

During the persecution of the faithful in 1975–1989, pilgrimages began again and in 1989, under pressure from the faithful, who did not give up their faith and devotion to the Church, the parish church was reopened, and the first “official” Liturgy was celebrated there



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 Milinichuk, 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!** - 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 fifth Moleben service will be this Thursday; 10 March at 6:30 PM at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church 1826 Kenmore Avenue, Bethlehem.** We urge everyone to attend and PRAY FOR UKRAINE!
- **First Week of Great Lent** - This week we begin the Great Fast. Please be attentive to the fasting regulations of the Church. Please make extra efforts in prayer, especially for our suffering ancestral homeland Ukraine. **Please note: anyone planning to receive Holy Communion at any of the Presanctified Liturgies should follow the rule of fasting and have only one full meal during the day, usually in the evening after having received Holy Communion. In addition, they should also not have anything to eat after 12 Noon.**
- **Generators for Ukraine** - Ukraine is in need to generators as it continues to be under invasion by Russia. There are many areas without power. Nova Poshta, a Ukrainian parcel company based here in the US, will fly these generators to Poland and get them to the Ukraine border. Anyone who can donate a new or “usable” gasoline powered 2.5-7.5K Kwatt generator and/or inverters from 110-220V should bring them to the back of our church tomorrow, March 7th or Tuesday, March 8th from 6-9 PM. They will be collected on Wednesday and sent to Ukraine.
- **Clothes for Ukraine** - The Ukrainian National Women’s League of America will be collecting **NEW** clothes for Ukraine. They can be brought to the fellowship hall. In particular, underwear and socks are very important for men, women and children in various sizes. **In addition, we need volunteers to help collect and organize these donations.**
- **Administrator Assistance Needed:** Volunteers are needed to help with the extra office work that we have encountered as a result of the war in Ukraine. We are looking for a number of people who could commit to one or two sessions a week, either a morning or afternoon session. Duties would include answering phone calls, taking donations, etc. Please see Vera Muzychka to sign up.
- **Bethlehem Ukraine Solidarity and Candlelight Vigil** - This Wednesday, March 9th at 7:00 PM, there will be a Candlelight Vigil in Bethlehem in support of Ukraine. The Ukrainian Flag will be raised at Payrow Plaza near City Hall on Church St. and a program of prayer and song will follow. In addition, a number of businesses on Main St. will offer certain promotions in support of humanitarian aid in Ukraine. Please attend and support the efforts.
- **Pray for Ukraine Banner** - We wish to thank the Ukrainian National Women’s League, Branch #91 (Bethlehem) for their donation of the banner in front of our church urging all passers-by to PRAY FOR UKRAINE!. These ladies are making sure all our Ukrainian churches in the Lehigh Valley have one of these banners during this critical time for our ancestral motherland.
- **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 01 May 2022. 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 the available envelopes with the name of your loved one and your contribution. If you need more room for names, please write them on a small piece of paper and it to the envelope.
- **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). Fr. Stephen Hutnik will be the guest speaker. Please mark your calendar and make every effort to attend. Don’t forget - 13 MARCH! - 4 PM
- **NO MORE ALUMINUM CANS** - We are no longer collecting aluminum cans. Please do not bring them to the church anymore. Please do not leave them at the back door of the church either.
- **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.
- **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.

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UKRAINIAN DEVOTION TO THE MOTHER OF GOD.

The Mother of God Zarvanytsia - Another significant pilgrimage center in Ukraine. (Fifth in a series)

This week we will look at Zarvanytsia. Located in the Ternopil region in Western Ukraine, Zarvanytsia is another famous pilgrimage destination in Ukraine.

The Village of Zarvanytsia is located in a picturesque area of the Podilia region in Western Ukraine. The River Strypa flows through it and carries its calm waters through the valleys and into the Dniester River. On three sides, the village is surrounded by low hills covered with dense forest. The diversity of trees, caves and canyons form a scenic landscape.

According to local tradition, the village received its current name with the miraculous icon of the Mother of God in 1240, during the time of the Tatar-Mongol Yoke in Ukraine. Earlier that same year, Kyiv was invaded and the Church of the Tithes and many monasteries were destroyed. Trying to save their lives, the monks fled. The survivors made their way to Halychyna (Galicia) seeking protection from local princes who had agreements with Batu Khan.

The legend tells of one of the Kyivan monks, a native of Halychyna (Galicia), who managed to escape the invaders. On his way to Terebovlia, he stopped in the woods for a night, exhausted from hunger and his wounds. The monk sincerely prayed for his war-torn land, asking for the intercession of the Mother of God, yet soon fell asleep while praying. In a dream, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared with two angels holding white lilies. The Mother of God blessed the monk and touched him with Her omophorion. The monk woke up and saw a beautiful valley surrounded by a wreath of dense forest. Suddenly a spring of clear water shone in the

dewy grass, and above it, the icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the baby Jesus in her arms flashed with celestial brightness. The monk fell to his knees and prayed earnestly while washing his wounds. Soon his strength returned to him, and in honor of this miracle, the monk built a cell in a cave and placed the icon there. He also called the place where he fell asleep – Zarvanytsia (from Ukrainian – zarvav). People heard about the miraculous cure and started coming from everywhere, hoping to be cured as well. According to another tradition, even prince Vasylko of Terebovlia was healed through the mediation of the Mother of God of Zarvanytsia.

During the Second World War, the miraculous icon of the Mother of God of Zarvanytsia was hidden by the villagers, as they feared its destruction, both by the Nazis and the Soviets. The icon was returned to the church only in 1989 when services resumed after the era of Soviet bans on religious expression. With the independence of Ukraine in 1991, Zarvanytsia again became a thriving place of pilgrimage.

The icon of the Mother of God of Zarvanytsia was not the only treasure of the pilgrimage site. One summer evening in 1740, a resident of the village, Stefan Ryzan, went out into the field and noticed a ray from the sky illuminating an image of the Crucified Savior. The oxen, which the peasant was riding, fell to their knees under the influence of this light.

The image of the Crucified Jesus was taken and placed in a wooden church. During the fire of 1754, the church burned down, but the icon remained intact. As a valuable miraculous relic, it was solemnly transferred to the new church, built in 1754 at the expense of Count Myonchynsky, the owner of the village at that time. In 1944, the miraculous icon of Christ Crucified was taken to Lviv at the end of the war, and it disappeared without a trace afterwards.

Over the centuries, Zarvanytsia, as a village and a place of pilgrimage, has repeatedly suffered from enemies. At the end of the 17th century, the town was destroyed by the Turks. However, it never ceased being a place of pilgrimage. In 1894 a chapel was built in the forest above the miraculous spring. Zarvanytsia became more and more famous across the world. Every Sunday and holiday in the summer months, thousands of people visited the shrine from different parts of Western Ukraine, although most pilgrims came in May. The festivities began with the Divine Liturgy in the church or a chapel near the church, and then the procession went to the chapel and the stream. Prayers were recited there and water was blessed. Many visitors brought their sick friends and family. On their knees, they prayed to God and the Blessed Virgin Mary to give them healing from various ailments.

During the First World War, the church was damaged by shells, but it was Soviet rule that caused the most significant damage to this place of pilgrimage.

When the Ukrainian Church, especially the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, was persecuted in the post-war period, the Soviet authorities did everything possible to prevent people from coming to Zarvanytsia. In 1946, the authorities destroyed the monastery and banned pilgrimages. However, people continued to go to the Mother of God to ask for her intercession. Authorities then decided to destroy the spring itself, blowing up the chapel above it in 1960 and fencing the area with barbed wire. But, even this did not stop the pilgrims. On the contrary, it provoked an even more significant influx of people who, hiding from the NKVD, came to the stream at night, begging for healing.

Throughout Zarvanytsia’s long history, there are thousands of testimonies of miraculous healings of the sick and other miracles. When in 1772-1773, the plague threatened the population of Berezhany, people turned to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Crucified Savior in the Miraculous Icon and to the water from the well. The epidemic receded, and hundreds of the sick recovered.