

Dormition of the Mother of God

Sunday, November 16, 2025

"23rd Sunday after Pentecost"

Reflections for this Weekend

The Parable of the Good Samaritan is not merely a teaching about kindness; it is a revelation of God's own heart and a window into the mystery of salvation. When the lawyer asks Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" he seeks a boundary, something manageable and definable, someone worthy of his attention. But Jesus does not give him a category; He gives him a story that uncovers the wounded condition of the human soul and the limitless compassion of God.

In the Eastern Catholic tradition, this parable is first read not as a moral instruction but as a revelation of Christ Himself. The traveler who goes down from Jerusalem to Jericho is an image of humanity descending from communion with God into the valley of brokenness, where the thieves of sin and the passions strip us of our dignity and leave us half dead.

The priest and Levite who pass by represent every system, law, or principle that can diagnose our wounds but cannot heal them. Only the One whom the world considers a stranger, Christ our God, draws near. He bends down to our misery, touches the wounds we hide, and pours upon them the oil of the Holy Spirit and the wine of His Precious Blood. He places us on His own shoulders as He once bore the Cross, and carries us to the inn, which the Fathers understand as the Church, the hospital where our healing continues through grace, prayer, and the sacraments.

But the parable does not stop at describing God's mercy toward us; it invites us to be transformed by that mercy. To be a neighbor is to reflect the very nature of God, because mercy is not merely something God does it is who God is. When Christ says, "Go and do likewise," He is not offering a moral suggestion but calling us into participation in the divine life.

The mercy we extend becomes the measure of our likeness to God, for every act of compassion is a small incarnation of His love in the world.

What makes the Samaritan holy is not simply that he felt pity, but that he allowed himself to be interrupted. He stopped. He saw. He acted. In a world driven by speed, self-protection, and distraction, love requires the courage to slow down, to become attentive, and to let another's pain touch our hearts.

The parable teaches us that salvation is not found in avoiding the wounded, but in drawing near to them because every wounded person, whether in our family, parish, workplace, or the quiet corners of society, is Christ waiting to be loved.

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The courage to hope is one of the greatest spiritual battles of our age.

True Christian hope is not a mood, not a fleeting feeling, not a fragile wish that things might turn out better. It is a **theological virtue**, breathed into the soul by the Holy Spirit, rooted in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. Hope is the inner power that lets us stand upright in a world that often bows beneath despair. Hope is the flame that refuses to go out in the winds of war, sickness, confusion, and suffering.

In the Eastern Christian tradition, hope is intertwined with the very life of God. When we dare to hope, we allow the life of the Holy Trinity to pulse within us. This means that hope cannot be destroyed by earthly circumstances, because its source is not earthly. It comes from the One who is eternal, unchanging, victorious over every darkness.

To hope with courage is to look at the world through the eyes of Christ. It is to see war and pray for peace even when peace seems impossible. It is to see sickness and still trust in God's healing presence, whether that healing comes in body, in soul, or in the mystery of eternity. It is to see division, hatred, and fear, and still believe that mercy can mend what anger has shattered.

This hope is courageous precisely because it exists in tension with what our eyes see and what our hearts feel. Hope stands in the middle of the contradiction between the cross and the resurrection, between suffering and glory. It is that deep spiritual knowledge that **God is working even when we cannot see it**, that His timing is perfect even when it feels slow, and that His love holds us even when life feels unbearable.

The boldness of Christian hope lies in its defiance. It looks at evil and does not yield. It looks at death and does not surrender. It looks at personal failure and refuses to define the soul by its wounds. Hope is not denial of reality it is the courage to proclaim that there is a greater reality hidden within and beyond what we see.

Hope tells the heart:

“The cross is not the end. The grave is not the final word. God's silence is not His absence. Your suffering is not meaningless. Your tears are not wasted. Your prayers are not ignored.”

Hope is the strength of the martyrs who sang hymns in prison cells.

Hope is the patience of the sick who cling to Christ in their suffering.

Hope is the steadfastness of families who struggle yet remain faithful.

Hope is the prayer of the Church rising from lands torn by war. In times of personal suffering, hope becomes intimate. It whispers to the soul that Christ is closer than our own breath. It teaches us that suffering does not separate us from God but often

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**The 92nd
Commemoration of the
Holodomor
Famine-Geocide in Ukraine
1932-1933**

Saturday, November 22nd

Dormition of the Mother of God

3720 West Maryland Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85019

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**In Loving Memory Of The Victims
and Panakhyda Service**

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The Samaritan pays for the man’s healing from his own resources and promises more on his return. This self-emptying generosity mirrors the kenosis of Christ, who gave all without calculation and continues to pour out grace beyond measure. Love is costly; forgiveness often demands more than we think we can give; compassion stretches us beyond our comfort.

Yet it is in this costly giving that our hearts are transfigured, and we discover the joy and freedom of becoming living icons of God’s mercy.

Thus the parable becomes not only a story we hear but a path we walk. Christ has found us on the roadside, healed us, and carried us into the life of the Church. Now He sends us back into the world to seek the broken, to bind wounds with gentleness, and to let His mercy shine through our words, choices, and presence.

May Christ, the true Healer of souls, grant us hearts wide enough to love as He loves, eyes sharp enough to see the wounded He places along our path, and the courage to make our lives a living icon of His mercy in a world hungry for compassion



Third Bann of Marriage

We joyfully announce the intention of **Tiffany Anne Goldberg** and **Christian Andrew Walter Turner** to receive the **Holy Mystery of Matrimony** in our church.

As they prepare to enter this sacred covenant, let us surround them with our prayers, that the Lord may bless their union, strengthen their love, and grant them a life of faith and peace. If anyone knows of a canonical impediment to this marriage, please contact the pastor in due time.

We are most appreciative for the generous donations to the church, and pray that the Lord grant you many, many blessings, prosperity and good health!

On Friday, November 21, our Church celebrates the beautiful feast of The Entrance of the Holy Theotokos into the Temple a day filled with light, hope, and gratitude for the Mother of God’s total offering of herself to the Lord.

To honor this feast, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Thursday, and we warmly invite everyone to come and join us in worship. Let us gather together to honor the Theotokos, to give thanks for her intercession, and to ask her guidance as we offer our own lives to God.

Please come and celebrate with us your presence is a blessing to our parish family.

**DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
UKRAINIAN FUNDRAISER**

SPORTING CLAY SHOOT

Agenda:

Registration will begin at 8:00am

Safety Briefing 8:30am

Shoot Begins 9am

Lunch & Prizes immediately following

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- ✓ Lunch
- ✓ Ammunition & Shotgun
- ✓ Safety Review
- ✓ Raffle prizes!

DEC. 13TH, 2025

www.ukrainianchurch.org/sportingclayshoot

REGISTRATION:

- ✓ Individual Shooter \$200
- ✓ 4 Person Team \$800

SPONSORSHIP:

- ✓ Exclusive Title Sponsor \$2000 (Squad included, exclusive signage)
- ✓ Station Sponsor \$300
- ✓ Awards Sponsor \$400
- ✓ Door Prize Sponsor \$500
- ✓ Shell Sponsor \$600
- ✓ Lunch Sponsor \$700

**SQUADS OF 4 COMPETING FOR TOP INDIVIDUAL AND
TEAM PRIZES**

LOCATION

Rio Salado Sportsman's Club
3960 N Usery Pass Rd., Mesa, AZ 85207

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brings us deeper into His heart. Hope reveals that the wounds we carry can become places of encounter with Christ, who Himself was wounded for our healing.

In times of sickness, hope becomes a steady light. It gives strength when the body weakens and peace when the future is uncertain. Christian hope does not promise the avoidance of suffering; it promises that **Christ will walk with us through it**, and that all suffering united to Him becomes redemptive.

In times of war and global turmoil, hope becomes intercession a prayer that rises from the depth of human anguish and touches the throne of God. This hope believes that peace is possible because Christ is the Prince of Peace, and His Kingdom is not shaken by the violence of nations.

In times of division, hope becomes a bridge. It grants the courage to forgive, to listen, to love those who differ from us. It refuses to let hatred define who we are. Hope reminds us that unity is not human work alone; it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

To hope courageously is to allow the resurrection to shape the way we live today. It is to carry within us a quiet but unbreakable conviction that **light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death, and love is stronger than every force that opposes it**. This is why the saints radiated peace even in suffering they had anchored their lives in the certainty of God's victory.

Ultimately, Christian hope is the courage to entrust everything our fears, our illnesses, our uncertainties, our very lives into the hands of the God who loves us. It is the courage to say with Christ in Gethsemane, *"Not my will, but Yours be done,"* trusting that God's will is always salvation, always mercy, always life.

May this courageous hope root itself deeply in our souls,

illuminating every darkness,

strengthening every weakness,

and leading us, step by step,

into the radiant and eternal day of Christ's Kingdom

the day when every tear will be wiped away and all creation will be restored in the love of God.



We warmly invite you to join us for the **Divine Liturgy in Loving Memory of the Victims of the Holodomor**, which we will celebrate on **Saturday, November 22 at 8:00 AM**.

Together, let us honor the millions who suffered and perished, pray for their eternal rest, and ask the Lord to grant peace, healing, and justice to all who still carry the wounds of this tragedy.



Ukrainian Christmas Pysanky Workshop

Join us for our beginner-friendly Ukrainian Pysanky (Egg Decorating) workshop where you will learn about the basic techniques, materials, colors, and designs of this ancient Eastern European art of egg decorating! After creating your beautiful Pysanky, we will turn it into a Christmas ornament! All supplies will be provided.

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

FOR REGISTRATION & INFORMATION



[HTTPS://UKRAINIANCHRISTMASPYSANKY.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://ukrainianchristmaspysanky.eventbrite.com)

Ukrainian Catholic Parish
Pastor
Very Rev. Hugo Soutus
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Phoenix, AZ. 85019
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Parish: (602) 347-9267
Emergency:
602-329-3281

E-mail:
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, November 16

"23rd Sunday after Pentecost"

"The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew"

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

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

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Monday, November 17

"Our Holy Father Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop of Neocaesarea"

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 2:20-3:8 Gospel: Luke 14:12-15

Tuesday, November 18

"The Holy Martyrs Plato and Roman"

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Gospel: Luke 14:25-35

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Wednesday, November 19

"The Holy Prophet Obadiah"

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

Thursday, November 20

"Our Venerable Father Gregory of Decapolis"

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8 Gospel: Luke 16:1-9

6:00 pm In loving memory of +Michael Zukoski from Fr Hugo

Friday, November 21

"The Entrance into the Temple of the Holy Theotokos"

Epistle: Hebrew 9:1-7. Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

Saturday, November 22

"The Holy Apostle Philemon and Those with Him"

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:1-6 Gospel: Luke 9:57-62

8:00 am In Loving Memory Of The Victims Of The Holodomor
and Panakhyda Service

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Sunday, November 23

"24th Sunday after Pentecost"

"Our Holy Father Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium"

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22 Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

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