



March 6, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST



Parish Schedule

Mar. 5 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm
For our Parish Family

**Mar. 6 (Sun) FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
Divine Liturgy 10:30am**
+Teresa Spudic req of family

Mar. 11 (Fri) PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 7:00pm

Mar. 12 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm
For our Parish Family

**Mar. 13 (Sun) SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
Divine Liturgy 10:30am**
+Charles Zeleznik req by Norman & Eileen

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**Our Tithe to our Parish - February 27, 2022 - \$2,549.00**  
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The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of Mar. 6 thru Mar. 12 for the health and well-being of Fr. Petro.



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*Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.*



Tillie Abraham, Ron Bishop, George Bodnar ,  
Pamela Seech Dawson, Steve Fekete, Margaret Gegick, Kevin Ianni,  
Fr. John Petro, Ted Race, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko Sr.

**MOUNT SAINT MACRINA  
HOUSE OF PRAYER**



**March 19 9:30am - 1:15pm**  
**Saturday Lenten Morning of Reflection in House Program**

Conference, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Prayer Service,  
Light Lunch  
With Fr. Joel Barstad  
Registration Due: March 12 Offering: \$40. Space limited.  
Register early.  
Proof of full vaccination and masks are required.

**March 29 6:30pm - 8:30pm**  
**Tuesday Evening Informational Presentation In House Program**

*“Human Trafficking: It’s Closer Than You Think!”*  
With Patricia Mowen from the Crime Victims’ Center  
Program is especially good for parents, grandparents, babysitters, guardians.  
Registration Due: March 22 Offering: \$20. Includes printed material.  
Space limited. Register early.  
Proof of full vaccination and masks are required.



## *A PRAYER GATHERING FOR PEACE*

This Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 2:30pm, Christian Associates is among numerous co-sponsors of a Prayer Gathering for Peace, an interfaith service at Saint Paul Cathedral in Oakland, Pittsburgh organized in collaboration and solidarity with the Pittsburgh-area Ukrainian Community.

Please plan to attend -- your prayers are needed.



*Excerpts from Great Lenten Fast message  
from Archbishop William Skurla*

The Great Fast is the season of praying, fasting and alms giving. We certainly will remember Ukraine in our praying and fasting during the Great Fast.

We pray for our members who have families living in Ukraine. Especially, we pray for the families of our ten priests from Ukraine serving in the Pittsburgh Archeparchy as well as for several other priests and religious serving other churches in the United States.

We will take a collection on the Third Sunday of the Fast (March 20) for the Church in Ukraine. We will transfer the offering to the Eparchy of Mukachevo.

### **NOTE:**

St. Stephen will be accepting the donations to be sent to our diocese and then forwarded to the Ukraine. If by check, please make it payable to St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church and also note on envelope or on memo "Donation for Ukraine".

*Pray for Peace in Ukraine*

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

With the help of God, we have completed the first week of the Great Fast. And it hopefully has been a good start for our parish.

This first Sunday of the Great Fast is dedicated to the Holy Icons ... the victory of those who venerated icons in their worship over those who sought to smash and destroy all religious images and symbols.



Images are an important part of our lives. We keep mementoes of treasured events ... and these are important.

Our eyes need to see ... just as our ears need to hear ... and we need to taste and touch and smell ... this is the way we are made. God has created our senses and He comes to us often through our senses. God cannot be contained by our senses ... but they can open us up to Him and his world.

As we venerate the holy icons today, we give thanks for all the ways God reaches us through our senses ... these same senses that were anointed at our baptism ... dedicated to God ... and we rededicate ourselves to using them for wholesome purposes.

## **OUR JOURNEY THROUGH THE GREAT FAST**

This second week of the Fast reminds us that this is a *favorable time* for our conversion ... it is that special tie given to us to remind us of our call to return to our baptismal commitment ... especially through *prayer, fasting, and almsgiving*.

*O God, you now lead us into this holy season of the Fast  
and permit us to begin the period of the second week.  
Lead our work, O Lord, to a good conclusion.  
Fill our souls and bodies with grace and strength,  
so that at the end of this journey,  
we may reach the sovereign day of your holy Resurrection,  
and that obtaining the crown of victory,  
we may unceasingly praise you.*