

The Apostles' Call and Ours

But note both their faith and their obedience. For though they were in the midst of their work (and you know how time consuming a chore fishing is), when they heard His command they did not delay or procrastinate. They did not say, “Let us return home, and talk things over with our family.” Instead, “they left everything behind and followed,” even as Elisha did when he followed Elijah. For Christ seeks this kind of obedience from us, such that we delay not even for a moment, though something absolutely most necessary should vehemently press in on us.

St. John Chrysostom

The kingdom of heaven has no price tag on it. It is worth as much as you have. For Zacchaeus it was worth half of what he owned, because the other half that he had unjustly pock-

eted he promised to restore four-fold. For Peter and Andrew it was worth the nets and vessel they had left behind; for the widow it was worth two copper coins; for another it was worth a cup of cold water. So, as we said, the kingdom of heaven is worth as much as you have.

St. Gregory the Great

Like Peter, Andrew, James and John, we have been called to discipleship. As such, we are given the name of “Christian.” But are we conscious what that name stands for, what responsibility comes with it? It is more than just a title or a label. To be a disciple of Christ, to bear the name of Christian, compels us to take on the responsibility – regardless of the difficulty and cost – of living the Gospel every moment of our lives.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Call of the Apostles



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!

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ssjoachimandannaucc@gmail.com • (540) 551-3591 • In case of emergency: (202) 262-5040

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

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever! Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава на віки!

Reader Great Vespers, 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 5:00pm

Divine Liturgy in English, Sundays 10:30am

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

JUNE 7, 2026 – ALL SAINTS OF RUS'-UKRAINE

GIVING REPORT - The in-pew collection for Sunday, May 31 was \$1,200.20. E-giving through tithe.ly for the month of May was \$5,868. *Thank you for your financial support of the parish!*

WEEKDAY LITURGY - Join us for the Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, June 10, 6:00pm. The Holy Mystery of Confession will be available at 5:30pm.

New Ukrainian Martyrs and Confessors of Faith (*Christ Our Pascha*, 322-26):

With a history of more than a thousand years, the Kyivan Church glories in a vast assembly of saints. In the words of Patriarch Josyf, “the Ukrainian Church’s witness of faith in Christ and his one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, was confirmed by the bloodied seal of a fearless profession, and suffering; by martyrdom and the mountains [of bodies] of our sacrificed people.” Truly, the “blood of martyrs,” known and unknown, became the “seed of the Church.”

Among the martyrs of our Church, a special place of honour is given to the hieromartyr Josaphat, Archbishop of Polotsk, who suffered for the unity of Christ’s Church in the time of the Union of Brest. His personage as a passion-bearer is an example of self-sacrifice for the sake of reconciliation. Like Saints Borys and Hlib, he preferred to sacrifice his own life than to see the shedding of his brothers’ blood.

The martyrdom of the Church continued in the following centuries. In 1709, the Basilian monks of Polotsk embraced a martyr’s death at the hands of the Russian Tsar, Peter I; and in 1768 the 68 martyrs of Berdychiv died for their faith. In the nineteenth century, two great

waves of persecution took place, in 1839 and in 1875. This martyrdom was crowned by the glorification of the Pratulyn martyrs—simple villagers, who stood faithfully by their home church in Pratulyn (and in the vicinity of Kholm) to their death, killed by the bullets fired by tsarist police. Great was also the martyrdom of the Church in the twentieth century during the reign of the atheistic regime. In 1946, when the activity of the UGCC was prohibited, churches were expropriated, possessions confiscated, and persecution of the faithful began. All the bishops of the UGCC in Ukraine were arrested. Many priests, monks, nuns, and laity were murdered, while others were imprisoned and sent into exile.

Many faithful continued to witness to their faith in the underground Church gathering for divine services in private homes. They received the Holy Mysteries secretly, and listened to broadcasts of the Divine Liturgy on Vatican Radio. The Communist authorities constantly persecuted the underground Church: priests were imprisoned, and many laypersons were expelled from educational institutions or their jobs. This heroic period of martyrdom lasted from 1946 to 1989. Among the confessors of the faith who experienced imprisonment and exile in the twentieth century were the heads of the UGCC, the Venerable Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky (1865-1944) and Patriarch Josyf Slipyj (1892-1984). Several martyrs and religious were also numbered among the choir of the blessed—bishops, priests, monks, nuns, and one lay-person—by Saint Pope John Paul II during his pilgrimage to Ukraine, June 23-27, 2001. They are the new and venerable martyrs (*prepodobnomuchenky*) of the UGCC of the twentieth century. Copiously bedewed with the blood of many martyrs, the Church in our time reaps the grace-filled fruits of the holiness of her children. Martyrs and confessors are those who, for the sake of the glory of the age to come, sacrificed themselves in this present age. Their contribution to the future of the Church is beyond measure, because it is the gift of one’s entire life, “even to death upon the cross.”

May the supplications of the ancient righteous ones of the land of Ukraine and the sufferings of our confessors of the holy Gospel rise as fragrant incense before the throne of the Most High; for it is by their sacrifices that the Church of Christ is regenerated and strengthened in the midst of our people.

Want to learn to sing the Epistle at the Divine Liturgy? Interested in becoming a cantor or learning more about our musical tradition? Talk to Deacon David.

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, Walter Janaro, 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, Fr George Worschak, and Éamonn Yockey. *Teresa Fedoryka is our prayer coordinator; please email bulletin prayer requests to ssjoachimandannaucc@gmail.com*

Second Sunday after Pentecost – All Saints of Rus'-Ukraine

Troparion Tone 1 (p. 329). Though the stone was sealed by the Judeans,* and soldiers guarded Your most pure body,* You arose, O Saviour, on the third day,* and gave life to the world.* And so the heavenly powers cried out to You, O Giver of Life:* Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ!* Glory to Your kingdom!* Glory to Your saving plan,* O only Lover of mankind.

Troparion, Tone 4. O you, who glorified Christ:* princes and bishops,* monastics and martyrs,* and steadfast confessors of Christian Ukraine throughout all times,* pray Christ God to look with favour on our people* and to grant them the grace to persevere in the faith* that the souls of prayerful faithful* who revere your sacred memory* may be saved.

(p. 343). Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 4. You shine as bright beacons,* O God-inspired and righteous saints of our Church.* By your encouraging example,* you serve communities of faithful throughout the Christian world.* Therefore we humbly bow our heads to you* thanking our great and all-gracious God* Who has made you our intercessors in heaven* where you pray for our souls.

Prokeimenon I, Tone 1 (p. 332). Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us,* as we have hoped in You. *verse:* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous. **Prokeimenon II, Tone 7 (p. 582).** Precious in the sight of the Lord* is the death of His venerable ones.

Epistle: (Romans 2, 10-16). Brothers and Sisters, There will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, Jew first and then Greek. There is no partiality with God. All who sin outside the law will also perish without reference to it, and all who sin under the

law will be judged in accordance with it. For it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; rather, those who observe the law will be justified. For when the Gentiles who do not have the law by nature observe the prescriptions of the law, they are a law for themselves even though they do not have the law. They show that the demands of the law are written in their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even defend them on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge people's hidden works through Christ Jesus.

Alleluia, Tone 4 (p. 344).

verse 1: God gives me vindication and has subdued peoples under me.

verse 2: Making great the salvation of the king, and showing mercy to His anointed, to David, and to His posterity forever.

verse 3: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; he shall delight exceedingly in His commandments.

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23. At that time, as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with the father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.

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