

SAINT NICHOLAS  
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



УКРАЇНЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА  
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ

№ ПІД ОПІКОЮ  
ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ  
МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРИЇ

24 UNDER THE  
PROTECTION OF  
MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN

June 14 – 2020 – 14 Червня  
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



№ 24 JUNE 14 2020



This is how our Church looks these days.

A little better than previous weeks.

Things are changing for normal.



It is time to come back to the church. The pews are waiting!  
Час прийти назад до Церкви!!!



After the wedding of Marianna Vityk and Jacob E. Smith  
The church is now waiting for the new events  
Чекаємо на нові події у нашій церкві



# CHURCH BULLETIN

June 14 – 2020 – 14 Червня

## ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



St. Nicholas Ukr. Cath. Church  
Церква Святого Миколая  
(Під Опікою П.Д.М.)  
ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 OM +Zoia, Tomko Kuryluk & Orest, Luke  
Kuryluk & Family (Terech Family)

**STREAMING** at 4:30 PM in English ~

June 14 Червня: 2 S. aft. Pentecost – 2 Н. ЗСД

**STREAMING** - Молебень до Христа Чол.  
10:00 – English & Ukr. Liturgy in Ukr. & Moleben

Monday, June 15 Червня, Понеділок  
9:00 AM + Леся Лисак Тевонюк (О. Чмола)

Tuesday, June 16 Червня, Вівторок  
9:00 AM +Марія Процик (син з родиною)

Wednesday, June 17 Червня, Середа  
10:00 AM +Shirley Pfalzgraf (Mary Ann DuBois) – 40 d.

Thursday, June 18 Червня, Четвер  
9:00 AM Intention of the donor

Friday, June 19 Червня, П'ятниця  
9:00 AM На всяке прошення – Многая Літа!  
(66 річниця шлюбу Маркіяна і Лідії Стасюк)

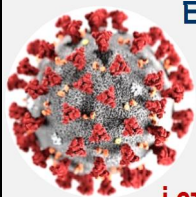
Saturday, June 20 Червня, Субота  
9:00 AM +Иосиф А. Процик (Галя Шулевська)  
4:30 PM Intention of Christopher & Julie Glascott

**STREAMING** at 4:30 PM in English ~

June 21 Червня: 3 S. aft. Pentecost – 3 Н. ЗСД

**STREAMING** - Молебень до Христа Чол.  
11:30 – English & Ukr. - Moleben to Christ L. of M.

Вічне Світло в честь П. Д. Марії  
Горить за +Марії і Филипа Процик  
Пожертва: Син з родиною



Eternal Light Burns for all those  
who are affected by Covid-19.  
May the Lord heal them and  
Holy Theotokos protect them!  
За всіх тих, що постраждали  
і страждають від корони вірусу.

14 Червня: Неділя Всіх Святих

10:00 p. For Parishioners – За Парохіян

По Українськи ~ **STREAMING**

21 Червня: 2 Н. по Зісланні Святого Духа

10:00 p. +Иосиф Ліскевич (Родина) – 40 день  
+Joseph Liskiewicz (Family) – 40 day

10:00 p. По Українськи ~ **STREAMING**

We are streaming Divine Liturgy in English  
Saturday at 4:30 and in Ukrainian Sunday at 10  
AM. Also there is Streaming for Moleben  
Sunday at noon in Engl. & Ukr., Please go to our  
webpage and on the opening page at left CLICK  
on:

### Live Stream

Можна бачити Св. Літургію по інтернеті

По Українськи – У Неділю: 10:00 p.  
НА ЖИВО - LIVE STREAM

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFrKKv\\_GWs6U-EfD7TctIA/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFrKKv_GWs6U-EfD7TctIA/live)

In English – On Saturday: 4:30 PM

Thank You and God bless You  
For sending your church envelopes!  
We still need to pay our bills,  
but we all know your generosity.  
Hopefully everything will be normal soon.

Сердечна подяка всім вам, що вислали  
свої коверти. Я добре знаю Вашу жерт-  
венність! Хай Господь благословить!  
Очевидно датки зменшилися, але  
незадовго все прийде до нормального.

Christina H. Arthurs, Attorney  
716.853.5100 or carthurs@lippes.com  
Estate Planning & Probate | Real Estate  
Immigration | Corporate



Albany | Buffalo | Florida | New York | Toronto Area | Washington, D.C.  
lippes.com

Attorney Advertising.  
Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

## KARYCZAK'S

### AUTOMOTIVE

995 ABBOTT ROAD • BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14220



COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS / N.Y.S. INSPECTION •  
FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS •  
TRANSMISSION ADJUSTMENTS & REPAIRS •  
WHEEL ALIGNMENTS & TIRES •  
BATTERIES / AIR CONDITIONING & ACCESSORIES •  
MUFFLER & EXHAUST SYSTEMS •

TOWING SERVICE - ALL WORK GUARANTEED

822-1574 FAX 825-7428 827-8895

Proud to Support  
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church



Buszka Funeral Home  
Director Peter D. Stachowski

2005 Clinton Street at S. Ogden, Buffalo New York 14206  
(716) 825-7777 www.buszkafuneralhome.com

Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам!



Real Estate Services



Ask me about  
the 100% Money  
Back Guarantee!

JENNY PFEIFFER-NOWADLY  
Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

4909 Transit Road • Depew, NY 14043

Cell: 716.523.6693

Office: 716.656.8999 • Fax: 716.825.4911

jennypfeiffer@howardhanna.com

HowardHanna.com



PHONE 893-1025

Fusani &  
Kuhn's Monuments, Inc.

2398 GENESEE ST.  
BUFFALO, N.Y. 14225

ASK FOR TOM

Wilhelmina E. Klimeczko  
Janine R. Klimeczko  
Michael A. Klimeczko  
Licensed Directors

Pietszak

FUNERAL HOME

Orlowski-Pietszak Funeral Home

www.Pietszak.com 897-2400

Continuing a Tradition of  
thoughtful Personalized Service

806 Clinton St. 2400 William St.  
Buffalo Cheektowaga

Thanks are extended to all Sponsors!

# MARY KAY

The Best Times to Reach Me

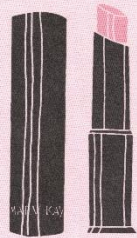
Call me any time!  
I look forward to  
hearing from you.

Ulana Scheidle  
Independent Beauty Consultant

3498 Stevenson Court  
Wheatfield NY 14120  
(716) 628-7882

uscheidle@verizon.net  
www.marykay.com/uscheidle

MARY KAY



## EURO DELI AND GIFTS

www.eurodelisausage.com

**LUNCHES & SANDWICHES SERVED DAILY**

**For All of Your Old World Favorite Products, Just Around The Corner. Stop In & Take a Look.**

*Many Varieties of:*  
Bologna • Salami • Fresh Polish Sausage • Head Cheese • Garlic Sausage • Smoked Fish  
European Beer • Kefir/Butter • Condiments • Pierogi (Homemade) - Many Varieties  
Smoked Sausages • Bacon (Bozek) • Canadian Bacon • Blood Kishka (Homemade)  
Polish Hams • Caviar • Kvas Drink • Cheese • European Chocolates • Pickles/Tomatoes

4166 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, NY (In Airport Plaza) 630-0130  
2321 Millersport Hwy. Amherst (Getzville Plaza) 688-1495

PROFESSIONAL COLLISION SERVICES & MORE

## RED STAR

Nick Hurmak  
OWNER  
(716) 316-2540  
Alexander Arutunian  
MANAGER  
(716) 578-8185

112 DELAWARE STREET  
TONAWANDA, NY 14150  
FAX: (716) 260-1254  
www.redstarautomotive.com

# UKRAINIAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

UKRAЇНСЬКА ФЕДЕРАЛЬНА КРЕДИТНА СПІЛКА

Become a member of Ukrainian FCU and save money with lower rates on loans, make money with higher interest on your savings, and save time with our convenient online services!

PERSONAL & BUSINESS FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SAVINGS & CHECKING ACCOUNTS | SHARE CERTIFICATES | MONEY MARKET | IRA | LOANS | MORTGAGES | VISA CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS | MONEYGRAM | INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC WIRE TRANSFERS | ONLINE SERVICES | [NOTARY PUBLIC | TRANSLATIONS | SCHOLARSHIPS] ПЕРСОНАЛЬНІ ТА БІЗНЕСОВІ ФІНАНСОВІ ПОСЛУГИ ОЩАДНІ ТА ЧЕКОВІ РАХУНКИ | СЕРТИФІКАТИ | М.М | ПЕНСІЙНІ РАХУНКИ | ПОЗИКИ | КРЕДИТИ НА НЕРУХОМІСТЬ | ПЛАТІЖНІ КАРТКИ VISA | MONEYGRAM | ГРОШОВІ ПЕРЕКАЗИ | ЕЛЕКТРОННІ ПОСЛУГИ [ПОСЛУГИ НОТАРІУСА | ПЕРЕКЛАДИ | СТИПЕНДІЇ]

<p><b>Buffalo Branch</b> Ukrainian Home Dnipro 562 Genesee Street Buffalo NY 14204 (716) 847-6655 <a href="http://www.ukrainianfcu.org">www.ukrainianfcu.org</a></p> <p><b>Business Hours</b> Closed Wednesdays, Зачинені по середах Mon., Tuesday, Thursday   9:30 am - 5 pm   Пон., вівторок, четвер Friday / П'ятниця   9:30 am - 7 pm   Saturday / Субота   9 am - 1 pm  </p>	<p><b>Amherst Branch</b> Ellicott Creek Plaza 2882 Niagara Falls Blvd Amherst NY 14228 (716) 799-8385 <a href="http://www.ukrainianfcu.org">www.ukrainianfcu.org</a></p> <p><b>Business Hours</b> Closed Mondays, Зачинені по понеділках Tuesday - Thursday   9:30 am - 5 pm   З вівторка по четвер Friday / П'ятниця   9:30 am - 6 pm   Saturday / Субота   9 am - 1 pm  </p>
---	--

Membership subject to eligibility.  
Federally insured by NCUA.

DNIPRO  ДНІПРО

## Ukrainian Cultural Center

562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476  
[www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com](http://www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com)  
Kitchen open Friday 5-9 pm  
Live Music first Friday every month  
Book your private party now

## Guidelines for Opening Parish Churches and Resuming Public Services



1. The church should be cleaned/sanitized before each service when the public may be present, especially those areas and surfaces that are commonly used and touched (bathrooms, railings, doors, pew backs, etc.).

2. Social distancing must be observed by laity. Please consider 1/3 of total church capacity as the maximum number of persons that may be present at any given Divine Liturgy or other service. Be aware that in your area the civic authorities may limit the number of attendees to a specific number.

3. Prayer books and liturgy books are to be removed from the pews. The faithful may bring their own personal prayer books from home.

4. Social distancing of 6 feet (2 meters) must be maintained: a) between non-family members while in the pews; b) while standing or moving in the aisles.

5. Wearing face masks is strongly recommended for the laity. Priests are obliged to wear masks while preparing the holy gifts on the Preparation table and while distributing Holy Communion.

6. Veneration of icons and crosses by should be done without touching or kissing them.

7. The faithful are not to attend church services if they are feeling ill. They should not greet one another with handshakes and should leave the church immediately following the completion of the service.

8. Please remind the faithful that because of the ongoing public health crisis, they are not bound by the Sunday obligation to attend church services. Dispensation from Sunday Liturgy obligation remains valid until further notice.

9. When distributing Holy Communion with a golden spoon please instruct those who choose to receive to open their mouths wide, not to touch the spoon, and not to cough or sneeze upon it. The spoon must be sanitized immediately after each communicant by wiping it with a cloth soaked in pure alcohol. A disposable wooden spoon may also be used for distributing Holy Communion. A separate wooden spoon is to be used for each communicant. They should be disposed of following the service by burning. Please remind the faithful that they should not feel obliged to come forward for Holy Communion if they are uneasy about receiving.

10. Celebrations of weddings, baptism and funerals are allowed if all the precautions listed above are observed.

11. Collections baskets are to be left in designated places where parishioners may leave their offerings.

12. Live-streaming of liturgical services should continue for the time being as many faithful might be uneasy in attending personally.

13. Please consider other precautionary measures to help ensure that our churches are safe and everyone's good health is maintained.

Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM  
Bishop of Stamford

## REPENTANCE IS THE KEY TO A QUALITATIVELY NEW LEVEL OF PRAYER, HEAD OF THE UGCC

In the third part of the program His Beatitude Sviatoslav: #clearly\_about\_complicated the Head of the UGCC reflected on the next stage of Christian prayer - repentance. The Head of the Church emphasized that it is at this stage of prayer that the Lord enters our spiritual world with His light and begins to illuminate it. The UGCC Department for Information report.



We call repentance a person's approach to God. "Every time we try to free ourselves from our own difficulties and sins, when we take a step towards the Lord God, we repent," the Primate explained.

St. Augustine compared the inner world of man with the underground labyrinths, which have many interesting inner passages. As the Head of the UGCC noted, we often do not even know and are not aware of those passages, labyrinths, and tunnels. However, it is our prayer of repentance that allows God to enter our inner world and enlighten it.

The Primate warned against a possible attempt by a prayer man to present himself to God as better than he really is. The bishop believes that there is no need to hide anything from the Lord. "Only then our prayer will be true and sincere. And the Lord God, seeing our sincerity, will open our heart to Him, will

approach us, enlighten us, heal us, lift us up," said the Head of the UGCC.

Repentance is the key to moving to a qualitatively new level of prayer. By asking God for forgiveness of all sins, a prayer man will better understand how to pray further.

Concluding the third lesson about prayer, His Beatitude Sviatoslav emphasized that by standing before God in all the truth about ourselves, we will be able to know the fullness of the truth about our God, who is our Father. "May the Lord God visit each of you, and the prayer of repentance will make us better, healthier, and capable of growing in our spiritual life!" - The Head of the UGCC wished in conclusion.

We remind you that on May 16, 2020, the UGCC launched a new video project His Beatitude Sviatoslav: #clearly\_about\_complicated

In it, the Head of the UGCC explains important Christian truths. The first parts of the project are dedicated to prayer. You can watch new programs of the project every Saturday at 21:00 on Zhyve.TV channel on YouTube or Zhyve.TV page on Facebook.



FROM NOW ON,  
READ RISU NEWS AND ARTICLES  
ON THE NEW RISU.UA PORTAL

On June 2, 2020, RISU editorial staff launched a new portal - RISU.UA. There you can read all the news and articles, including the previous ones.

Please, let us know if you have problems accessing specific materials, and we will help you find them.

Soon, the old RISU portal will be disconnected.  
Thank you for staying with us!



- Our CHURCH KITCHEN is CLOSED Under farther notice.
- Thank you for your help and patronage!
- Thanks - are extended to all volunteers!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall. NOW CLOSED!

Until we meet God willing ...  
**HAVE A BLESSED DAY!!!**

### TOP'S GIFT CARDS:

Please help us raise money for our Church by purchasing



Top's Gift Cards from us. If you buy in Tops anyway, why not help. You do not lose or gain anything by doing this, but our Church will benefit greatly. We receive back 5% of your spending. To take advantage of this program, call the rectory. Thank you and God Bless!

**Please note:** You can purchase gasoline with this card at Tops Gasoline Station.

\* \* \*

У нас успішно продаються Карточки з крамниці "Топс". Купуючи їх ви помагаєте церкві. Для Вас не робить різниці чи ви платили грішми чи карточкою, але церква дістане від „Топс” 5%. На \$1,000 церква одержить \$50. Що б закупити слід звертатися до канцелярії. Дякуємо!

Також пригадуємо, що цією карточкою можна купувати бензину.

CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly.  
Deadline for information is Friday Evening.  
ЦЕРК. ВІСНИК видається тижнево.  
Інформації подавати до четверга вечора.

**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
УКРАЇНЬСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА  
СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ  
(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ  
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРИЇ)

Par. E-Mail: - stnbuffalo@gmail.com  
Web Page: - http://www.stnbuffalo.com  
Dioc. Web: - http://www.stamforddio.org

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

Fax: 855-1319

Kitchen: 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies  
Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями  
Baptism: By appointment  
Хрещення: За домовленням \*  
Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance  
Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Релігійна Програма  
Closed under farther notice

**Ministry to the sick – Опіка над хворима**  
Family members should call the Rectory  
Родина повинна повідомити священика

**IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME**  
В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor

Please call if you are hospitalized,  
homebound and need a priest.

Просимо закликати якщо ви у  
лічниці, або приковані до ліжка!

## IN LVIV, THE PERMANENT SYNOD OF THE UGCC DISCUSSES PASTORAL CARE IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

On May 25, 2020, the working sessions of the Permanent Synod of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church have started at the Patriarchal House in Lviv. This is reported by the UGCC Information Department.



The working sessions of the permanent Synod of the UGCC are chaired by the Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav. Participating in its work are the Synod member Bishop Theodore Martynyuk, auxiliary Bishop of the Ternopil-Zboriv Archdiocese, and two Deputy Members of the Permanent Synod: Bishop Igor Voznyak, Archbishop and Metropolitan of Lviv, and Bishop Yaroslav Pryriz, Eparch of Sambir-Drohobych. The participation of deputies is due to quarantine restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the pandemic and is also due to the inability of members of the Permanent Synod to cross national borders because of the lockdown.

The Secretary of the Synod of Bishops of the UGCC, Bishop Bohdan Dzyurakh, also takes part in the meetings.

On the first day of their work, the bishops familiarized themselves with the current state of monasticism of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, which was reported by the Patriarchal Commission on Monasticism of the UGCC, led by Bishop Mykhailo Bubniy, Exarch of Odessa.

Bishop Kenneth Novakovsky, Eparch of London, presented the activities of the Council for Spiritual

Care, and Bishop Bohdan Danylo, Eparch of Parma, together with the Patriarchal Commission for Clergy, reported on the state of the clergy in modern pastoral conditions, and especially on the development of vocations to the priesthood. At the end of the working day, a presentation was made on the life and activities of the Social Department of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, headed by Bishop Vasyl Tuchapets.

Also, the Synodal fathers will consider proposals for holding a Synod of Bishops of the UGCC in 2020 and the current state of the Church's pastoral care in the context of quarantine, the spread of the pandemic and its consequences.

The session of the Permanent Synod of the UGCC will last until May 27.

It should be noted that the Permanent Synod assists the Head of the UGCC in matters of ordinary administration or in solving urgent matters of the Church.

## HEAD OF UGCC URGED MINISTRY OF HEALTH NOT TO EXCLUDE RELIGIOUS AND MORAL DISCIPLINES FROM CURRICULUM

The Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, expressed concern that in compliance with Decree No. 641 of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine dated May 18, 2020, the commissions responsible for disciplines that have an impact on worldview formation shall be dismissed.

This is stated in a separate Address by the Head of the Church "the Future of our Church, Ukraine and the people depends on the education and upbringing of our children," the UGCC Information Department reports.

The appeal is directed to parents, caregivers and all people of good will who are engaged in raising children.

The appeal, in particular, refers to the Commission on Philosophical and Ideological disciplines, the Commission on Ethics and the Commission on Christian Ethics.

## Глава УГКЦ у день Святого Духа: «Сьогодні Святий Дух відкриває нам природу Христової Церкви: Церква - ікона Пресвятої Тройці»

Сьогодні, у другий день свята П'ятдесятниці, ми звертаємо увагу на особу Святого Духа. Вчора ми переживали подію Його сходження, а сьогодні Церква запрошує нас поглянути на те, ким є Дух Святий, який зійшов на апостолів. Кого Він нам об'являє? А відтак - яку печать нашого Бога-Творця ми носимо у своїй істоті як Його образ? На цьому наголосив сьогодні, у понеділок Святого Духа, Отець і Глава Української Греко-Католицької Церкви Блаженніший Святослав під час проповіді до вірних у Патріаршому домі у Львові.



Дух Святий, каже проповідник, є Третьою особою Пресвятої Тройці. Він нам об'являє, що наш Бог є один, що Він не є самотнім. Ми віримо в єдиного Бога у трьох особах: Отця, Сина і Святого Духа.

«Наш Бог є любов'ю, троїчною любов'ю. Це любов, яка себе дарує іншій особі. Тому Святі Отці говорили, що як ми споглядаємо Святу Тройцю, то бачимо, що кожна Божа особа живе й існує в іншій особі. Отець, який є джерелом всього, народжує Сина і дихання Святого Духа. Він спочиває в Сині», - додає Глава Церкви.

За його словами, таїнство Пресвятої Тройці об'являється в дуже цікавий спосіб: Бог шукає

місця, щоб замешкати в людині. Каже Христос: «Хто любить Мене і заповіді Мої зберігає, того Отець Мій полюбить. І Ми прийдемо до нього і в ньому зкладемо житло».

«Господь Бог створив людину як храм Божий. Створив людину як єдину істоту у видимому і невидимому світі, яка може вмістити у собі таїнство Пресвятої Тройці. Ми створені на образ і подобу Троїчного буття. Щоб бути собою, людина повинна реалізувати Троїчний образ в особистому житті», - пояснює Блаженніший Святослав.

«Створена на образ Божий, людина покликана любити і бути любленою. Любити означає перенести центр свого "я" від себе в ту особу, яку я люблю. Вкласти себе в іншого. Лише таким чином людина може зрозуміти, ким вона є і для чого живе. Слово "любов" у сьогоднішньому світі знецінене. Для людей слово "любити" часто означає подбати тільки про себе. Той Бог, якого нам об'являє Дух Святий, Бог-Тройця, є Божественною любов'ю, яка є даром себе іншій людині», - наголосив проповідник.

Властиво, така здатність і потреба людини любити є основною її буття як суспільної істоти. На думку Блаженнішого Святослава, людина завжди потребує спільноти. «У ній вона відчуває простір, у якому здатна здійснити своє прагнення і потребу: любити і бути любленою», - переконаний він.

Отець і Глава УГКЦ зазначив, що сьогодні ми переживаємо свято Святого Духа в особливих обставинах, позаяк довгий час були на карантині та самоізоляції. Ми слухалися лікарів, які сказали, що єдиний спосіб припинити поширення хвороби – це припинити суспільний контакт, тобто припинити зустрічатися з іншими людьми.

Можливо, зараз є той час, припускає він, коли ми особливо відчуваємо, що потребуємо іншого для того, щоб бути собою. «Ми вчора бачили, як люди тішилися, коли могли нарешті бути разом на святі, очевидно, зберігаючи дистанцію й інші правила самозахисту. Ми так потребуємо бути разом! Ми так потребуємо бути спільнотою!» - сказав проповідник.

«Троїчність буття людини – з одного боку, а з іншого – сила і діяння Святого Духа, яка відкриває нам Пресвяту Тройцю, теж об’являє нам природу Христової Церкви: Церква – це ікона Пресвятої Тройці. Саме тому за своєю природою Церква – це спільнота, яка збирає людей і вчить їх любити. Вона наповняє їх Духом Святим. Тільки у такій спільноті людина може отримати життя і жити вповні», – пояснив проповідник.

«Просімо сьогодні Духа Святого, щоб допоміг нам навчитися любити. Просімо, щоб Він допоміг здійснити наше прагнення і потребу: любити і бути любленим», – додав Предстоятель УГКЦ.

«Насамперед нехай Святий Дух допоможе нам зрозуміти, що Той, хто першим нас полюбив і дав себе за нас і нам, є наш Господь: Отець, Син і Дух Святий. Бог першим нас полюбив і дав нам Духа Святого – духа любові. Нехай та любов допоможе нам все пережити, усе перетривати. Хай допоможе відчувати, що справді та Божа любов є вічною, життєдайною і ніколи не переминає силою і діянням Святого Духа», - побажав Блаженніший Святослав. – (Деп. інформації УГКЦ)

### A Note on the Common Communion Spoon

Liturgical spoons existed from at least the sixth-seventh century. But it does not mean that they were used for Communion. In fact, canon 101 of the Penthekte Synod (691-692) prohibits the use of any receptacle for the reception of the consecrated Bread other than the human hand. The canon reads: “So that if anyone should wish to partake of the pure Body during the time of the synaxis...let him form his hands into the shape of a cross, and thus approaching, let him receive the communion of grace. For we nowise welcome those men who make certain receptacles out of gold or any other material to serve instead of their hands for the reception of the divine gift.”

Before the eleventh/twelfth century everyone, clergy and people alike, received the Holy Gifts separately, in the manner the clergy do to this day. When the people approached, they extended their hands, right over left with palms open, on which the priest placed a portion of the holy Bread. After consuming the Bread, the communicants were offered the Cup by the deacon.

The first clear evidence for the use of communion spoons appeared in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. As

we learn from the noted canonist Theodore Balsamon (+ca. 1195), the common spoon had become the established norm in many places by the mid-twelfth century. Commenting on canon 101 of the Penthekte Synod, he complained that the traditional way of distributing Communion was being abandoned in some areas.

Centuries later, in a comment on the same canon, St. Nikodemos (+1809) suggests that the introduction of the communion spoon came about as a result of the scarcity of deacons. By the late twelfth century many churches were served by a single priest, which made the administration of the eucharistic elements separately both awkward and difficult. The problem was solved with the introduction of the spoon. The priest was now able to offer the eucharistic elements together in a spoon. In addition, St. Nikodemos tells us that the placement of the holy Gifts directly into the mouth of communicants helped to curb abuses and avoid spillage when drinking from the Cup. Evidently, some people were careless and dropped particles of the Holy Bread. Others hid it and “used it for wicked purposes.”

The use of the communion spoon was not enacted by a synod, ecumenical or local. Its use came about gradually. Initially, the spoon may have been used to commune the sick and the dying. At first, as one would expect, its use in the Liturgy met with some resistance, as any significant liturgical innovation would. Replacing the centuries old manner of receiving the consecrated Gifts separately, based on the biblical model, was not easy. However, new pastoral needs made the use of the spoon inevitable. In the final analysis, the spoon was accepted, even reluctantly, because it did not violate, contradict, or compromise any doctrinal teachings.

The method by which Communion is administered is purely functional. It serves a practical purpose. Thus, as warranted by needs and circumstances, a local Church in its collective wisdom and authority is free to adapt, modify, and manage the method by which Holy Communion is distributed. Whatever method a Church chooses, the single most important concern is that it does not violate any dogmas and that it is appropriate; that it upholds and maintains the dignity of the sacred act of communing.

We learn from St. Nikodemos that during plagues priests were known to use arbitrary methods to administer communion to the sick and dying. In a comment on canon 28 of the Penthekte Synod, he chides the clergy for using unsuitable methods to deliver Communion to the sick. He recommends a more appropriate method. He writes: “Hence, both priests and

prelates must employ some shift in time of a plague to enable them to administer communion to the sick without violating this canon; not, however, by placing the holy Bread in currants, but in some sacred vessel, so that the dying and the sick may take it thence with tongs or the like. The vessel and the tongs are to be placed in vinegar, and the vinegar is to be poured into a funnel, or in any other manner that they can that is safer and canonical.”

St. Nikodemos’ brief note is significant in two ways. First, he insists the vessels used for Communion be sterilized with vinegar, a popular disinfectant from ancient times. This is an acknowledgment that the vessels or instruments used for communing could be contaminated by dangerous parasitic microbes. Second, he insists that the instrument be fitting for the purpose.

In the past forty years several worldwide deadly epidemics, AIDS, SARS, Ebola, and MERS provoked fear among the people. Presently, the world is experiencing another more frightening global threat: the pandemic coronavirus or COVID-19, a contagion with lethal force which has upended all social, economic, political, cultural, and religious norms. People are justly apprehensive and frightened. The disease has already infected millions of people and claimed the lives of thousands globally. As with the preceding epidemics, the highly contagious coronavirus has many people wondering and questioning the continued use of a common spoon for Communion.

The real fears, reservations, and apprehensions of the people should not be dismissed with an air of superiority or a call to greater faith, as if the act of communing is void of human considerations and the limitations of the created order. People want to feel safe, listened to, and protected by their Church. They do not want to be exposed to unnecessary risks, nor should they be.

Statements like, “the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ, and the medicine of immortality,” or “the Eucharist is a divine remedy, a divine medicine,” may be true. But they are not sufficient to calm the fears and concerns of the faithful. People are not questioning the sacred character and identity of the Holy Gifts but the reliability of the instrument by which the Gifts are offered to them.

In my sixty-four years in the priesthood, I have consumed the chalice thousands of times after countless Divine Liturgies without fear or hesitation, as every priest does. I am not certain, however, that every faithful parishioner would do the same, if they were asked. My point is this. Holy Communion should be a source of joy, hope and strength for everyone and not a test or measure of one’s faith in God’s providential care (Matt. 4:5-7). St.



Paul reminds us that the love of Christ requires that we care for all persons, whatever their situation and be sensitive and responsive to their just needs and concerns for the sake of the Gospel (1 Cor. 9: 19-23) ...

The communion spoon is an imperfect material object. It does not share in the incorruptibility of the risen and deified Body of Christ which is really present to us through the eucharistic elements. On its own, the spoon is simply a spoon, a utensil. Its dignity is derived from its use as the instrument by which the Body and Blood of Christ is offered to his people. Long ago, it replaced an older venerable form of communing. The use of a spoon to commune the people was an innovation.

Today, the very thought of replacing the common spoon has caused great anxiety in some circles. There are those among the clergy and the laity who see the replacement of the common spoon or any other kind of departure from the current practice as a repudiation of the doctrine of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Of course, this is not true. ...

In response to the present deadly pandemic ... circumstances require that every local Church study the issue carefully taking into consideration the cultural and hygienic sensibilities of the people and the sanitary measures and protocols of their respective countries.

One model calls for the replacement of the common spoon with multiple individual spoons; spoons made from common material and are of equal value, which each local parish provides. According to this model, each parish will obtain (perhaps from a common source) a sufficient number of disposable spoons made of plastic or wood. Once used, each spoon would be collected and properly discarded (burned or buried) after each Liturgy.

Or, each parish procures a sufficient number of reusable metal spoons, all of the same type and material. The used spoons are collected and properly sterilized after each Liturgy and are reused multiple times.

Each of these methods shares a common goal: to administer Communion in the safest, most practical, and most dignified way possible. Whatever the model, the fundamental intent is the same: to mitigate the transmission of dangerous parasitic microbes.

Also, of concern is the common communion cloth, which many people use to wipe their mouth after communing. This practice is problematic and must end...

Reverend Dr. Alkiviadis C. Calivas (*Prof. Emeritus of Liturgics at Holy Cross Greek Orth. School of Theology in Brookline, MA.*)

**We use now disposable wooden spoons, which are burn after the Sunday Liturgy.**