

**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, William Radio, Kathryn Solan, 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. ***The next Moleben service will be this Monday; 11 April at 6:30 PM in Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church Newport Avenue Northampton.*** We urge everyone to attend and PRAY FOR UKRAINE!

**Refugee from Ukraine:** Recently, in his trip to Poland, President Biden made a statement that the United States is ready to accept 100,000 refugees from Ukraine. As of yet, we have received no information on how that will occur. However, we are in the process of compiling a list of anyone who might be willing to provide temporary shelter for any Ukrainian individual or families that might need a home. If you, or someone you know, might be able to do so, please leave your name at the front office.

**Fall Ukrainian Language Classes** will be starting here at our parish soon. The classes will be open to all ages. If anyone is interested, please sign-up at the office. Mr. Ihor Mirchuk will be the instructor.

**The Annual General Parish Meeting** is being rescheduled as there was a lack of a quorum in attendance. This is very disappointing. We must all understand that if we want our parish to succeed, we must ALL take part in this meeting at least once a year. There are many decisions that cannot be made by the pastor and Parish Board alone. According to the By-Laws, they can only be made by a general meeting of the Parish. WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION, these decisions cannot be made. There are two very important issues on the agenda this year: 1) Ratification of a new set of By-Laws; and 2) Purchase of a new furnace for the church. The Annual Meeting will take place has been rescheduled **for SUNDAY; 15 MAY, AT THE END OF DIVINE LITURGY. ALL ARE URGED TO ATTEND.**

**Pussywillows Needed:** Anyone who may have a pussywillow tree and can donate some branches is asked to bring the branches to the church within the next week. They would be greatly appreciated.

**Fasting before Holy Communion** Anyone planning to receive Holy Communion at any of the Presanctified Liturgies (or any Liturgy in the evening), 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. To volunteer, please see Susan Cooke or Tania Smirnova.***

**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.



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### UKRAINIAN DEVOTION TO THE MOTHER OF GOD.

The Mother of God of the Kozak Sich - The Protectress of the Kozak Troops (Tenth in a series)

The Zaporozhian Kozaks (Cossacks) cultivated a special veneration for the Mother of God as their patron and protector from the enemy. The main church at their fortress capital of Sich was dedicated in honor of her Intercession (*Pokrova*). An icon of Mary was placed in all the barracks of the fortress. The image of *Pokrova* was also depicted on the banners under which the Kozaks rode or marched into battle.

Before every military expedition, the Kozaks would kneel in prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary and sing the religious hymn "Pid Tvoyu Mylist'" ("We run to Your Mercy"). It was on the feast of the *Pokrova* - Protection of the Mother of God (October 14), that the Kozaks would hold their annual general assembly and elect their leader - the Koshovyi Otaman (chief officer).

In the 17-18th centuries, during the era when the "Kozak/Ukrainian Baroque" style of art and architecture flourished in Ukraine, a new type of icon - the "Kozak *Pokrova*" - came into appearance and soon became very popular. It depicted the Birth-Giver of God spreading her veil or mantle over

Ukraine's hierarchs, hetmans (leaders of the Ukrainian state), officers and prominent kozaks as a symbol of her protection over Ukraine.

Only about a dozen Kozak *Pokrova* icons have survived two these days from those times. One of them is this Sich icon with the image of Koshovyi Otaman Petro Kalnyshevsky, It is a copy of the original Sich icon which was painted in the early 1770's for the Sich Church. This copy was made in 1836, as is evidenced by the inscription on its back: "A copy of the very old icon, which was once kept in the Zaporozhian Sich, but now is preserved in the village of Pokrovsky, that was also once the location of a Sich." Today this icon is part of the collections of the Odessa Museum of Regional History.

In its upper part of the icon there is the image of the Holy Virgin standing on a cloud. Depicted on her right and left sides are the two saints most revered among the Kozaks - St. Nicholas and the Archangel Michael.

Below, at the base, in two groups, stand members of the Sich general staff. Among them are likely the Secretary General (clerk), the leading Judge, the Supreme Treasurer, the Quartermaster General, and possibly some regimental officers. It is possible that they are portrayed realistically; unfortunately we will probably never know. According to researchers, the officer standing at the base on the front right with his hands lifted in prayer and with a saber attached to him was the Koshovyi Otaman of the Zaporozhian Host, Petro Kalnyshevsky, the last known Sich Koshovyi Otaman.

The last (of eight) Zaporizhian Siches was destroyed in 1775 by a huge Russian force at the orders of Russian Empress Catherine the Great. Kalnyshevsky was arrested, tried and incarcerated in the remote northern Solovetsky Monastery, strictly prohibited from conducting any correspondence or even socializing with anyone. There he was held in solitary confinement until the age of 110 years when he was finally pardoned. Being blind by that time, Kalnyshevsky chose to remain in the monastery, and there he died two years later in 1803. He was canonized by the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in 2008

Kalnyshevsky is depicted looking up to the Virgin Mary and praying on behalf of the Zaporozhian Army. The words that come out of his mouth are written on a narrow ribbon which stretches from his mouth to the ear of the Mother of God. Together with the other Kozak officers, he is pleading for the intercession of the Mother of God and seeking her protection over Zaporozhian Kozaks and all Ukraine.