

“As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast.” (Mark 2:19)

This evening, Forgiveness Vespers begins the Great Fast. Texts from the propers of Vespers include the following:

Entering into the arena of the Holy Fast, let us make every effort to humble our flesh by abstinence; in prayer and with tears let us seek the Lord our Savior, and, that we might turn away from our evil deeds, let us say to Him: we have sinned against You, O Christ our King, save us as You saved the Ninevites of old, and in Your goodness, grant us a share in the kingdom of heaven.

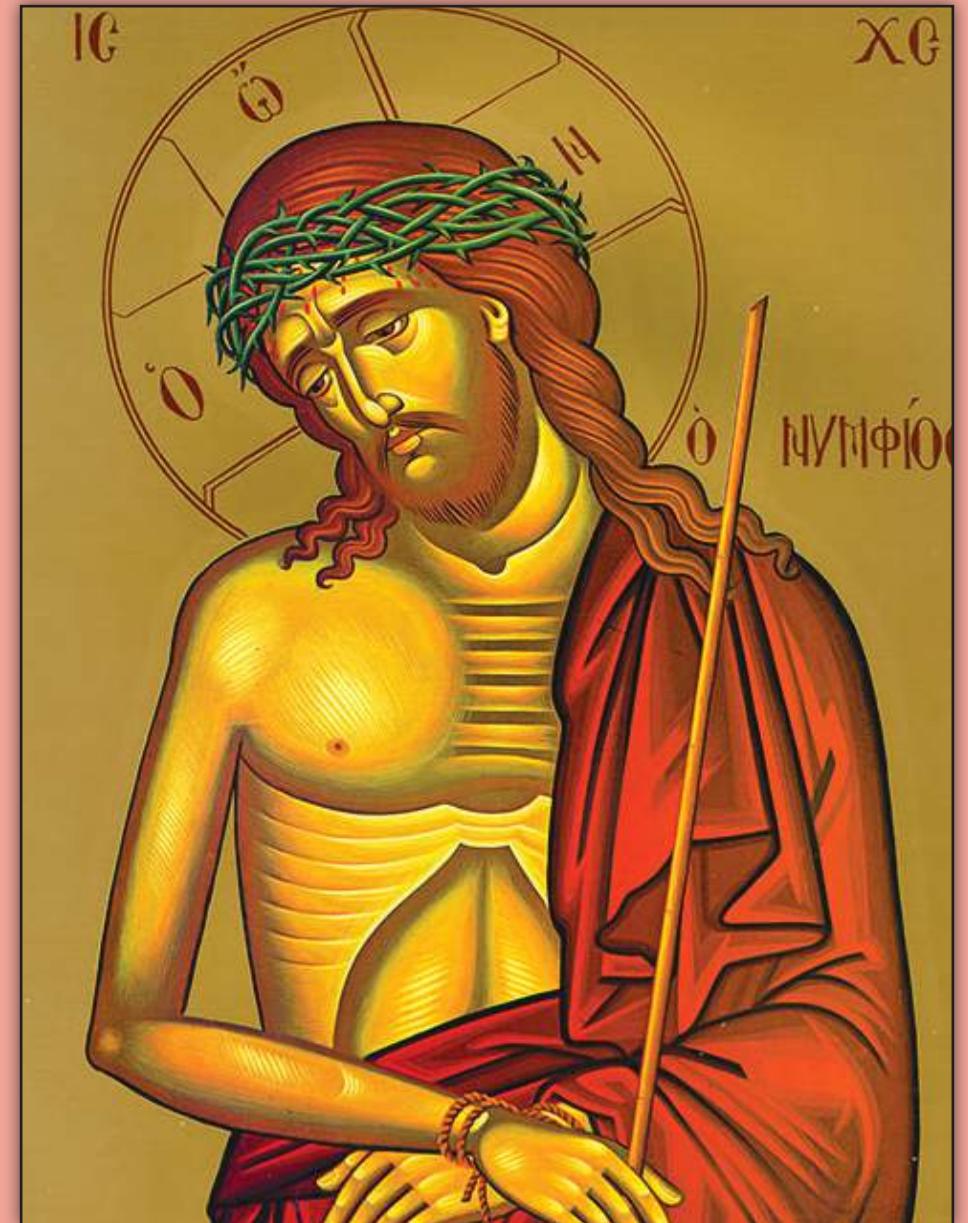
When I see my deeds that deserve such punishment, I am without hope, O Lord; for I have disobeyed Your holy commandments, and I have led a foolish

life. Therefore, I beseech You: purify me in the waters of repentance by fasting and prayer, O Savior, full of goodness; do not reject me, O Benefactor of the Universe.

Let us begin the time of this bright fast, giving ourselves over to spiritual struggle. Let us sanctify our soul and purify our flesh. Let us not fast only from food; let us also abstain from every passion and cultivate spiritual virtues. And let us faithfully persevere in this, so that we may be worthy to see the holy passion of Christ our God and the joy of His holy Resurrection.

*Text from the Lenten Triodion,
Sisters of Saint Basil, Uniontown, PA.*

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE



Icon of Christ the Bridegroom



Українська Греко-Католицька Церква Парафія Святих Йоакима і Анни

SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mission Parish of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. All are welcome!

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Fr Robert Hitchens, Administrator Fr Mykola Dziurakh, Parochial Vicar
Subdeacon Kyle Hayes Subdeacon David Wallace

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever! Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава навіки!

Reader Great Vespers: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 5:00pm

Divine Liturgy in English, Sundays 10:30am

Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession): Sundays, 9:45am

**FEBRUARY 15, 2026 – SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (TONE 3); CHEESEFARE;
APOSTLE ONESIMUS OF THE SEVENTY**

GIVING REPORT – The in-pew collection for Sunday, February 8 was \$902. Thank you for supporting our parish!



THE GREAT FAST BEGINS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 – 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. The upcoming weekdays of the Great Fast are *aliturghical*, meaning no Divine Liturgy should be celebrated except for the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25). Instead, on Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast, the **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** is to be celebrated. **Note the time changes:** Our parish will celebrate the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on the first day of Lent (Mon, Feb 16, 6:00pm) and on Wednesdays and Fridays at 6:00pm. (On Feb 27, Mar 13, and Mar 27, it will

be at 7:00pm.) Christians are challenged to practice **FASTING, ALMSGIVING, and PRAYER AS A WAY OF LIFE AND A WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE** (see Mt 6:1-18). 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.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR SOROKOUSTY 2026 (LIST OF YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES) - In the Ukrainian Catholic Church, it is the custom to remember our beloved dead on the Saturdays of the Great Fast, for the Savior rested in the grave on Great and Holy Saturday, awaiting the Resurrection. Since our priests are unable to come to Front Royal on Saturdays, we will have our remembrances of the dead on Fridays, beginning February 20, following the Lenten Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Submit your list of deceased loved ones using the forms in the narthex or in the weekly bulletin

email. A monetary offering is customarily given to the priests (this helps offset the growing cost of driving from Washington, DC, to Front Royal several times each week).

SPIRITUAL REGULATIONS FOR THE GREAT FAST 2026 - 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 Monday the First Day of The Fast (Feb 16, 2026) and Good Friday (April 3, 2026). Abstinence from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast (Feb 20, 27, Mar 6, 13, 20, 27) as well as Holy Saturday until after the Paschal Vespers Divine Liturgy (April 4). It is also traditional to abstain from meat on the Wednesdays of the Great Fast.** 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. All, regardless of age, are encouraged to observe the GREAT FAST as piously as possible! 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.

Congratulations to the newly illumined servant of God, **Maximus Davet**, newly born son of Christopher and Ciara Davet, who received the Holy Mysteries of Initiation – Baptism, Chrismation, and Holy Communion – on Sunday, February 15, the Sunday of Forgiveness. May the Lord grant him a long life and many happy, healthy, and blessed years! *Mnohaya i blahaya lita!*



The arena of the virtues has been opened,* let all who wish to struggle now enter therein,* girding themselves for the noble struggles of the Fast;* for those that strive lawfully are justly crowned.* Taking up the armour of the Cross* let us make war against the enemy. * Let us have as our invincible rampart – the Faith,* and as our breastplate – prayer,* and as our helmet – almsgiving;* and in place of a sword let us make use of fasting* which cuts away every evil from our heart.* If we do this, we shall receive the true crown from Christ the King of all,* at the day of Judgment.” (*Cheesefare Sunday Matins, Stichera of the Praises, Tone 5*)

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Nancy & Jon Anderson, Julie, Lisa Behnke, Alison Bernhoft, Yevhenia Borys, Robert Matthew, Carrie Chuff, Arthur Dhanagom, Elizabeth Deegan, Clara Anne Duda, Fr Michael Duesterhaus, Robert Dulaine, Pat Fagan, Danylo (Neyko) Fedoryka, Fr Mark Fesniak, Emma Flournoy, Katie Flynn, Lilian Garland, Jerry Gawron, CR Gaush, Samuel Gaush, Josie Hacker, Brigid and Marlina Hess, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyj, Sarah Kelt, Dixie Lane, Catherine Luckey, Destiny Makins, Michael Marshner & Family, Bridget McDonald, Laura McMahan, Vince McLaughlin, Thomas Pavick, Phillip Rexrode, Ivanna Richardson & Family, Chris Saboe, Betsy Sayre, Truman L Sayre, Jr, CJ & Theresa Sidrow, Amy Smith, Karena Tapsak, and Fr George Worschak. *Teresa Fedoryka is our prayer coordinator; please email bulletin prayer requests to ssjoachimandannaucc@gmail.com.*

Sunday of Forgiveness; Cheesefare Sunday

Today, we celebrate the Holy Mysteries of Initiation for the newborn servant of God, Maximus Davet. The liturgical rites of baptism and chrismation take the place of the usual First and Third Antiphons, the Entrance, and the troparia and kontakia (which are reprinted below). The Trisagion is replaced by "All you who have been baptized in Christ, you have put on Christ. Alleluia." (Music p. 505.) The Divine Liturgy resumes with the Prokeimenon.

Troparion, Tone 3. Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,* for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm.* He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead;* He saved us from the abyss of Hades* and granted great mercy to the world. *Glory...Now...Amen.* **Kontakion, Tone 6.** O Master, Guide to Wisdom*, Bestower of prudent counsel,* Instructor of the foolish and Defender of the poor ones;* make firm my heart and give it understanding.* Give me a word, O Word of the Father:* Behold, I shall not stop my lips from crying out to You:* In Your mercy, have mercy on me who am fallen.

Prokeimenon, Tone 8 (p. 615). Pray and give praise to the Lord our God.* Pray and give praise to the Lord our God. *verse:* In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4. Brothers and Sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who

abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Alleluia, Tone 6 (p. 352). *verse 1:* It is good to give praise to the Lord, and to sing to Your name, O Most High. *verse 2:* To announce Your mercy in the morning and Your truth every night.

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21. The Lord said to his disciples, "If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Communion Verse. Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

Alternate ambo prayer, p. 616.

2026 Great Lent & Paschal Liturgies and Services
SS Joachim and Anna Ukrainian Catholic Church | Front Royal, Virginia

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 15. Forgiveness Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:30am	Feb 16 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00pm	Feb 17	Feb 18 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00pm	Feb 19	Feb 20 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Panakhyda 6:00pm	Feb 21
Feb 22. 1 st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy 10:30am	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00pm	Feb 26	Feb 27 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Panakhyda 7:00pm*	Feb 28 Reader Great Vespers 5:00pm
March 1. 2 nd Sunday of Great Lent: St Gregory Palamas Divine Liturgy 10:30am	March 2	March 3	March 4 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00pm	March 5	March 6 Lenten Mission w/ Fr Volodymyr Radko: Confessions, Liturgy of the Presanctified, Panakhyda 6pm	March 7
March 8. 3 rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Holy Cross Lenten Mission Part 2 & Divine Liturgy 10:30am	March 9	March 10	March 11 (Mid-Lent) Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00pm & Adult Catechesis	March 12	March 13 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Panakhyda 7:00pm*	March 14 Reader Great Vespers 5:00pm
March 15. 4 th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus Divine Liturgy 10:30am	March 16	March 17	March 18 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00pm & Adult Catechesis	March 19	March 20 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Panakhyda 6:00pm	March 21 Akafist Hymn to the Mother of God 5:00pm
March 22. 5 th Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt Divine Liturgy 10:30am	March 23	March 24	March 25. Annunciation (<i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>) Vesperal Divine Liturgy 6:00pm	March 26	March 27 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Panakhyda 7:00pm*	March 28. Lazarus Saturday
March 29. Flowery (Palm) Sunday Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Pussy willows 10:30am	March 30 Great & Holy Monday	March 31 Great & Holy Tuesday	April 1 Great & Holy Wednesday Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Mystery of Holy Unction 6pm	April 2 Great & Holy Thursday Vesperal Divine Liturgy 6pm	April 3 Great & Holy Friday Vespers & Placing the Shroud 3pm* & Guarding the Tomb until Sat pm	April 4 Great & Holy Saturday Guarding the Tomb, Vesperal Divine Liturgy 4:00pm*. <i>Fulfills obligation</i>
April 5. PASCHA Paschal Matins 8am* & Divine Liturgy 9am*	April 6 Bright Monday Divine Liturgy 6:00pm	April 7 Bright Tuesday	April 8 Bright Wednesday	April 9 Bright Thursday	April 10 Bright Friday	April 11 Bright Saturday Reader Great Vespers 5:00pm
April 12. Thomas Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:30am, Parish Paschal Dinner & Egg Hunt	April 13	April 14	April 15 Divine Liturgy 6:00pm	April 16	April 17	April 18

*Please note special times