

workers had left the church, the roof collapsed. In total, 539 miracles have been recorded in the monastery chronicles.

The icon was crowned by Pope Clement in 1773. The monastery went through a “back and forth” period of ownership by the Orthodox and Greek Catholics, but in 1831 it was finally returned to the Orthodox Church. For this reason, both Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholics have a very deep devotion to the Mother of God of Pochayiv. Both groups regard her with great honor and veneration and both pray to her for their own personal needs and the protection of Ukraine. Pilgrims from around the world still flock to Pochayiv to venerate the Icon of the Mother of God, to kiss her footprint, to venerate the incorrupt body of St. Job, and to bring home the miraculous water still flowing from her footprint in the rock,



**Among your daily prayers, please remember:** Fr. Yakiw Norton, Fr. Oleh Hucut, Fr. Vasyl Dovgan, Fr. Dan Gurovich; Tanya Antoniewicz, Richard Antoniuk, Bohdan Baranczyk, John Chorney, Gloria Dunski, Joan Hepner, Peter Holowiak Eva Lazor, Mary Maksymiak, Daniel Milinichek, Michael Onushko, Rosalie Onushko Mary Ellen Mackiewicz, Mary Radio, William Radio, Kathryn Solan, Michael and Elsie Moroz, Myroslav Kmet, Andriy Kmet, Dan Gulack. Rodney Townes, Karina Strashinsky; Katherine Cox

## Announcements

- **PRAY FOR UKRAINE!** - Hardly anyone can say they are not aware of the situation in our ancestral motherland Ukraine these days. Everyone is aware of the aggressive moves of Russia surrounding the borders of Ukraine with over 100,000 troops. International diplomatic efforts to de-escalate seem to have no effect. Clearly Ukraine is in need of our prayers. The Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy in the Lehigh Valley will be sponsoring weekly Moleben services for the peace and well-being of Ukraine. **The third Moleben service will be this Wednesday; 23 February at 6:30 PM at Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church 1301 Newport Avenue, Northampton.** We urge everyone to attend and PRAY FOR UKRAINE!
- **Blessed Candles** - Candles were blessed this past Tuesday on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple. These candles come in pairs in a boxed set. They are available for you to take home for a donation. There is a limited supply, so please get yours today!
- **Prayer Through Icons: Windows Into Heaven** : Saturday, February 26. 9 am to 3 pm  
\*Held in-person at the St. Francis Center for Renewal: 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem. Lunch will be included. The Cost is \$75. To Register: <https://www.stfrancisctr.org/sfcr-store/p/prayer-through-icons-windows-into-heaven>. This program will be taught by Fr. Demetri Belsito, an ordained deacon in the Greek Orthodox Church. It will be taught as visio dia, a method into deeper prayer and communion with God and with Christ. Fr. Demetri will delve into the history and practice of iconography as a form of prayer. This event will not teach the painting of icons.
- **“Soup-er Bowl” Sunday/Stuffed Animals** - Due to current circumstances in Ukraine, we are still collecting for Soup Kitchens in Ukraine. The people of Ukraine will be relying on these soup kitchens more than ever. Please put it in an envelope marked for this purpose and drop it in the collection basket or see parish treasurer Vera Muzychka. In addition, the collection for stuffed animals for the children of Ukraine continues. Please deposit them in the receptacles in the breezeway.
- **Special Limited TV Raffle**- This is a special fundraising effort for our parish. One Grand Prize: a 70” Samsung HD Smart TV! Only 100 tickets will be sold. This increases your chances of winning! The price of the tickets are \$20 each. The drawing date will be May 1 . For tickets see: Brian Borsevich, Robin Bodnar, or Vera Muzychka.
- **“Sorokousty” - Memorial Saturdays** - Traditionally we remember beloved departed on the Saturday before Cheesefare, the three middle Saturdays of Great Lent, and also the Saturday before Pentecost. (This year:February 26, March 19, 26, April 2 and June 11.) **Please submit your names before 26 February** with your contribution. Envelopes are available for this. If you need more room for names, please write them on a small piece of paper and insert it in the envelope with your gift.
- **Sunday of Orthodoxy**: St. Mary’s is very happy to be the site this year of the annual Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood. This service is an annual tradition here in the Lehigh Valley (which was interrupted because of COVID). Our own Archbishop Daniel will be the guest speaker. In addition, His Eminence

will be the principal celebrant at Divine Liturgy that morning. Please mark your calendar and make every effort to attend. Don't forget - 13 MARCH! - 4 PM

- **Thursday Work Group** - Anyone and everyone is welcome. *Please come and help! Don't wait to be asked! Just come!* For more information, see Vera Muzychka
- **Coffee Social:** Coffee social will be held as usual in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome! Please come and share a cup of coffee with your fellow parishioners. More importantly, please consider "sponsoring" a coffee hour on a particular Sunday. You can do so in memory of a loved one.
- **Pyrohy Sale:** The next Pyrohy sale will be in February. All orders must be received by Friday; 18 February. Pick up will be Sunday; 27 February.
- **Mark the Date:** The Annual General Parish Meeting will take place on Sunday; 27 March after Divine Liturgy. We urge all our parishioners to mark their calendars and make every effort to attend. Please make sure your obligations to the Parish are fulfilled by that date.
- **Bad Weather Alert:** Please note that in case of inclement weather, should we need to adjust the church schedule or even cancel Divine Services, announcement will be made on Facebook, our website and WFMZ - channel 69.

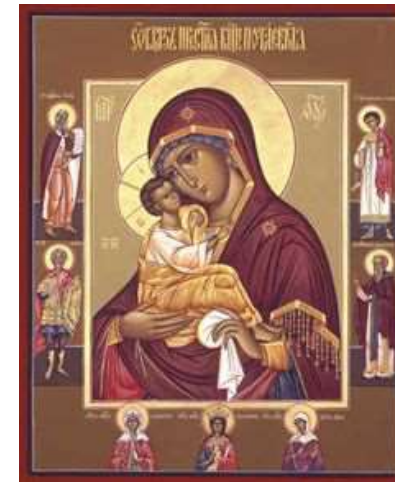


## UKRAINIAN DEVOTION TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

### The Mother of God of Pochayiv - Mary's Chosen Home in Ukraine. (Third in a series)

In all of Ukraine, there is no more special place of devotion to the Mother of God than the tiny city of Pochayiv in the Volyn region in western Ukraine. It is there that the Virgin seems to have her "special home" among the Ukrainian people. The history of Our Lady of Pochayiv begins in 1198, only about two centuries after Christianity became institutionalized following the conversion of Ukraine by St. Volodymyr. In this year, two monks, along with a layman, were fleeing westward from the Monastery of the Caves in Kyiv as the Mongols invaded. They ascended Mount Pochayiv in order to pray. After beginning their prayers, a pillar of fire appeared to them and the flames

withdrew to reveal the Blessed Virgin. The Virgin explained to them that they were to remain here and establish a new monastery dedicated to her Dormition. When she disappeared, they noticed that the rock she had been standing upon now had an imprint of her foot from which a spring of water flowed. This first event would lead to many other supernatural events through the special dedication of the Blessed Virgin to this region.



Many of these miracles are the result of the veneration of the icon of our Lady of Pochayiv. The icon first arrived in the region as a gift of the Greek Metropolitan Neophite to Anna Hoyska, a noblewoman and patron of the Church, in 1559. The icon, like the Virgin of Vyshhorod, is a "tenderness" icon and shows our Lady holding the infant Jesus and pressing Him to her cheek. In her other hand "she holds the end of her veil," while Jesus gives a blessing with His hand. To Mary's right are the prophet Elijah and the martyr St. Mena, while to her left are the Holy Protomartyr Stephen and the Venerable Abramius. The origin of the icon remains a mystery.

The miraculous character of the icon presented itself almost immediately, as only a short time later Anna Hoyska's blind brother regained his sight. After Anna's death in 1644 much of her property was donated, including the icon, to the monastery which at the time had come under control of the Greek Catholic Basilian monks. After some legal obstacles were resolved, the icon was finally placed in the brother's Church of the Dormition of the Blessed Mother.

The monastery's chronicles record numerous miracles during the icon's stay at their Church. Two of these miracles are exceptionally noteworthy.

The first took place during the invasion of the Turks in 1675. The populace of Pochayiv gathered at the monastery in order to guard against the attack. Gathered together and facing certain death at the hands of the invaders, they "turned to Mary for protection and help." The abbot of the monastery at the time was a monk by the name of Job. St. Job came outside the monastery walls, raised his eyes and lifted his hands to heaven and cried out, "O Mother of God, save your monastery!" The Blessed Virgin appeared along with a host of angels. Her white mantle spread over the monastery and the arrows of the Turks were turned back upon the Turks themselves. This caused enough confusion among the invaders that they scattered, allowing the Ukrainian military to rally and turn their enemies back. Many of the Turks converted to Christianity then.

The second notable miracle came during the construction of a large church in Pochayiv in the 1780's. A monk ran into the church demanding that everybody leave. After the approximately two hundred