



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
L'ÉGLISE ORTHODOXE UKRAINIENNE DU CANADA

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TO THE CLERGY AND FAITHFUL OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC #3

"Before Your Cross we bow down, O Master and Your Holy Resurrection we glorify."
(Instead of the Trisagion Hymn – Veneration of the Holy Cross)

"O Lord, save Your People and bless Your inheritance! Grant victory to Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by Your Cross preserve Your Commonwealth". (Tropar – Veneration of the Holy Cross)

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Your Graces, Reverend Clergy, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin the Third Week of Great Lent – the Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross we are reminded, that the Holy Cross has been carried out for the veneration by the clergy and faithful in order to support them in their fast and to remind them of the price paid for their salvation by Our Lord, Jesus Christ. This year we have the burden and distraction of the Coronavirus pandemic. We are encouraged and hopeful as we look upon the Life-Giving Cross, but, we in our forwardness, still turn to Our Lord in prayer, that He help us bear this burden as Simon of Cyrene helped Him bear His Cross on the way to Golgotha.

At this time, we are called to continue adhering to the general directives of our government and medical authorities as well as adhering to the particular directives of the episcopate of the jurisdiction to which we belong, namely the UOCC. We are observing what others are doing and listening to ideas from clergy and faithful, that may be helpful at this time.

During the last two days we have organized the broadcast of the Divine Liturgy, one from each eparchy. This was a successful experiment, though not without some technical difficulties, which we will ask our technical people to resolve in order to improve the experience.

We are asking, that our parishes organize a communications network by internet and telephone (not everyone has access to a computer) in order to maintain contact with all members and adherents. We should see, that no one feels alone and without aid. Seek to help each other safely (within civil restrictions). The parish priest should be contacted when only he can help.

During this difficult time, as we are also concerned with maintaining the material and fiscal health of our families, let us not forget, that we must also be concerned with maintaining the material health of our parishes, eparchies and Consistory. Should our Church structure and administration become jeopardized, so soon would the spiritual nourishment administered by our clergy.

There is a tendency among some clergy and faithful to “improve on” or disregard the directives of the civil authorities and their own bishops. The results of such conduct in other jurisdictions can now be seen on the internet, as clergy and laity get sick and worse. Should someone get sick or worse due to the actions of these “free radicals”, the stain would remain on them forever. If you have an idea, speak with your bishop before doing anything else, and get his blessing (permission).

We have included a prayer in Ukrainian with English translation (by the UOCC) from the Orthodox Church of Ukraine for the use of our clergy and faithful during the time of this pandemic. We will post a variety of material as it becomes available to inform and assist our church members.

I have asked our eparchial bishops to issue eparchial epistles in order to support our clergy and faithful at this time. We will post these epistles on eparchial websites and on the UOCC website, so that all of our members may benefit from the prayers and advice of our bishops.

Our Consistory will be teleconferencing, during the next few days, to discuss and decide important matters of administration of the UOCC. Following this, our clergy and faithful will be informed of these decisions in order to conduct their affairs in an orderly manner.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, be of good cheer, the Lord is near. Continue to pray to glorify God and for ourselves, our family and friends, our country, for our nation, for the whole of mankind and the world.

With love in Christ,

+ Yuriy, Metropolitan

+YURIJ, Metropolitan

March 23, 2020

Winnipeg, Canada

Молитва під час пошесті згубної (епідемії)*

Господи, Боже наш, багатий милосердям і милістю, що Своїм мудрим Провидінням керуєш нашим життям, вислухай нашу молитву, прийми покаєння за гріхи наші, припини пошесть згубну, яка спіткала нас, як Ти і раніше припиняв згубні пошесті серед людей.

Милосердний Спасителю, захисти здоров'я тих, хто на Тебе уповає. Лікарю душ і тіл наших, дай одужання тим, що хворіють, і підведи їх з ложа недуги та страждань. Благослови, Господи, укріпи і захисти Своєю благодаттю усіх тих, хто з благодійністю і жертовністю піклується про хворих вдома чи в лікарнях. Визволи людей в нашому місті (селі, монастирі), в нашій країні і по всьому світу від пошесті згубної, від хвороб і страждань та навчи нас цінувати життя і здоров'я як Твої дари. Дай нам, Боже, Твій мир і наповни наші серця непохитною вірою в Твій захист, надією на Твою підтримку і любов'ю до Тебе і наших ближніх.

Твоє бо є щоб милувати і спасати нас, Боже наш, і Тобі славу возсилаємо, Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духу, нині і повсякчас і навіки віків. Амінь.

Prayer in the Time of Ruinous Pestilence (Epidemic)*

O Lord, our God, Who is rich in compassion and mercy; Who directs our life by Your wise Providence. Hear our prayer, accept the repentance of our sins, bring an end to the ruinous pestilence that befalls us as You have, in times before, eradicated ruinous pestilence from among your people.

O Compassionate Saviour! Preserve the health of those who hope in You. O Physician of our souls and bodies, grant recovery to those who are ill and raise them up from their beds of malady and suffering. O Lord, bless, strengthen and protect, by Your grace, all those engaged, of their charity and generosity, in caring for the sick: both in hospitals and in their homes. Deliver the people of our city (*village, monastery*), our country, and throughout the world from ruinous pestilence, from illnesses and sufferings, and teach us to value life and good health – as gifts from You. Grant us, O God, Your peace. Fill our hearts with unwavering faith in Your protection, with hope in Your succour, with love for You and for our neighbours.

For Yours it is to have mercy upon us and to save us, O our God, and unto You we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.



**Затверджено Священним Синодом Православної Церкви України. Переклад англійською мовою Української Православної Церкви в Канаді (з благословення Високопреосвященнішого Митрополита Юрія).*

**Approved by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Translation into English by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy)*