



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

21 Evergreen Road
Lyndora, PA 16045-1314



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА
ЦЕРКВА СВ. ПЕТРА І ПАВЛА

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MARCH 5, 2023

WELCOME All! Welcome to the God-Loving and God-Protected Parish of Saints Peter and Paul! A Parish of the UOC of the USA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Our warmest greetings are extended to all visitors and guests, and to all of our beloved parishioners who are participating in today's Divine Liturgy. We are blessed to have you with us today! If you are with us for the first time, PLEASE introduce yourself to Father Yurii – he is looking forward to meeting you! Also, please feel free to email or call Father Yurii with any questions and let him know what is going on in your life, especially if you need spiritual guidance. We hope that you will find peace and comfort in Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church. You are very welcome to come every Sunday and on feast days, make yourself at home, and to become a part of our parish family. Through your prayers and dedication of time, talents, and donations, this can become a reality in all faith and love.

SUNDAY, March 5 Sunday of Orthodoxy.

Martyr Sabbas of Egypt;
Epistle Reading: Heb 1:10-2:3,
Gospel Reading: Mark 2:1-12.
Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45
Divine Liturgy-10:00

Wednesday, March 8
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts-6:30 pm
(St. Anthony)

Saturday, March 11
Soul Saturday
Divine Liturgy – 9:30

Sunday, March 12
GREGORY PALAMAS,
Tone – 6. St. Gregory the Dialogist;
Epistle Reading: Heb 1:10-2:3;
Gospel Reading: Mark 2: 1-12.
Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45
Divine Liturgy – 10:00

Wednesday, March 15
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts-6:30 pm
(Ss. Peter and Paul)

Saturday, March 18
Lenten Retreat

SUNDAY, March 19
CROSS VENERATION
Tone 7. Mar. Chrysanth, Daria;
Epistle Reading: Heb 1:10-2:3,
Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-9:1
Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45
Divine Liturgy –10:00

CONTACT

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Parish Board President:
Maria Corbin
Choir Director:
Lydia Rudolf

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

“FASTING AND SELF-CONTROL ARE A DOUBLE WALL OF DEFENSE AND WHOEVER LIVES WITHIN THEM ENJOYS GREAT PEACE”

— ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READING

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

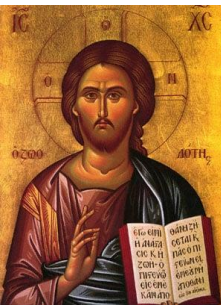


Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Gospel According to John 1:43-51



At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You

are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All the citizens and residence of Ukraine, Stanley Ostwinch, Julia Walek, pani matka Lilia, Jean Markiw, Patrick, Debbie, Wesly, Cindy, Christine, Denny Zymboly, Ruth Dally, Philip, Eric, Greg, Carl, Kayden, Rose, Dorothy Cygan, Helen, Fr. Vasyl, Mary-Ann, Payton, Anthony, Tina, Mykola, Stella, Maksymko, Fr. Yurii, Maria, Fr. Jakiw, Fr. George, Volodymyr, Alexandr, Vincent.

PARISH NEWS AND UPDATES

March 5th – *Potluck*, benefits the Church, after class with Fr. Yurii

March 13th – *Executive Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*

March 18 – *Lenten Retreat.*

March 19th – *Coffee Hour*, organized by Mary McCarthy and Barb Lesney to benefit the Church!

March 26th – *Semi Annual Executive Board Meeting, after Divine Liturgy.*

Dear brothers and sisters, as we enter into these days of Great Lent journey, it is vitally important to remember to participate in the Holy Mystery of Confession. Confession during Great Lent is mandatory. It leads to the most important Christian feast day - the Resurrection of Christ. We have to meet him with a joyful heart, not burdened by any problems. Please, prepare yourself for confession, thinking about your life and how you may have fallen away from Christ's love. You could use the brochure "Preparation to Confession" that Fr. Yurii provided to all parishioners a couple of years ago; also, the prayer book contains a part about Holy Confession that includes material for those who are preparing for Confession. Those parishioners who have not participated in the Holy Mystery of Confession will not be permitted to receive Communion after Great Lent.

The Feast of Orthodoxy is celebrated on the first Sunday of Great Lent in the Eastern Orthodox Church and other churches using the Byzantine Rite to commemorate, originally, only the final defeat of iconoclasm on the first Sunday of Lent in 843, and later also opposition to all heterodoxy. Remembering tradition of our Holy Orthodox Church, on Sunday March 5th, after Divine Liturgy, we are going to have procession with icons. Please, bring your own icon.

Western Pennsylvania Retreat Committee organizing a Lenten Retreat, on the theme “Create in me a Clean Heart, O God and renew a Right Spirit Within me.” Saturday, March 18, 2022 – 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. River Valley Community Resource Center. 320 Shenango Street. Pulaski, PA. Please, find more information on our Church Information Board.

We would like to express gratitude to those who came and help with preparation for a Moleben service for Ukraine last week to pray for the suffering people of Ukraine, those children and families who have left their homes for safety.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who came up to help with our Pirohi Sale last week! We would like to invite and encourage everyone to come out to help with our **Pirohi Sale on March 10th**! Please, come and help as we work together once again for the good of our Parish in this special way.

We would like to invite and encourage everyone to come out to help with our **Annual Pascha (Easter) Bake Sale March 20-22**. Please, come and help as we work together once again for the good of our Parish in this special way.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are still gathering the contribution for help in Ukraine. If you would like to send your contribution, you could send the check to our parish of Ss. Peter and Paul and made it Payable to the Ss. Peter and Paul UOCOFUSA. Please, write on the check “Help Ukraine”. Thank you all so much for your support and help! We encourage everyone to continue to give generously to our Capital Improvement Fund as we continue to work on different projects of maintaining and updating our Parish buildings.

Holy Confession is available before Liturgy and Great Vespers! For Baptisms, Weddings, Memorial Litiya, or any other services, please arrange with Father Yurii! Pastoral Visitations of the Sick and Infirm: Please inform Father Yurii if you or your family members are going into the hospital for any reason or if they would like to receive Spiritual guidance!

For more information regarding our Church life, please visit the official website of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church- <https://uocofusa.or>

PARISH CELEBRATION

From the bottom of Ss. Peter and Paul parish family heart we wish **Jeff Heiger (March 1st)**, **Frank Hawryliak Junior (March 7th)**, **John McCarthy (March 23rd)**, **Lydia Rudolf (March 28th)**, **Rose Raith (March 31st)** Happy Birthday! May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

**CATECHETICAL HOMILY at the Opening of Holy and Great Lent
+ BARTHOLOMEW**

***By God's mercy Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
To the Plenitude of the Church***

*May the Grace and Peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
Together with our Prayer, Blessing and Forgiveness Be with All
Most honorable brother Hierarchs and blessed children in the Lord,*



By the goodwill and grace of the all-merciful and all-benevolent God, already living in the blessed and reverent period of the Triodion, tomorrow we enter Holy and Great Lent, the arena of fasting and “venerable abstinence” that eliminate the passions, during which the depth and wealth of our Orthodox Tradition and the vigilant care of the Church for the spiritual progress of its children are revealed. As we are reminded by the Holy and Great Council of Crete (June, 2016), “the Orthodox Church, in strict conformity with the apostolic precepts, the synodal canons, and the patristic tradition as a whole, has always proclaimed the great significance of fasting for our spiritual life and salvation” (*The Importance of Fasting and its Observance Today*, para. 1).

In the life of the Church, all matters have a solid theological foundation and soteriological reference. Orthodox Christians share the “common struggle” of asceticism and fasting “giving thanks in everything” (Thess. 5.18). The Church invites its children to run the race of ascetic exercises as a journey toward Holy Pascha. It is a central experience of the life in Christ that genuine asceticism is never despondent, since it is imbued with the expectation of resurrectional delight. Our hymnology speaks of the “spring of fasting.”

In this sense, far from the trappings of Neoplatonist dualism and the alienating efforts to “mortify the body,” genuine asceticism cannot conceivably aim at the eradication of an “evil body” for the sake of the spirit or the liberation of the soul from the torment of its shackles. As emphasized, “in its authentic expression, asceticism is not directed against the body but against the passions, whose root is spiritual because the intellect is the first to fall to passion. Thus, the body is hardly the great opponent of the ascetic.”

The ascetic endeavor pursues the transcendence of egocentrism, for the sake of love that “does not seek its own” and without which we remain enslaved within ourselves, in the “insatiable ego” and its unquenchable desires. Being self-centred, we shrink and lose our creativity, as has been said: “Whatever we give is multiplied; and whatever we retain for ourselves is lost.” For this reason, the wisdom of the Fathers and the experience of the Church associate the period of fasting with the “showering of mercy,” with good deeds and philanthropy, which are the evidence of surpassing self-love and acquiring existential fullness.

Such wholeness is at all times the characteristic of life in the Church. The liturgical life, asceticism and spirituality, pastoral care and good witness in the world, are expressions of the truth of our faith, interconnected and mutually complementary elements of our Christian identity, which share the eschatological Kingdom as a point of reference and orientation, as well as the completeness and fulfillment of the divine Economy. While church life in all its expressions reflects and depicts the coming Kingdom of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, it is the mystery of the Divine Eucharist that above all, as underlined by the late Metropolitan John of Pergamon, recently of blessed memory, “expresses the Church in its fullness” (*The Image of the Heavenly Kingdom*, Megara 2013, p. 59). “Pure communion,” the rendering of our existence into that of the church, as participation in the Holy Eucharist, is the “end” of fasting, the “crown” and “prize” of ascetical struggles (see John Chrysostom, *Homilies on Isaiah VI: On the Seraphim*, PG 56.139).

Today, in an age of desacralization of life, when humankind “attributes great importance to entirely insignificant things,” our Christian mission is the practical elevation of the existential depth of our Orthodox “triptych of spirituality,” as the inseparable unity of liturgical life, ascetic ethos and solidarity, the essence of the revolution of values in the fields of ethos and civilization constituted by faith in Christ and the divinely-granted freedom of the children of God. We consider it of paramount importance that we should live Holy and Great Lent as a revelation and experience of the true meaning of freedom “for which Christ has set us free” (Gal. 5.1).

With these thoughts and sentiments of love and honor, we wish you, our most honorable brothers in Christ and spiritual children of our Mother Church throughout the world, a smooth course in the arena of fasting, invoking on all of you the grace and mercy of Christ our God, who always delights in the ascetic struggles of His people. To Him belongs the blessed and glorified power of the Kingdom, now and always, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy and Great Lent 2023

+ **BARTHOLOMEW of Constantinople**

Council of Metropolia Meets at the Spiritual Center of the UOC of the USA



The Council of the Metropolia of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA held its annual meeting in the Metropolitan John (Theodorovych) Memorial Library of the spiritual headquarters of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA on February 17-18, 2023. The purpose of this annual meeting is to evaluate the life of the Church through reports from all administrative and ministry departments and to set the budget for the fiscal year. The

Council is the highest administrative body of the Church between the Regular Triennial Archdiocesan Sobors. The Metropolitan Council is composed of the Hierarchs, Clergy and Lay Members elected by the Church Sobor and the Presidents of the three Church Central Organizations.

In his opening remarks, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony reminded everyone the true purpose of the Council, which was to follow in the footsteps of the Apostles, and nurture, support and further build Christ's Church. It is truly a heavy responsibility, and not to be taken lightly. With Meatfare Sunday coming up and Great Lent quickly approaching, His Eminence read the Proclamation of the Council of Bishops of the UOC of the USA for the Great and Holy Lent, which speaks about Zacchaeus climbing the Sycamore tree to see Christ, only to find Christ already knew him by name, and invited Himself to dine with the tax collector, thereby saving the man's soul for having heard the Lord's words, the sinner mended his ways and busied himself by helping the poor. They then heard about the Publican (tax collector) and the Pharisee – one who prayed with pride, and the other with humility; the Prodigal Son – who squandered his inheritance but through repentance was warmly welcomed “home” by his father; and the Last Judgment – the “choices we make in relating to ALL our neighbors and ALL mankind will determine whether we will be judged to be lambs or goats” as our Lord describes in the Gospel reading of Meatfare Sunday. What we learn from this Gospel reading is the importance of our adherence to our Lord's two Great Commandments: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27) His Eminence stressed that to love your neighbor means loving them as also being created in the image of God as are you.

The final lesson from the Epistle revolved around “forgiveness”. We must live our lives with love, mercy and forgiveness. These must dictate all our works. “Each time we pray the “Lord's Prayer” we ask, “forgiveness of our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”. These cannot be empty words but, rather a heartfelt petition with consequences determined completely by each of us as individuals. If we cannot forgive...neither will we be forgiven. The way we fast is between each of us and God and the way others fast if of no concern to any of us. Forgiveness and sincere fasting enable us to store up treasures in Heaven where we hope to find ourselves after the final judgment.”

With this reflection received, the members of the Council commenced the work of the day in reviewing the Church affairs, permitting the Holy Spirit to guide and direct them in their discussions and decisions for the good estate of Christ's Body – the Church.

Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy, gave a report on the parishes of his Eparchy. The board members were overjoyed to hear how well the parishes are doing as they move beyond the effects of the Covid pandemic, and how active the faithful are. With the current influx of new immigrants (refugees) many parishes are seeing a resurgence in numbers,

allowing the parishes to blossom and provide additional services, hold classes, and have an active parish life.

Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch who oversees the Eastern Eparchy, also reported that his parishes are coming back to fullness of life and worship following the pandemic. Numerous mission parishes have been opened with faithful searching for a new Church home. While some parishes suffer due to location in cities that have seen great decreases of population for various reasons over the last several decades, others are prospering, and the faithful throughout the nation are being served and cared for. The hierarchs discussed specific parishes and missions in detail for the edification of the Council Members.



Some highlights of the work in various departments as presented by the Archbishop – President of the Consistory – include:

- The Office of Stewardship, V. Rev. Fr. Robert Holet, Director. Robert spoke of continued efforts to offer retreats or seminars in our parishes concentrating on stewardship and its meaning for parish and Church life. He spoke at the only such conference in the past year at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Wilmington, DE, where he met with an enthusiastic interest and desire to learn. He continues to be available for such parish or deanery conferences and has a flexible schedule as a retired parish priest. Additionally, he spoke of a new stewardship and charity program called the “Isaiah 44 Project”.
- The Council Members were impressed with all the continued good works and positive reviews of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Thanks to the many years of dedicated service by Mrs. Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon, the ministry has grown and is recognized by other jurisdictions as being one of the best programs available for the education of the youth. Natalie has served on many youth related organization boards as a valuable contributor to youth ministry across all of the Orthodox population in the USA.
- The Liturgical Commission presented the many projects successfully completed over the previous year, and the plans for future publications. These booklets will aid the clergy during numerous services, and will also be available to the laity who can use them to follow along with the various services which are less frequently performed such as Presanctified Liturgy, Compline, various Akathists, etc.
- Ukrainian Orthodox Word (UOW) which has been published only online since 2017 due to the high cost of printing and mailing. A consensus of thought was to reconsider if it is at all possible to return to the print form for the Word, as many of the elderly do not have the capability to read online, and even those who do, often enjoy a paper magazine to read at leisure, and pick up to review certain items at future dates. Various options were considered and will be reviewed in the future.

- The Council also reviewed other ministries including:
 - Our St. Andrew Church Goods and Bookstore, which realized record sales for the past fiscal year
 - Andrew Cemetery, under the management of Fr. Vasyl Shak, has also recorded elevated income, sadly perhaps due to the Covid virus. The original cemetery surrounding St. Andrew Memorial Church is also slowly coming close to all graves available being sold. It is expected that within the present decade this will occur, and further graves will be sold at that time in the Cemetery expansion, which has already been prepared and plot mapped for future sales.
 - Our Metropolitan John (Theodorovych) Church and Seminary Library is administered by Dobr. Oksana Pasakas and continues the complete cataloging of our collection and the digitalization of over 70 years of Ukrainian Orthodox Word – both English and Ukrainian. New books are purchased each year to add to our theological collection standing.
 - Religious Education – V. Rev. Fr. Harry Linsinbigler, Director – Fr. Harry reports efforts between Orthodox jurisdictions in the USA toward more parental involvement in parish religious education.
 - The Ukrainian History and Education Center was presented by the Museum Staff: Natalia Honcharenko, Director; Dr. Michael Andrec, Archivist; Dobr. Oksana Pasakas, Education Coordinator and Collections Manager and Mia Naumenko, Assistant Education Coordinator. The present exhibit through April of this year is “Ukraine 1933: A Cookbook, Linocuts by Mykola Bondarenko as his response to the Holodomor. The images depict the various plants, animals and insects that people were forced to eat in order to stay alive, with texts that identify the “food” and the “recipe” for its preparation. The next major exhibit will open in May and run through November of this year – “Depicting Genocide: 20th Century Artistic and Societal Responses to the Holodomor”. Artistic responses to the Holodomor by survivors of the Holodomor who emigrated from Ukraine after WWII and also artists who were free to create Holodomor “responses” only after Ukrainian Independence was declared. The exhibit is supported by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. This report to the Council included broad listings of the educational programs, representation at community events, conference and speaking activity of our Archivist and a list of the grants received for 2023 programming. See the website – ukrhec.org – for more information.
 - The Office of Archives – Dr. Michael Andrec, Certified Archivist, Director continues to receive deposits from the records of the Consistory/UOC of USA, from parishes and individuals. All these deposits are analyzed and determinations

are made as to the proper amount of the material for inclusion in the permanent archives. Of particular interest in this report was the receipt of materials from Archbishop Mark, located in the parish rectory of St. Demetrius Cathedral, Carteret, NJ and the final records of St. Vladimir Parish, Smithmill, PA, which was closed recently after membership dwindled. Dr. Andreo also presented several videos and an audio that have been digitized and available to view or hear at UkrHEC.org/uoc .../uhec and .../audio

- All Saints Camp – Joshua Oryhon, Director. In this report the Council received information about: staffing needs and jobs available for the 2023 camping season; upcoming work weekends for volunteers to offer their assistance; the current “Loving Waters” fundraising campaign to cover the costs of installing a completely new water system at the direction of the PA Department of Environmental – total cost \$300,000 of which about 30% has been received and the 2023 camping schedule listing our Church programs and those of outside renters. Go to allsaintscamp.org for further information.
- The Ukrainian Orthodox League report was reviewed in the absence of its President due to illness. Council Member Karen Farrero, Immediate Past President of the League and Chair of the 2023 UOL Convention informed the Council that this year’s annual UOL Convention will take place on July 27-30, 2023, hosted by St. Michael Parish in Scranton, PA and urged the Council Members to participate as leaders of the Church.
- Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay, President of the St. Andrew Society, presented the report for the organization. Protodeacon Ihor explained how the society’s focus which had been on soup kitchens and the poor in Ukraine, has shifted as the needs of the invaded country have increased. The funds still go towards providing necessary food, clothing, and necessities for the elderly, but also in assisting the countless internally displaced persons who find themselves struggling to survive the war. Numerous ambulances and generators have also been purchased and help ease the burden our brothers and sisters are currently facing. The Society continues to ceaselessly provide for the needs of those who suffer in Ukraine.
- Rev. Andrii Pokotylo, President of the Guardians of the Metropolia, the “youngest” of our Church Central Organizations reported that the Church has already benefited significantly with financial support donated to cover some of the specific funding needs in the Consistory. He invited all Council Members to join the Guardians to assist in its support for our Holy Church.



The Saint Sophia Theological Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary is doing well and in the process of fulfilling all the necessary steps for accreditation by the ATS – the Association of Theological Schools in the USA and Canada. The Seminary was granted Associate Status in the organization in 2020. The Seminary has active in-residence student programs as well as distance learning educational programs that require specific periods of in-residence course work. Over the past ten years the seminary has graduated and assigned to parishes 15 priests and 11 deacons with the hope that among these will be candidates for higher degrees in religious education. The accreditation process is a very difficult and labor-intensive effort, which takes up to five years. This is an extremely time-consuming project under the leadership of Archbishop Daniel to whom the Metropolitan expressed the deepest of gratitude in the name of the Council of the Metropolia, the Seminary Board of Trustees and all the faithful of our Holy Church.

Metropolitan Antony conducted a discussion about the disposition of the Davidson Avenue half of our Metropolia Center property as directed by the 23rd Regular Sobor. At the present time the discussions about what the future is concerning the property, have been put on hold due to the Franklin Township’s passage of various ordinances concerning such properties as ours, which have resulted in a number of lawsuits which are in progress regarding those ordinances. At the advice of our Attorney, it is necessary to await the outcome of those lawsuits before we can proceed with any decisions about the future of our property. Eminence also reported that we are in the final stages of receiving coverage for the immense damage caused by hurricane IDA in September 2021 to our property on the Memorial Church/Cemetery side. We have received a loan from the SBA (Small Business Administration) of nearly \$500,000 at very low interest rates and we hope to soon complete the application process for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) grants to cover the necessary repairs beyond those covered by the SBA loan. It has been a very long and tedious process and the Metropolitan expressed his sincere gratitude to Natalia Honcharenko, Marc Heenan, our contractor supervisor, and Petro Rudy for their immense efforts.

Review of the Financial Report finished the Friday session. The members reviewed the financial status of the Church, and the previous year’s budget. Taking into consideration the various aspects of influence – such as pandemic, floods, etc. a new budget was proposed. After much discussion, the numbers were adjusted to best fit the needs the Church will face in the coming fiscal year, and the Church goes forth into the future confident that all ministries will continue their important work in the life of the Church, and the faithful will be served on a local level as well as nationally. Much concern was expressed about the capital investments that will soon become necessary on our aging building, especially the Cultural Center, the Consistory and the Seminary. If we have a major emergency in any of them, we will be faced with great financial

needs. The Consistory and Financial Officers will be working diligently to determine the ways and means of preparing for the conducting the effort to deal with the needs.



Having discussed the horrific impact of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, and various fundraising activities, it was decided that the Board Members would all attend a local charity event taking place at the State Theater in Brunswick, New Jersey, to support the visiting Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine, which is on a 40-stop tour through the United States. Dressed in their vyshyvankas the board members enjoyed a quiet evening of classical music, which was concluded with a rousing Ukrainian number. (The Program Director of State Theater participate in the 23 February Commemoration Marking the One Year Duration of the invasion of Ukraine and informed us that this event raised over \$25,000 for the Ukrainian Red Cross!

The Board meeting concluded on Saturday morning, as the members once again gathered in the Library for final discussions and round table. As this was the Saturday before Meatfare Sunday, each member was asked to write down the names of their loved ones who have reposed in the Lord, and anyone whom they wished to pray for on this Memorial Saturday. As the meeting was adjourned, the hierarchs celebrated a Litia, praying for all the names that were submitted to them, as the members sang the responses and finished with a soulful Memory Eternal! Having thus prayed for the peaceful repose of those who had historically supported and built the Church to what it is today and having made plans to ensure the success of the UOC of the USA for the future generations, the Council of Metropolia members departed back to their own parishes, spiritually fortified, and filled with hope for the future.