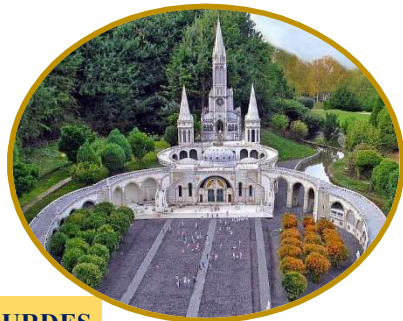




LUC ACTION

League of Ukrainian Catholics - Fall 2025
Ліга Українців Католиків - Осінь 2025



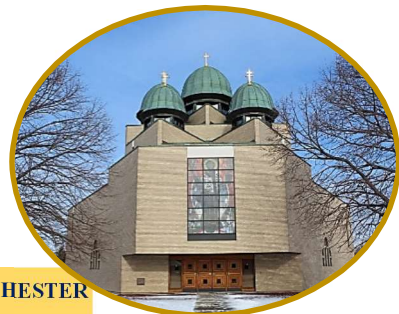
LOURDES



ROME



KYIV



ROCHESTER

The League of Ukrainian Catholics & The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford invite you to a Holy Year Jubilee event

A Celebration of Hope & Healing

October 10, 11 & 12, 2025 at
St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church
940 Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY

Friday Evening October 10 th <i>Welcome Champagne Reception</i> A weekend of Spiritual Fellowship Fun, Food Raffle Prizes	Saturday Morning October 11 th <i>Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience</i> In English & Ukrainian Saturday Afternoon <i>Workshops</i> Saturday Evening <i>Celebratory Dinner</i>	Sunday Morning October 12 th <i>Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</i> Bishop Paul Chomnycky We are a Jubilee Church & Pilgrimage Full Indulgences
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Scan QR code to register

Scan QR code to register

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/a-celebration-of-hope-and-healing>

2025-LUC-MAD MONEY-LUC-2025
RAFFLE

2025-GET YOURS NOW!!!-2025
Drawing on October 11th

With this "LUC Action" we are including 2 sheets of 2025 Mad Money Raffle tickets: \$5 per ticket or 6 for \$25. There are 13 prizes that amount to \$1,500. Thank you & God Bless you all!

While our membership dues remain at only \$10.00, expenses for producing, publishing and mailing the LUC ACTION are always increasing.

Please support the League of Ukrainian Catholics by either purchasing or selling the tickets that you receive. The drawing will be held on Saturday, October 11th at the Celebratory Dinner during "A Celebration of Hope & Healing, Holy Year Jubilee Event."

League of Ukrainian Catholics – LUC – L(et) U(s) C(are)

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/a-celebration-of-hope-and-healing>

Excitement is in the air! We are all Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year 2025. Join us in celebrating the God given graces of Hope & Healing. Experience a guided spiritual journey to Lourdes, from the comfort of our beautiful church. Touch the Grotto rocks, drink the water. Prayer intentions are personally carried to Lourdes, France. Experience forgiveness and begin your healing journey through the sacrament of Confession, through the Healing of Memories guided meditation. Have fun creating your very own beautiful Pilgrims of Hope Rosary. Join us for a Welcome Champagne Reception and Celebratory Dinner. Get to know us as we travel together through our Jubilee Year event: "A Celebration of Hope & Healing". We look forward to seeing you.



The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford
together with the
League of Ukrainian Catholics
invite you to a
Holy Jubilee Year Event
A Celebration of Hope & Healing
at



St. Josephat Ukrainian Catholic Church
940 East Ridge Road, Rochester New York

Friday, October 10, 2025

REGISTRATION

WELCOME CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

St. Josephat Church Hall

Saturday, October 11, 2025

REGISTRATION & COFFEE

LOURDES VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE

A guided spiritual journey to the Grotto from the comfort of our church. Experience the Healing Grace of Our Lady of Lourdes. Touch the grotto rocks, drink the water. Your prayer intentions personally carried to the Grotto in France. In English & Ukrainian.

LUNCH

AFTERNOON PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOP:

'Spiritual Elements of Hope'

Bishop Paul Chomnycky

'Healing of Memories' Guided Meditation

Sister Natalya Stoczany

'Pilgrims of Hope' Creative Rosary Workshop

CELEBRATORY DINNER

Enjoy a delicious meal with friends, prizes & surprises

Sunday, October 12th 24, 2023

DIVINE LITURGY with Bishop Paul Chomnycky

FAREWELL – BLESSINGS FOR A SAFE TRIP HOME

Times and schedule may be adjusted as needed.
Confessions will be offered throughout the day on Saturday.
St. Josephat Ukrainian Catholic Church is a designated site for full Jubilee Indulgences.
The Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage is a designated Pilgrimage for obtaining Plenary Indulgence.



The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford
League of Ukrainian Catholics
Holy Jubilee Year Event
A Celebration of Hope & Healing
St. Josephat Ukrainian Catholic Church
940 East Ridge Road, Rochester New York



EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone Number () _____ Cell phone () _____

Email: _____

Please indicate the number of tickets needed for each event and the total Amount enclosed.

Event:	Price:	Number:	Total Cost:
Registration	\$25.00		
Includes Saturday refreshments, lunch, workshop materials			
Welcome Champagne Reception (Fri)	\$25.00		
Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience	FREE		\$0.00
Saturday Festive Banquet	\$50.00		
****Total Package	\$100.00 per person		
I've been blessed. Add a Gift of Love			
Total Amount Enclosed			

EVENT REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPT. 25

Please send Registration Form and check payable to: League of Ukrainian Catholics 2025 Event:
Mail this form and check to: Elaine P Nowadly Home phone (716) 828-8169
140 Royal Coach Rd West Seneca, NY 14224-1237 Cell phone (716) 867-0981

If you prefer to register online & pay by credit card scan this QR code or visit our websites: stanfordldio.org or LeagueOfUkrainianCatholics.org

HOTEL BOOKING DEADLINE IS SEPT. 15

Our hotel is the Hampton Inn Rochester- Irondequoit on
1323 East Ridge Road, Rochester, NY 14621

Rooms are available for a special rate of \$139 +tax per night Friday October 10th and Saturday October 11th. Please call the hotel directly at 585-339-3500 to book your rooms. The booking deadline for this price is September 15th. You must mention 'League of Ukrainian Catholics' to get this special rate. It includes not breakfast daily, free Wi-Fi & high-speed internet, use of the indoor pool and Fitness Center.



Dear LUC Family and Friends,

Excitement is in the air!!! Can you feel it??? It brings me great pleasure to invite you to a very special Jubilee Year event: "A Celebration of Hope and Healing" on October 10th through October 12th, 2025, at St. Josephat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Rochester, NY.



Without a doubt, we are all Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year 2025, and we invite you to join us in celebrating the God given graces of Hope & Healing. We know very well that not everyone can travel to Rome or to Lourdes for a Holy Year Pilgrimage, but we can bring it to you. No passport required. Experience a guided spiritual journey to Lourdes, from the comfort of our beautiful church, St. Josephat. Touch the rocks and drink the healing water from the Grotto. Give us your prayer intentions and they will be personally carried to Lourdes, France. Experience forgiveness and begin your healing journey through the sacrament of Confession, and through the Healing of Memories guided meditation. Have fun creating your very own beautiful Pilgrims of Hope Rosary.

St. Josephat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Rochester is a Jubilee Church granting full indulgences for this Holy Year. The Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience is a designated pilgrimage (by Papal decree) for plenary indulgences. It's a wonderful opportunity to refresh our hearts, mind and soul.

We begin with our Welcome Champagne Reception on Friday evening, enjoy a day of spiritual immersion on Saturday, topped off with a delicious celebratory dinner. On Sunday, we will celebrate the Lord's Day with Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with our dear Bishop Paul Chomnycky.

So please come... plan to join us. Let's get to know one another as we travel together as Pilgrims of Hope through our Jubilee Year event; "A Celebration of Hope & Healing". Bring your family and friends. We look forward to seeing you.

Program details and registration form are included in this issue of LUC ACTION. You can also register by scanning the QR code or copy this link to your browser: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/a-celebration-of-hope-and-healing> (Sophia Shchur – President of LUC)



Our Benefactors

Garden State: Marion Hrubec, Lydia Celuch

Niagara Frontier: Andriy & Adrianna Yemchuk,
Fr. David Misbrenner, Keith Curtis,
Dr. Mark Mieth MD, Fr Marijan Procyk

North Anthracite: Maria Black, Barbara Nagy

Saint John Paul II: Gene & Natalia Luciw

Western PA: Nickolas Kotow, Hilary Kinal,
Olga Karmazyn, John & Maryann Mysliwiec

New Ukraine: Sophia Shchur

Independent (CT): Susan Allison

***Thank you for your gift to LUC:**

Fr David Misbrenner, Marta Pereyma, and Olga Karmazyn

***Thank you for donating toward ACTION:**

North Anthracite Council and Barbara Nagy

***God Bless You for your kindness.**

Praying for Peace in Ukraine and the whole world! (Yanka)

Dance, Have Fun, Do Good



That's exactly what we did on June 4, 2025. A very big Thank You to LUC member (Nova Ukraina / New Ukraine chapter) Roksolana Sikyrynska and her energy packed Zumba team, as well as all our good-hearted participants of this fun(d) raising event.



In a little over one action packed hour, over \$3000 was raised to benefit the Mamay Foundation, whose mission is to bring much needed medical supplies to our brave Ukrainian soldiers on the front lines.

Photo with three of our LUC members: Roksolana and Liliya Sikyrynska (mom & daughter) with Sophia Shchur.



+Rev. Dr. Czeslaw Michal Krysa



Rev. Dr. Czeslaw Michal Krysa, SLD, passed away on Monday, June 9, 2025. He was 70. Born September 12, 1954, in Niagara Falls, New York, to immigrant parents, the late Stanislaw and late Zofia "Sophia" (nee Magdziak) Krysa.

He had his master's in theology and licentiate of sacred theology from St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada; a master's in liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame; a licentiate of sacred scripture and sacrae theologiae doctor from the Pontifical International Institute of San Anselmo in Rome. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan.

Rev. Krysa was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Edward Head at Holy Trinity Church in Niagara Falls, New York, his home parish, where Fr. Krysa was baptized into the faith on the Feast of St. Stephen in 1954, and where he received First Holy Communion and the rite of Confirmation.

Father Krysa's first clerical assignment brought him to St. John Gualbert Parish in Cheektowaga, New York, as assistant pastor.

In 1984, he joined the staff of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary. In 1993, he was named vice rector of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary.

After returning to the Buffalo Diocese in 2003, he was named temporary administrator for SS. Peter & Paul Church, in Arcade, and St. Mary in East Arcade. In 2005, he took on the added responsibilities of episcopal vicar of the Tri-County Vicariate. In October of that year, he was named pastor of SS. Peter & Paul, St. Mary, as well as Blessed Sacrament in Delevan, and Holy Family Church in Machias.

In 2008, he took on the added responsibilities of part-time director of the Office of Worship, a position he held until 2020. He became pastor of SS. Hyacinth & Hedwig Parish in Dunkirk, in June of 2008.

He was named rector of St. Casimir Church in May 2011 and remained there until his passing into Eternal Life. The members of LUC visited St. Casimir in September 2023, during our LUC Convention. From that time, Father was a member of the League of Ukrainian Catholics at his own request.

Known for his love and knowledge of Polish culture, he served on the board of the Friends of Polish Art, and chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College. He was also chaplain to the Polish Scouts and was a member of the Polish American Congress.

Fr. Czeslaw (aka Fr. Mychajlo in Ukrainian community) was a good friend of our St. Nicholas parish here in Buffalo, where he sometimes served. Fr. Mychajlo and I would often have dinner together. We talked in Ukrainian, and he would sometimes sing Ukrainian songs. He especially liked "Ridna Maty Moya..." "My dear Mother, you haven't slept night after night." Fr. Dr. Czeslaw Krysa will be fondly remembered in both the Polish and Ukrainian communities. **Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamiat'!** (Fr. Marijan Procyk)



+Walter A. Jagodzinski



Walter Jagodzinski passed away August 6th. He was born on October 13, 1930. Beloved husband of the late Olga (Kolotylo); loving father of Paul Jagodzinski and Mark (Theresa Bakowski) Jagodzinski; dearest grandfather of Alex Jagodzinski.

Predeceased by his siblings, Edmund (Late Florence) Beyers, Marian (Late Robert) Lesniowski, Raymond (Late JoAnn) Jagodzinski, Norbert (Late Patricia) Jagodzinski, Marcella (Late Eugene) Kaczmarek, and Joan (Late Joseph) Biernat. Walter is survived by nieces and nephews.

Walter was an Army Veteran and an active member of the Joseph Hriczko VFW Post. While not swinging his clubs on the golf course, he could be found tending to his beautiful backyard gardens. Not one to turn down the offer of a beer, he also enjoyed a "shooter" on special occasions.

He was a member of St. Nicholas Church from July 7, 1962, when he married his wife Olga (Kolotylo).

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

+Mary Belehaj (nee Salagal)

Mary Belehaj of Rochelle Park, NJ, formerly of Passaic for 54 years, entered eternal life on May 15, 2025. She was 77.

Mary was born on October 22, 1947, in Germany, to Walter and Sophie Salagal.

She proudly worked as a cashier at Pathmark in Fair Lawn, NJ for over 50 years. Her job was like a second home to her, and she made amazing connections and friendships with her coworkers and customers who were like family to her, and she loved everyone so dearly.

Mary is survived by her devoted daughters, Lila Sparandeo and her husband Joseph, and Anastasia Beggs and her husband Corey. She is also survived by her grandchildren: Joseph John and Michael Anthony, and her sister Anna. She was predeceased by her husband, John.

Mary was a benefactor member of the St. Nicholas Chapter of the LUC. May she rest in peace! **Eternal Memory!**



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: Susan Szczublewski, 74 Driftwood Drive, Grand Island, NY 14072.

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

Thanks are extended to the contributors of these articles:

S. Shchur, J. Everett, M. Hrubec, N. Kotow, S. Szczublewski

ALL COUNCILS, MEMBERS, AND FRIENDS

We are always 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/ or photos for the next issue. God bless!

St. Nicholas Parish Sviachene



On Sunday, May 18th the parishioners of St. Nicholas gathered to celebrate the Easter season with a festive traditional Easter dinner ~ Sviachene. The delicious meal was graciously served from a bountiful buffet table of salads, eggs and meats prepared by the St. Nicholas Chapter of the LUC. A table of homemade cakes and Ukrainian specialty desserts was set and provided by members of the New Wave, Passaic as well as tasty “канапки”.



St. Nicholas parish is celebrating its 115th Anniversary of its founding, and gatherings of this nature will continue throughout the year to bring the parishioners together in prayer and fellowship. (Marion Hrubec)

**Congratulations!
Many Happy Years!
Многих і Благих Літ!**



Serving God's People with Song

Jerome Mykiety, a member of the St. Nicholas Chapter of the LUC was honored for his 22 years of outstanding and dedicated service as the Cantor for the English Liturgy at St. Nicholas parish, Passaic, NJ. Jerome and his wife Linda faithfully attended Sunday Liturgy, as well as weekday Holy Days to lead the Liturgy responses

and choral singing with the school children, especially on the First Fridays of each month. Father Andriy stated: “We are especially grateful that you chose to share your time and musical talents combined with your love of our Ukrainian Catholic faith, and its lyrical liturgical melodies to make the Divine Liturgy service a spiritual and joyful occasion.”



Thomas Hawrylko, another LUC member, stepped up and took up the position of Cantor, under the tutelage of Jerome. Tom has been serving well and leads the English choir, which is made up of the membership of the St. Nicholas Chapter. Tom led the group very well for his first Easter, leading everyone in singing the glorious tones of Christ is Risen!



**Congratulations and our Sincere Gratitude
for Your Service! (Marion Hrubec)**

Membership Application – ЗАЯВКА НА ЧЛЕНСТВО

Please check one: ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Individual Annual Dues (per person): \$10

Benefactor Annual Dues: \$25 ☐ Or other amount: \$

Clergy & Religious: Receive Honorary – Complimentary Membership

Children under 16 are FREE with a parent's paid membership. Please list children & ages:

Your Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone Number: Email:

Parish Name:

Parish City: State:

Chapter/Council Name:

If you have a sponsor, Sponsor Name:

Spiritual Director or Pastor:

How did you hear about the LUC?

Please **COMPLETE** and **SUBMIT** this Application with a check made payable to: *League of Ukrainian Catholics*
Mail To: Janina Everett, 631 Melrose Park Lane, Moore, SC 29369
(Or you may give this to your Chapter/Council Membership Director)

Follow us on Facebook: [League of Ukrainian Catholics of America](#)

Thank you for your interest in the LUC. If you have any membership questions, please call our membership director, Mrs. Janina Everett at (570) 441-9593, or contact her by email: tjeverett@verizon.net.

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage in Pittsburgh



Most Reverend Bohdan J. Danylo, Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saint Josaphat in Parma, OH, designated Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Pittsburgh as a Pilgrim Church for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope. Therefore, a special pilgrimage was planned inviting all the clergy and faithful of Western Pennsylvania to attend the Vespers Divine Liturgy of the Major Feast of the Ascension of our Lord, God, and Savior - Jesus Christ on Thursday, June 21, 2025 beginning at 6:00 PM. Bishop Danylo was welcomed to the full church with the traditional bread and salt by the pastor, Reverend Father Yaroslav Koval, and parishioners, Michael and Stephanie Vargo.



Clergy concelebrants with Bishop Danylo of the Divine Liturgy (see photo, left to right) were Reverend Oleg Popyuk (Saint John the Baptist, McKeesport), Reverend Kevin Bezner (Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, North Carolina), Reverend Ivan Smereka (Holy Trinity, Carnegie), Very Reverend Michael Polosky (Saints Peter and Paul, Ambridge), Father Deacon Myron Spak (Holy Trinity, Carnegie), Bishop Danylo, Reverend Yaroslav Koval, Very Reverend Igor Hohosha (Saint George, Pittsburgh), Reverend Ivan Chirovsky (Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh), Reverend Jason Charron (Holy Trinity, Carnegie), and Very Reverend Douglas Lorange (Saint Michael, Lyndora). Choir responses were sung by Michael Vargo, Michael and Belinda Spak (Saint George, Pittsburgh) and Peter Coelho-Kostolny (Holy Trinity, Carnegie). Joseph and Michael Levy (Saint John the Baptist, Pittsburgh) served as acolytes. Several priests heard confessions before the Divine Liturgy so that the faithful could receive the Jubilee Year Indulgence.

Also in attendance were Reverend Andrew Clarke (Saint George, Pittsburgh), Reverend John Gribik (Patronage of BVM, Ford City), Father Deacon Stephen and Pani Marlene Suchan (Saint Vladimir, Arnold), Father Deacon Mark Prokopovich (Saints Peter and Paul, Ambridge), and Pani Halyna Charron.

The Western Pennsylvania Council of the LUC was represented by George Honchar (who read the Epistle), Marijka Julia, Hilary A. Kinal, Nickolas C. Kotow, and John and Mary Ann Mysliwiec. Following the Divine Liturgy, all were invited for light refreshments in the adjacent school hall. (Nick Kotow)

Searching For Ukrainian Ancestors in Pittsburgh

Under the pastorate of Reverend Father Yaroslav Koval, Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, 109 South Seventh Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203, has begun a project of building a database of the Birth and Baptismal records of the parish from its beginning. At present, the project contains Birth records from October 28, 1891, through September 13, 1899. The listings are published in English and Ukrainian.



The data set for each listing includes the following: Date of Birth; Date of Baptism and Chrismation; Child's First Name; Child's Sex; Parents' Names (Father and Mother and Religion of each - Greek Catholic or Roman Catholic, and the names of the parents of the Father and Mother (i.e. Grandparents); Place of Origin of Parents (village or city, county, country in Europe); Place of Residence of Parents; Godparents' Names and Religion of each; and Name of the Baptizing Priest. Please Note: Not all the listings contain all the possible information.

Presently, all the listings are printed (in English and Ukrainian) on large plastic sheets which are mounted on the walls of the adjacent school hall. It is the intention that this information be placed into an online database as the project moves forward.

Additionally, Father Yaroslav and parishioners have been researching the early beginnings of the parish. They have determined that Saint John's Church building is the oldest church building in the United States in which the Divine Liturgy of the Ukrainian Rite has been continuously celebrated. Inquiries about family ancestors should be in writing. When writing to Saint John's Church, please consider a donation towards the repair and upkeep of this very important church building in the history of the Ukrainian Catholic Rite in America. (Nick Kotow)



The Youngest Member of LUC from America

Yakiv Gurniak

Congratulations to LUC family Olka Gurniak and Deacon Andriy Pradyvus on the birth of their third son. Welcome our newest member, Yakiv (Jacob) born on April 17th and received the Holy Mysteries of Christian Initiation on June 22nd at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yonkers, home of LUC's Nova Ukraina chapter and where



Deacon Andriy serves. Yakiv's two older brothers, Mark and Luke, are altar servers, and we have no doubt Yakiv will join them in a few years. Please join us in welcoming Yakiv, and in wishing the entire family good health and God's choicest blessings on this joyous occasion. На многая і благая нира!!! (Sophia Shchur)



GATHERING THE SCATTERED:

League of Ukrainian Catholics and Ukrainian Catholic Bishops Unite Ukrainians Around the World Through 'A Journey of Hope in the Jubilee Year 2025'

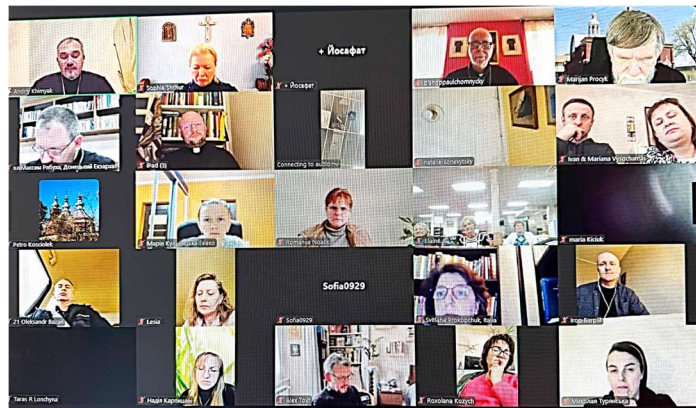
Thousands of people, Ukrainian and others, have enjoyed our unique Virtual Spiritual Retreats the past 5 years. In response to the Covid shutdown in 2020, the League of Ukrainian Catholics organized its first ever online program with the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of the United States titled "Transforming Calamity into Unity, Dignity & Healing" on October 10, 2020. The response was widespread and amazing. People loved the deep spiritual perspectives shared by our bishops with their keen ability to anchor our anxieties and refocus on our faith as the fountain of strength and unity. This gave way to our annual virtual spiritual retreats thanks to the continued support of our Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of the US.

While the pandemic eventually took a back burner, the unprovoked and brutal war in Ukraine put our faith to the test once more. In addition to internally displaced persons, millions of Ukrainians left their homeland to escape the terrors of war. According to the Center for Economic Strategy (<https://ces.org.ua>) as of the end of November 2024, 5.2 million Ukrainian refugees remain abroad, and approximately 4.2 million Ukrainians hold temporary protection status in European countries. The largest number is in Germany (1.2 million), Poland (988,000), and the Czech Republic (385,000).

A major challenge and a priority for our Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) is to provide an avenue to ensure unity, specifically, spiritual unity, to those scattered throughout many countries and continents.

Quoting UGCC Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, of the Eparchy of the Holy Family, London, (Vatican News podcast interview with Christopher Wells), the priority of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the UGCC "has to be the pastoral care of our Ukrainian people throughout the world, especially in Ukraine and those who have arrived in Western Europe, and indeed in other parts of the world," as a result of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine".

With this in mind, and in consideration of the Holy Jubilee Year theme 'Pilgrims of Hope', the League of Ukrainian Catholics in harmony with the Stamford Eparchy, organized two virtual retreats: 'A Journey of Hope in the Jubilee Year 2025'.



The first Jubilee Year retreat on March 30th, in English, was conducted by the Ukrainian Catholics Bishop of the US; Archbishop Borys Gudziak, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia; Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Stamford Eparchy in Connecticut, Bishop Benedict Aleksyichuk of the St. Nicholas Eparchy in Chicago, and Bishop Bohdan Danylo of the St. Josephat Eparchy in Parma, Ohio.

The bishops explored these topics in loving detail:

THE JUBILEE YEAR: What is it and why is it important?

THE DEEPER MEANING OF HOPE: It's not wishful thinking.

HOPE AND HEALING: Security in times of uncertainty.

BECOMING PILGRIMS OF HOPE:

Recognizing the signs and fanning the flames.

This was followed by a period of reflection with open discussion between the participants and bishops.



In our first all Ukrainian event, the second virtual retreat took place the following week. This time with UGCC bishops in Ukraine: Bishop Stepan Sus, head of the Pastoral and Migration Department of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church; Bishop Andriy Khymyak, Auxiliary Bishop of the Kyiv Archdiocese of the UGCC & Secretary of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church; Bishop Maksym Ryabukha, Exarch of Donetsk, and Bishop Josaphat Moshchych, Eparch of Chernivtsi, Head of the Patriarchal Commission for Evangelization of the UGCC. Bishop Paul Chomnycky served as moderator for this retreat.



The retreat topics were the same as above but delivered from their unique perspectives as pastoral leaders in war torn Ukraine.

How well did these two retreats unite Ukrainians around the world? Over 300 people participated in the live virtual retreats via ZOOM, while well over 500 viewed the posts/recordings from the League of Ukrainian Catholics website. Visits to our LUC website since the end of March reached over 1,200. Even more amazing is the geographical distribution of viewers and participants. They are from Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ukraine (13 oblasts), and the United States.

We are deeply grateful to our dear bishops, in the US and abroad, for their ongoing leadership; those who guided us skillfully through our two virtual retreats, and to those bishops who shared the news of the upcoming events with the faithful. We are sincerely thankful to all participants who benefited from the wisdom and deep (and sometimes candid) discussions on the Journey of Hope. Many participants expressed their gratitude in having this unique opportunity to interact with our bishops, (especially in their native Ukrainian language) from the comfort and safety of their homes, and look forward to similar opportunities in the future.

In case you missed the live events, both retreat recordings can still be viewed on our website: LeagueofUkrainianCatholics.org

We thank God for all His blessings in our efforts to gather the scattered. May we continue our Journey of Hope in this Jubilee Year 2025, always united in our spiritual purpose. *(Sophia Shchur)*

Buffalo Deanery Jubilee Year Liturgy

The Jubilee Year 2025, themed "Pilgrims of Hope," is a special year of spiritual renewal and grace in the Catholic Church, which officially began on December 24, 2024, and will conclude on January 6, 2026. A jubilee year, also known as a holy year, is a special type of celebration within the Catholic Church focused on forgiveness, renewal, and pilgrimage. The late Pope Francis called on the faithful to become "Pilgrims of Hope," encouraging us to embark on a journey of faith, both literally through pilgrimages to Rome or other local designated sites throughout the world, and metaphorically through acts of charity and spiritual reflection.

In the Vatican decree on the granting of indulgences during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025, we read:

"An indulgence, a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for their sins, has been a key feature of holy years for centuries. But updated norms for obtaining one are published for each holy year celebration. The faithful can obtain the Jubilee indulgence if, having celebrated the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, they devoutly visit any Jubilee designated site and there, for a suitable period of time, engage in Eucharistic adoration and meditation, concluding with the *Our Father*, the *Profession of Faith* in any legitimate form, and *invocations to Mary, the Mother of God.*"



Derek Wiertel also served. Bishop Paul regretfully could not join us but had planned to be in attendance as our main celebrant. We continue to pray for his health. We also prayed for Ukraine, for those who are suffering in Ukraine, and for all those who have lost their lives during this horrific and unjust war. May the good Lord watch over the people of Ukraine, bringing a just victory soon, and may the Mother of God protect us all!

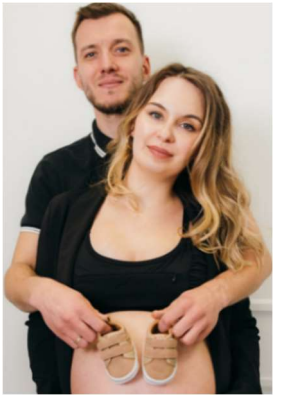
(Susan Szczublewski)



The Youngest Member of LUC from Canada

Matviy Keller

Congratulations to our LUC family in Toronto, Olha & Vitaliy Keller on the birth of their son. Our brand-new LUC member, Matviy, was born on June 21st, and received the Holy Mysteries of Christian Initiation on August 31st at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto, Canada. Please join us in welcoming Matviy and in wishing the Keller family good health and God's choicest blessings on this joyous occasion. *Ha многая і благая літа!!! (Sophia Shchur)*



Niagara Frontier LUC Lends a Helping Hand at Local Fundraiser to Support Ukraine



On Sunday, April 13th several members of the Niagara Frontier League of Ukrainian Catholics were busy lending a helping hand at the "Pierogi Easter Festival Fundraiser" to aid Ukraine. This was held at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church Hall in Cheektowaga, NY. Volunteers spent several days preparing cabbage rolls, dozens upon dozens of potato, cheese and kraut pierogis, as well as Easter bread, borscht, ethnic desserts, pysanky, Ukrainian souvenir items, and over 100 theme baskets to be raffled. This event was sponsored by various Ukrainian Churches throughout the Buffalo area, as well as organizations such as Mothers of Prayer and the LUC.

Our Niagara Frontier LUC members are also looking forward to helping at another upcoming fundraiser to provide aid and support to Ukraine, which will take place on Sunday, October 19, 2025, at St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall in Kenmore, NY. Once again, volunteers will be preparing a variety of ethnic foods, such as: pierogies, cabbage rolls, borscht, and ethnic desserts, as well as theme baskets to be raffled, along with Ukrainian souvenirs and other items.

(Susan Szczublewski)



LET US PRAY FOR A JUST PEACE IN UKRAINE, FOR VICTORY OVER OUR AGGRESSOR, FOR ALL SICK AND SUFFERING, FOR ALL WOUNDED, FOR ALL WHO ARE DEFENDING UKRAINE, FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS, FOR ALL WHO NEED THE LORD'S HELP!