


An Invitation From

The League of Ukrainian Catholics &
Ukrainian Catholic Bishops in the United States of America


Live Virtual Spiritual Retreat

THE VIEW FROM THE CROSS




Join us on Sunday
March 24, 2024
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm EST

Online Registration
open now
League of Ukrainian Catholics.org




LUC ACTION

League of Ukrainian Catholics - Spring 2024
Ліга Українців Католиків - Весна 2024




THE VIEW FROM THE CROSS


Program




Archbishop Borys Gudziak



Bishop Paul Chomnycky



Bishop Benedict Aleksyichuk



Bishop Bohdan Danylo

Ukrainian Catholic Bishops in the United States of America

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND OPENING PRAYER
Fr. Marijan Procyk, National Spiritual Director, League of Ukrainian Catholics of America
Sophia Shchur, National Board President League of Ukrainian Catholics of America

DEATH BY CRUCIFIXION: A Historical, Cultural & Spiritual Perspective
Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak,
Archeparchy of Philadelphia

THE CROSS PARADOX: Suffering, Sacrifice and Salvation
Bishop Paul Chomnycky,
Eparchy of Stamford

THEOLOGY OF THE HAND: From Gestures to Healing. A Closer Look at the Hands of Christ
Bishop Bohdan Danylo,
Eparchy of St. Josaphat, Parma

CHANGING OUR VIEW: What did Christ see from the Cross?
Bishop Benedict Aleksyichuk,
Eparchy of Chicago

REFLECTIONS, DISCUSSIONS, CLOSING PRAYERS

Philippians 3:10-11
"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead."



90th Anniversary of the League of Ukrainian Catholics

The weekend of September 22-24, 2023, members of the League of Ukrainian Catholics in America came together in Buffalo, NY to celebrate their 81st Annual Convention and their 90th Anniversary. The theme for this year's convention was rather apropos, *"Sheptytsky to Shevchuk: Inspirational Spiritual Leadership in Times of Chaos"*. The LUC National Board President, Sophia Shchur, invited news editor and author, John Burger to be the guest speaker for this year's convention, since he recently published his book: *At the Foot of the Cross, Lessons From Ukraine*, based on his heartwarming and indepthly spiritual interview with His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk. Furthermore, His Excellency, Bishop Paul Chomnycky kindly presided over the services of the faithful and also led a discussion on the elements of spiritual leadership, along with Sophia Shchur.

Sunday's Divine Liturgy was concelebrated in St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church by Bishop Paul, Mitred Archpriest Marijan Procyk (LUC National Board Spiritual Director), Rev. Raymond Palko, Deacon David Wik, and Deacon Derek Wiertel, along with the LUC members in attendance. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed lunch provided by a local staple, Ted's Hot Dogs, and selected various foot-long and side dish favorites from their food truck menu. The convention participants received a final blessing before they parted ways to journey home, as everyone enjoyed the fair weather that accompanied a rather spiritually uplifting weekend in Buffalo. Special thanks to the Niagara Frontier LUC Council for making this year's convention possible.

Mini Retreat at St Casimir's and Honoring Fr. Krysa



The LUC members toured St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church, and the shrine that was blessed by Saint Pope John Paul II in 1976, when he was still a cardinal and held mass as the church in Kaisertown. Father Czeslaw Krysa discussed how the architectural design of St. Casimir's was lauded as America's first Byzantine Romanesque church in 1929. Afterwards, a Panachyda service was celebrated for all deceased members of LUC as well as all victims of the War in Ukraine.

Father Krysa was also given an icon of the Holy Protection Mother of God (Pokrova) that was handcrafted in Poland, as recognition of Poland's ongoing support for Ukraine, as well as the LUC's gratitude for his lovely and insightful tour of St. Casimir's RC Church.



90th Anniversary Ukrainian League National Convention

Written by: Rev. Czesław M. Krysa, St Casimir Church, Buffalo, NY
Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy (diocese) of Stamford, CT led delegates of the League of Ukrainian Catholics (LUC) National Convention to a surprise gathering at St Casimir's RC Church.

He remarked, "I never heard anything about this church. It's magnificent! You did not give us a tour, you gave us a wonderful mini-retreat." The national organization exists for spiritual renewal.

Through 90 years the LUC endeavors to deepen the spiritual life of Ukrainian Catholics and assistance to Ukraine. Their mission raises awareness of the rich Byzantine Catholic liturgy and Ukrainian domestic church (family faith practices). LUC came to Kaisertown, to experience the spiritual depth of Byzantine art and architecture at this Roaring 20's church.

The Polish Pope, St. John Paul, taught that the Catholic Church breathes through two lungs, one Western (Roman) and the other Eastern (Byzantine plus). Numerically, Ukrainian Catholics are the largest of all 23 Eastern Catholic churches. Globally, they are very significant and share a history with Poland.

LUC's 90th Anniversary, dedicated to the legacy of their war-torn Major Archbishop (Patriarch) Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Lviv, set aside notable moments to recognize Polish Ukrainian connections. A university scholarship recipient, John Paul Szczublewski, recalled attending this convention since he was seven. He said his Polish grandfather served at St. Casimir's through high school. This young, black belt karate master who also holds his Eagle Scout rank, encapsulated ten years of his own altar service at St Nicholas Ukrainian Church and his diverse faith experience, saying: "It has taught me endurance and resilience."

Following the bursae presentations, national president Sophia Shchur, called Bishop Paul and myself to the podium. The bishop handed me a most brilliant, church-sized icon of the Holy Protection Mother of God. A surprised flood of spiritual power and emotion rushed straight through my soul. In between slow, yet excited breaths, Sophia slipped me an amber Rosary with soil from Ukraine. I kissed it. Both lungs, pressed to their full capacity, breathed maximum joy.

In the blinking of a teary eye, my mind traveled through shared activities at Mitered Archbishop, Fr. Procyk's Fillmore Ave church and hall, concelebrated liturgies at both St Nicholas and St Casimir's, prayers and efforts to help the dying and suffering in Ukraine, and a deep, life-long heritage bond of family and friendship growing up as Roman and Byzantine Catholic. Bishop Paul did not have to say much, the radiant Holy Protection Icon with its sacred, embroidered towel said it all.

Turning to him I said, "Remember what we sang this morning on St Casimir's steps? The Holy Protection hymn." Along with other Byzantine Catholic devotions St Casimir's annually celebrates, this favorite Ukrainian hymn to the Mother of God was recently published in St Casimir's 3rd amplified edition of "Heritage Hymns" (2023). Earlier that day at the mini-retreat, I presented the first copy to Bishop Paul as a memento of his visit. My lungs have not breathed so abundantly in years, and I truly thank God for the gift of all these blessings.

Editorial Comments:

If you have any comments, suggestions, ideas or improvements for the LUC Action, please email us at:

stnbuffalo@gmail.com (Fr. Marijan - For LUC), or write: c/o: Elaine Nowadly, 140 Royal Coach Rd., W. Seneca, NY 14224

We are also seeking donations to defray the cost of printing and mailing the "LUC Action". Your donation could be sent to the same address above with the note: For "LUC Action".

Thanks are extended to the contributors of these articles:

S. Shchur, J. Everett, M. Hrubec, H. Fedoriw,
Rev. Cz. Krysa, E. Nowadly,
S. Szczublewski, A. Yemchuk

ALL COUNCILS, MEMBERS, AND FRIENDS

We are looking for some articles from you as well as pictures from your council activities. We will try and print any photo that is of good quality. Thank you!

Please supply articles for the next issue. God bless!

+Scott Andrew Williams

Scott Andrew Williams, 52, husband of Kristina Everett Williams, died Tuesday, December 26, 2023. Born in Madison, WI, he was the son of Shirley Marsot Diederich. Mr. Williams was a member of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church.

In addition to his wife and mother, he is survived by his daughter whom he loved and adored very much, Sophia Williams; brother, Bradley Williams; sister-in-law, Leslie Williams; and nephews, Alexander and Mitchell Williams.

The memorial service was held on Saturday, December 30, 2023 at Thomas McAfee Funeral Homes, Southeast Chapel. Scott's ashes will be interred at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church Cemetery in Berwick, PA.

In lieu of flowers, checks can be made to Greenville Elks Lodge 858, with Sophia's Scholarship Fund in the memo line.

May he rest in peace! **Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory!**



+Dorothy Fleck



Dorothy Fleck, 90, of West Scranton, passed away on Dec. 20, 2023, at Allied Hospice Center, Scranton with her family at her side. Dorothy and her late husband, Victor Fleck, were married for 63 years at the time of his passing in 2018. Born in Scranton, she is the daughter of the late Stephen and Mary Jurbala Karsnak. Dorothy was a 1951 graduate of West Scranton High School. In her younger years, she worked at Scranton Hobby where she first met her husband.

After the birth of their two children, Victor M. and Debbie, she was a dedicated homemaker for her family. She was a member of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and was an active member of the church, Blessed Virgin Mary Guild quilting club, the pierogi making team, as well as being a volunteer for many of the church fundraisers. Dorothy is survived by her son, Victor M. Fleck and wife Jill, Avenel, New Jersey, daughter Debbie Dommies and husband Robert, Scranton, her granddaughter, Ashley Dommies, Scranton, her brother, Stephen Karsnak and wife Brenda, Scranton as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A Divine Liturgy was celebrated on December 27, 2023, in St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church by the Rev. Fr. Myron Myronyuk, pastor. Interment followed in the parish cemetery, Minooka. Memorial donations can be made to St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, 430 North 7th Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

May she rest in peace! **Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory!**

Tour of the Relics of Saint Jude the Apostle



deus, venerated in Rome from ancient times, will be on pilgrimage in the United States, making stops in 100 cities.

One of the Church's most beloved saints, Saint Jude is the one to whom people turn to when things seem lost or unbearable—when life seems hopeless—Saint Jude is the one to whom people often turn. For more information:

www.apostleoftheimpossible.com

Friday, February 16, 2024, the relics of St. Jude came to Greenville, SC. Yanka Everett, Krissy and Sophia Williams were in attendance for this inspirational event. From September 2023 to May 2024, the arm of Saint Jude Thad-



Retreat from Home

Guest:
Sophia Shchur
President, League of Ukrainian Catholics

[God With Us - Podcast About LUC](#)

+Jean (Dutko) Kost

Jean (Dutko) Kost, 89, of North Caldwell, passed away on Feb. 3, 2024. A parishioner of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, Jean was an Administrative Assistant for Western Electric, Kearny for many years.

Beloved wife of the late John Kost who passed away in 2016. Dear sister of the late Harry, Peter and Mary Dutko and Olga Hertz. Loving aunt of many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Funeral was February 7 in St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 217 President St., Passaic. Interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington.

May she rest in peace! **Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory!**



LUC Members Pitch in to “Pinch” Varenyky

Members of the St. Nicholas Chapter volunteered a few hours over two days to come and ‘pinch’ varenyky for the parish Festival. Several hundred dozens of varenyky were made and ready to nourish the crowds.



Thanks and Giving

Pylypivka (Advent Fast) is a time for the faithful to prepare themselves for Christmas, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Keeping Christ in Christmas means taking action and being active in our families, our communities, and by setting a positive example for our children, our families, and others.

As part of their Pylypivka project, St Nicholas Chapter of the League of Ukrainian Catholics and parish faithful, prepared sandwiches and food bags for distribution to the needy and homeless who reside mere blocks from St Nicholas Church in Passaic, NJ. Many of these individuals are day laborers with little English language skills, but have a determination to earn money to send back to their families.



Parish pastor, Fr. Andry Dudkevych, Volodya, the parish facilities manager, and even former St. Nicholas pastor, Bishop Hlib Lonchyna, who arrived from France just two days before, were recruited for the sandwich making and bag filling effort. The next morning, Fr. Andriy, Steve, a parish trustee, Volodya, and three eighth-grade volunteers: Pavlo, Taras, and Vitalie, distributed the over 140 food bags. After a night of continuous rain and cold, the recipients gratefully and joyfully accepted the freshly prepared meal, treat, and beverage. Paraphrasing an internet blogger who so aptly put it, “...the purpose of this (Advent) fasting period is to change our focus, to

shift our perspective, to work more on following Christ. We can only do this by offering ourselves as instruments of peace and love. This peace and love is certainly not going to come from “out there” in the world: it starts with us! Let us focus on that which really matters and follow Christ and His example of selfless love.”

St. Nicholas Chapter of LUC Members and Parishioners Return to Bi-Monthly Faith Renewal Discussions

The Bi-Monthly “Faith Renewal” discussion group at St. Nicholas parish, Passaic, NJ returned for the Fall/Spring season.

Sister Kathleen Hutsko, SSMI spoke about the Gospel, “Parable of the Sower” (Luke 8:5-15 ‘Luken Jump’ readings). Her emphasis was on the theme of the parable as it is, not to focus on the seed or the Sower, but rather on the soil, the greatest factor as to whether or not the seed will bear fruit. Further asking how do we, the ‘soil’ receive the seeds (Word of God).

Further discussions took place on the Beatitudes. We repeat them weekly during the Liturgy, but do we really understand them? Do we live them? What is the importance of the Beatitudes for us? How do they compare to the Ten Commandments?

The Commandments are the Law and the Beatitudes supplement them while helping to fulfill the Law. Active discussion took place on the Beatitudes, reflecting on Christ and how he is shown to live the Beatitudes. Marion Hrubec led the discussion and provided print outs and information on the subject for each participant to take and reflect on the articles, in order to understand that the Beatitudes make our lives more attractive and help us fulfill our role in the Church, through all that we do and say; our good qualities as Christians. They set the tone for our daily lives.

Coming Together to Celebrate our Grandparents

When the Church celebrated the Nativity of our Blessed Mother and the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anna, the Grandparents of our Lord, the St. Nicholas Chapter of the League of Ukrainian Catholics, realized that Sunday was National Grandparents Day, and decided to host a Sunday brunch in honor and celebration of all Grandparents, acknowledging the important role they play in nurturing, and at times, raising their grandchildren.

Following the Liturgies, LUC prepared and served a tasty brunch (scrambled eggs, sausage, meat/cheese platters, salad, salmon mousse, bagels, Fr. Andriy’s signature pickles, and more) to over 100 parishioners who gathered in the Church Hall. It was beautiful to see so many Grandparents with children and grandchildren coming together in fellowship to enjoy a special day!

Fr. Andriy Dudkevich greeted the attendees, thanked them for coming, and blessed the food. The sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate – Sr. Kathleen, Sr. Cecelia, and Sr. Tekla – joined in the festivities, chatted with as many families as they could, and shared the Charism of the sisters.

The members of LUC want to thank those who attend for their kind words and support!



2023 Burse Awards Presented at LUC Banquet

A festive banquet was celebrated at the White Elephant Restaurant where Burse Awards were presented by National Board Treasurer, Elaine Nowadly to the following:

- The Sister John Paskevich Memorial School Endowment Award to Lukian Tomynets.
- The Bishop Jaroslaw Gabro Burse Archeparchy, Philadelphia to Nicholas Sharga.
- The Metropolitan Ambrose Senyshyn Burse Stamford Eparchy to Roman Kuzmiak.
- The Metropolitan Constantine Bohachevsky Burse St. Josaphat Eparchy (Parma) to Father Steven Palivoda.
- The Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky Burse St. Nicholas Eparchy (Chicago) to Chrystyna Kosacz.
- The Metropolitan Joseph Schmondiuk Burse Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate
- The Martiana Zebron Burse Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great to Sister Frantsiska Shablii, OSBM.
- The Patrick Bilon Burse Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God to Sister Timothea Konyu MSMG.
- The Bishop Soter Ortynsky Burse Order of St. Basil the Great to Deacon Methodius Soroka OSBM.
- The Bishop John Stock Burse of the Mount Tabor Monastery to Pavlo Stasiouk.

Additionally, Ukrainian amber rosary beads (donated by St. Michael the Archangel parish in Yonkers) were presented to various members of the LUC National Board and special guests in recognition of their contributions to the organization.



John Burger receiving gifts from Elaine and Sophia

The highlight of that evening was an intimate presentation by keynote speaker, John Burger, where he elaborated on the time he spent interviewing Patriarch Shevchuk in 2019, along with his personal reflections on the deep insights that were revealed to him about the direction in which the world is going, and the struggle that the Eastern Catholic Church still faces, thirty years after the fall of the Soviet Union, as a result of Russia’s War on Ukraine. John was accompanied by his wife, Mariangeles, and the two of them made a wonderful addition to the LUC gathering and festivities.

Monsignor Iwachiw, Niagara Frontier LUC Scholarship

This year’s scholarship recipient was John Paul Szczublewski, who is also a member of the Niagara Frontier LUC Council, as well as an active member of St. Nicholas Parish, where he has volunteered as an altar server for the past 10 years. John Paul has already started his first semester at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he is pursuing an accelerated BS/MS degree in electrical engineering and mathematics.



In his scholarship application, when asked to write about what he has gained from being a member of his parish, he wrote: “Being a lifelong member of St. Nicholas Parish has been such a tremendous blessing because it has truly felt like being raised in an extended family of faith. Everyone knows each other: not only by name, but also by heart. The parishioners truly invest in one another and care about the well-being of each other. As an extended family of faith, we come to know each other’s families, their struggles, and their moments of joy and celebration. I have learned endurance, resiliency, and devotion through my upbringing in our parish, and I have discovered the facets of my faith that help cement both my courage and conviction when faced with adversity. Furthermore, I truly enjoy my silent service on the altar with Father Marijan and Father Robert, as well as Deacon David, Bishop Paul, and the other altar boys. There is a communal bond in the piety of this service, which fills me with a sense of hope and belonging, purpose and identity to both my Ukrainian/Polish heritage as well as my Ukrainian Catholic faith.”

It was with great pride that we presented this year’s Monseigneur Paul Iwachiw Scholarship award to John Paul, during our 90th Anniversary LUC Convention Dinner held at the White Elephant Banquet Facility in Lackawanna, NY.

A quote from John Burger’s presentation to our new chapter:



“Might I suggest that the spiritual leadership we enjoy from our patriarch, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, which is so focused on the light of Christ and the healing of Christ, be extended through us — through our parishes, through the LUC, through our families, living the faith in the midst of a culture that sometimes seems to want to see that faith forced into the underground.

Let me conclude by congratulating you on the formation of this new chapter of the League of Ukrainian Catholics, Nova Ukraina.”

“God grant you many blessed and fruitful years!
Glory to Jesus Christ!”

Thanks are extended for all your donations for LUC!
Дякуємо усім за фінансову підтримку
Ліги Українців Католиків!

Helping Hands Among the Niagara Frontier LUC

Members of the Niagara Frontier League have kept themselves quite busy with a variety of charitable and liturgical events over the past few months, in addition to hosting and preparing for this year's 90th Anniversary LUC Convention in Buffalo, NY.

On Sunday, October 8, 2023 the LUC celebrated its annual divine liturgy at Fatima Shrine in Lewiston, NY, where they especially prayed for peace in Ukraine. Father Marijan Procyk, our LUC Spiritual Director, led the afternoon service along with Deacon David Wik, as responses were sung by members of St. Nicholas choir and the LUC. Additionally, LUC Sunday was celebrated at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church on October 29th, where a lovely dinner in the church hall followed Divine Liturgy. These were truly wonderful and spiritually uplifting events which the Niagara Frontier enjoys celebrating every year.

Throughout the fall and winter months, several members of our LUC council were also busy helping to prepare hundreds of dozens of varenyky, a wide assortment of theme baskets, and homemade baked goods for various fundraisers that were held throughout the Western New York area, in order to raise money for Ukraine. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church hosted several fundraisers to support Ukraine, and St. John's Ukrainian Church in Kenmore, NY hosted their Pierogis for Peace Event, which also raised money to help support Ukraine.

November was an equally active month as many LUC members continued to prepare varenyky, holubtsi, theme baskets, baked goods and other items for the Annual St. Nicholas Church Bazaar held at the Matthew Glab Post in Lackawanna, NY during the week-end of November 11-12th. Hundreds of people were in attendance, and fortunately, the Buffalo weather cooperated for another successful event.

The weekend immediately following the church bizarre included another fundraising event to help support Ukraine. The Prayer for Peace in Solidarity with the Peoples of Ukraine, featuring various choirs throughout the WNY area who came together to sing traditional Ukrainian songs, was held the weekend of November 17-19th. Several of our LUC members participated in one (or more) of these choral groups.

Friday's performance was held at the Unitarian Universalists Church in Buffalo, while Saturday's performance was held at the University of Buffalo. All proceeds from the event went directly to aid Ukraine.

[Concert is available online. To watch Click Here.](#)

LUC Virtual Lenten Retreat – Please Join Us

The League of Ukrainian Catholics is delighted to host a live virtual retreat during this time of Lent, entitled: *The View From The Cross*. We are blessed to once again gather our Ukrainian Catholic Bishops in America to guide us with their theological knowledge and spirituality as we journey through this Great Fast to the foot of the Cross. This Lenten Retreat will help each of us focus on the historical context and spiritual perspective of Christ's crucifixion, the suffering He endured for our salvation, the healing grace revealed through His hands, as well as Christ's viewpoint from the Cross.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend this extraordinary online event, which will take place on Sunday, March 24, 2024 from 4:00 - 6:00 PM. We hope you will join us. To register for this event, please use the following link: www.LeagueofUkrainian-Catholics.org (Please refer to the back page of Action for details)

Музика як засіб солідарності і свідчення невтомної підтримки України



Концерт під назвою "Prayers for Peace" / "Молитви за Божий мир", який 17-18 листопада проходив у Баффало, став справжнім духовним святом для усіх, хто його відвідав.

[Концерт можна переглянути он лайн.](#)

Ініціаторами заходу, метою якого було висловлення підтримки Українцям через музику, виступили професор Університету Баффало Клаудія Браун (Claudia Brown) та керівник хору Унітарної Універсалістської Церкви Баффало др. Джесі Даунс (Jessie Downs). У чудовому виконанні зведеного хору Університету Баффало та Унітарної Універсалістської церкви прозвучали як твори українських класиків таких, як Микола Лисенко, Микола Леонтович, Кирило Стеценко, Мирослав Скорик, так і сучасні пісні. До участі у виступі були запрошені також місцевий український жіночий хор "Мрія" (керівник Христя Мороз), якому цього року виповнюється 40 років, та хор Української Католицької Церкви св. Миколая (керівник Юрій Зварич). До слова, практично усі твори виконувалися українською мовою. Яскравим доповненням стали сольні виступи: відома пісня Михайла Петренка «Дивлюсь я на небо», ніжно виконана на бандурі Антоніною Бадрівською, студенткою UB; «Гей, соколи» за участю тенора Юрія Зварича, а також композиція, що стала своєрідним ревізмом Революції Гідності в Україні 2013-14 рр. на слова Василя Гренджі-Донського «Пливе кача по Тисині» у виконанні місцевого барда Мирона Депутата.

Завершальним акордом вечора стала промова Андріани Ємчук від імені Української громади та Українців в Україні.

«Чотириста років (!!!) Росія намагається знищити Україну! Страшним Голодом, розстрілами, переселеннями, психічно і психологічно. Останні два роки, особливо жорстоко це відбувається на очах усього світу. Щохвилини в Україні гинуть військові, цивільні люди, у тому числі діти – наше майбутнє. Гинуть тому, що Українці! Що виборюють право бути собою.

Впродовж чотирьохсот років нас силою намагаються переконати у тому, що ми не маємо своєї культури, віри, музики, літератури. Чотириста років принижують нашу мову і насаджують свою! Нинішній вечір став яскравим доказом протилежного!

Більшість творів, які сьогодні прозвучали на цій сцені, створені саме у часи найстрашніших заборон. Більшість їхніх авторів, як Тарас Шевченко, родина Миколи Лисенка чи Мирослава Скорика були фізично знищені або переслідувані. Автор безсмертного «Щедрика» - Микола Леонтович був вбитий російським агентом у момент, коли його твір тріумфально виконував Український хор під керівництвом Петра Кошиця і Кирила Стеценка тут, у США, у Карнегі-холі 100 років тому...»

Preparation for the Parish Praznyk ~ To Celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas ~ Our Helper and Patron

The members of the St. Nicholas Chapter of the LUC were busy preparing for the parish Praznyk. They came together to bake "St. Nicholas" cookies for distribution at the Sunday Feast Day dinner.



The baked goods were distributed and donations collected.

On Saturday, December 2nd, our members gathered in the school kitchen, dough ready for rolling, cutting, baking and packaging.



L to R: Helen Fedoriw, Elizabeth Loden, Marion Hrubec, Carol Loden; Back row: Steve Retkwa, Natalka Bukalo, Linda and Jerome Mykietyn. (Missing from picture: Lydia Celuch, Lori Retkwa)

On Sunday December 10th, Carol Loden presented Fr. Andriy with the collection made from the "St. Nicholas" cookie project.



Elizabeth Loden, Sr. Tekla

On December 3rd, the parish of St. Nicholas held their annual Feast Day Praznyk dinner. The members of the St. Nicholas Chapter, along with the Honorary Members: Sr. Kathleen Hutzko, Sr. Cecelia Sworin and Sr. Tekla Hnatyuk; helped in serving the parishioners and together enjoyed the tasty dinner prepared by the ladies of the parish.



Sr. Cecelia, Sr. Kathleen



Natalka Bukalo, Helen Fedoriw

Enjoying the tasty dinner in good company!



Natalka Bukalo, Jerome & Linda Mykietyn



Mary Belehaj, Marion Hrubec, Helen Fedoriw, Elizabeth Loden – Missing: Carol Loden

Our LUC Website Receives Special Designation By the United States Library of Congress

The United States Library of Congress has selected our website "LeagueofUkrainianCatholics.org" for inclusion in the Voices: Eastern and Central European Americans Web Archive, which is part of a larger collection of historically and culturally significant websites that have been designated for preservation.

Content from our website may be added to other relevant collections in the future. This content will be available to researchers at Library facilities and by special arrangement. It may also become more broadly available through hosting on the Library's public website.

"The Library hopes that you share its vision of preserving digital content and making it available to current and future generations of researchers. As the internet has become an increasingly important and influential part of our lives, we believe the historical record would be incomplete if websites like yours are not preserved and made a part of it." This is absolutely amazing!!!

LIBRARY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The LUC started in 1933, when Ukraine suffered the Great Famine – Holodomor. What follows is a brief account of those horrible times, by Adriana Yemchuk

Пам'ятати, щоби жити...



Сьогодні вже, мабуть, не має такої людини, щоби не знала чи, бодай, не чула про один із найбільших геноцидів в історії людства – Голодомор в Україні. Втім, не варто забувати, що у ХХ ст. Україну тричі (!) намагалися знищити голодом: 1921-23, 1932-33, 1946-47 рр.



Та все ж найстрашнішим і наймасовішим був голод 1932-1933 рр. Навмисне влаштований радянською владою, він охопив практично усі землі сучасної України й Кубань. Винятком тоді стали лише сім областей у західній частині країни, Крим і Південна Бессарабія, які на той час ще не входили до складу Української РСР. Свідома, цілеспрямована вказівка вищого керівництва Радянського Союзу і УРСР на чолі зі Сталіним, забрала мільйони життів українців (найбільше у сільській місцевості) без огляду на вік і стать. Вбивчі постанови та рішення найвищого керівництва такі, як т.зв. «закон про п'ять колосків», «чорні дошки», повна конфіскація не лише продуктів харчування, а й всього майна, одягу, громадських і церковних коштовностей були помстою непокірним українцям, головно вільному і працелюбному селянству, за масові спротиви і відкрите несприйняття окупаційного радянського режиму. Заборона торгівлі і підвіз товарів, заборона виїзду селян та оточення населених пунктів озброєними військовими загонами, ГПУ, міліцією створили своєрідне гетто для 180 районів УРСР із 22,4 млн. мешканців. Такий репресивний режим було застосовано лише в Україні і на Кубані, тобто в місцях компактного проживання українців. При цьому комуністи цинічно заявили, що жодного голоду в Україні як явища немає, і відмовилися від допомоги численних неурядових організацій, зокрема від допомоги української діаспори та Міжнародного Червоного Хреста.

З надією на порятунок власний і своїх родин лише одиницям дивом вдавалося вирватися із заблокованих територій. Дехто

діставався навіть до Галичини, де свідоме місцеве населення, попри переконливу брехливу пропаганду, намагалося максимально допомогти братам з-за Збруча, інколи навіть ціною власного добробуту. Одним із яскравих цьому доказів може слугувати тогочасна позиція відомого письменника-новеліста Василя Стефаника.

Востаннє отримати свою персональну пенсію він приїхав до Львова разом із сином Кирилом. Під час прийому у консула, той поскаржився Стефаникові, що польська преса поширює інформацію про голод в Україні, і попросив написати спростування. Але письменник, у якого на квартирі ночували саме два втікачі від «світлого майбутнього», знав від них страшну правду, тому відмовився. Розлючений консул пригрозив позбавити знаного літератора персональної пенсії, що невдовзі й сталося. Довідавшись про рішення уряду УРСР про позбавлення письменника фінансування, митрополит Андрей Шептицький призначив йому таку ж пенсію. Василь Стефаник попросив касира видати призначену суму дрібними монетами, і з великою торбою копійок прийшов на площу Св. Юра, де все, до останнього, роздавав бідним, та просив помолитися за упокій душ жертв Голодомору на Україні 1933 року...



Радянський Союз переконав міжнародну спільноту «не побачити» масового вбивства українців за допомогою пропаганди та підкупів окремих журналістів. Однак все ж були публіцисти, які писали правду. Збереглися звіти послів, дипломатів. Вижили й окремі очевидці тих страшних подій. Все це разом стало основою для важкої роботи із відновлення правди і донесення її до світу. Так, зокрема, завдяки послідовній та наполегливій праці американського дослідника, Джеймса Мейса, що вивчав історію України, широка світова громадськість чи не вперше і не найбільше дізналася про масові вбивства українців штучним голодом. Мейсу належить авторство понад 100 (!) статей, присвячених цій важкій темі. Саме він увів термін «геноцид» на означення трагедії та запропонував акцію, яка вже багато років повторюється в Україні з року в рік: в останню листопадову суботу, на знак пам'яті за померлими від Голодомору, запалювати свічку.

Нині, з-поміж близько 30-ти країн світу, парламенти яких на офіційному рівні визнали Голодомор 1932-33 рр. геноцидом українського народу, також і США. Тут, завдяки послідовній роботі українських дипломатів, різноманітних організацій та українській діаспорі, щоразу зростає й число штатів, де ухвалюються такі рішення. Станом на 2023 рік відповідні прокламації про визнання Голодомору геноцидом видав 31 американський штат. Наприкінці жовтня-початку листопада штати Вашингтон, Мериленд, Аризона та Нью-Йорк долучилися до списку і проголосили листопад місяцем пам'яті про український Голодомор-геноцид.

AXIOS! Reverend Father Paul Spotts

(Pictures taken from Facebook - Archeparchy of Philadelphia - Філадельфійська Архiepархія УГКЦ and from Helen Fedoriv)

On August 15, 2023 during the Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God, the League of Ukrainian Catholics and parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel parish, Frackville, PA, witnessed the ordination of their native son, Fr. Deacon Paul Spotts, a first for the parish.

With the laying on of the hands of Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak, Deacon Paul became Reverend Father Paul Spotts of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

Father Paul was flooded with joy and gratefulness for the Metropolitan's grace and generosity at holding the ordination in Fr. Paul's home parish, in the presence of his family, friends, and LUC South Anthracite Council and National Board members. The many prayers of support by the Clergy, women Religious, parishioners, and friends in attendance bore witness to the blessing of the fulfillment of a lifetime calling for their native son.



LUC Members with Archbishop Borys and Rev. Paul Spotts and Family



Wishing God's choicest blessings on you, Father Paul, as you begin your next chapter of life in the Priesthood and service to our Church. We also wish his wife, Donna, his children and grandchildren much joy in continuing this journey with Father Paul.

League of Ukrainian Catholics members present were the honorary Clergy from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, women religious - the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate - Sr. Natalya, Sr. Zenovia, Sr. Cecelia, the Order of St. Basil the Great - Sr. Ann, and National Board members Helen Fedoriv and Marion C. Hrubec.



Back to Our Roots: A New Chapter for the LUC.

The year 2023 was not the end of our 90th Anniversary of being who we are, it marked the beginning of a new chapter in the life of the League of Ukrainian Catholics, both literary and figuratively.



We continue to celebrate our 90th Jubilee, because it is not just a day in ordinary time, but it is time as is measured in sacred time. Not by the clock or the calendar, but in good deeds. We measure our membership not in numbers either, but in the souls bound together by love and service to our Creator.

Many of you know the story, but it bears repeating, because our roots formed who we are today. Our formation took place 90 years ago. The year was 1933. The setting was the windy city of Chicago. Ukrainians in their homeland were being forcibly starved in a depraved act of attempting to exterminate the Ukrainian people, their cultural and spiritual identity. Although much better, the USA was no happy place either. We were in the Great Depression and caught between two world wars. New waves of Ukrainians left their homeland to avoid the oppression and destruction at home. It sounds chillingly familiar to our situation today.

Therefore, the clergy of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Chicago (the present-day St. Nicholas Cathedral), responded to the needs of new arrivals, working tirelessly to give them both spiritual solace and much-needed support.

Inspired by the Youth for Christ movement happening in Lviv in 1933, the youth of the parish organized the Ukrainian Catholic Youth League (UCYL), our present-day League of Ukrainian Catholics. The first 'convention' was at the World's Fair happening in Chicago that very same year. It took place on the Feast of the Transfiguration (Julian calendar). It was intended to provide religious and social activities, as well as opportunities for welcoming new immigrants into the protective and nurturing Church community.

Today, we continue in the footsteps of our founders. Over 90 years - our mission remains the same: support those in need; provide opportunities for spiritual growth; strengthen our Love for God through our Ukrainian Catholic faith. Laypeople and clergy accomplish this by working together joyfully, knowing their ultimate mission is to serve God.

It is in this spirit of welcoming new arrivals from Ukraine, that St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yonkers, NY opened 'Abraham's Tent' as a spiritual model for hospitality. With older immigrants helping new arrivals, we found ourselves in the

same situation as our founders did in 1933. This in turn led to the formation of a new chapter of the League of Ukrainian Catholics, aptly named: 'Нова Україна/New Ukraine' under the protection of St. Michael the Archangel.

The Нова Україна/New Ukraine chapter formed in autumn of 2023, with over 45 members, including well established Ukrainian immigrants, their children born in the United States, and the new refugees. Some of our new chapter members are from Yonkers and surrounding areas, others are from Connecticut, Georgia, Chicago, and Canada. We are bound together by our spiritual roots, a deep love for our Church, service to God, and love for one another.

Нова Україна/ New Ukraine celebrated their formation with a 'Champagne Reception and Program' inviting Catholic journalist and author John Burger to speak

about his recently published book, 'At the Foot of the Cross: Lessons from Ukraine', an interview with His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk. Those who attended our Annual Convention in September were fortunate enough to meet John and his lovely wife, Mariangeles. His inspirational presentation gave us keen insights into the life, mind and soul of our spiritual and pastoral leader.

Нова Україна/New Ukraine chapter also hosted a New Year 2024 event at its home parish, St. Michael the Archangel UCC in Yonkers, beginning with a Moleben for Peace in Ukraine, and followed by a social fundraising celebration. The New Year's festivities had a very specific mission; raise money to help support our brave Ukrainian soldiers. With a modest sum of \$5000, plus an additional \$1000 from an anonymous donor, we were able to accomplish our mission.



The funds were divided with three goals in mind. First, to purchase a drone for the Ukrainian Territorial Defense Battalion 56th in the Zaporizhye region. Second, as funds in support of the Ukrainian Military Academy in Kyiv, which was personally delivered by our Bishop Stepan Sus. And third, funds were provided to Fr. Oleksander Smerechynskyy, director of the Naval Apostolate of the UGCC, chief chaplain of the Naval Forces in Odesa, to support his



Welcome His Beatitude Sviatoslav to the USA

The faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, along with our dear Bishop Paul Chomnycky, and local clergy, gathered at JFK International Airport in New York City to welcome His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav, who arrived for a week-long visit to the United States.

After the warm welcome and personally greeting each of us, His Beatitude headed straight to Washington DC, where he convened the meeting of the Permanent Synod of the UGCC. Additionally, he celebrated Divine Liturgy at the National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington, DC; followed by a Moleben for Peace at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia. Patriarch Sviatoslav also held a Prayer for Peace on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in NYC. On Sunday, March 10th, he concelebrated mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral and delivered a powerful sermon there.

Dear Blazhenishi Sviatoslav, we sincerely hope you felt all of our love, heartfelt prayers, and support. We are with you in every way. May God bless you and protect you always!

mission of ministering to the military currently stationed in Odesa. Father Oleksander recently visited from Ukraine, to lead the Eparchy of Stamford's Clergy Retreat in February.

We thank everyone who participated in the New Year's celebration, and especially those who contributed their time, energy, and financial support to help us achieve these goals. May your generosity be returned to you a hundred fold, and please keep all of our brave military members and those who serve them, in your prayers.

It has been an amazing 90 years for the LUC. If you share the same love of our spiritual roots, love for our Church, and love for one another, please invite your friends and family to join. We would love to welcome them. **If you are not yet a LUC member, please visit our website, fill out the online registration form and join us.**

Congratulations to our amazing organization, the League of Ukrainian Catholics, for our 90 year legacy of caring for each other, and on the formation of the new chapter, Нова Україна/ New Ukraine. May we continue our traditions for another 90 years!

LUC = Let Us Care

Bishop Sus Visits Ukrainian Refugees in Yonkers, NY

Sunday, December 10, 2023 was a very special day at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yonkers, New York as well as for our newly formed LUC chapter, Нова Україна/New Ukraine. It is always a special event when a bishop visits your parish. But when the bishop is Bishop Stepan Sus, Head of the Pastoral and Migration Department of the UGCC, it is also exciting. More importantly, it is also soul-soothing and a great comfort for the many refugees who gather for spiritual support in Abraham's Tent at St. Michael's in Yonkers.

After celebrating Divine Liturgy with our new chapter Spiritual Director, V. Rev Kiril Angelov, Bishop Stepan spent the afternoon listening and speaking with our refugee families.

His presence and obvious concern for them meant a great deal to the families who worry about the fate of their loved ones and friends as well as their homeland. They also have worries for their own well-being: food, housing, job security are just the tip of the iceberg. This is why Abraham's Tent was established in 2022, to help newly arrived Ukrainian war refugees. Here they find food, clothing, resources, networking opportunities as well as the welcoming hospitality of an established Ukrainian community.



While parents were able to take home 2 huge boxes of food, prepared by our friend Lara Morrison and her family, the children also went home with their hands full. Thanks to our local chapter #30 Soyuz Ukrainok (Ukrainian National Women's League of America) who teamed together with LUC Chapter Нова Україна/New Ukraine members, to supply: toys, games, other goodies for the children.

Bishop Stepan blessed not only the day, he blessed each and every one in a very special way. He gave our refugees a ray of hope, courage, spiritual strength, and the sincerity of his pastoral heart. For our parishioners and LUC members, he inspired us to continue our work supporting Ukraine and to continue to emulate Abraham and Sara, welcoming those who visit Abraham's Tent.

Thank you Bishop Stepan, for your visit to St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yonkers, NY. May God continue to bless you with good health and the spiritual stamina to continue your pastoral work across the globe! **На многая і благая літа!**