

**Among your daily prayers, please remember:** Fr. Yakiw Norton, Fr. Oleh Hucut, Fr. Vasyl Dovgan, 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!** - 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 sixth Moleben service will be this Monday; 14 March at 6:30 PM in our own church of St. Mary's. We urge everyone to attend and PRAY FOR UKRAINE!
- **Fasting before Holy Communion** - 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
- **Medical and other supplies needed for Ukraine** - There is a list in today's bulletin with items that are needed for Ukraine right now. We have been asked to stop collecting clothes and diapers (at least for the time being) since there is an overabundance. 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.
- **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 of Okhtyr - Another significant pilgrimage center in Ukraine. (Sixth in a series)

The Okhtyr Icon of the Most Holy Birth-Giver of God appeared on July 2, 1739 in the village of Okhtyr in the area of Kharkiv, east of Kyiv. Father Basil Danilov, a righteous man of strong faith, was the priest of the Dormition of the Mother of God Church in Okhtyr. He needed two test a new scythe, and so he went out to a field by the church. As he began to cut the tall grass, Father Basil noticed an icon of the Mother of God shining with a radiant light. Dropping the scythe, he fell to his knees and began to pray, then took the icon to his home. The icon remained in the priest's home for three years. No one could spend the night in the same room as the icon, because an inexplicable fear would force them to leave.

One night the Mother of God appeared to Father Basil in a dream, reproaching him because he had not cleaned the icon in the three years since he had found it. When he awoke, he dusted the icon off and washed it with water, then went back to sleep. That night he had another dream in which he saw himself going to the river in order to pour out the water he had used to wash the icon. The Blessed Virgin appeared to him again and ordered him to return home with the water, explaining that it would cure people of malaria and fever. When Father Basil's daughter became ill with malaria, he gave her some of the water to drink and she was healed. Others also received healing in this way. The priest decided that the icon should not remain in his home, so he took it to the church.

An iconographer named John was commissioned to restore the icon. When his son was suffering from malaria, John remembered how the water used to wash the icon had cured people of that disease. Therefore, he washed the icon and gave his son some of the water to drink. The young man was healed at once, and there were many other miracles after this one.

The miracles of the Okhtyr Icon were investigated no less than three times. Unfortunately, the icon was stolen from the Protection Cathedral on April 1, 1905. Many copies of the Okhtyr Icon were made before it was stolen. On July 2 many churches bless water in remembrance of the healings which took place after the Mother of God ordered Father Basil Danilov to wash the icon.

