

The Power of Christ's Blood

If we wish to understand the power of Christ's blood, we should go back to the ancient account of its prefiguration in Egypt. Sacrifice a lamb without blemish, commanded Moses, and sprinkle its blood on your doors. If we were to ask him what he meant, and how the blood of an irrational beast could possibly save men endowed with reason, his answer would be that the saving power lies not in the blood itself, but in the fact that it is a sign of the Lord's blood. In those days, when the destroying angel saw the blood on the doors he did not dare to enter, so how much less will the devil approach now when he sees, not that figurative blood on the doors, but the true blood on the lips of believers, the doors of the temple of Christ.

If you desire further proof of the power of this blood, remember where it came from, how it ran down from the cross, flowing from the Master's side. The gospel records that when Christ was dead, but still hung on the cross, a soldier came and pierced His side with a lance and immediately there poured

out water and blood. Now the water was a symbol of Baptism and the blood, of the Holy Eucharist. The soldier pierced the Lord's side, he breached the wall of the sacred temple, and I have found the treasure and made it my own. So also with the lamb: the Jews sacrificed the victim and I have been saved by it.

There flowed from His side water and blood. Beloved, do not pass over this mystery without thought; it has yet another hidden meaning, which I will explain to you. I said that water and blood symbolized Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. From these two sacraments the Church is born: from Baptism, the cleansing water that gives rebirth and renewal through the Holy Spirit, and from the Holy Eucharist. Since the symbols of Baptism and the Eucharist flowed from His side, it was from His side that Christ fashioned the Church, as He had fashioned Eve from the side of Adam.

St. John Chrysostom

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Pastoral Care entrusted to:

Father Robert Hitchens – Administrator

Father Mykola Dziurakh – Parochial Vicar

Sunday – March 23, 2025

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/>

Saturday March 22 10:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.	Divine Liturgy (Sorokousty) Great Vespers
Sunday March 23 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Third Sunday of the Fast – Veneration of the Cross (+John and +Helen Fedkiw from the Popadiuk Family) (For the Parish)
Tuesday March 25 **7:00 p.m.**	Annunciation of the Mother of God Vesperal Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Wednesday March 26 **7:00 p.m.**	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Friday March 28 **5:00 p.m.**	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (+Michael and +Theodore Haberchak from Ruth)
Saturday March 29 10:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.	Divine Liturgy (Sorokousty) Great Vespers
Sunday March 30 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of the Fast – St. John Climacus (For the Parish) (+Oksana Mostowycz from the Kerda Family)

THE GREAT FAST – A TIME FOR PENANCE AND METANOIA

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 **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.** and on **Fridays at 5:00 p.m.** in our Church. 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.

SPIRITUAL REGULATIONS FOR THE GREAT FAST 2025

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstinence from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the following are the minimal Lenten regulations today: Abstinence from meat and all dairy products on Good Friday. Abstinence from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional to abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the Great Fast. Everyone should receive the Holy Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist during the period from the onset of Great Fast to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday. The Fasting and Abstinence regulations are not binding on persons 60 or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe the fasting and abstinence regulations.

2025 EASTER BAZAAR AND BASIC PYSANKA WORKSHOP SATURDAY APRIL 5

Buffet Luncheon: “Traditional Ukrainian” – 10:30 a.m. until the food is gone. **Easter Bazaar:** 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Traditional Ukrainian arts and crafts, pysanka kits, how-to books, videos, traditional foods & baked goods, and smoked & other meats. **Basic Pysanka Workshop:** Learn to decorate Easter Eggs the traditional Ukrainian way. Detailed A/V presentation, personalized instruction, materials & supplies included. Workshop Fee: \$40 (adults only). Attendance limited to 60. Individuals. Workshop registration/payment is required in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/228rxbae>

EASTER BAZAAR 2025 FOOD PREPARATION – FRIDAYS MARCH 28 AND APRIL 4

PLEASE Join us Fridays March 28 and April 4 starting at 10AM to make varenyky, both potato and sauerkraut. On Friday, April 4 our session is to make holubtsi and other food items.

CATECHISM CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-5

Catechism classes will be held from 10:15-11:15 am on Sunday. Please mark these dates for the first semester: March 23, April 6, 27, May 4, 18.

VESPERS AND CONCERT OF SPIRITUAL SONGS “MISSION OF HOPE” SATURDAY APRIL 12

On April 12, at 5:30 PM and 6:30 PM, a unique event will take place at Holy Family blending the grandeur of spiritual tradition and the charm of music. The Fratelli Quartet (Father Andrii Khomen, Deacon Ihor Demydas, Deacon Ivan Vysochansky, and Brother Mykhailo Kuz) from Rome will sing Great Vespers at 5:30 PM and then perform a concert of sacred music at 6:30 PM. This event offers a wonderful opportunity for each of us to restore our connection with God, find peace amid our daily worries, and immerse ourselves in an atmosphere of grace and spiritual depth. Free will offerings accepted.

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, Robert Dulaine, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Ferne Fisanich, Myroslava Futey, Lilian Garland, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Vanessa Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Daniel Horeczko, Boris Hlynsky, Nila Iwaskiw, Bohdan Kantor, Sarah Kelt, LTJG Lydia Kowalskyj USN, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Melissa Martin, Paul Marynowych, Michele Pretka Litvak, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Patricia Pylypec, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell,, Teresa Sherwood, 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, Fr. George Worschak, and 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.