

Schedule of Liturgies - Порядок Богослужінь

Sunday, February 7 : Sunday of Cheese-fare (Epistle: Rm. 13: 11 –14:4; Gospel: Mt. 6: 14–21)

8:30 am - Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) **God bless our parish with a JUBILEE LENT OF MERCY**

9:00 am - Catechism (Parish Centre)

9:30 am - Rosary

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy (English) • **For All Parishioners**

7:30 pm - **Forgiveness Вспрощення** - As we set out on the journey of the **Great Fast**, whoever wants to, may come to make peace with the Lord and with Neighbour. Forgiveness Service. opportunity for Confession. Discussion. Lets start our right in a spirit of goodwill (Luke 10:5-6)

Monday, February 8; First Day of LENT (Epistle: 1 Cor.3: 18-23; Gospel: Lk. 21: 8 - 36) **Strict Fast Day**

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy • **+Ed Dziedzic**, By Donna & Wayne Michaluk

Tuesday, February 9; Martyr Nicephorus(Epistle: Rm. 8:14-21; Gospel: Mt. 6: 1-13)

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy • **+Ed Dziedzic**, By Shirley & Tony Skochylas

Wednesday, February 10; Martyr Charalampus (Epistle: 2 Cor. 4: 13-18; Gospel: Mk. 11: 22-25)

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy • **+Kay Laschuk**, Holy Eucharist UCWLC

5:30 pm - Liturgy of the **Presanctified** Gifts & Sorokousty Service

Thursday, February 11; Martyr Blaise (Epistle: Rm. 15:30-33; Gospel: Mt. 7:7-11)

11:15 am - Divine Liturgy • **The late +John Lewandosky**, By the Family

Friday, February 12; Venerable Meletius (Epistle: 1 Tm. 2:1-7; Gospel: Lk. 15: 1-10)

9:00 am- Divine Liturgy • **Lewandosky/Prosken Family**

5:30 pm - Liturgy of the **Presanctified** Gifts

7:00 pm - The **Way of the Cross**

7:30 pm - **H.E.Y. hosted Spaghetti dinner & "Family Table Discussion" - about the Faith, about the Bible, about the world**

Saturday, February 13; Venerable Martinian (Epistle: Heb. 1:1-12; Gospel: Mk. 2:23-3:5)

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy • **The Late +Vance Kuzia**, By the Family

Sunday, February 14; 1st Sunday of LENT (Epistle: Heb. 11: 24 - 26; 32– 12:2; Gospel: Jn. 1: 43 - 51)

8:30 am - Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) •

9:00 am - Catechism (Parish Centre)

9:30 am - Rosary

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy (English) • **For All Parishioners**

Holy Eucharist Parish Lenten Mission with Father John Sianchuk, CSsR. March 13th - 16th, 2016

Please remember in your PRAYERS, CALL and VISIT:

Olga Hnatiuk, Fr. Eugene Rudachek, Mary Schurko, Tena Lisowick, Alice Lapka, Steve Romas, Susan Chomiak, Angie Hall, Ted Gierys, Gloria Kroeker, Nadia Kozoris, Olga Boychuk, Helen Babiniec **Riverview:** Bill Tataryn, Sharon Williamson

Holy Family: Ollie Smerek, Nell Lupyrypa, Mary Horbal, Irene Omeniuk, Bill Simcoe

Maples Care Home: Julia Parabochy

all our priests 204.654.4157 anytime for a Pastoral or Sacramental visit.

HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

ПАРАФІЯ ПРЕСВЯТОЇ ЄВХАРИСТІЇ

7 February 2016

Sunday of Cheese-fare

7 Січня 2016 р

Прощай, Ковбаса! Прощай, Сир!

Goodbye, Kovbasa. Goodbye, Cheese. Less time eating, more on my knees. During Lent I want to fast and pray!

(... but I hope we meet again, on Easter day!) Tonight

we begin the Great Fast! If we have been preparing ourselves psychologically as well as spiritually, it will not be a surprise. It is actually an exciting time during which we have every reason to “just say no” to parties, social obligations, unhealthy/unnecessary food and drink, to wasting years of our lives watching senseless and detrimental tv and internet programs, etc. What we will do with all that time and health is dedicate it

to getting to know the Lord and our family and the faith a whole lot better. Praying, chatting, reading, hanging out with the Lord and family in church and at home. Exploring the possibilities of the Year of Mercy. Bettering ourselves. Etc. etc.

Let's have a great Lent! You are welcome to start with fellow parishioners this evening here at the church at 7:30 pm.



LITURGICAL SERVICES

Divine Liturgy — Божественна Літургія

Sunday - Неділя*

Divine Liturgy Schedule:

8:30 AM Ukrainian/Українська

10:00 am English/Англійська

Weekdays - Будні (see back page)

Confessions - Сповідь Prior to every Divine Liturgy

Baptisms - Хрещення - Contact the pastor

Weddings - Вінчання

Contact the pastor 9-12 months in advance

Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Parish
Українська Католицька Парафія Пресв. Євхаристії

505 Watt St. - 'at the corner of Watt & Munroe'
Parish Office: 460 Munroe Ave. Winnipeg, MB
R2K 1H4

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Tel: 204.667.8866

Email: heparish@gmail.com

Fax: 204.668.2024

Web: **www.HolyEucharist.info**

Parish Auditorium: 505 Watt St.

Tel: 204.654.4786

Parish Centre: 460 Munroe Ave.

Tel: 204.661.5240

Perogy Hotline: 204-667-6304

Some PARISH Contacts

Fr Michael Kwiatkowski 204-654-4157
Fr Edward Kwiatkowski 204-250-5210
Dcn Myroslaw Tracz 204-589-7592
Cantor: Dave Hrehirchuk 204-669-2068
Parish Council Chair:
John Petryshyn 204-667-9403
Soloist: Paul Bakan 204-667-8866
Rosary Volunteers: Dave 204-669-2068
Property Management Chair:
Mike Kowalchuk 204-663-5363
Catechism: Joan Buchel 204-334-7207
Altar Servers - Coordinator:
Spencer Katerynuk 204-338-4167
H.E. Youth - President:
Damon Fawcett 204-292-8425
U. C. Brotherhood -President:
Ron Aftanas 204-661-0025
U.C. Women's League - President:
Lydia Firman 204-668-1920
Knights of Columbus - Grand Knight:
Edward Swiecicki 204-663-6513
Seniors—President
Bernice Hrehirchuk 204-669-2068
Bingo/Nevada—President:
Matthew Bakan 204-667-8175
SEE A CONCERN? LET US KNOW!
Maintenance request forms Please fill out the form and leave it in the drop box. The P.M. committee will get on it...

Home of Hope Fundraising Breakfast
Sponsored by the UCWLC Archeparchy of Winnipeg
Will be held
Saturday March 5, 2016
10:00 am
Holy Eucharist Parish Center
Tickets \$25.00
Please Call
Janice Frykas: [204-667-0518](tel:204-667-0518)
Elaine Bowman: [204-668-9630](tel:204-668-9630)



TODAY****
7 February, Sunday
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm - IHMS Annual School Tea. This years opening theme is "Holy Year of Mercy" and will be opened by Principal, Tom Lussier.

8 February, Monday
1st Day of LENT!

13 February, Saturday
5pm-7pm - K of C sponsored "Youth Winter Games" - **CURLING**, Elmwood Curling Club. Please note registration begins at 4:30pm.

13 February, Saturday
Table for Two a Valentines Day dinner/ presentation for young married & engaged couples. Hosted by St. Joseph's Parish, 250 Jefferson Ave. Tickets are \$45.00 a couple. Please call Michelle at 204-799-1060 or email rymcssr@gmail.com to book now!!

20 February, Saturday
Ladies Retreat St. Nicholas Parish. Theme "Jesus—The Merciful Face of the Father" 8:45 - Registration, 9:15 am 1st conference and confessions, 4:00 pm Divine Liturgy. Cost \$5.00, please bring a bag lunch.

16-21 February
Winnipeg Real to Reel Film Festival. For more details visit www.WinnipegFilmFestival.com

26 February, Thursday
7:00pm - Parish Pastoral Council meeting- Parish Auditorium (Basement)

1,8,15 March, Tuesdays
7:30 pm to 9:00pm, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Centre, 400 Marion St. "Jewish Mysticism" with Rabbi Alan Green. For more info call 204-594-0273 or email wpgtri.batkol@gmail.com

6 March, Sunday
1:00pm-3:00pm - 70th Annual Holy Eucharist UCWLC Daffodil Tea.

A big thank you to all those who stayed behind last Saturday to take down and put away all the Christmas decorations and Nativity Scene!

Our deepest condolences, prayers and blessings go out to the Drosdoski family, on the passing of +Irene. Funeral services were held here at Holy Eucharist Parish Saturday, February 6, 2016 . +Irene will be greatly missed by her Parish Family.

Vichnaya Pamyat'

SOROKOUSTY
Services will be held Wednesday Evenings following the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts.
If you must add a name to your list please contact the office with your additions, otherwise you can simply fill in the provided envelope with your family name and they will be part of the service. Just a reminder the suggested voluntary offering for this service is \$20 per family.

Epistle Readers	Feb.7, 2016	Feb 14, 2016	Feb. 21, 2016	Feb. 28 , 2016
8:30 am 10:00 am	Joan Lewandosky Curtis Shupenia	John Petrushyn Dwayne Rewnaik	Carlyle Hoffman Andrew Tataryn	Helen Mazur Elaine Bowman
Greeters/Ushers				
8:30 am 10:00 am	Helen Mazur Semeon Hrushovetz Leonard Rybak Curtis Shupenia	Joan Lewandosky Matthew Bakan Shirley Skochylas Morris Mazur	Helen Mazur Matthew Bakan Mike Kowalchuk Mike Shupenia	Helen Mazur Semeon Hrushovetz Luke Deptuch Ernie Shume

BLUE MARIAN (Side Altar)	The Late +John Lewandosky, By the Family	RED SAVIOUR (Side Altar)	+Orest Lazaruk, By the Family
--------------------------	--	--------------------------	-------------------------------

Жертводавство
"The portion of your blessings that you have returned to the Lord" For the Week of Sunday January 31 ,2016

1. Envelopes	\$1905.00
2. Open Collection	\$33.00
3. Vigil Lights	\$58.10
4. Parish Van	\$10.00
5. Initial Offering	\$35.00
6. Flowers (Easter)	\$10.00
7. Sorokousty	\$30.00
Total this week	\$2081.10

HOLY EUCHARIST BOOK STORE
A wide range of spiritual and inspirational reading... Many beautiful gift ideas for Birthdays, Weddings, First Holy Communion, Baptisms... cards, Icons, Rosaries, Chotky & Crosses.
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!
For More Information Contact Liz at 204.334.2081
Living Faith Booklets are now available at the bookstore!



Miraculous Icon
Will be in the home of **Joan Lewandosky**. Anyone interested in gracing your home with this Miraculous Icon can please call Evelyn Tymchuk @ 204.667.6791.

Coffee House Schedule
February 7, 2016 - Seniors (Cheese-fare Sunday)
February 14, 2016 - H.E.Y. Valentine's Day!!
The Youth will be hosting a Valentine pancake breakfast please come down and support them...it will be worth your while!!



You probably heard about it already, but Canada is issuing a 2016 \$20 silver coin in the shape of.... A Ukrainian Easter Egg. A first - An egg-shaped coin issued by the Royal Canadian Mint! They are making only 4000 and they are selling for \$114.

Attention all Holy Eucharist Parish Organizations...it's that time of the year again where we ask you to please prepare and hand into the office your yearly reports so they can be included in the AGM minutes. Please have them done by Feb. 15, 2016. **(Emails are more efficient if possible)** Thank you

70th Annual DAFFODIL TEA
Sunday March 6, 2016
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Parish Centre
The UCWLC is accepting items for auction prizes. Please drop off your donations to the Parish office or call Mavis 204.663.5894 or Lydia at 204.668.1920. Also, ladies, please do not forget your delicious bakings for the tea and bake sale. (drop off Saturday Feb. 26/16 in the multi-purpose room)
Thank you.



Remember to visit the Archeparchy website for many interesting news items and information. www.archeparchy.ca

Pope Francis’ message for Lent 2016.

[Lent begins at sundown on Forgiveness Sunday, February 7, 2016.]

1. Mary, the image of a Church that evangelizes because she is evangelized

In the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, I asked that “the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 17). By calling for an attentive listening to the word of God and encouraging the initiative “24 Hours for the Lord,” I sought to stress the primacy of prayerful listening to God’s word, especially his prophetic word. The mercy of God is a proclamation made to the world, a proclamation which each Christian is called to experience first-hand. For this reason, during the season of Lent, I will send out Missionaries of Mercy as a concrete sign to everyone of God’s closeness and forgiveness. After receiving the Good News told to her by the archangel Gabriel, Mary, in her Magnificat, prophetically sings of the mercy whereby God chose her. The Virgin of Nazareth, betrothed to Joseph, thus becomes the perfect icon of the Church which evangelizes, for she was, and continues to be, evangelized by the Holy Spirit, who made her virginal womb fruitful. In the prophetic tradition, mercy is strictly related — even on the etymological level — to the maternal womb (*rahamim*) and to a generous, faithful and compassionate goodness (*hesed*) shown within marriage and family relationships.

2. God’s covenant with humanity: a history of mercy

The mystery of divine mercy is revealed in the history of the covenant between God and his people Israel. God shows himself ever rich in mercy, ever ready to treat his people with deep tenderness and compassion, especially at those tragic moments when infidelity ruptures the bond of the covenant, which then needs to be ratified more firmly in justice and truth. Here is a true love story, in which God plays the role of the betrayed father and husband, while Israel plays the unfaithful child and bride. These domestic images — as in the case of Hosea (cf. Hos. 1-2) — show to what extent God wishes to bind himself to his people.

This love story culminates in the incarnation of God’s Son. In Christ, the Father pours forth his boundless mercy even to making him “mercy incarnate” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 8). As a man, Jesus of Nazareth is a true son of Israel; he embodies that perfect hearing required of every Jew by the Shema, which today too is the heart of God’s covenant with Israel: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might” (Deut. 6:4-5). As the Son of God, he is the Bridegroom who does everything to win over the love of his bride, to whom he is bound by an unconditional love which becomes visible in the eternal wedding feast.

This is the very heart of the apostolic kerygma, in which divine mercy holds a central and fundamental place. It is “the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 36), that first proclamation that “we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment” (*ibid.*, 164). Mercy “expresses God’s way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 21), thus restoring his relationship with him. In Jesus crucified, God shows his desire to draw near to sinners, however far they may have strayed from him. In this way he hopes to soften the hardened heart of his Bride.

3. The works of mercy

God’s mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbor and to devote ourselves to what the Church’s tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete, everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged. For this reason I expressed my hope that “the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; this will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty, and to enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy” (*ibid.*, 15). For in the poor, the flesh of Christ “becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled ... to be acknowledged, touched and cared for by us” (*ibid.*). It is the unprecedented and scandalous mystery of the extension in time of the suffering of the Innocent Lamb, the burning bush of gratuitous love. Before this love, we can, like Moses, take off our sandals (cf. Ex. 3:5), especially when the poor are our brothers or sisters in Christ who are suffering for their faith.

In the light of this love, which is strong as death (cf. Song 8:6), the real poor are revealed as those who refuse to see themselves as such. They consider themselves rich, but they are actually the poorest of the poor. This is because they are slaves to sin, which leads them to use wealth and power not for the service of God and others, but to stifle within their hearts the profound sense that they too are only poor beggars. The greater their power and wealth, the more this blindness and deception can grow. It can even reach the point of being blind to Lazarus begging at their doorstep (cf. Luke 16:20-21). Lazarus, the poor man, is a figure of Christ, who through the poor pleads for our conversion. As such, he represents the possibility of conversion which God offers us and which we may well fail to see. Such blindness is often accompanied by the proud illusion of our own omnipotence, which reflects in a sinister way the diabolical “you will be like God” (Gen. 3:5), which is the root of all sin. This illusion can likewise take social and political forms, as shown by the totalitarian systems of the 20th century, and, in our own day, by the ideologies of monopolizing thought and technoscience, which would make God irrelevant and reduce man to raw material to be exploited. This illusion can also be seen in the sinful structures linked to a model of false development based on the idolatry of money, which leads to lack of concern for the fate of the poor on the part of wealthier individuals and societies; they close their doors, refusing even to see the poor.

For all of us, then, the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year is a favorable time to overcome our existential alienation by listening to God’s word and by practicing the works of mercy. In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual works of mercy — counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer — we touch more directly our own sinfulness. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated. By touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering, sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need. By taking this path, the “proud,” the “powerful” and the “wealthy,” spoken of in the Magnificat, can also be embraced and undeservedly loved by the crucified Lord who died and rose for them. This love alone is the answer to that yearning for infinite happiness and love that we think we can satisfy with the idols of knowledge, power and riches. Yet the danger always remains that by a constant refusal to open the doors of their hearts to Christ who knocks on them in the poor, the proud, rich and powerful will end up condemning themselves and plunging into the eternal abyss of solitude which is hell. The pointed words of Abraham apply to them and to all of us: “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them” (Luke 16:29). Such attentive listening will best prepare us to celebrate the final victory over sin and death of the Bridegroom, now risen, who desires to purify his Betrothed in expectation of his coming.

Let us not waste this season of Lent, so favorable a time for conversion! We ask this through the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, who, encountering the greatness of God’s mercy freely bestowed upon her, was the first to acknowledge her lowliness (cf. Luke 1:48) and to call herself the Lord’s humble servant (cf. Luke 1:38).

PASTORAL LETTER FROM HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV

On the **HOLY YEAR OF MERCY** in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Dearly Beloved in Christ!

Together with the Universal Church we are entering into a time of special grace -The Holy Year, which, according to the will of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, will last from 8th. December 2015 to 26th November 2016.

This year, which is also called an Extraordinary Jubilee Year, has been dedicated by the Pope to God's mercy. This is a time of God's special blessings, to undertake a pilgrimage to a Cathedral in our Local or Universal Church. This is a time for healing the wounds of body and soul, a return to God – a rediscovery of Mercy. Standing on the threshold of the Jubilee Year, let us reflect on how we accept God's Mercy, how we live it and how we testify about it to ourselves, our neighbours and all people so that we may take advantage of the many spiritual fruits of this fertile time.

When God desired to reveal himself to man, to introduce us to Himself and reveal the truth about Himself, he described Himself, first of all, as The Merciful God. Revealing His glory to Moses at Sinai, the Lord said of himself: “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Ex. 34: 6). God, the Father has poured upon us his merciful love in his Son Jesus Christ. This is what our Saviour taught when he said to his disciples, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (Jn. 3, 16). Being a Christian is to first of all believe in God's mercy for ourselves,- to believe in God's love. The Evangelist John emphasizes this sharing of faith saying, “So we know and believed the love that God has for us” (I Jn. 4, 16).

An important aspect of this Holy Year is an invitation to everyone to receive God's mercy. It is given to us, – the Church, by the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of God's love. To personally accept and live this mercy we turn to the Holy Mystery of Penance or Reconciliation. Unfortunately, in many parts of the world this Sacrament is almost forgotten, rarely preached about and even more rarely gone to. The reasons for this sad state of affairs are many, but in the first place there is less knowledge and experience of God's presence and as a consequence, a loss of a sense of sin. Our great desire is that the faithful of our Church use the Year of God's Mercy to rediscover, appreciate and experience more frequently the Source of Mercy, which the Lord has revealed to us sinners in the Mystery of Penance. This appeal I direct to Pastors who have a duty to administer the Mystery to the faithful. I also appeal particularly to those baptized persons who call themselves Christians, but rarely confess and therefore have no ability to live God's mercy and to receive God's love.

A particular requirement of anyone who experiences this Holy Year is to share God's mercy. Our motto this year will be the words “Merciful like the Father” that resonate from the call of our Lord Jesus to his disciples: “Be merciful, as your Father is merciful” (Lk. 6, 36). These words remind us that the gift of mercy that we ourselves receive from Our Lord requires us to be merciful to our neighbours. In this way we not only express our gratitude to God for His mercy on us, but reveal to our neighbours the face and gracious presence of God in this world, a world that is so frequently scarred by human suffering, loneliness, fear and hopelessness. Faithful of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, no matter on which continent of globe they live, feel the suffering and pain of millions of citizens of Ukraine caused by an unjust war against us. Therefore, we must use every opportunity that presents itself to be merciful.

I call upon all our faithful to remember the Church's teaching on specific works of mercy

creativity and drawing on our faith to implement them in everyday life. Mercy washes away our sins, transforms our hearts and our lives and brings us closer to God through a transformation – to become more like Him. Our mercy should primarily be directed to our family members and neighbours, so that in the words of, Pope Francis the door of every home becomes “the door of mercy”. Let us be attentive to the needy members of the parish community, which for us is the Family of God: there must never be people who feel forgotten, abandoned and overlooked in their needs. Since love has no boundaries, acts of mercy have to go out and meet poor people, regardless of their nationality, social status, religious affiliation or political preferences. Let all who meet us through our sincere interest in them, good words and effective help, feel the presence of the Merciful Father.

Another of our duties this year is to become witnesses of God's mercy. Our faith teaches us to see the opportunity so that we may exercise our Evangelical vocation to witness the wonderful works of God's mercy in the world. Our brothers and sisters in our native land have always remembered this vocation. We recall how they witnessed Christ before the torturers and unjust judges in difficult times of persecution. So today – when Ukrainian soldiers and those who support them physically and spiritually have become remarkable witnesses to the strength of love in the face of external aggression. All our faithful in Ukraine and throughout the World are called to become tireless evangelists of God's mercy, which has so clearly and generously manifested itself in the history of our Church and people. Indeed, the experience of salvation in times of persecution and the power of God's love that still animates and leads our people is given to us not only for ourselves, but also as a sign of hope for a lost and fearful world. This sign, which is our history, speaks more with God's than human words: “Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever” (Ps. 125: 1) and “But I will sing of your might; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been a fortress for me and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love “(Ps. 59, 17-18). So do not be silent about God's great works, the works of the Lord's mercy on us, so that all people, among whom we live, know that – He is our God, our salvation, and having recognized this, they will come closer to God in their hearts and in their works.

In this Holy Year let us place ourselves and the world under the Protection of Mary the Mother of Mercy. “God is in its midst, it will not be shaken” (Ps. 46, 6) – these words of the psalmist are found in Saint Sophia – Holy Wisdom Cathedral in Kyiv, from which flows the spring of our forefather's faith. They express the abiding confidence of our people in God's mighty protection for the city and the country through the unstoppable prayers to our Heavenly Intercessor depicted on the “Indestructible wall”, The Kyiv Oranta.

Our people in different parts of Ukraine and the world venerate the Virgin and beg her help through miracle-working icons. This year, with much love let us focus our thoughts and our pilgrim steps to the princely city of Yaroslav, a city, near the western border of Ukraine and Poland, where in the territory of the Przemyśl – Warsaw Archeparchy we find our ancient and miraculous Icon of the Virgin – “Doors of Mercy”. God in His providence has chosen the Most Holy Virgin as the “door” through which He came to mankind in His Only Begotten Son, incarnate through the power and action of the Holy Spirit.

May this same Spirit may fill our hearts with God's love and mercy. May it transform our lives, making us a images of the presence and work of our merciful Father in the world. May we be accompanied this year by The Most Holy Virgin – Mother of Mercy, and all the saints and righteous of the Ukrainian land – faithful witnesses of God's mercy and God's love!

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+ SVIATOSLAV