

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 Milinichuk, Michael Onushko, Rosalie Onushko Mary Ellen Mackiewicz, William Radio, Kathryn Solan, Michael and Elsie Moroz, Myroslav Kmet, Andriy Kmet, Dan Gulack. Rodney Townes, Karina Strashinsky; Katherine Cox; Gordon

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. This week the **MOLEBEN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD FOR THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF UKRAINE** will be held at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Northampton on Monday, March 28 at 6:30 PM We urge everyone to attend and PRAY FOR UKRAINE!
- **The Annual General Parish Meeting will take place TODAY!!!!** We urge all our parishioners to to attend. Please make sure your obligations to the Parish are fulfilled by that date. Coffee and refreshments will be available courtesy of the current Parish Board.
- **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. Tickets go on sale today! For tickets see: Brian Borsevich, Robin Bodnar, or Vera Muzychka.
- **Coffee Social:** Today's coffee hour will be hosted by the current Parish Board. Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour yourself in honor of someone or in memory of a loved one.
- **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 WFMZ - channel 69 as well as posting on our website (www.pokrova-allentown.org) and our Facebook page.

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UKRAINIAN DEVOTION TO THE MOTHER OF GOD.

The Mother of God of Ternopil: Protectress during Nazi Invasion; Refuge during Soviet Occupation (Eighth in a series)

The history of the Miraculous Icon of the Mother of God of Ternopil begins in the year 1730. The Holy Image of the Mother of God was the possession of the family of the shoemaker Vasyl Markevich in the western Ukrainian city. In 1730, during Lent, the icon of the Blessed Virgin started

weeping. Amazed by the miracle, the Markevich family turned to the priest of the Church of the Exaltation of the Cross, who informed the Bishop of Lviv and Metropolitan of Kyiv Atanasiy Sheptytsky. The Metropolitan appointed a commission, which studied the holy image and confirmed the miracle, stating that the tears on the icon of the Mother of God were not of natural origin. On the Feast of the Protection of the Virgin Mary (October 14), a solemn procession took place and the icon was transferred from the house of the shoemaker to the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and here the Mother of God continued to weep. Later decrees of the Bishop of Lviv, Lev Sheptytsky (1777) and the Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv, Hryhoriy Yakhymovych (1844) confirmed the earlier decree of Metropolitan Atanasiy.

The icon was kept in the Church of the Exaltation of the Cross, until the First World War. This church is located at the far end of the famous lake in Ternopil and at the beginning of the 1900's, this would have been considered the "outskirts" of the city. When World War I broke out, it was thought that the icon should be moved to some other location within the center of the city for safe-keeping. Therefore the Holy Image was transferred to the historic Church of the Nativity of Christ at the very heart of Ternopil. This church itself, had a prestigious history having stood in the heart of Ternopil since 1608. At the conclusion of World War, a priest by the name of, Father Volodymyr Hromnytsky, who had been held prisoner by the Russians, returned and was assigned as pastor to the church. Fr. Volodymyr, in gratitude to God for his return, decorated the icon of the Virgin with a silver covering -"ryza."

During the Second World War, the city of Ternopil was invaded by the Nazis and witnessed much



warfare. As a result, up to 90% of the city was destroyed. The city residents prayed to the Most Holy Mother of God before her precious icon and believe that her intercession saved the ancient Church from destruction, where her icon was preserved, even though everything around the church was turned to ruins. Upon the termination of World War II, western Ukraine found itself now under Soviet occupation. The atheistic communist Soviets immediately set out on their plan of destruction and closing of churches and monasteries and other religious institutions. Once again, the populace of the Ternopil turned to Virgin Mother of God. They prayed fervently. In the entire city of Ternopil, which at the time had a population of approximately 40,000, the Soviets allowed only one religious shrine to stand and continue operating - the Church of the Nativity of Christ - where the Icon of the Mother of God continued to be and where she continued to hear the prayers of her children. This situation continued until the break-up of the Soviet Union.

The Church of the Nativity of Christ is now the Cathedral Church of the Eparchy of the Ternopil and Buchach. His Eminence Tykhon is the bishop of the eparchy. The Icon of the Mother of God of Ternopil still is in residence there and continues to be a focal point and a beloved presence of the city.

Prayer to the Ternopil Miraculous Icon of the Mother of God

O patroness of the world, Queen of Heaven and Earth, our unceasing prayer,- is there such a place where your mercy is not manifested. Our fathers cried out to you and were heard, they hoped in you and were not ashamed. Do not turn away from us, weak sinners, who bow their hearts before your holy miraculous image, we offer fervent prayers, chanting of your wonderful miracles, revealed in the city of Ternopil. We beseech you, O Merciful Mother, to continue to be our constant guardian. As a bird in unpleasant weather, rescuing chicks, covers them with its wings, so you, O Merciful and Most Pure One, cover our city, our land and all your people with your holy omofor, saving us from troubles and sorrows.

O Mother of our Sweetest Lord Jesus Christ, in your maternal affection accept the prayers of your good and unfortunate children, wives for their husbands, and husbands for their wives, and first of all, the pure prayers of children for their parents and preservation of the family hearth and fulfill their requests. May harmony and love reign among them, for if not you, the All-Merciful One, do not assist, who will help.

Grant, O All-Powerful Lady, the zeal, wisdom and courage to Orthodox pastors to sow the field of our hearts with the words of eternal truth, to enlighten us with the example of living by faith. Expand your Holy Church from schisms and heresies, that there may be one flock and one shepherd. Establish the state, strengthen the army, so that the threats of our adversaries may be powerless, shower them with peace. Send down upon our rulers wisdom, honesty, and strong in order to understand and know the True God and his Orthodox Church; enlighten the people with the light of Christ's teaching, so that our hearts may be true and not hearts of stone; and lead us to repentance and direction in life, so that we may worthily bear fruits of faith and good works and deserve the Kingdom of Heaven, where, together with all the Saints, we may glorify the honorable and majestic name, God in the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.