

УСПЕННЯ ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ

Dormition of the Mother of God

Sunday, March 15, 2026

“Fourth Sunday of Lent”

Reflections for this Weekend

In the Gospel according to Gospel of Mark (9:17–31), we encounter a scene that reveals the deep struggle of the human heart standing between faith and despair. A father brings his tormented son to Christ. The boy is possessed by a spirit that throws him into convulsions, into fire and water, seeking to destroy him. The father has already approached the disciples, but they were unable to help. Now he stands before Jesus carrying not only the suffering of his child but also the crushing weight of disappointment.

There is something profoundly human in this moment. The father does not approach Christ with perfect faith or confident certainty. Instead, he speaks with painful honesty: “If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” His words reveal a wounded hope. He wants to believe, but experience has shaken him.

Christ’s response gently exposes the deeper issue: “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father cries out with one of the most moving prayers found anywhere in Scripture: “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

This cry is the prayer of every soul that longs for God but feels the weakness of its own heart. Faith, in the Christian life, is rarely perfect or triumphant. More often it is fragile, trembling, mixed with doubt and fear. Yet the beauty of this father’s prayer is that he does not hide his weakness from Christ. He brings his broken faith exactly as it is.

And that is enough.

Christ does not demand flawless faith before acting. Instead, He meets the father in the honesty of his struggle. The miracle that follows is not only the healing of the boy but also the quiet healing of the father’s heart. The Lord shows that faith grows not by pretending we are strong, but by surrendering our weakness to Him.

The disciples later ask Jesus privately why they could not cast out the spirit. His answer reveals another profound spiritual truth: “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.” These words remind us that spiritual battles cannot be won by technique, authority, or even good intentions alone. Evil is not overcome by human strength but by a life deeply rooted in communion with God.

Prayer opens the soul to divine power. Fasting humbles the body and quiets the passions so that the heart becomes attentive to God. Together they create the interior space where grace can act.

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The Gospel also reveals something about the hidden suffering that exists in many lives. The possessed boy represents more than one individual tragedy; he reflects the brokenness that afflicts humanity, spiritual confusion, inner torment, and the forces that try to drag the soul away from life into destruction. Yet Christ stands in the midst of this chaos as the One who restores life.

When Jesus lifts the boy from the ground, the child appears almost dead, but Christ takes him by the hand and raises him up. This gesture echoes the mystery of resurrection itself. Where the world sees death, Christ brings life.

For every believer, the path of faith includes moments like that father's cry. We believe, yet we struggle. We trust, yet we fear. But the Gospel assures us that Christ does not reject imperfect faith. Instead, He transforms it.

The most powerful prayer may not be the confident declaration of a strong believer, but the trembling whisper of a wounded heart: "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief." In that humble confession, the door of grace opens, and Christ enters the deepest places of our weakness to raise us into new life.



We are most appreciative for your generosity in donations to the church, and pray that the Lord bless you all with many blessings and good health.

From the Pastor's desk!!!

In this week's bulletin you will find the schedule of the religious services that will take place from **Palm Sunday through the glorious Feast of the Resurrection Sunday.**

These days are the most sacred and meaningful moments of our liturgical year, when we walk spiritually with Christ through His passion, suffering, death, and finally rejoice in the victory of His Resurrection.

I warmly encourage each of you to make a sincere effort to attend these services and to pray with our parish community. Your presence and prayer are not only a personal blessing but also a powerful witness of faith.

We live in times marked by uncertainty, conflict, war, and violence. Many hearts are troubled, and many people in our world suffer deeply. In moments like these, the Church reminds us that prayer is not powerless. Prayer brings light into darkness, hope into despair, and peace into wounded hearts.

Let us come together during these holy days to pray, to reflect, and to renew our faith in the risen Christ who alone brings true peace and hope to the world.

May this sacred time lead each of us closer to God and fill our hearts with the joy of the Resurrection.



Ukrainian Pysanky Workshop

Join us for our beginner-friendly Ukrainian Pysanky (Easter Egg Decorating) workshop where you can learn about the history, basic techniques, materials, colors, and designs of this ancient Eastern European art of egg decorating! All supplies will be provided.

DATE & TIME 21 MARCH 2025 FROM 10 AM - 1 PM	LOCATION DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD CHURCH 3720 W MARYLAND AVE. PHOENIX, AZ 85019	ENTRY FEE \$35 PER PERSON
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FOR REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

[HTTPS://UKIEPYSANKY.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://ukiepysanky.eventbrite.com)

“The courage to follow Jesus and denial ourself”

Christ speaks words that challenge the very foundation of the human heart: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.” In a world that constantly teaches us to affirm every desire and pursue whatever pleases us, these words sound almost shocking. Yet they reveal the beginning of true discipleship and the doorway to spiritual freedom.

To deny oneself does not mean rejecting the goodness of life or suppressing the dignity that God placed within us. It is not about hatred of oneself, but about liberation from the tyranny of the ego. The fallen human heart easily becomes centered on “I”: my comfort, my opinion, my success, my desires. Slowly, often without noticing it, the self takes the place that belongs to God. When that happens, even good things become distorted, because they are directed toward our own satisfaction rather than toward love.

Christ invites us to a different path. Self-denial is the quiet but powerful decision to remove the self from the throne of the heart so that God may reign there. It is the daily choice to let God’s will shape our lives instead of our impulses or moods. This is not an easy invitation, because the ego resists surrender. Yet the paradox of the spiritual life is that the more we cling to ourselves, the more restless and empty we become, while the more we surrender ourselves to God, the more deeply we experience peace.

Denying oneself begins in small, hidden ways. It appears when a person listens instead of insisting on being heard. It appears when someone forgives even though pride urges revenge. It appears when we resist the need to be praised or recognized. These acts may seem insignificant, but in the spiritual life they are moments of quiet victory where grace reshapes the heart.

Self-denial also teaches us humility. Humility is not humiliation; it is the clear awareness that our life is a gift. When we deny the illusion that we are the center of everything, we begin to see God’s presence in every moment and in every person. The heart becomes more attentive, more compassionate, and more capable of genuine love.

This teaching of Christ is particularly important in our time. Modern culture often confuses freedom with the ability to satisfy every desire. But when desires become the ultimate authority, they begin to control us rather than serve us. True freedom is not the absence of limits; it is the strength to choose what is good even when it is difficult. Self-denial trains the soul in this freedom.

For a Catholic today, denying oneself requires quiet courage. It means resisting the pressure to conform to a culture that encourages self-centered living. It means choosing prayer when distraction is easier, choosing generosity when selfishness feels natural, choosing truth when

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silence would be more comfortable. It is not always dramatic or visible, but it shapes the soul in profound ways.

When a person learns to deny himself for the sake of Christ, something beautiful happens within the heart. The restless need to control everything slowly fades, and a deeper peace begins to grow. Love becomes less about what we receive and more about what we give. Gradually, the soul discovers that self-denial is not a loss but a transformation.

Christ never asks us to deny ourselves in order to diminish us. He asks it because He knows that the human heart finds its true life only when it is no longer imprisoned by self-centeredness. In surrendering the false center of our lives, we discover the presence of God at the center instead.

And in that quiet surrender, the soul begins to experience the freedom, peace, and joy that only God can give



Just for your consideration!!

As good stewards of the blessings entrusted to our parish, we continually work to care for and maintain the property that serves our community.

At this time, we are in the process of selecting a company that will repair and restore our two parking lots. After many years of use and exposure to the elements, these areas now require significant work to ensure they remain safe, functional, and welcoming for everyone who comes to our church.

The estimated cost for completing this project will be approximately \$40,000.00. Thanks to the generosity of those who responded to our previous request, we were able to raise \$500.00, for which we are sincerely grateful. Every contribution, no matter the size, is a sign of love and care for our parish home.

If you are in a position to make a donation toward this important project, we would deeply appreciate your support. Your generosity will help us continue to maintain our church property so that it remains a safe and welcoming place for worship, fellowship, and community gatherings.

Please do not feel obligated, but if you are able to help, your kindness will make a meaningful difference. May the Lord bless your generosity and repay you a hundredfold for the goodness you share with His Church.

With gratitude and prayers,

Fr Hugo and the Pastoral Council



Easter

PASKA SALE

Please contact the Church at 602-347-9267 or the Rectory at 602-973-3667 to reserve your Paska. Paskas will be ready for pickup on 3/29 from 11:30am to 1pm and Sunday 4/5 after the Liturgy.

Large Paska - \$15

Medium Paska - \$10

Small Paska (For Kids) - \$5

**Dormition of the Mother of God
3720 W Maryland Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85019**

Sunday, March 29

“Palm Sunday”

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9. **Gospel:** John 12:1-18.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and

Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends

Monday, March 30

“Holy Monday”

Reading: Exodus 1:1-20; **Reading:** Job 1:1-12 **Gospel:** Matthew 24:3-35

6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

Tuesday, March 31

“Holy Tuesday”

Reading: Exodus 2:5-10; **Reading:** Job 1:13-22 **Gospel:** Matthew 24:36-26:2

6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

Wednesday, April 1

“Holy Wednesday”

Reading: Exodus 2:5-10; **Reading:** Job 1:13-22 **Gospel:** Matthew 26:6-16

6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 2

“Holy Thursday”

Reading: Isaiah 50:4-11; 1 **Epistle:** Corinthians 11:23-32 **Gospel:** Matthew 26:2-20; John 13:3-17; Matthew 26:31-39 Luke 22:43-45; Matthew 26:40-27:2

6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with Vespers

Friday, April 3

“Good Friday”

Reading: Isaiah 52:13—54:1; **Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2 **Gospel:** Matthew 27:1-38; Luke 23:39-44; Matthew 27:39-54 John 19:31-37; Matthew 27:55-61

9:00 a.m. Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels

5:00 p.m. Solemn Vespers & Placing of Holy Shroud (Plashchanytsia)

Saturday, April 4

“Holy Saturday”

Epistle: Romans 6:3-11 **Gospel:** Matthew 28:1-20

5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with Vespers

Sunday, April 5

“Resurrection of our Lord ” “Easter Sunday ”

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 **Gospel:** John 1:1-17

7:00 a.m. Prayers in front of the Holy Shroud.

Procession around the church — Resurrection Matins

Note: Today the priest blesses Paschal foods following the Liturgy

And following by the Potluck Easter Community Breakfast

All of you are invite

Ukrainian Catholic Parish
Pastor
Very Rev. Hugo Soutus
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Parish: (602) 347-9267
Emergency:
602-329-3281

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DMofGod@cox.net

Website:
www.Ukrainianchurch.org

Sunday Divine Liturgy:
8:50 a.m. The Third Hour
And
Prayer Service for Peace in
Ukraine.
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Religious Education
September - May

Sacraments Penance:
Sunday before Liturgies
or by appointment

Baptism - Matrimony
In most instances
six-month membership
required

Funerals
Membership of an
immediate family member
required

**Communion to the
Homebound**
If you or your family
members are confined to a
health center or are
homebound, please contact
Fr. Hugo directly so that
arrangements can be made
for his visitation.

Sunday, March 15

"4th Sunday of Great Lent"

"John Climacus"

Epistle: Hebrew 6:13-20. **Gospel:** Mark 9:17-31.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and

Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends
In Loving memory of **+Kenneth Martindale** from Rick and Ulana Martindale

Monday, March 16

"The Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Papas"

Reading: Genesis 13:12-18; **Reading:** Proverbs 14:27-15

Tuesday, March 17

"Our Venerable Father Alexis, Man of God"

Reading: Genesis 15:1-15; **Reading:** Proverbs 15:7-19

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Wednesday, March 18

"Our Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem"

Reading: Genesis 17:1-9; **Reading:** Proverbs 15:20-16:9.

6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy (English)

Thursday, March 19

"The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria"

Reading: Genesis 18:20-33 **Reading:** Proverbs 16:17-33

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Friday, March 20

"Our Venerable Fathers of the Monastery of St. Sabbas"

Reading: Genesis 22:1-18; **Reading:** Proverbs 17:17-18:5.

6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy (Ukrainian)

Saturday, March 21

"Saturday of the Akathist Hymn"

Epistle: Hebrew 9:24-28. **Gospel:** Mark 8:27-31

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Sunday, March 22

"5th Sunday of Lent " Venerable Mother, Mary of Egypt"

Epistle: Hebrew 9:11-14. **Gospel:** Mark 10:32:45.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and

Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends
Gods blessings and good health **Lorelei Dunn** from Rick and Ulana Martindale