

Icons Show the Human Face of God

In recent months my Sunday reflections have frequently focused on our Christian brothers and sisters of the East. Wishing as it were to embrace their rich tradition of faith in a single glance, today I would like to refer once again to the sense of mystery which is apparent in their icons. The East and the West vie with each other to put their art at the service of the faith.

But from the East, where icons had to be defended with bloodshed in the iconoclast crisis of the eighth and ninth centuries, comes a particular call jealously to preserve the religious nature of this art. It is based on the mystery of the Incarnation, in which God chose to assume a human face. In the last analysis, sacred art seeks to transmit something of the mystery of that face.

This is why the East firmly insists on the spiritual qualities which must characterize the artist, to whom Simeon of Thessalonica, the great defender of Tradition, addresses this important exhortation: "Teach with words, write with letters, paint with colors, in conformity with Tradition; the painting is true, as is the writing of books; and the grace of God is present in them, because what is represented there is holy."

By contemplating icons in the whole context of liturgical and ecclesial life, the Christian community is called to grow in its experience of God, and to become more and more a living icon of the communion of life between the Three Divine Persons.

Pope John Paul II

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



Icon of the Holy Images

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Pastoral Care entrusted to:

Father Robert Hitchens – Administrator

Father Mykola Dziurakh – Parochial Vicar

Sunday – February 22, 2026

Glory to Jesus Christ – Glory to Him Forever + Слава Ісусу Христу – Слава на віки

Confessions are available before the Divine Liturgies

All Services will be Live Streamed at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Platform: <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>

Saturday February 21 5:30 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday February 22 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday of Orthodoxy (+Catherine and +Michael Dankewych from Family) (For the Parish)
Tuesday February 24 6:00 p.m.	4th Anniversary of the WAR (fullscale) Prayer Service For Peace In Ukraine
Wednesday February 25 7:00 p.m.	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Friday February 27 5:00 p.m.	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Saturday February 28 10:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.	Divine Liturgy (Sorokousty) Great Vespers
Sunday March 1 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Second Sunday of the Great Fast (+Deceased of the Keyes Family from the Keyes-Romaniuk Family) (For the Parish)

FIRST CONFESSION 2026 PREPARATION

Preparation for First Confession has begun. Classes will be held on Sundays. Please contact Olya Mulvey at olya.kroytor@gmail.com to learn more. All children must attend Divine Liturgy with their families on a weekly basis during their preparation. The SPRING SEMESTER class schedule is as follows: February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and March 28 - Lazarus Saturday - First Confession.

THE GREAT FAST – A TIME FOR PENANCE AND METANOIA

Our parish will make a commitment to observe this sacred time in accord with the authentic traditions of our Ukrainian Catholic Church. We will celebrate the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. (English and Ukrainian)** and on **Fridays at 5:00 p.m. (English)** in our Church. On Saturdays, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the Souls enrolled in the Sorokousty 10:00 a.m. in our Church. Christians have been challenged to practice: **FASTING – ALMSGIVING – PRAYER – AS A WAY OF LIFE AND A WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE**. All parishioners are urged to resolve to make their best effort to attend at least **5** of these sacred services during the Great Fast, especially those in which we remember our deceased loved ones. All must attend the Divine Liturgy on Sundays.

SPIRITUAL REGULATIONS FOR THE GREAT FAST 2026

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstinence from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the following are the minimal Lenten regulations today: Abstinence from meat and all dairy products on Good Friday. Abstinence from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional to voluntarily abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the Great Fast. Everyone should receive the Holy Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist during the period from the onset of Great Fast to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday. The Fasting and Abstinence regulations are not binding on persons 60 or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe the fasting and abstinence regulations.

Everyone, regardless of age, is encouraged to observe the GREAT FAST as piously as possible!

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR SOROKOUSTY 2026 (LIST OF YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES)

In the Ukrainian Catholic Church, it is the custom to remember our beloved dead during the time of the Great Fast. These commemorations occur on Saturdays because the Saviour of the world rested in the grave on Great and Holy Saturday, awaiting the Resurrection. Thus, Saturday became for Christians the day for commemorating the deceased, who await the resurrection on the last day. We will be starting our remembrances of the dead on Saturdays, beginning February 21 at 10:00 a.m. Please take the time to remember your deceased family members on the Saturdays of the Great Fast. They hope for our prayers; and in turn, they pray for us. Please submit an envelope with your list of names by email or US Mail. An offering is customarily given to the priests.

PRAYER LIST

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: **Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Valarie Balthis, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Terry Boyle, Taisia Bullard, Mary Connors, Veronica Cosio, Darlene Dossick, Robert Dulaine, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Myroslava Futey, Lilian Garland, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Robert Harnest, Catherine Hetmansky, Vanessa Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Fr. Robert Hitchens, Boris Hlynsky, Daniel Horeczko, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyj, Nila Iwaskiw, Sarah Kelt, LTJG Lydia Kowalskyj USN, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Melissa Martin, Paul Marynowych, Irene Nagurney, Myron Nagurney Jr, Michele Pretka Litvak, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Patricia Pylypec, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Ivanna Richardson, Roman Rusynko, Chris Saboe, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Teresa Sherwood, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Stefania Szahaj, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Fr. George Worschak, and Paul Yarrish.** If you know of someone who should be on this list, please email or call with the name of the individual. Our intercessory prayer for the sick and the aged is truly helpful and comforting. In your Christian Charity, kindly remember our sick parishioners in your prayers and perhaps a card or note.