

Protection of the Most Holy Mother Of God

1031 Fullerton Avenue, Allentown, PA 18102

Phone: (610) 820-0821 Email:saintmaryuoc@gmail.com

Fr. Richard Jendras-Pastor Cell phone: (201) 240-5888

Email: fatherrichard@pokrova-allentown.org

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Sixth Sunday of Pascha-Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure body. You captured hell, not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead,// glory to You.

Tone 4 Troparion (Ascension)

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing, they were assured that You are the Son of God,// the Redeemer of the world!

Tone 8 Kontakion (Fathers)

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology// It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Tone 6 Kontakion (Ascension)

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united earth to heaven: You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love You, but remaining with them and crying:// "I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Song of the Three Holy Children v. 3)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

V. For You are just in all that You have done for us! (v. 4)

Epistle Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Tone 1 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. (Ps. 49:1)

v. Gather to Me My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice! (Ps. 49:6)

Gospel John 17:1-13

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who hath ascended from earth to heaven! We the faithful, with one accord, magnify thee, the Mother of God, who, beyond reason and understanding, ineffably gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! *(Ps. 32:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!:

This Week's Schedule

Sun June 5	9:30 AM- Divine Liturgy	Seventh Sunday of Passcha- Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council <i>Acts 20:16-18,28-36 John 17:1-13</i>
Mon June 6		The Venerable Symeon Stylites the Younger of the Wonderful Mountain <i>Acts 21:8-14 John 14:27-15:</i>
Tues June 7	9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM: Moleben to the Mother of God for the Peace and Stability of Ukraine *	The Third Finding of the Precious Head of John the Baptist <i>Acts 21:26-32 John 16:2-13</i> * St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church 1826 Kenmore Avenue Bethlehem (Sponsored by the Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy)
Wed June 8	6:30 PM: Vespers- Feast of the Ascension	The Holy Apostles Carpus and Alphaeus of the Seventy <i>Acts 23:1-11 John 16:15-23</i>
Thurs June 9		The Hieromartyr Therapon, Bishop of Sardis <i>Acts 25:13-19 Luke 16:23-33</i>
Fri June 10		The Venerable Nicetas, Bishop of Chalcedon <i>Acts 27:1-44 John 17:18-26</i>
Sat June 11	Vespers will resume in September	Memorial Saturday - The Virgin-Martyress Theodosia of Constantinople <i>Acts 28:1-31 John 21:15-25</i>
Sun June 12	9:30 AM- Divine Liturgy	Pentecost (Green Sunday) – Descent of the Holy Spirit - Trinity Sunday <i>Acts 20:16-18,28-36 John 17:1-13</i>

Readers: 05/15 Dennis Ritter; 05/22 Nik Fartuch; 05/29 Robert Noecker; 06/06 Richard Bodnar

Announcements

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- **PRAY FOR UKRAINE!** - The next Moleben service will be this Tuesday; 07 June at 6:30 PM in our own church - St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church 1826 Kenmore Avenue Bethlehem
- **NO KNEELING:** - During the Paschal Season, there is no kneeling during liturgical services. For that matter, there is, in fact, no kneeling even for private prayer! We stand in the glorious light of our Savior's Resurrection. Kneeling will begin again with Vespers on Pentecost Sunday.
- **Saturday Evening Vespers Postponed** - This postponement affects ONLY Saturday Evening Vespers. Vespers for the Great Feasts will still be celebrated and will be announced in the bulletin. Saturday evening Vespers will resume in the Fall.
- **Memorial Saturday** - This Saturday; 11 June, is a Memorial Saturday. Anyone who would like a blessing over the graves of their loved ones in our parish cemetery should make a request using the envelope included in today's bulletin. Grave blessings will take place on Sunday after Divine Liturgy.
- **Father's Day Luncheon** - Our parish's newly re-established Sisterhood are preparing and hosting a Father's Day Luncheon after Divine Liturgy on Sunday; 19 June. They are working hard and putting a lot of time and effort into this event and would be very pleased to see good attendance.
- **Ukrainian American Sport Center Father's Day Heritage Fest** - Sunday, June 19, at 1 PM County Line and Lower State Roads, Horsham, PA. Stage show will feature Voloshky School of Ukrainian Dance and the Soloveyky Vocal Ensemble, singer musician Ihor Sypen, as well as dance ensembles of other ethnic communities in the area; and. Picnic foods, desserts and cool refreshments will be available. 3:30 PM soccer game. Admission and parking are free. For more information call: 267-664-3857 or visit www.tryzub.org
- **Refugees 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. We now have received information on the process. Anyone who might be willing to provide temporary shelter for any Ukrainian individual or families that might need a home. *If you are interested or know someone who is, please sign-up on the bulletin at the office*
- **Fall Ukrainian Language Classes** - These classes will be starting here at our parish soon. The classes will be open to all ages. *If anyone is interested, please sign-up on the bulletin board at the office.* Mr. Ihor Mirchuk will be the instructor. The list to sign up is on the office door.
- **Medical and other supplies are still needed for Ukraine !!! - We wish to thank EVERYONE who has contributed to this effort whether the donations have been items from the list or financial donations. They are all very much needed.** Please check the parish website for an updated list. **UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS IN ALL SIZES - MEN,**

WOMEN AND CHILDREN - IS BADLY NEEDED!!!! *In addition, we need volunteers to help collect and organize these donations. To volunteer, please see Susan Cooke or Tania Smirnova or Barbara Hutzalyuk*

- **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.

Coffee Social: Please consider hosting an upcoming Sunday.

UKRAINIAN DEVOTION TO THE MOTHER OF GOD: The "Kyiv-Bratsk" Icon of the Mother of God, commemorated on May 10/23

UKRAINIAN DEVOTION TO THE MOTHER OF GOD: THE IRZHAVETZ ICON OF THE MOST PURE MOTHER OF GOD. (continued from last week)

A specially appointed church commission recognized the miraculous attributes of the icon. It was decided that a new church building be erected. The new stone church was completed in 1723. On May 9 /May 22 the icon was solemnly brought into the church and placed on the left side of the iconostasis. Since that time, five generations of ancestors of the famous Ukrainian composer Lev Revutsky served



as parish priests at that church.

The Irzhavetz Icon depicts the Virgin Mary in the manner of the "Hodegetria" type icons. She holds the Child Jesus at her side while pointing to Him as the source of salvation for humankind. The Virgin's head is slightly tilted towards the child as He raises His hand in the gesture for blessing the faithful. In His other hand, He holds the Gospel. The Mother of God is depicted with a soft, somewhat sad, expression, while Jesus is portrayed as an adolescent with an intense look on His face. With the passage of time, the icon came to be decorated with pearls and precious stones, and silver robes came to cover both figures. These were donations from pilgrims in gratitude for the healing they experienced. For more than two centuries, May 24 (June 6) was celebrated as a holy day in memory of the 1716 miracle. Pilgrims would come, not only from surrounding areas, but from all Ukraine. Many were healed, especially the mentally ill, paralytics, and infertile wives.

In 1920, a scholar from the University of Kyiv made the only available photograph of the original icon. The photo is presently stored at the Institute of Literature in Kyiv. It is rather small and quite yellowed. An improved digital copy of the blurry photo is being used for recent reproductions of the icon. The subsequent fate of the original icon was tragic. In 1932, members of the village communist organization burned the icon. The church was closed down, and after World War II, its bricks were used to build an office building for the district committee of the communist party. The church was rebuilt in 1999 and is today a functioning church. The copy of the Irzhavetz Icon that it hosts, is a copy of the original one that was painted in the early 1900s for a neighboring village. Luckily, that copy survived destruction being stored away in a warehouse along with other icons from an iconostasis.

The miracle of the weeping Irzhavetz Icon forms the basis of a famous poem by Ukraine's greatest poet and bard, Taras Shevchenko. He had seen the legendary miraculous icon in the northern Ukrainian village of Irzhavetz in one of his journeys throughout Ukraine after he had been emancipated from serfdom. In the spring of 1843, he paid a visit to the church in Irzhavetz. Basing his information on folk tales and historical records, in 1847 the poet wrote the moving poem "Irzhavetz". The poem begins with the bard's reflections on how a major contributing factor for the Poltava debacle were disagreement between some colonels and supporters of Hetman Ivan Mazepa. The poet muses that had not some Kozak colonels gone over to the side of Tsar Peter,

... *The Mother of God would not have cried for Ukraine in Crimea.*
Hearing of the destruction of their fortress capital, or Sich, by Russian forces as punishment for their support of Hetman Mazepa, the Kozak force that fought in the battle of Poltava, chose instead of returning to the Sich, to head south to an area that was part of Tatar Crimean domains.

*As they journeyed day and night,
As the Zaporozhtzi abandoned
the Great Meadow and Mother Sich,
They took with them the Mother of God,
And nothing else did they take with them.
To Crimea, to the Khanate they bore it,
To their new miserable Zaporozhya...
Although the Khan permitted them
to settle as a unit on the sands,
he forbade the Zaporozhtzi
to build a church there.*

*So they placed the Image of the Blessed Virgin in a tent
and secretly came to pray to her there...*

In the meantime those who remained behind in Ukraine were subjected to cruelties that surpassed anything Ukrainians had endured from various occupiers until then. Thousands were mercilessly tortured and then crucified, feasted upon by "Tsar Peter's dogs." Many were sent to erect trenches and barriers on the border with Finland where most of them "perished in the snows."

News of their fate reached the Kozaks in distant Crimea, but those "were silent" because they could not help. "They themselves were sent abroad to fight in wars by [Ottoman] murzas."

*Mercilessly tormented, the wretched souls wept,
and with them the Mother of God wept
with holy tears...
And God looked down on those tears,
and on Ukraine.
For the tears of the Kozaks and the Blessed Mother
He struck down Peter, the torturer,
with an unexpected death.
The Kozaks returned,
brought with them
to the Hetmanate that
wonderful image
of the Blessed Mother.
Placed it in Irzhavetz
in a stone church.
There she still weeps
for the Kozaks.*

