

### *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*

## FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



*Icon of the Holy Images*



Українська Греко-Католицька Церква Парафія Святих Йоакима і Анни  
**SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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

1396 Linden St, Front Royal, VA 22630 • www.ssjoachimandanna.org • Facebook live-streams: fb.me/ssjoachimandanna  
 ssjoachimandannaucc@gmail.com • (540) 551-3591 • In case of emergency: (202) 262-5040

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: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, 5:00pm**  
**Divine Liturgy in English, Sundays 10:30am**  
**Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession): Sundays, 9:45am**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2026 – 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST (TONE 4);  
 SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY**

**GIVING REPORT** – The in-pew collection for Sunday, February 15 was \$630. Thank you for supporting our parish!



**Lenten Regulations.** *The Great Fast is a gentle invitation to slow down, pray more deeply, and renew our hearts. Each of us is called to walk this journey according to our strength and circumstances. During the Great Fast, we abstain from meat on all Fridays and on Holy Saturday; it is also our tradition to abstain from meat on Wednesdays. The Church does not bind these rules on those 60 years and older, the poor or the sick, pregnant or nursing women, children under 14, and those who do physically demanding work. If you are able, you are encouraged to observe fasting and abstinence in a way that is realistic and life-giving. All the faithful are encouraged to receive the*

*Holy Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist at least once between the beginning of the Great Fast and the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday. No matter your age or situation, enter the Great Fast with sincerity and trust. The Lord receives every small effort offered with love. (source: www.facebook.com/archeparchyphilly)*

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** – To sustain the faithful in the spiritual effort of fasting during Lent, the Church celebrates the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. At this Liturgy, the faithful partake of the Holy Gifts that were consecrated the previous Sunday. No Divine Liturgy is celebrated on the weekdays of Great Lent, but it is customary to celebrate the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on the Wednesdays and Fridays, which is why we call all the Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays of Lent *non-liturgical*. The Church maintains the practice of non-liturgical days in order to remind us that we are only approaching the fullness of the kingdom of God, and in order that the Eucharist not become for us just a habit, but that it

may always be a dynamic event. At SS Joachim and Anna, we will celebrate the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on all the Wednesdays and Fridays of Great Lent. This week, join us on **Wednesday, Feb 25, at 6:00pm and on Friday, Feb 27, at 7:00pm**. On the Fridays of Great Lent, we'll serve the Panakhyda for the Deceased and remember all our beloved dead. Please submit your Sorokousty lists to the priests – see the forms in the narthex. 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.

Congratulations to the newly illumined servant of God, **Joan Irene Gabriella Bridget Maria Fedoryka**, newly born daughter of Alexander and Catie, who received the Holy Mysteries of Initiation – Baptism, Chrismation, and Holy Communion – on Sunday, February 22, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast. May the Lord grant her a long life and many happy, healthy, and blessed years! *Mnohaya i blahaya lita!*



**PYSANKY UKRAINIAN EGG WORKSHOP** - LEARN TO WRITE A TRADITIONAL PYSANKA! SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026, 12PM-3PM. FREE! SUPPLIES INCLUDED! AGES 10+ OR ACCOMPANIED BY PARENT. \$10 SUGGESTED DONATION FOR NON-PARISHIONERS TO REGISTER, EMAIL THERESE@NELSONGIFTS.COM OR CALL/TEXT: 740.632.8909

The Lenten liturgical services progressively reveal the essence of true fasting: if we sow the “seeds of repentance” (First Sunday of Lent), our “shoots of virtues” will grow to maturity (Second Sunday of Lent), to allow us to consume the fruit of the life-giving Tree “which leads us back to paradise” (Third Sunday of Lent, the Veneration of the Holy Cross), and by way of the “spiritual ladder” (Fourth Sunday of Lent, Commemoration of Saint John of the Ladder) reach the summits of spiritual purification and repentance (Fifth Sunday of Lent, Commemoration of Saint Mary of Egypt). – *Christ Our Pascha Catechism*, 569

**Next Adult Catechesis:** Wed, March 11, 7pm • **Next Reader Great Vespers:** Sat, Feb 28, 5pm

**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 Marlena Hess, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Fr Robert 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*

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast: Sunday of Orthodoxy.** *Today, we celebrate the Holy Mysteries of Initiation for the newborn servant of God, Joan Irene Gabriella Bridget Maria Fedoryka. The liturgical rites of baptism and chrismation replace the usual First and Third Antiphons, the Entrance, and the troparia and kontakia, printed 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 4:** When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel\* the glorious news of the resurrection\* and cast off the ancestral condemnation,\* they proudly told the apostles:\* "Death has been plundered!\* Christ our God is risen,\* granting to the world great mercy." **Troparion, Tone 2:** We bow before Your most pure image, O kind Lord,\* and beg pardon for our sins, O Christ our God.\* Of Your own will You consented to ascend the Cross in the flesh to free Your handiwork from enslavement to the enemy.\* In thanksgiving we cry aloud to You:\* by coming to save the world, our Saviour, You filled all things with joy. *Glory...now...Amen.* **Kontakion, Tone 8:** The uncircumscribed Word of the Father\* became circumscribed when He took flesh of you, O Mother of God,\* and when He restored the divine image to its ancient glory,\* He suffused it with the beauty of God.\* Therefore, confessing our salvation in deed and word,\* we portray it in images.}

**Prokeimenon, Tone 4 (p. 620).** Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,\* and praised and glorified is Your Name for ever. *verse:* For You are righteous in everything You have done to us.

**Epistle: Hebrews 11:24–26,32–40; 12:1–2.** Brothers and Sisters, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better

so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Alleluia, Tone 4 (p. 344).** *verse 1:* Moses and Aaron are among His priests and Samuel among those who call upon His name. *verse 2:* They called on the Lord, and He heard them. (Psalm 98:6)

**Gospel: John 1:43–51.** At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

*After the Creed we pray the Anaphora of St Basil the Great, p. 287.*

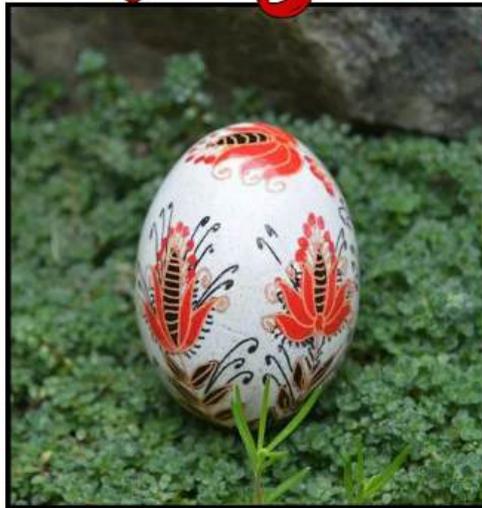
**Hymn to the Mother of God (p. 293–295).** In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angelic ranks and all the human race. Sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, virgins' pride and boast, from whom God is made flesh and became a little Child; and He who is our God before the ages, He made your womb a throne, and He made it wider than all the heavens. In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

**Communion Verses.** Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest. (Psalm 148:1) \* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;\* praise befits the righteous.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia. (Psalm 32:1)

**Alternate ambo prayer, p. 621.**

SS. JOACHIM & ANNA UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <b>Lenten Mission</b> w/ Fr Volodymyr Radko: Confessions, Liturgy of the Presanctified, Panakhyda 6pm	March 7
March 8. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Holy Cross <b>Lenten Mission Part 2 &amp; Divine Liturgy</b> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 & <b>Mystery of Holy Unction</b> 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