



St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church

Sunday Bulletin

April 6, 2014

St. Stephen Protomartyr
Ukrainian Catholic Church
4903 – 45th Street S.W.
Calgary, AB
Canada T3E 3W5

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<stephens_office@shaw.ca>

Website:
<www.protomartyr.ca>

Eparchy Website:
<www.edmontoneparchy.com>

DIVINE LITURGIES

Sundays:

8:30 am – Ukrainian [chanted]
10:30 am – English [choir]
5:00 pm – English [recited]

Weekdays:

8:00 am – English
[9:00 am – on Statutory Holidays]

Saturdays:

9:00 am – English

Feast Days: (subject to change)

9:00 am – English

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT COMMEMORATION OF ST MARY OF EGYPT

There is no sinner who cannot repent, and become a great saint. To encourage us, on the fifth (and last) Sunday of Lent, the Church remembers Saint Mary of the Desert, **Mary of Egypt** as she is also called. She was a successful prostitute, and joined a pilgrimage boat to Palestine only in search of new customers! She had been baptized as a child, but she was not at all interested in the Faith. Then, however, in Jerusalem, God's grace moved Mary to repentance, and she went out into the desert beyond the Jordan, where she led an eremitical life for many years. Shortly before she died, she met Saint Zosimas, of the monastery of Saint Sabbas, near Jerusalem; it was Saint Zosimas who gave her Holy Communion before she died, and who learned her history. From one aspect, there is nothing extraordinary about Saint Mary of the Desert; in every generation there have been sinners who repented and became saints. God chose to reveal this particular saint to the Church, so that we should know that we may never despair over our sins; the possibility of repentance is always open to us.



DIVINE LITURGY TEXTS

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion, Tone 5: Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, and born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Troparion, Tone 4: O Christ, bestow from above Your mercies to those who radiantly feast Your bishop's falling asleep. Through the intercession of our father Methodius, Your holy disciple, open to us the doors of the Kingdom and loose the chains of our many sins.

Troparion, Tone 8: The divine image was faithfully preserved in you, O mother, for taking

up the Cross, you followed Christ. By your deeds you have taught us to see beyond the flesh, which passes, and care for the soul, a thing immortal. And so, O venerable Mary, your spirit rejoices with the angels.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 3: Once you were filled with every impurity, now through repentance you have been revealed as a bride of Christ, following the angelic life, you crushed demons with the weapon of the Cross. Therefore, O glorious Mary, you have been shown to be a bride of the kingdom.

HOLY MYSTERIES

Confession:

Sundays and Feast days one-half hour before Divine Liturgies, and by appointment.

Marriage:

Arrangements with Fr. Mark.

Baptism-Chrismation-Eucharist:

Arrangements with Fr. Bo.

Anointing of the Sick:

For emergencies call
403 249-4818, press 9

Funeral:

Arrangements with either Pastor,
Fr. Mark or Fr. Bo

CLERGY

Pastor:

Fr. Mark A. Bayrock
403 249-4818, press 201
<frmarkbayrock@mac.com>
<www.sviaschenik.com>

Assistant Pastor:

Fr. Bohdan Nahachewsky
403 249-4818, press 202
<fr.bo@telus.net>

Deacons:

Deacon John Doll
Deacon Richard Nibogie

Sisters:

Sr. Laura Prokop, SSMI
403 230-8171
<ssmicalgary@shaw.ca>
Sr. Yvonne Kabay, SSMI
403 230-8171
<ykabay@hotmail.ca>

STAFF

Parish Office Administrator
Teri deJonge
403 249-4818, press 0
<stephens_office@shaw.ca>

Maintenance

John Kowal
403 249-4818, press 207
<stephens_maint@shaw.ca>

Hall Rental Inquiries

Please contact the Parish Office

Prokeimenon, Tone 5

You, O Lord, will guard us and will keep us from this generation and for ever.

verse: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer left a just man.

You, O Lord, will guard us and will keep us from this generation and for ever.

Epistle

Hebrews 9:11-14

But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God.

Alleluia, Tone 5

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

verse: Your mercies, O Lord, I will sing for ever; from generation to generation I will announce Your truth with my mouth.

verse: For You have said: Mercy shall be built up for ever; in the heavens Your truth shall be prepared.

Gospel

Mark 10:32-45

At that time Jesus took the Twelve, and began to tell them what would happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the Scribes; and they will condemn him to death, and will deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and scourge him and spit

upon him, and put him to death; and on the third day he will rise again." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him, saying, "Master, we want you to do for us whatever we ask." But he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" They said, "Grant to us that we may sit, one at your right hand and the other at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink of the cup of which I drink, or be baptized with the baptism with which I am to be baptized?" And they said to him, "We can." And Jesus said to them, "Of the cup that I drink, you shall drink; and with the baptism with which I am to be baptized, you shall be baptized; but as for sitting at my right hand or at my left, that is not mine to give, but it belongs to those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard this, they were at first indignant at James and John. But Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers among the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not so among you. On the contrary, whoever wishes to become great shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be the slave of all; for the Son of Man also has not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Hymn to the Mother of God

In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angelic ranks and all the human race. Sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, virgins' pride and boast, from whom God is made flesh and became a little Child; and He who is our God before the ages, He made your womb a throne, and He made it wider than all the heavens. In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance; of evil hearsay he shall have no fear. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

CHURCH FATHERS

The partaking of food has three degrees: abstinence, adequacy and satiety. To abstain, means to remain a little hungry after eating; to eat adequately, means neither to be hungry, nor weighed down. But eating beyond satiety is the door to belly-madness, through which lust comes in. But you, firm in knowledge, choose what is best for you, according to your powers, without overstepping the limits.

-St. Gregory of Sinai

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 6:

8:30am – for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

10:30am – for 85th birthday

blessings for Olecia Chobych

5:00pm – for the repose of the soul

of †Nestor Ficzyz

Monday, April 7:

8:00am – for faith and guidance for Kumar, Evamarie and family

Tuesday, April 8:

6:00pm (Presanctified) – for the health and recovery of Mike

Hryhoryshyn

Wednesday, April 9:

6:00pm (Presanctified) – for successful surgery and recovery for Irene

Thursday, April 10:

6:00pm (Presanctified) – for strength and perseverance in times of turmoil for Patriarch Sviatoslav, mother Church and the people of Ukraine

Friday, April 11:

6:00pm (Presanctified) – w/ Panakhyda: for the repose of the soul of †John Maduck

Saturday, April 12 - Lazarus

Saturday:

9:00am – for the repose of the soul of †Bohdan (+Ben) Zuber

Sunday, April 13 - Willow/Palm

Sunday:

8:30am – for the intentions and needs of all parishioners

10:30am – for blessings and guidance for the First Solemn

Communicants and their families

5:00pm – for comfort and prayerful support for Joe Ewanchyna and

Family

>> LITURGICAL HELP <<

EPISTLE READERS:

8:30am - Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

10:30am - Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

5:00pm - Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

HOSTS/USHERS:

8:30am - Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

10:30am - Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

ROSARY (10:00am): K of C 4th Degree

ARK STORE IS OPEN!!!

Today: Bobynd Family

Next Sunday: Siroishka Family

For information on scheduling or to join the list of volunteers for the Ark Store, please contact John Siroishka at 403-271-2128.

RESPECT FOR LIFE SUNDAY: TODAY - Knights of Columbus St. Nicholas Council invite all parishioners and the public to an informative program of presenters to educate and advise all Youth, Adults and Seniors on "Respect All Life (from conception to natural death)". Come for a hot Pancake Breakfast and brief presentations after each of the 8:30am and 10:30am Divine Liturgies.

EASTER EGG PYSANKY DECORATING: TODAY from 2:00pm - 4:30pm we will have fun with all kids decorating Easter Eggs. Please bring your own supply of raw eggs. For more information, contact Cultural Director Maria Dwulit at 403-816-5610.

"Our heartfelt thanks to everyone praying and offering support to our family over the last four months and who continue to do so. Your kindness means more than you will ever know and has offered great comfort. May God bless you all!" - The Taillon Family

>> PRAYER & CATECHESIS <<

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES TODAY: beginning with everyone present at the 10:30am Divine Liturgy.

FIRST SOLEMN COMMUNION CLASS TODAY: at 9:00am.

LENTEN PRESANCTIFIED LITURGIES: are celebrated throughout Lent on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings at 6:00pm. Parishioners are invited and

encouraged to attend as often as possible as part of your Lenten offering of service to God.

GREAT VESPERS: on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 5:00pm. Come join in this beautiful hour of evening prayer.

SOLEMN CONFESSION AND FIRST SOLEMN COMMUNION: please keep all of the children in your prayers as they prepare for these events which will take place on Saturday, Apr. 12 and Sunday, Apr. 13. Pray also for their families to be sources of spiritual education and growth in their daily walk with our Lord.

>> MEETINGS & PROGRAMS <<

BABKA MAKING WORK-BEE: on Tuesday, Apr. 8 in the hall kitchen beginning at 9:00am in preparation for the UCWLC Easter Bake Sale. Many willing participants are needed.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, Apr. 8 following Presanctified Liturgy (approx. 7:15pm) in the Knights' room. All Directors (this past year's and new) are asked to attend to make the transition to the new council a smooth one. Please bring your binders.

LIGHTWEIGH PROGRAM: Wednesday, Apr. 9 at 1:00pm in the boardroom. For more information, please contact Arlene Franko at 403-246-0633.

CHILDREN OF MARY & ALTAR SERVERS MEETING: with Fr. Bo on Friday, Apr. 11 at 7:15pm (following Presanctified Liturgy) in the boardroom.

ADULT PYSANKY COME AND GO OPEN HOUSE: on Friday, Apr. 11 from 12-5pm and 7-11pm. If you have ever wanted to make a pysanka or try a different technique here is your opportunity! Experienced writers come share your knowledge! Please bring your own supply of raw white or brown eggs. Contact Maria Dwulit at 403-816-5610 or Donna Chelack at 403-764-0811.

INN FROM THE COLD: Volunteers are reminded our next hosting is Tuesday, Apr. 15 (dinner at 6:30pm) and Wednesday, Apr. 16 (breakfast at 6:00am). To join this great group of volunteers, please contact Ambrose at 403-220-9624.

St. Stephen Charitable Committees, Activities & Organizations

Charity Subcommittee: Coordinate & market the efforts of all parish charitable activity.

Contact: Randy Ritchie
403-539-9421; <randy@jrpsi.ca>

Inn From The Cold: Monthly provides food & shelter for Calgary's homeless.

Contact: Ambrose Comchi
403-220-9624; <awc@shaw.ca>

Pass It On: Donates clothing to needy families in Calgary.

Contact: Theresa Lewchuk
403-208-0850; <lewchukt@hotmail.com>

Men's Dinner: Annual major church fundraiser for capital expenses plus Inn From the Cold endeavours.

Contact: Greg Bobyn
403-271-0011; <greg.bobyn@mnp.ca>

Interfaith Goodwill Network: Distributes used furnishings & clothing to the needy.

Contact: Des Peplinski
403-238-0804; <d1p238@shaw.ca>

St. Stephen ARK Store: Sells spiritual & Ukrainian cultural items.

Contact: John Siroishka <johnsiroishka@shaw.ca> or Donna Chelack <dchelack@shaw.ca>

UCWLC: Responds to parish and community needs through volunteerism, pastoral works, Ukrainian culture & aid.

Contact: Stacey Bobyn
403-860-2185 <sbobyn1@telusplanet.net>

Knights of Columbus: Provide financial aid & support for members & their families, and help the sick, needy & disabled in our parish, city & abroad.

Contact: Allan Oryschak
403-242-5015; <shaloryschak@shaw.ca>

Plus 50 Club: Provides social interaction for parish seniors, promotes Ukrainian cultural events, and raises funds for the parish.

Contact: Ed Tysowski
403-547-3226; <tysow@shaw.ca>

Prayer & Support Group: Accepts prayer requests for the confidential needs and intentions of parishioners.

Contact: Marilyn Comchi
403-220-9624; <marilyncomchi@shaw.ca>

Support Network: Provides support, encouragement & help for parishioners facing various difficulties/situations with referrals to services or help they need.

Contact: Marilyn Comchi
403-220-9624 <marilyncomchi@shaw.ca>

International Trust Fund: Solicits & invests donations and disburses earned income to international charities in 2nd & 3rd world countries.

Contact: Steve Groch
403-239-4699; <swgctc@aol.com>

Family Support Trust Fund: Solicits & invests donations and disburses earned income to parishioners in need.

Contact: Dave Shewchuk
403-294-5569
<dave.shewchuk@sprole.com>

Calgary Pro-Life Association: Raises funds for educational awareness programs.

Contact: John Siroishka
403-271-2128; <johnsiroishka@shaw.ca>

Snowflakes for Zambia: Raises funds to build schools for orphaned/at risk children in developing countries.

Contact: Jeanette Hendrickson
403 826-5481
<jhendrickson689@gmail.com>

SANDWICHES FOR THE DROP-IN CENTRE:

our next collection day is the SUnDay after Easter, St Thomas Sunday.

>> PARISH NOTICES <<

UCWLC EASTER BAKE SALE:

next Sunday, Apr. 13 from 9:30am - 1:00pm in the parish hall. Contact a UCWLC member for details.

PARISH EASTER DINNER: will be held on Sunday, Apr. 27 following the 10:30am Divine Liturgy. Contact UCWLC President Stacey Bobyn at 403-860-2185 for more information on ticket sales.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "UKIE STAMPEDE STOMP": is slated for Saturday, June 21. Hold the date! More details to come. Pray for dry weather this year!

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP is coming soon! This year's theme is "Weird Animals: Where Jesus' Love Is One of a Kind! " This year the camp runs Monday, July 7 to Friday, July 11 with a wrap up on Sunday, July 13. Camp is open to children ages 4 to entering grade 6.

Registration and volunteer forms will be available soon. Please e-mail Lynsey Lowey <lklowey@hotmail.com> <mailto:lklowey@hotmail.com> if you would like to make sure you are on the list of registrants, or if you would like to volunteer. We will need to be ordering materials and supplies soon and your early response is appreciated to help with determining numbers.

UNITY 2014 - FAITH FORWARD: Attention Young Adults (18 - 35 years): Do you want to explore your faith? Do you want to have fun this summer? Do you want to meet other happy Young Adults? UNITY 2014 happens in Camrose, AB from August 14 - 17. For more information please see the UNITY 2014 website <<http://thisisunity2014.wordpress.com>>, the poster in the atrium or talk to Fr. Bo.

ST. VLADIMIR'S SADOCHOK UPCOMING EVENTS. Family Fun Night, Sadochok's only fundraiser, is Friday, May 9 from 5-10 pm. Enjoy a delicious homemade Ukrainian meal, dance, kids' activities and silent auction. For tickets (\$30/adult, \$5/child aged 3-13 and free for kids under 3), contact /annaingsworth@gmail.com



HOLD THE DATE:

FRIDAY JUNE 6th 2014

for the Bishop's Dinner,
our Eparchial Fundraiser
in Calgary.

Details to follow.







2014 EASTER PASCHAL SCHEDULE

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us: O Lord, cleanse us of our sins; O Master, forgive our transgressions; O Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

PALM/WILLOW SUNDAY, APRIL 13	Regular Sunday Divine Liturgy Schedule with Blessing of Pussy Willows at all Liturgies	<i>First Solemn Communion to be celebrated at the 10:30am Sunday Divine Liturgy on April 13th -Fr Mark</i>
MONDAY, APRIL 14	8:00am Divine Liturgy	
TUESDAY, APRIL 15	6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	
HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16	6:00pm Anointing of the Sick	
HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17	3:00pm Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 6:00pm Confessions 7:00pm Twelve Gospels of the Passion of our Lord 8:00pm Confessions	
GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18	1:00pm Vespers with Veneration of the Holy Shroud (Plaschanitsia), followed by: 24 hours Vigil at the Tomb 3:00pm – 4:30pm Confessions 6:00pm Confessions 7:00pm Jerusalem Matins 8:00pm Confessions	
HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19	2:00pm Blessing of Paska (in the Hall) 3:00pm Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil / Adult Baptism 5:30pm Blessing of Paska (in the Hall) 6:00pm Nadhrobne Service by the Tomb	
HOLY PASCHA, APRIL 20 EASTER SUNDAY	8:00am Resurrection Matins with Divine Liturgy w/Paska Blessing 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Eng.) w/Paska Blessing No 5:00pm Divine Liturgy	
BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 21	9:00am Divine Liturgy	
BRIGHT TUESDAY, APRIL 22	9:00am Divine Liturgy	
BRIGHT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23	8:00am Divine Liturgy	
BRIGHT THURSDAY, APRIL 24	8:00am Divine Liturgy	
BRIGHT FRIDAY, APRIL 25	8:00am Divine Liturgy	
BRIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 26	9:00am Divine Liturgy 5:00pm Great Vespers	
SATURDAY, JUNE 7	11:00am Blessing of Graves: Queen's Park Cemetery (St. Joseph) 3:00pm Blessing of Graves: Mountain View Cemetery (Good Shepherd)	
SATURDAY, JUNE 14	10:00am Blessing of Graves: Eden Brook Memorial Gardens 2:00pm Blessing of Graves: St. Mary's Cemetery	

April 2014						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Fr. Mark and Fr. Bo prayerfully extend to all Parishioners and their Families the Joys and Blessings that flow from the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Вих. ВА 14/166

**PASTORAL LETTER
OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV
on the occasion of the renewal
of the Act of Consecration of Ukraine
to the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God**

*We have no other help, we have no other hope, but You, O Most Pure Virgin.
Aid us, for we hope in You and praise You; May we, Your servants, be not put to shame
(Canon of the Moleben to the Most Holy Mother of God).*

Dearly beloved in Christ!

In these days, when our nation and fatherland is once again experiencing a great ordeal —with the occupation of a part of our land—our hearts are filled with anxiety for the future, uncertainty and fear.

Amid these present circumstances, the Lord Himself sends us a sign of hope, just as He did to King Ahaz in the ancient days of the Old Testament. Jerusalem was under mortal threat from hostile neighbours and its ruler, King Ahaz, desperately sought support from the world powers of the time. The inspired author conveys eloquently the sentiments of the king and his vassals: “the heart of the king and of the people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind” (Is. 7:2). Lord sent to King Ahaz the prophet Isaiah to reassure him and to call him to fully trust in God. The king, however, continued to doubt and waver. Thus, God placed in the mouth of His prophet these words of promise: “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Is. 7:14). This prototype of the protection of the Mother of God became a sign of God’s personal and omnipotent sheltering of His people. At that time, the Most High asked His people and their rulers not to place undue confidence in the powerful ones of world, but rather to surrender themselves into His mighty hands by returning to His law: “In returning and rest you shall be saved, in quietness and in trust shall be your strength” (Is. 30:15).

During our Great-Fast journey, the Lord God sends us His word, calling us to sincere conversion, to an inner change, and as a guarantee of His blessing, He gives us a sign—the Most Holy, Most Pure, Most Blessed, our Glorious Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary.

In all times, God has come to the aid of His people. As a sign of victory and hope is “the virgin” announced by the prophet Isaiah—the Immaculate Virgin Mary. In Sacred Scripture, the Theotokos is present from the first tragic moments of history, when—after the fall—the Creator announces the defeat of the serpent, mankind’s murder, by the woman’s offspring, who shall bruise the serpent’s head (cf. Genesis.3:14-15). And in the last book of Scripture, the Revelation of St. John, the inspired

author sees in a prophetic vision a great sign in heaven: “A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars” (Rev. 12:1). From the mouth of the Red Dragon, who hunted this holy Woman, a deadly stream of water came forth, but he could not overcome Her. Rather, by the power of Archangel Michael, the ancient serpent was cast down to the earth and his power over the human race was destroyed forever (cf. Rev . 12:7-17).

The Mother of God accompanies humanity not only through the recorded history of Sacred Writ; she dwells with Her children always and everywhere, in all times and in every circumstance. The Most Pure Theotokos has graced many places on earth with her special presence. These unique places have become for many people, and even entire nations, signs of refuge and salvation. Such are the sites in the Holy Land near and dear to heart of every Christian—Nazareth, Bethlehem, Ein Karem, Jerusalem, all of which still attract hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from all over the world. One should also mention— Lourdes in France, Loretto in Italy, Aparecida in Brazil, Guadalupe in Mexico, Mariazell in Austria, Czestochowa in Poland, Máriapócs in Hungary, Litmanová in Slovakia. How can we also not mention the small Portuguese village of Fatima, where the Immaculate Mother of God, at the beginning of 1917, appeared to three shepherd children, asking us to pray for Russia so as to prevent the spread throughout the world of a menacing and devastating infidelity that would bring so many people immense suffering and pain. How can we also not call to mind Univ and Pochaiv, Zarvanytsya and Hoshiv, all of which are signs of the Most Holy Mother of God’s care for our land during its turbulent history. Finally, let us not forget Hoshiv, and that turning point in the life of our church and country, when exactly a year after the Chernobyl disaster, the Lord gave us a sign from heaven, freeing us from fear and awakening in us a new life in a renewed country. At that time, we did not yet know how our race would end, but we felt a great hope and trust, for She, the Mother of God, was with us and through Her the Lord and Master of heaven and earth was with us.

The Theotokos is near to us in a special way during the Liturgy. She unites with us in endless praise of the Most High and—at the same time—as a loving Mother, She continually intercedes for us before the Lord. The church expresses its faith in the Most Pure Mother of God’s unceasing and prayerful intercession in the well-known prayer: “The Virgin today stands in the church and together with the choir of the saints she prays for us to God. The angels worship with the hierarchs; the apostles exult with the prophets; for the Theotokos prays for us to the Eternal God.” These words, taken from kontakion of the feast of the Protection of the Mother of God bring us comfort in our affliction, give us strength in our trials and hope in our sufferings, because we know that this “today” does not express some distant and alien past, but rather our present with its own threats and anxieties. In the words of our Patriarch Josyf, She is “the immovable sign of our strength and hope for victory.” This is because “the Most Holy Mother of God—beneath whose honourable and miraculous Protection, we, Her children, flee in times of trouble and distress—is the inviolable shelter, sign and pledge of the unity of our Ukrainian Christian family.”

Given the new historical circumstances, I wish to turn your spiritual eyes towards the Mother of God and, in response to Her loving and caring presence in our lives, entrust all of you to Her maternal care. During his reign, the pious Prince Yaroslav the Wise consecrated the people of Rus’-Ukraine to the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In 1995, Myroslav Ivan Cardinal Lubachivsky, of blessed memory, renewed this consecration in Zarvanytsya.

Continuing the ministry of my great predecessors on the throne of Kyiv- Halych, I desire—in communion with the whole of our Church, both in Ukraine and abroad—to renew once again this act of consecration of the Ukrainian people to the mighty Protection of Mother of God. By this act, we recognize God’s care for us, we manifest our love for the Most Holy Theotokos and our willingness to fulfill all that is commanded us by her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; and, finally, we manifest our desire to serve God and our nation in accordance with the light of His law. Let make manifest this consecration in our lives in the form of a prayer to the Immaculate Mother of God, either personally or communally, beseeching from our Lord a blessing upon our long-suffering people through Her intercession. This prayer can be a Paraklesis, Moleben, Akafist, Rosary or any other pious practice, which we recite daily in honour of our Heavenly Queen and Intercessor, putting in Her motherly heart all of our hopes and dreams for the renewal and strengthening of our nation in Christ’s truth.

I instruct the clergy to make this solemn act of consecration of Ukraine to the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God on Sunday, April 6th, after each Divine Liturgy in all of our churches. The liturgical order for this consecration—and some other practical guidelines—are attached to this letter. I ask that all the faithful properly prepare for this solemn occasion by receiving the sacraments of Confession and Holy Eucharist, and by doing works of mercy and penance.

I invite and encourage all the bishops, priests, monks, nuns and the laity of our church to persevere in hope and prayer to the Most Holy Mother of God, so as to always remain beneath Her Protection, and when the spiritual labour of the Great Fast has reached the light of our Lord Jesus Christ’s Resurrection, that we may also be witnesses and partakers in the renewal of our beloved fatherland.

May the blessing of Almighty God, through the prayers of the Theotokos, descend upon our people—in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

† SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv
at the Patriarchal Sobor of the Resurrection of Christ
20 March 2014

*All pastors are instructed to read this letter to the faithful
after each Divine Liturgy on Sunday, 30 March 2014.*

Liturgical Ceremony for the Consecration of the Ukrainian Nation to the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God

After the conclusion of the prayer beyond the ambo and the singing of "Blessed be the name of the Lord" (and the 33rd Psalm), the Priest and concelebrants stands on the ambo.

Choir: Tropar (Tone 4)

Let us sinners humbly and diligently have recourse to the Mother of God.* Prostrate in repentance, let us cry out from the depth of our soul:* O Queen, in your compassion, come to our aid!* Make haste, for we are perishing from the multitude of our sins.* Do not turn away your servants empty-handed,* for we have no protection besides you.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
Now & forever & ever. Amen**

Unworthy as we are,* we shall never cease to proclaim your power, O Mother of God.* If you no longer intercede for us,* who will deliver us from so many misfortunes?* Who will keep us free?* We shall never leave you, O Queen O blessed Lady,* you always save your servants from every calamity.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF UKRAINE TO THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

The Priest aloud says the following prayer

Most Holy, Most Pure, Most Blessed Virgin Mother of God. To the sorrowful, you are a great intercessor, quick to help, the salvation and support of humanity and the unwavering Protectress of the whole world.

Before your throne, we give glory to you with confident hope that you will implore for us mercy and grace, active assistance and defence at this time of tribulation; not because of any merit of ours, upon which we cannot depend, but because of the immeasurable goodness of your motherly heart.

Therefore, today we hasten to you and fervently implore you: With the mantle of your mercy, cover your Church and our whole people that cry out to you.

Faithful: Most Holy Mother of God, save us!
Presvjata Bohorodytse, spasy nas!

We are distraught by dire experiences and they fill our souls with great sorrow; appease them with the peace of your Son and God, O immaculate Virgin. Take away our soulful storm of grief; for you, Bride of God, all-pure one, gave birth to Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Faithful: Most Holy Mother of God, save us!
Presvjata Bohorodytse, spasy nas!

To us, who cry out to you, reveal the depths of your mercy and obtain for us the forgiveness of all our sins, for you, for whom praises are sung, gave birth to the Kind-hearted One – the Saviour of us all.

Faithful: Most Holy Mother of God, save us!
Presvjata Bohorodytse, spasy nas!

O God-loved Theotokos, the only ever-virgin, help those who lay upon their beds of pain and suffering; heal the wounded, wipe away the tears of the mournful, protect the wanderers, and comfort those who are persecuted; be a willing intercessor for all who call upon you.

Faithful: Most Holy Mother of God, save us!
Presvjata Bohorodytse, spasy nas!

Bride of God, who gave birth to the Lord our *Helmsman*, give us courageous and wise leaders of Church and society; by your prayers obtain for them the light of the Holy Spirit so that enlightened by it they would guide along the ways of truth the People of God that call out to you in faith.

Faithful: Most Holy Mother of God, save us!
Presvjata Bohorodytse, spasy nas!

Powerful Commander and Leader of heavenly legions, you who by raising your hands in prayer, conquer enemies and overcome all aggressors, strengthen our soldiers, grant them the strength and courage to defend with an unyielding shield their people that calls out to you.

Faithful: Most Holy Mother of God, save us!
Presvjata Bohorodytse, spasy nas!

O immaculate Mother of the Word Incarnate! Bless all of our families; grant us temporal wellbeing and health, and especially – the Grace of God and a virtuous Christian life.

Faithful: Most Holy Mother of God, save us!
Presvjata Bohorodytse, spasy nas!

Good teacher of the young and innocent and Source of knowledge and wisdom, guide our youth along the path of truth, strengthen them in the virtues, teach them to desire greatness and to follow the calling of the Most High, always growing in wisdom and the Grace of God.

Faithful: Most Holy Mother of God, save us!
Presvjata Bohorodytse, spasy nas!

O Mother of mercy, ask of the Most High God, complete and righteous peace for our lands, not only protection from armed conflict, but also liberation from hatred and discord, from malice and the desire for vengeance. Bring us to a peace founded on truth, justice, forgiveness and love.

Faithful: Most Holy Mother of God, save us!
Presvjata Bohorodytse, spasy nas!

O Mother of God and Protectress of the Ukrainian lands! In haste, we gather under the mantle of your mercy, and we implore your help and in you alone do we set our hope. Accept us all under your protection, bless us and preserve us as your chosen community. By your prayers, make us proficient adherers of the commandments of Christ. Abide with us always as the merciful and kind one who loves us all; and in the present life be our warm defender and helper, expelling the battalions of our adversaries and setting us on the way of salvation. For we have no other helper, we have no other hope, except you, Most Pure Virgin! Come to our aid; we set our hopes on you and you are our glory: for we are your servants, that we may not be disparaged now, always and for ever and ever.

Faithful: Amen.

Priest: The blessing of the Lord be upon you with His grace and love for mankind, always, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to you.

Choir: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*). Give the blessing.

The Priest delivers the Sunday dismissal.

Choir: Amen.