

Icons Show the Human Face of God

In recent months my Sunday reflections have frequently focused on our Christian brothers and sisters of the East. Wishing as it were to embrace their rich tradition of faith in a single glance, today I would like to refer once again to the sense of mystery which is apparent in their icons. The East and the West vie with each other to put their art at the service of the faith.

But from the East, where icons had to be defended with bloodshed in the iconoclast crisis of the eighth and ninth centuries, comes a particular call jealously to preserve the religious nature of this art. It is based on the mystery of the Incarnation, in which God chose to assume a human face. In the last analysis, sacred art seeks to transmit something of the mystery of that face.

This is why the East firmly insists on the spiritual qualities which must characterize the artist,

to whom Simeon of Thessalonica, the great defender of Tradition, addresses this important exhortation: “Teach with words, write with letters, paint with colors, in conformity with Tradition; the painting is true, as is the writing of books; and the grace of God is present in them, because what is represented there is holy.”

By contemplating icons in the whole context of liturgical and ecclesial life, the Christian community is called to grow in its experience of God, and to become more and more a living icon of the communion of life between the Three Divine Persons.

Pope John Paul II

**For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit
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FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



Icon of the Holy Images

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Pastoral Care entrusted to:

Father Robert Hitchens – Administrator

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Sunday – February 18, 2024

Glory to Jesus Christ – Glory to Him Forever + Слава Ісусу Христу – Слава на віки

Confessions are available before the Divine Liturgies

All Services will be Live Streamed at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Platform: <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>

Sunday February 18 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday of Orthodoxy (+Michael and +Catherine Dankewych from Family) (For the Parish)
Friday February 23 6:00 p.m.	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (Living of the Nagurney-Medwid Family)
Saturday February 24 10:00 a.m.	Commencing the Third Year of the War (Peace and all who have died in the War and our Beloved Deceased)
Sunday February 25 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas (For the Parish) (+Olena Chalupa from Family)

THE GREAT FAST – A TIME FOR PENANCE AND METANOIA

The Great Fast began Monday, February 12. Our parish will make a commitment to observe this sacred time in accord with the authentic traditions of our Ukrainian Catholic Church. We will celebrate the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Fridays at 6:00 p.m. in our Church. *Wednesdays will be at SS. Joachim and Anna in Front Royal, VA.* On Saturdays, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the Souls enrolled in the Sorokousty 10:00 a.m. in our Church. Christians have been challenged to practice: **FASTING – ALMSGIVING – PRAYER – AS A WAY OF LIFE AND A WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE.** All parishioners are urged to resolve to make their best effort to attend at least **5** of these sacred services during the Great Fast, especially those in which we remember our deceased loved ones. All must attend the Divine Liturgy on Sundays. **Everyone, regardless of age, is encouraged to observe the GREAT FAST as piously as possible!**

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR SOROKOUSTY 2024 (LIST OF YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES)

In the Ukrainian Catholic Church, it is the custom to remember our beloved dead during the time of the Great Fast. These commemorations occur on Saturdays because the Saviour of the world rested in the grave on Great and Holy Saturday, awaiting the Resurrection. Thus, Saturday became for Christians the day for commemorating the deceased, who await the resurrection on the last day. We will be starting our remembrances of the dead on Saturdays, beginning February 17 at 10:00 a.m. Please take the time to remember your deceased family members on the Saturdays of the Great Fast. They hope for our prayers; and in turn, they pray for us. Please submit an envelope with your list of names by email or US Mail. An offering is customarily made for the priests

IN YOUR CHRISTIAN CHARITY, PLEASE REMEMBER +PAUL MCARDLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

In your Christian charity, please remember +Paul McArdle (68), in your prayers. +Paul passed away on February 9. +Paul's Funeral Service will take place on Monday February 19, at 11:00 a.m. at our parish. Family and Friends may call at the Robert A. Pumphrey Funeral Home, 300 W. Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850 from 3pm to 5pm on Sunday February 18. Please remember +Paul and his family that mourns him in your prayers, his wife, Sophia (Demchyshyn) McArdle, and children, Diana and Timothy. May his memory be Eternal - *Vichnaya yomu Pamyat!*

SPRING CATECHISM FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-6 HAVE BEGUN

All children ages 3-6 are welcome to join Holy Family's Catechism classes this fall with Co-Catechists Lindsey Fedyk and Julia Dezelski. Classes will be held between the two liturgies from 10:15-11:15. Please email Lindsey (lindseyfedyk@gmail.com) with any questions and to register your family. Classes will be held on: 2/18, 2/25, 3/3, 3/17, 4/7, 4/21, 5/5, Last class 5/12 End of year celebration!

FIRST CONFESSION CLASSES HAVE BEGUN

Our parish catechism classes are in session for those children intending to make First Confession in 2024. Classes will be held on Sunday between the English and Ukrainian liturgies (approx. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM). First Confession will be celebrated on Lazarus Saturday (March 23, 2024). No class will be held on February 18. All children must be attending Divine Liturgy. If you have children of First Confession age in your family, we ask you to please contact Olya Kroytor Mulvey by email at olya.kroytor@gmail.com

Prayer List

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: **Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Valarie Balthis, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Terry Boyle, Taisia Bullard, Mary Connors, Veronica Cosio, Darlene Dossick, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Lindsey Fedyk, Lilian Garland, Alice Gogniat, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Vanessa Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Daniel Horeczko, Boris Hlynsky, Nila Iwaskiw, Sarah Kelt, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Michael Joseph Little, Paul Marynowych, Fr. Roman Mirchuk, Michele Pretka Litvar, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Thomas Nagurney, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Patricia Pylypec, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Michael Sharr, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Stefania Szahaj, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Anne Woroniak, Rose Wilson, Jennifer Wilson, Paul Yarrish.** If you know of someone who should be on this list, please email or call with the name of the individual. Our intercessory prayer for the sick and the aged is truly helpful and comforting. In your Christian Charity, kindly remember our sick parishioners in your prayers and perhaps a card or note.

Please join us on Saturday February 24 at 10:00 a.m. for a Divine Liturgy as we remember the beginning of the all-out assault upon Ukraine by russia, and pray for peace. We will then begin to make our way to the Lincoln Memorial for a mass rally marking the second anniversary of russia's full-scale genocidal war against Ukraine at 2:00 p.m.