

## A PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

Heavenly Father, your Son taught us “Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called children of God.”

At this hour, we fervently pray that your Holy Spirit may inspire men and women in Ukraine to become Peacemakers. May they seek reconciliation and dialogue and end the violent confrontation and killing. May they restore tranquility to their nation and restore human rights, democratic principles and religious liberty to their troubled land.

God, our Father, we beseech you to comfort the suffering, heal the wounded and accept the souls of the departed into Your Heavenly Kingdom.

And may the Most Holy Mother of God, extend her Blessed Mantle of Protection over Ukraine. And make each of us always live our lives as instruments of your peace. Amen.

### Announcements

#### 1. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING IMPORTANT EVENTS

- Holy Saturday, April 15
  - Blessings of Food Baskets 2 PM
  - Service of Our Lord’s Resurrection 7 PM
- Pascha Sunday, April 16
  - Resurrection of Our Lord—Pascha Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM
  - Blessing of Food Baskets following Divine Liturgy
- April 30 -Easter Dinner
- May 7 - 1st Penance & Holy Communion

#### 2. RAFFLE BASKETS

We are in need of raffle baskets for our annual Easter Dinner on Sunday, April 30th. If you are not able to make up a theme basket, but would like to make a monetary donation toward the make-up of a basket, please contact Jean Chomko @ (570) 342-5834, and she will be glad to coordinate a basket for you. Baskets can be brought to the hall and if possible, by Saturday, the day before the dinner, so that they can be set up on display. If for any reason that you are not able to bring it to the hall until the day of the dinner, please contact Jean to let her know and a space will be set up to place your basket that day. Thanks to all for your support!

#### 3. PLEASE NOTE:

Reservations for the May 21 bus trip to New York City are closed as the 55 passenger bus is full. In the meantime, mark your calendar for the Saturday, December bus trip to New York City at Christmastime sponsored by our parish. Details are forthcoming.

## Announcements

### 4. EASTER DINNER "SVIACHENE" CELEBRATION

Father Myron Myronyuk and his Parish Family of Scranton's Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church will conduct their annual Easter Dinner "Sviachene" celebration on Sunday, April 30, 2017, beginning at 12:30pm in the Parish Center at 428 North Seventh Avenue. Dinner will consist of borshch, holubchy, pyrohy, ham, kobasa, horseradish, rye bread, dessert and beverages. Takeouts available from 11:30am to 12 noon. Door prizes will be awarded along with a theme basket raffle. Admission: \$13.00 adults; \$8.00 children age 6-12; age 5 and under free. For reservations and takeout orders contact Maria Black at 570 503-1514. Advance reservations only - no tickets at the door. Reservation deadline is Monday, April 24. Everyone is invited to our welcoming church and at our table!

### 5. New Prayer Books to be Ordered

There will be new Prayer Books ordered for the Pews of our Church. Each book will cost \$2.00. If anyone would like to sponsor any or all of the cost of these books, please drop an envelope marked "Prayer Books" in the collection basket or see Fr. Myron. Thank you for your support.

## UKRAINIAN EASTER TRADITION

### NEW OR BRIGHT WEEK

All the days of this week are considered as constituting one day with Easter. It is called the New Week or BrightWeek for two reasons: because the whole creation is renewed by Christ, and because the catechumens who were baptized on Easter wore their white (baptismal) robes all week long. The catechumens were those who were instructed in the faith during the Great Fast in preparing to receive the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) of initiation on Easter Sunday. The three Holy Mysteries of initiation were: Baptism, Chrismation, and the Holy Eucharist.

The joyous celebration of the Lord's resurrection continues the entire week. The royal doors of the iconostasis are kept open the entire week to signify that Christ by His Resurrection opened the gates to heaven.

### ARTOS

The Easter bread is blessed on Easter Sunday and remains on the tetrapod placed with an icon cover for all of Bright Week. It is cut and distributed to the faithful on Thomas Sunday.

## UKRAINIAN EASTER TRADITION

### PYSANKA

Pysanka is an Ukrainian Easter egg. The word is derived from the Ukrainian word “pysaty,” meaning to write . The designs are written or drawn on egg with melted beeswax using an instrument called a “kystka.”

In many cultures, the egg was viewed as a source of creation. Pre-Christian peoples had used decorated eggs to welcome the sun during the spring cycle of festivals.

Written on the pysanka are symbols. The pysanka design blends ancient rituals with Christian traditions. Spring is time of rebirth: the grass turns green again, flowers bloom, and the birds sing a cheerful song.

Easter celebrates the Resurrection of our Lord. The egg symbol was likened to the tomb from which Jesus rose. The pysanka had taken on the symbolism of rebirth.

Since the acceptance of Christianity in 988, the pysanka has become part of the Ukrainian Easter celebration. Very often the pysanka contains intricate designs and were regarded as treasured religious momentos and are given as a personal gift with great value.

### SYMBOLS - DESIGNS

Motifs in designs are usually abstract representations of actual objects, creatures, etc.

**SYMBOLISM OF COLOR** Here are some of the symbolic meanings for colors used in decorating pysanky:

#### WHITE

Purity, innocence, and birth.

#### YELLOW

Light, purity, youth, love, harvest, happiness, and hospitality.

For Christians, reward and recognition.

#### ORANGE

Strength, endurance, eternal sun.

#### BLACK

Constancy, eternity, death, fear, ignorance.

#### BLUE

Good health, the sky, life-giving air.

#### BROWN

Mother earth and bountiful gifts.

#### GREEN

Spring, new growth, fertility, health, hopefulness

For Christians, bountifulness and victory of life over

death; also is a color for Christmas, white and green

for Easter.

### UKRAINIAN EASTER TRADITION

#### RED

Joy of life and love, passion and the sun.

For Christians, divine love and passion of Christ.

#### PURPLE

Fasting, faith, trust, patience.



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**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

Please include in your prayers those members of our parish who are in hospitals, care homes, rehabilitation facilities & those who are not able to join us actively in our church community.

Walter Skula



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