When is the service going to begin?" "When is the service going to end?" Our involvement stays passive.

STAGE 2. When we become more actively involved in worship and prayer, we are like "spiritual children". We start attending services regularly. We celebrate days other than merely the "Obligatory" Sundays and feasts, for example: All Soul's, Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent, minor feast days, Major Feastdays that are not obligatory, etc. We begin and maintain a daily discipline of prayer. We only just begin to realize that God has a time all His own that is different from our own.

STAGE 3. We start accepting that "God's time" and "our time" are different and that becomes OK. We no longer fuss over it, but live by **two** calendars: our "Everyday Calendar" and our "Church Calendar." At first, one of the calendars will dominate. We are like "spiritual teenagers", not yet really adults, but not really children anymore. Gradually we begin to put the two calendars together through (a) daily prayer, (b) regular attendance at most worship services, (c) seeking to do the will of God at all times. Good deeds and the so-called "Precepts of the Church" start becoming more and more second nature to us, rather than being a target, which we merely hit every now and then.

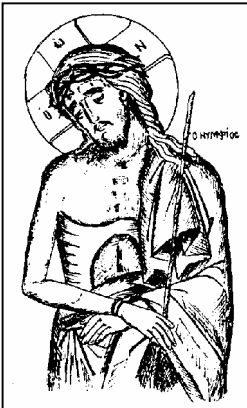
STAGE 4. We become fully Catholic-Universal, "spiritual adults" who have reached Christian maturity. Our calendars are **integrated as one**. We become aware of how the "Church Time" penetrates the "Everyday Time". Our "Church Time" informs and brings hope of the Kingdom to our "Everyday Time". The practice of the Theological and Cardinal Virtues and Gifts (Isaiah 11:2-3) and Fruits (Galatians 5:22-23) of the Holy Spirit become more and more real in me.

Thus, Living the Church's Life, or Living the Sacramental Life, is about integrating a process, or what St. Paul calls "working out one's salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). Those who teach that salvation is a magical moment or one-time declaration of faith in Christ often intimidate unprepared Catholics and Orthodox by saying "Are you saved?" but they are unfortunately quite mistaken. We should learn to respond to such bully tactics by "living the Truth in Love" (Ephesians 4:15), saying firmly, but kindly, that: "*I was saved* when Jesus died for me on Calvary, *I am being saved* to the degree that I participate in the Church's Life, and *I will be saved* when Jesus returns to judge heaven and earth and it is He who will proclaim definitively that I did live a real Life in Christ." A mature Life in Christ is about consistency and persistence in repenting for our sins as a result of embracing belief in the message of His Holy Gospel. Every baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Catholic Christian, whether Byzantine or Roman, is called to this Spirit-filled Life in Christ. It is not just for "professional Christians" like priests, deacons, monks, nuns, and religious brothers and sisters. Jesus described the Kingdom of God as a seed. How is it implanted and nurtured in us? How does the seed grow, so that everything in our lives becomes a "means of

grace"? How does the seed mature so that we see the whole world as a "sacrament" of God? How does the seed grow and make us partakers of the Kingdom of God? The answer is ... **by our regular and faithful participation in the Sacramental Life of the Church!** Through the "leaven" of the Holy Mysteries: our lives are filled with the Life of God, the world is transformed into God's Kingdom, and reality is transfigured to reflect the radiance of the Glory of God.

FEBRUARY 4 – MARCH 12, 2008 - LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Our Church Auxiliary will be conducting our annual Lenten Food Drive for the Food Pantry at St. Paul's Monastery. Please bring in your non-perishable food items and place them in the boxes provided in the rear of our Church. The Monastery will be picking up the food on Thursday, March 13th. Please bring your donations **BEFORE** that date.



2008 Lenten Regulations Reminder from our Bishop's Office

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstention from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of Lent, the following minimal Lenten regulations are in force in our Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio.

1. Abstinance from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of Lent (February 4, 2008) and on Good Friday (March 21, 2008).
2. Abstinance from meat only on all Fridays of Lent as well as Holy Saturday (March 22, 2008). We also recommend voluntary abstinance from meat on all Wednesdays of Lent.
3. Reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist during the Paschal Season (from the onset of Lent to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday).

Fasting and Abstinance 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. Prayer and almsgiving oblige all!

In the authentic tradition of the Church, we also fast from the glorious celebration of the Divine Liturgy on the weekdays of the Great Fast. Only the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is to be celebrated in all our Churches on the Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent, and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Great and Holy Week.



Діла Милосердя для Душі й Духа:

(1) грішника навернути, (2) невіжу навчити, (3) у сумніві порадити, (4) сумного потішити, (5) кривду терпеливо зносити, (6) образу з серця прощати, (7) за живих і померлих молитися, наприклад, приймати участь у Парастасі, чи Бож. Літургії в Задушні Суботи.

Діла Милосердя для Тіла:

(1) голодного нагодувати, (2) спраглого напоїти, (3) нагого зодягнути, (4) по-дорожнього в дім прийняти, (5) недужому послужити, (6) в'язня відвідати, (7) померлого похоронити. *Чи не Найкращий Подарунок це зложити прошення на Службу Божу за здоров'я ваших рідних і друзів? Не треба чекати аж вони помруть.*

Corporal Works of Mercy

(in the Early Church, deacons modeled this for us)

(1) feeding the hungry, (2) giving drink to the thirsty, (3) clothing the naked, (4) visiting the imprisoned, (5) sheltering the homeless, (6) visiting the sick and (7) burying the dead. Why wait until someone dies? Why not "feed and clothe" them spiritually, as well as bodily, by requesting a Divine Liturgy for the visitation of the Holy Spirit upon them for the sake of their health and salvation?

Spiritual Works of Mercy

(in the Early Church, priests modeled this for us)

(1) counseling the doubtful, (2) instructing the ignorant, (3) admonishing sinners, (4) comforting the afflicted, (5) forgiving offences, (6) bearing wrongs patiently, (7) praying for the living and the dead (e.g. attending the Parastas and/or Divine Liturgy for an All Soul's Saturday) !

FEBRUARY 2- MARCH 16, 2008 – 6 week ICON WRITING COURSE

St. John's Institute for Byzantine Studies at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church, 1907 Eden Park Boulevard, McKeesport, PA., will offer a beginner's course in Byzantine Iconography, which will be taught by Fr. Andrew Clark, pastor of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in White Oak. Fr. Andrew has studied with iconographers in Greece and USA, he has taught similar courses. In this six-week course, students will learn basic skills of iconography by painting an icon of Christ on a prepared wooden panel with acrylic paints, & these skills will enable the student to paint other icons as well. The course began on February 2, 2008, from 12:00pm (Noon)-2:00pm. The fee is \$150.00 (includes all materials, eg. paint, brushes, wood, etc.). For further information, please contact the parish at 412-672-0923.

FEBRUARY 4 – MARCH 21, 2008 - PRAYERS FOR LIVING & DEPARTED

Father Ivan asks that if anyone has any special dates throughout the year on which they would like to have prayers offered for the living or for the blessed repose of their loved ones, then they should please contact the parish office as soon as possible to reserve that day. **Be aware that if your wish is that it be on a particular Saturday evening or Sunday morning then you should know that these days are usually taken up as many as six months in advance.** Please remember that during the Great Fast and Holy Week, the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom is not permitted to be celebrated on weekdays due to the fact that these are *aliturghical days* of repentance and penance, while the Divine Liturgy is a service of joy and celebration. The Pope of Rome and Vatican authorities insist *and, in obedience, our Bishops have already mandated* that we restore the ancient and authentic spiritual and liturgical tradition of our Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic Church. This means that we will be striving to have the Presanctified Divine Liturgy on each Wednesday and Friday.

Our Eparchial (Diocesan) Statutes also remind us that we are to have this Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts also on the first day of the Great Fast and on the first three days of Great and Holy Week. It may also be celebrated on Thursday of the Great Canon and on Feasts that fall on weekdays. The Typikon directs that the Liturgy of the Hours should be celebrated according to the rubrics given in the Horologion for the Great Fast (unless specified otherwise in the Typicon) on all other weekdays (i.e. aliturghical days) of the Great Fast. In our parish we will apply these rules as best as we are able to: depending on who actually shows up in church to cantor and serve, we will serve either a Presanctified Divine Liturgy (the custom of the churches at the Kyiv Caves Monastery), or a Parastas Liturgy or a Matinal Liturgy, with prayers for the reposed. Parishioners are reminded that seeking out & attending Latin Rite Catholic devotions, such as Stations of the Cross, wherever they may be held, not out of true devotion or piety, but **only** because you wish to find an excuse to avoid your own Byzantine services such as All Souls' Saturdays and the Presanctified, is like attending a birthday party in somebody else's house at the same date and time that your own mother prepared a birthday party for you at your own home. Do you think this is pleasing to the God, Who gave you your own mother to take care of you? How would your own mother feel?

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2008 - OUR ANNUAL BUTTER LAMB SALE

Please place your order now for Butter Lambs. Orders are due by Saturday, March 8. Pick ups are on Palm Sunday, March 15 and March 16, after the Divine Liturgies in the upper church hall. Price per lamb is \$ 2.50. Order forms can be found in the back of the church.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8 AND 16, 2008 - PASKA SALES

Our Church Auxiliary will be selling Paskas on March 8, 2008, for those who attend the Saturday Evening Liturgy, and on March 16, 2008, for those who attend the Sunday morning Liturgies. We will be baking (on Fridays) both plain paskas and paskas with golden raisins. Helpers are always welcome.

MARCH 6-9, 2008 – 4-day ICON WRITING WORKSHOP

A contemplative experience offered 4 days with overnite stay, Meals provided & materials included in cost. \$150.00 Materials - \$100.00 Meals & Lodging. Each retreat is limited to 8 people. Sr. Rosaire Kopczenski will offer a deep transformational experience that is expressed in your "Writing". No artistic talent needed. To register: send name and deposit (non-refundable) of \$50.00 to Tabor House of Prayer, 146 Hawthorne Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15209 or call 412-821-1149 for more info. This will also be offered on May 1-4, 2008.

MARCH 15, 2008 - PUSSY WILLOWS

Please bring your pussy willows to our school hall on the morning of March 15, 2008 for decoration that day and distribution on the next day which is Palm Sunday, the Feast of our Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem. Please be reminded that the key to success in growing pussy willows as compact bushes for your landscaping lies in pruning them. Pruning pussy willows controls their size -- an important consideration in itself, since bushes with branches 20 feet high will be difficult to harvest. Pruning promotes vigorous new branches on the bushes, which will produce larger catkins. The simple method is to cut your pussy willows when they have reached the stage that you find most attractive, usually in late February or March. As they are about to burst out of their brown caps (whether tight or more open) cut the pussy willows, but before the catkins yellow. Pick a day with temperatures above freezing. Cut a length of branch about 2 feet or more. Repeat for as many branches as available. Put them in a bucket – but without water, just an empty container. Bundle the branches loosely in bunches and hang upside down in a cool (60-65 degrees) dry room such as a closet celler or garage, up to a couple of weeks before you deliver them to our school hall. If your willows are not ready, you can force them. Immerse the cut ends immediately in cold water, set in a warm room. After about 4-5 days, watch for a swelling at the nodes along the branches of pussy willows. This is the first indication of the catkins to come (you'll just be hastening their arrival). When fuzzy catkins appear, you should remove your pussy willows from water before they develop yellow fuzz, bundle and hang in a dry cool area.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008 - ATTENTION CATECHISM TEACHERS, STUDENTS
AND PARENTS: PYSANKY WORKSHOP**

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Michael Haritan, our Catechism classes will be learning and making Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter Eggs) on Palm Sunday, March 16th, after the 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy, from about 11:30 am. ALL CATECHISM TEACHERS MUST STAY FOR THIS EVENT. Parents are also required to attend with their children. The date for making cards for our shut-ins & hospitalized is yet to be set.

MARCH 20-24, 2008 – "COME AND SEE RETREAT"

When the Synod of Bishops of our world wide Ukr. Cath. Church were gathered at their 2007 Synod here in the United States, it was proclaimed that this is the YEAR OF THE CHRISTIAN VOCATION. Our Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchial St. Josaphat Seminary is offering an opportunity for men to come and experience a "slice of life" at the seminary and explore the idea of a vocation to be a priest during PASCHA 2008. Participants will join the seminary community in all of the Liturgical Services culminating with the celebration of Jesus Christ's Resurrection. There will be time for prayerful reflection during these sacred events. Participants: (1) Must be at least 16 years of age, (2) Must have recommendation of your pastor or bishop; (3) **Must register by February 29, 2008.** All participants should plan to arrive at the seminary by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 20. The retreat will conclude on Bright Monday, March 24, with departure after breakfast at 10:00 a.m. Please see Fr. Ivan Chirovsky to register.

MARCH 30, 2008 – SVIACHENE – EASTER BREAKFAST

Please mark your calendars for this year's Easter Dinner (Sviachene) which will take place on March 30, 2008.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008 – FUNDRAISING CONCERT FOR OUR
PATRIARCHAL CATHEDRAL IN KYIV, UKRAINE**

Further information about this event will be posted here as it becomes available.

APRIL 15-20, 2008 - POPE BENEDICT XVI TO VISIT UNITED STATES

On the eve of his 81st birthday, Pope Benedict XVI will visit the USA. His stops include the White House, Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, John Paul II Cultural Center, The United Nations, Yankee Stadium, St. Patrick's Cathedral, St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers and "Ground Zero".

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2008

THIRD "GENERATIONS OF FAITH" SESSION AT OUR PARISH

On Sunday, October 7, 2007, our Parish held its first session within the Generations of Faith Program. The Second one was on December 9. Many thanks to

all of our wonderful volunteers who made this a great benefit for the more than 40 parishioners who attended both times. The general reaction to the first one was, "I thought I already knew what I needed to know, but here I learned so much more about our Church Year and our Twelve Major Feastdays." We look forward to having our third session on April 20, 2008. The topic will be the meaning of Pentecost and the Descent of the Holy Spirit. Don't miss it!!! OUR PARISH strongly encourages all members of our parish family of all walks of life, and anyone else who is interested from outside of our parish family, to take part in this event. This will be a time for learning, and a time for sharing. Please bring your family and friends (even if they no longer go to our church) as well as your memories. Our Parish will provide the food, the setting & the information, activities, & some special gifts for you to take home.

MAY 9-10, 2008 – FIFTH ALL SOULS' SATURDAY

Please make sure that you remove and use your beige "January 27" **envelope marked "Sorokousty"**. The First, Second, Third and Fourth Parastas and Divine Liturgy were already served. Tentatively, the Fifth Parastas will be held at 6:00 PM on Friday, May 9, 2008 and the Fifth All Souls' Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 10, 2008. **Please do remember to attach a list of names or at least a note for our parish secretary, Cathy, saying "please use last year's names", if that be the case.**

MAY 11, 2008 – Pentecost Sunday, Picnic, Mother's Day

Please mark your calendars for this year's Pentecost Sunday. The summer schedule will begin on this day, meaning one Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 9:30 AM, starting on May 11. Also this is the day we are tentatively planning to have our Church Picnic at our parish cemetery. Finally, this year's Pentecost Sunday coincides with Mother's Day.

MAY 16-18, 2008 – Pittsburgh Folk Festival

Historically this festival was always held over the Memorial Day Weekend but the David L. Lawrence Convention Center has contracted to host a regional volleyball tournament on that date for the next five years, starting in 2008. Therefore the Folk Festival date has been changed this year and will be different from 2009-2012.

MAY 18, 2008 – First Holy Confession

First Holy Confession for our parish children will take place on May 18, 2008.

ATTENTION !!! - ALTAR SERVERS AND PARENTS

Wed. & Thurs., JUNE 11-12, 2008 – 7th Acolyte Convention

We will be having our Seventh Acolyte Convention on June 11 & 12, 2008 with the theme being "God is with us". It will be held at Gilmary Retreat Center (Pittsburgh

Airport). Our Honored Guest will be the head of our Church: His Beatitude Patriarch Lubomyr Cardinal Husar.

CHURCH AUXILIARY's 50/50 RAFFLE

The church auxiliary is sponsoring a 50/50 Raffle once again. The tickets are \$1.00 each for 6 for \$5.00. The drawing will be on March 30, 2008 at the Easter Dinner. Please see Rose Breen or Margie Klimko for tickets. Tickets are also available after the Liturgies on Sundays when you get your coffee and donuts.

UKRAINIAN EASTER BASKET RAFFLE

The Church Auxiliary is once again conducting a Ukrainian Easter Basket Raffle. The basket contains a hand embroidered basket cover, an apron with hand embroidery, pysanky, wooden eggs, an Icon egg, a salt container, a candle, an Easter serving dish and other items. The winner will also receive a butter lamb, a freshly baked paska, and a \$50.00 gift certificate to Giant Eagles. The basket is located in the lower church hall, where tickets are available. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The drawing will be held after the one Sunday Divine Liturgy of Palm Sunday (9:30 am) on March 16, 2008.

PAINLESS FUNDRAISING FOR OUR CHURCH BY AUXILIARY

As you purchase food, you can save money and help your church at the same time. **GFS Marketplace** is a store that offers a variety of food, cleaning products, paper items, etc. at prices comparable to the discount warehouses--except there is no membership fee and our church gets a rebate on the items that you purchase. There are flyers in the back of the church that describe the program. Also on this flyer is an application for a free membership card and a coupon for \$10.00 off a \$50.00 purchase. The closest GFS Marketplace store is on Route 51 (see map on the flyer). There is also a store in Robinson.

CHURCH AUXILIARY "Candy Sales"

The Church Auxiliary is once again selling Sarris' chocolate bars and chocolate covered pretzels for only \$1.00 each. Normally sales are on Thursdays and Sundays after the Divine Liturgies. If you attend Saturday evening services, please see Margie Klimko or Diane Vargo if you wish to buy some of this delicious candy at a bargain price.

PYROHI

Pyrohy MAKING AND SALES are held on Thursdays of each week. Pyrohy ordering can be done on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Spare time on your hands? We need dough makers and especially MEN to help. Last week's gross income was: \$2,712.00 *(For those who might be confused the word "gross" means BEFORE paying the bills for*

repairs, food and other supplies). We thank all of our wonderful and hard-working volunteers. May you keep up the great work and may God richly reward all of you.

Please help to get the word out that to place an order for pyrohi, our customers need to please call 412-481-5022 either Tuesdays (8:00 AM – 12:00 NOON) or Wednesdays (10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON). Sales and pick-up on Thursdays are 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. If you wish to have them before Easter Sunday, please place your advance Pyrohi orders NOW. Orders will be limited already in the first week of March and no orders will be accepted from March 11 until April 7. Our last day for selling Pyrohi before Easter Sunday will be March 13. Sales will resume on April 10.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers in memory of a loved one, in thanksgiving for blessings, or to celebrate an occasion, please contact Margie Klimko: 412-431-0430.

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM

For those who have an Internet connection, you may now listen to Byzantine Catholic Radio Programs at home at your own convenience. Go to: <http://www.byzantinecatholic.com/radio.htm>

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008

18th Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast

Prince of Peace Roman Catholic Parish invites everyone to come to St Adalbert Church (162 South 15th Street) for a Slovak Mass at 11:00 am. Afterwards there will be a Slovak Easter Breakfast at Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13th Street). For more information please call Prince of Peace Parish Center at 412-481-8380

UPDATE REGARDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2007

The transfer of information from envelopes into a ledger from May to December of 2007 has been completed thanks to the volunteer work of Rose Breen and Maria Chirovsky. January through April of 2007, as you know, was done by John Grimm. If you would like to have a statement, you may now ask Cathy Sawchak to send you one. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

CANDLE SPONSORS

If you would like to sponsor a candle in front of the copy of the miraculous Pochayiv Mother of God Icon or in front of the Icon of the Cross of Our Lord, or four lamps at the iconostas icons, or seven lamps in the seven-branched candlestick behind our Altar (Holy Table), for whatever intention you desire, at \$5.00 per week, please see Fr. Ivan.

**IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF MY PARENTS, HAZEL & STANLEY BARONETT
(copy of miraculous POCHAYIV ICON OF THE THEOTOKOS):**

\$5.00 – Joyce Baronett

IN LOVING MEMORY OF WALTER HENTOSZ OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH TO ETERNAL LIFE (March 8, 2005) (SEVEN CANDLES AT THE ALTAR):

\$25.00 – Family

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF GRANDMOTHER, ANNA HENTOSZ'S BIRTHDAY (Icon of the Cross of our Lord): \$5.00 – Terry Hentosz

HEALTH OF THERESA HENTOSZ (copy of miraculous POCHAYIV ICON OF THE THEOTOKOS): \$5.00 – Children and Grandchildren Family

GOOD HEALTH FOR MY FATHER, JOHN CZUCZMAN, ON HIS BIRTHDAY, MARCH 13th: \$10.00 – Daughter, Cindi Skosnik

IN MEMORY OF JULIA KULAK ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF HER BIRTH TO ETERNAL LIFE (copy of miraculous POCHAYIV ICON OF THE THEOTOKOS):
\$10.00 – Irene Grimm

MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS

All donations collected in this fund will be used to purchase new Liturgical items necessary for services to occur. It has been almost three years, that we began to acquire new sets of burgundy (Penitential-Lenten) and white (Pascha) vestments for priest, deacon and altar servers, as well as green (Palm Sunday, Pentecost, June and July & certain "venerable" saints like Theodosius, Antony, Sabbas and Apostles' Fast) for altar servers. We also received a set of gold (Ordinary Sundays and Major Feast Days) and dark blue vestments (Feast of the Mother of God in August, & certain Polyeleos rank saints: Nicholas, Elijah, John Chrysostom, etc.). Recently we received donations for a new Gospel book and a new Chalice, Diskos, Star, Spoon and Lance. The Epistle Book is still on order. Eventually a set of vestments for Sundays of Lent, and light blue ones for general Feasts of Mother of God will be needed. In the meantime, as we use what we have for the greater glory of God, please remember that we are far from paying them off. Your generosity, as always, will be greatly appreciated.

NOTE: FUNDS DONATED TO THE MEMORIAL FUND WILL NOT BE USED FOR expenses having to do with the ROOF, or any other, FUND

DONATIONS FOR ROOF & POINTING REPAIR FUND

Note: *Not a few persons made very generous donations using the monthly "Improvements" envelope but without a specific notation that these funds are for Roof & Pointing Repairs. In the future, it will be presumed that such donors wish to remain anonymous.*

NOTE: FUNDS DONATED TO THE ROOF FUND WILL NOT BE USED FOR expenses having to do with the MEMORIAL, or any other, FUND.

THE SUMMARY OF SUNDAY COLLECTIONS
For March 1st and 2nd, AD 2008

NON-ENVELOPE WEEKLY SUNDAY OFFERINGS	16.00
ENVELOPE WEEKLY SUNDAY OFFERINGS	1493.00
MONTHLY FUND FOR REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS & REDEVELOPMENT (First Sunday of every month)	518.00
MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP DUES (Second Sunday of every month)	65.00
MONTHLY UTILITIES & INSURANCE (Third Sunday of every month)	23.00
MONTHLY DIOCESAN COLLECTION (Fourth Sunday of every month)	27.00
ROOF FUND (see above)	0.00
WEEKLY CANDLES	92.59
CANDLE SPONSORS (see above)	10.00
MEMORIAL FUND (see above)	0.00
CEMETERY MAINTENANCE	20.00
1/1 – INITIAL OFFERING	15.00
1/1 – CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD	4.00
1/6 – THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD	4.00
1/27 – SOROKOUSTY (please remember to include a list of names)	100.00
2/2 – ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON and ANNA	5.00
2/3 – FLOWERS FOR THE LORD'S GRAVE	12.00
2/10 – ANNUAL U. S. Conf. of Catholic Bishops' COLLECTION FOR "CHURCH IN NEED"	5.00
2/24 – ANNUAL U. S. Conf. of Catholic Bishops' COLLECTION FOR "CHURCH IN EASTERN EUROPE"	25.00
3/16 – LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY)	24.00
3/21 - ANNUAL U. S. Conf. of Catholic Bishops' COLLECTION FOR "CHURCH IN THE HOLY LAND" of Holy and Great (Good) Friday	12.00
3/23 – PASCHA (PASSOVER) OF OUR LORD FROM DEATH TO LIFE Also known as "Easter Sunday"	64.00
3/23 – DIOCESAN SEMINARY COLLECTION (PASCHA)	5.00
3/25 – ANNUNCIATION TO THE HOLY THEOTOKOS	10.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,886.77

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**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
109 S. 7th STREET,
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15203-1028**

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. John (Ivan) Chirovsky, Pastor
Fr. Deacon Michael Levy, PH D (Chemistry)
Cathy Sawchak

PASTOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Father John (Ivan) & Father Deacon Michael
Irene Borodycia Michael Haritan

Improvements and Redevelopment

Sub-Committee of the PAC

Geoffrey Giancola Yaroslav Hodowanec
Raymond Komichak Steve Sawczak

E-MAIL ADDRESS: stjohnucc@comcast.net

PARISH TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Church Office 412-431-2531
Press NINE, to leave a message
To speak to an operator: Press ZERO,
or, if you have a rotary phone, stay on the line
Church Office Fax 412-431-6404
Parish Hall & Pyrohi 412-481-5022
Diocesan Pastoral Ministry Off. 412-481-9778

DIVINE LITURGIES

Mondays (Outside of Lent): usually 7:00 PM
Other Weekdays, except Saturdays
 (Outside of Lent): usually 7:15 AM
Saturdays (*Anticipated*): 5:00 PM
Sundays (Pentecost to Labor Day): 9:30 AM
Sundays (Otherwise): 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Holy Day of Obligation:
 Evening before 7:00 PM
 Morning of 9:30 AM

HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION

Saturdays: 4:00-4:30 PM & by appointment
Lenten Weekdays: before or after services

MINISTRY TO SICK AND SHUT-INS

Sr. Olga Faryna, OSBM (724) 266-5578

SPIR. DIR. OF BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Fr. John (Ivan) Chirovsky

SPIR. DIR. OF JESUS FILES GROUP

Fr. Deacon Michael Levy (724) 910-0352

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Stephen H. Zinski

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Diane Vargo

BEAUTY OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Margie Klimko

CATECHISTS (2007-2008)

Irene Borodycia Maria Chirovsky Motria Hodowanec

LECTORS

Irene Borodycia	Robert Casey	Stephanie Casey
David Drapala	Kathleen Drapala	Joanne Giancola
Joan Hess	Mary Ann Kasofsky	Stephanie Vargo

BAPTISMS - Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation are normally administered on the Sunday nearest to the 40th day after the birth of the child. Please notify the parish rectory **as soon as you are aware that you are expecting a child**. Sister Ann from the Diocesan Pastoral Ministry Office will conduct special baptismal preparation sessions. **These two sessions are for all expectant parents, the Godparents and grand-parents**. Parents must be registered and active members of the parish. The two sessions will **help you prepare FOR BIRTH and baptism** of your child. It is normal that a saint's name be chosen for the child. **ELIGIBILITY FOR GODPARENT** - One sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, attend Liturgy regularly, receive the Sacraments and fulfill all obligations and financial support to their parish, attested to by their pastor.

MARRIAGES - Arrangements for the Holy Mystery of Crowning are to be made at least six months in advance of the date of marriage by contacting the parish office. **Restating the obvious, clearly and loudly: under normal conditions, future Couples are expected to be active members of our parish for at least one year before the date of the marriage and must attend Pre-Marriage instructions**. Marriages will not be celebrated until the normal spiritual requirements have been met to the Church's satisfaction. So, do not send out your invitations until you are absolutely sure of having done so !!! In fact, if the couple continues to choose to ignore the Church after being warned, then Father Pastor reserves the right to cancel the service even as late as 24 hours before the wedding.

CREMATION - Burial is the preferred and traditional Christian funeral practice. Although highly discouraged, cremation is permitted for economic reasons, esp. if it is NOT done for anti-Christian reasons. The cremation should occur after the funeral services are held in Church, since the presence of ashes in church is strongly discouraged. The ashes are to be buried, with the pastor, or a delegated priest or deacon, performing the usual rite of interment.