



THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PARMA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Prot. No. 42/2021 L

DECREE

In the Name of the Lord. Amen.

Whereas the eparchial bishops meeting on 9 June 2021 in the Council of Hierarchs of the Metropolitan Byzantine Catholic Church of Pittsburgh *sui iuris*, in consultation with His Excellency, Archbishop William C. Skurla, agreed to set the official stipend for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at twenty dollars (\$20.00 US) in each of their (arch)eparchies; and

Whereas the above-referenced dollar amount applies to the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, and the Divine Liturgy of Saint Gregory the Dialogist and Pope of Rome, commonly called the Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts; and

Whereas the eparchial bishops in communion with His Excellency, Archbishop William C. Skurla, agreed to set in each of their (arch)eparchies the offering for the five (5) All Souls Saturdays at fifty dollars (\$50.00 US) per liturgical commemoration;

It is thus decreed that in the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians the above decisions are effective immediately with the exception of those stipends accepted prior to promulgation of this decree.

This degree thus derogates from the eparchial statutes. The approved stipend is the suggested fixed offering when the faithful request a set amount or when the amount is published. Priests are free to accept a smaller or greater amount or no offering at all. If the amount is greater than the set stipend, the priest is to forward the difference to the Eparchial Chancery for deposit into the fund for the promotion of vocations and seminary education.

It is to be noted that every pastor and administrator of a parish is personally obliged to offer the Divine Liturgy for the people entrusted to him on every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation; this Divine Liturgy is for living parishioners. While it is certainly praiseworthy to offer the Divine Liturgy for deceased parishioners, this does not fall within the meaning of the obligatory intention. If the priest is unable to offer it on the day itself, he must ensure that it is offered on the same day by another priest, or offered on another day by himself (canon 294 *CCEO*). A priest who is pastor or administrator of more than one parish is obliged to offer only one Divine Liturgy for all those entrusted to his care.

The pastor may not receive any monetary offering or other financial compensation for offering the Divine Liturgy for the people. If another priest offers the Divine Liturgy for the people on behalf of the pastor or administrator, the pastor or administrator should personally give the other priest a monetary offering. The parish must not give a priest an offering for the Divine Liturgy for the people.

This decree is to be promulgated in the eparchial publication *Horizons* and on the eparchial website. Posting on the eparchial website is to be considered official promulgation of this decree.

Given at the Chancery of the Eparchy of Parma, on this 25th day of June, 2021.

The Most Reverend Milan Lach, S.J.
Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma



Chancellor