



**Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Church
(St. Mary's)**

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Reverend Alexander Dumenko — Pastor (301) – 421 – 1739

Sunday Divine Liturgies: 8:30 a.m.

Holy Days as scheduled in the Bulletin

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 07, 2021

Sunday, February 07, 2021 Sunday of Meat Fare

5:00PM – For God’s Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular

For special intention of Fr. Juan Puigbo from Martha & John Stine

Sunday, February 14, 2021 Sunday of Cheese Fare

8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God’s Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular

For special intention of Fr. Mauricio Pineda from Martha & John Stine

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Sunday of Meat Fare



Today’s Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ’s love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the

death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, “Who will render to every man according to his deeds” (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God’s mercy and forgiveness will have passed. As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ’s brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent. *Source: oca.org*

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE

Troparion and Kontakion:

Troparion (3): Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice, for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm. He trampled death by death; He became the firstborn of the dead; He saved us from the abyss of Hades and granted great mercy to the world.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Kontakion (1): When You will come to earth in glory, O God, and all creatures will tremble before You, the river of fire will flow before Your judgment seat, and the books will be opened and all hidden things revealed; deliver me from the unquenchable fire and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O righteous Judge.

Prokimenon (3): Great is our Lord and mighty in strength, and His wisdom is without measure. **Verse:** Praise the Lord for He is good. Sing to our God for He is loving; to Him our praise is due.

Prokimenon (3): Great is our Lord and mighty in strength, and His wisdom is without measure.

Epistle: Reading of the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (1Cor 8,8-13;9,1-2) Brethren: Now food will not bring us closer to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, nor are we better off if we do. But make sure that this liberty of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak. If someone sees you, with your knowledge, reclining at table in the temple of an idol, may not his conscience too, weak as it is, be “built up” to eat the meat sacrificed to idols? Thus, through your knowledge, the weak person is brought to destruction, the brother for whom Christ died. When you sin in this way against your brothers and wound their consciences, weak as they are, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I may not cause my brother to sin. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? Although I may not be an apostle for others, certainly I am for you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Alleluia Verses: Verse: Come, ring out your joy to the Lord; hail God Who is our Savior. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: Let us

come before Him, giving thanks; with songs let us hail the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel: (Mt 25,31-46) The Lord said, When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right. 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Communion Verse: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



A Summary Report on the State of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia January 30, 2021

It has been almost two years since the nomination of His Grace Borys Gudziak as Archbishop of Philadelphia and Metropolitan for Ukrainian Catholics in the United States. Also, almost a year has passed since the global coronavirus pandemic put a stop to so many plans and forced us to rethink how we teach, worship and work together for the glory of God and for the salvation of those He has entrusted to our care. By the Lord's grace, with the blessing of His Holiness Pope Francis and at the behest of our Patriarch and Synod of Bishops, the Archeparchy is seeking to fulfill its mission in a spirit of synodality, so characteristic of our Eastern Christian tradition. We have already held a number of gatherings at various levels in preparation for an all-Ukrainian Catholic Church Assembly-Sobor, scheduled for 2020 but in all likelihood to be held in 2022. In addition to the sobor topics articulated by the leadership of our Church (global communion-unity of the UGCC and missionary outreach beyond its current membership) our Archeparchial Assembly-Sobor was able to address broader issues related to its mission and life in a consultation process that allowed the new Pastor to become better acquainted with his flock, and vice-versa.

The Archeparchial Assembly-Sobor gathered in two sessions in 2019 (October and December), with representatives from across the Archeparchy. In 2020 (November-December) four sessions were held at the deanery level via ZOOM, as we were under COVID-19 restrictions. A final summary report session via ZOOM was held on January 23 of this year. The reaction to the Sobor process has been most positive and enthusiastic. It's outcome is clearly fruitful. Over a period of sixteen months our Sobor was able to bring together over 200 spirited delegates from our parishes who helped formulate and prioritize resolutions that will serve as guidelines for the ministry of the Archeparchy for the coming years. The complete proceedings will be published in the coming weeks so that all who are interested may be fully informed. We are moving towards reviving our Archeparchial Pastoral Council. A preparatory meeting is scheduled for February 27. The future Pastoral Council will advise the Archbishop on the pastoral concerns of the clergy, religious, and laity of our local Church, on the needs of the parish communities, as well as propose priorities and concrete action to promote the mission of the Archeparchy. We have been and will be "together" in many ways. Notwithstanding the lockdown and Covid restrictions, the Metropolitan has been able to visit 58 of our 63 parish churches and missions. These encounters have been warm and mutually inspiring.

Our Archeparchy has remained resilient amidst the ravages of COVID-19. Our Sobor delegates movingly and insightfully described the blessings that emerged during this time of trials. We have recognized our dependence on our Creator and Savior. The power of personal and liturgical prayer has become evident in a new way, and we have experienced a new hunger for it. We have come to appreciate each other, realizing that no one will be saved on their own. Even as civil society remains deeply divided, our own faithful are able to bear witness to a fresh, prophetic,

and hopefully fruitful humility. Life in Christ continues. Hope in the power of His Resurrection sustains us. We draw insight and courage from the underground Ukrainian Catholic Church that overcame merciless totalitarianism. The witness of martyrs emboldens us.

In our midst we see abiding discreet attitudes and heroic acts of authentic solidarity, examples of inspiring mutual service: medical care in dangerous circumstances, chaplaincy work in hospitals, the service of first responders, sustaining regular church services and religious education, visiting the sick and housebound, food and donations in kind for the poor, help for those with crisis pregnancies, etc. Bishop Andriy lead a wonderful fundraising drive raising \$228,226 for flood victims in Ukraine. The Good Samaritan Pantry ministry was opened. Through great vigilance our religious sisters have kept their three mother houses and aged members safe throughout the pandemic. Valiantly our pastors, sisters, teachers, parents, students and the embracing communities have kept our three school in Passaic, Perth Amboy, and Minersville going strong. We are developing novel ways of communicating in and between eparchies, deaneries and parishes and fostering communion unimaginable just a year ago. Throughout these difficult months our faithful have generously supported their parishes and the Archeparchy. Many of our legendary *pyrohy* teams have matter-of-factly resumed production. There are concrete signs of fruitful growth: our vibrant mission in Front Royal, Virginia has 145 souls in total including some 70 children and youth, of whom 85-100 have been faithfully attending weekly Divine Liturgies throughout the lockdowns! The community has just acquired a new property with a church and space for parish activities. In general, prayer became more fervent, courage was forged, and good humor was shared abundantly.

At the same time, our losses have been great. Over the last twelve months our Church in the United States has bid farewell to Metropolitan Sulyk of blessed memory, 12 priests, and 7 religious sisters. The mortality rate of our clergy and religious, who in the United States number close to 300, in the last year was approximately 7%, with no new ordinations or final vows. Our Archeparchy has lost hundreds of members to COVID. The experience of death, often without the accompaniment of family members, has been both painful and numbing. Throughout most of 2020 the pandemic impacted our liturgical services and activities where we come together to listen to the Word of God, to celebrate the Divine Mysteries, to find nourishment in the sacramental life of the Church and to engage together in works of charity, as a community of God's children. Most eparchial and intereparchial pilgrimages and conventions, parish festivals and virtually all fundraising events throughout the Archeparchy had to be cancelled. In this unusual context it is been necessary to proceed with a fundamental reconsideration of our ecclesial vocation and the concrete methods to fulfill it. It should be noted that the global Ukrainian Catholic Church will commemorate together all of the victims of COVID on Saturday, March 20, in the Fifth week of Lent according to the Gregorian calendar (or First week of Lent, Julian calendar).

A careful process of assessing the ministries and operations of the Archeparchy has been ongoing since the arrival of the new Archbishop, in prayer and extensive consultation at different levels. The protection policy for children and the vulnerable has been substantially strengthened. Personnel files have been reviewed by an independent legal expert—a person who served as a state prosecutor of sexual abuse. To help assist Metropolitan Borys with the assessment of the spiritual life of our faithful, clergy, and parishes, as well as the organizational structure serving the mission of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, in the summer of 2019 a formal visitation of the Archeparchy was undertaken by Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski (today of London), Ms. Olga Vokh, Reverend Anibal Soutus, and Reverend Andriy Malysch. The accompaniment-audit process,

undertaken over a three-week period, involved day to day interactions with chancery staff, interviews with clergy and laity, and a review of documents and accounting data provided by the Archeparchial Finance Office. Metropolitan Borys received a visitation report in January 2020 and has taken under advisement its assessment and recommendations, strengthening areas of blessing and good practice, addressing issues of concern. It is clear that we need to do the best job possible in managing our human and material resources, the gifts of time, talent and treasure that allow us to fulfill our Divine calling.

Even with preliminary information, it became clear that the Archeparchy had been running deficits for a number of years. Efforts like the "Confront the Deficit" appeal proved insufficient to overcome the shortfall, and the financial crunch has become even more acute in the face of the pandemic. The deficit pattern is unsustainable and needs to be addressed in a creative and decisive way. Since his enthronement Archbishop Borys is returning to the chancery budget his salary and all monetary gifts received from the clergy and faithful of the Archeparchy, and he has pledged to do so until the deficit is resolved. In 2019, expenditures for certain ministries have been suspended. These include: the Vocations Department, Human Life Ministry, Stewardship, the Syncellus for Religious, and Development Office. The intention remains to restructure, restart and fund these ministries as part of a new vision. And we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in this effort.

As announced in his December 2019 letter, Metropolitan Borys sought the help of seasoned advisors—the respected Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI)—to address the temporal matters of the Archeparchy. While the work had been sidetracked for eight months due to COVID restrictions, as of December 2020, the Archeparchy is fully engaged with the CLI leadership in addressing critical areas of concern. These include revising chancery organization and staffing requirements, as well as establishing formal job responsibilities and a staff evaluation process. Eminently qualified volunteers, John Kurey and Ken Hutchins, are generously contributing their time and advising Archbishop Borys across a number of areas without cost to the Archeparchy.

The financial review revealed a significant challenge. The comprehensive, detailed, and accurate financial reports previously used included many passthrough operations that involved parish contributions and expenses going in and out of central accounts, which made it difficult to ascertain revenues and expenses specific to the chancery and to other central archeparchial structures. A financial reporting system was needed to discernibly identify respective departmental costs and associated income sources. A new accounting and reporting system has been developed and is being progressively implemented.

Unfortunately, the financial condition of the Archeparchy continues to deteriorate. From 2013 through 2020, our average annual deficit was about \$679,000, with the total operating loss since 2013 at \$5,429,000. Had operations remained unchanged, based on our past average annual loss, projections over the next ten years for total expenses exceeding revenues would have been in excess of \$6,786,000. And even though in the last two years some steps have been taken to reduce the annual deficit, our situation remains unsustainable.

Figure 1 Financial Summary 2013-2019 actual, 2020 estimate (The figures for 2013-2016 were published in The Way.)

Summarized Financial Status - Archeparchy of Philadelphia 2013 - 2020 2020 estimated (\$Thousands)								
Net Operating Revenue and Expenses								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020e
Net Revenue	\$2,621	\$2,322	\$2,715	\$3,027	\$1,395	\$1,268	\$1,430	\$1,804
Net Expenses	\$3,338	\$3,425	\$3,343	\$3,590	\$2,250	\$2,043	\$1,810	\$2,211
Net Gain or (Loss)	(\$717)	(\$1,103)	(\$628)	(\$563)	(\$855)	(\$775)	(\$381)	(\$407)
Note:	Revenue sourced through Parish Assessments - unchanged since 2005 (or earlier)							
	Expenses: Largest source: Salaries and Benefits.							
Average Annual Loss in thousands of \$:				(\$679)				
Total Loss 2013 - 2020est in thousand of \$				(\$5,429)				
Projected Loss over 10 years 2020 - 2030 in thousands of \$				(\$6,786)				

For our Archeparchy to thrive some of the suspended ministries will be restructured and reintroduced to serve the needs of our faithful. As the motto of the Patriarchal Assembly-Sobor reminds us (“The Church is with you always and everywhere”), it is our common calling to make the Church present throughout the community on a day in and day out basis, especially in the most significant times of crises and joy. Our youth is the key to the future. These are not easy times for young committed Christians making life decisions. Authentic spiritual discernment is difficult in the present culture. Developing an Archeparchial Youth Ministry vision and plan of action is for our Archeparchy one of its highest priorities.

Today, the Archeparchy has 37 active priests serving in our 63 parishes and missions. For comparison the Stamford Eparchy has 54 priests for 50 parishes, the Chicago eparchy — 50 priests for 40 parishes, and the Parma Eparchy 32 priests for 39 parishes and 9 missions. If a priest gets sick, two parishes are rendered vulnerable, possibly without services. Bishop Andriy Raby has been pressed into service as administrator of a parish because no priests are available, impinging on the time he can dedicate to archeparchial work. We have no eparchial priests under the age of 40. A number of dedicated priests may be close to retirement, while others have chronic health issues. Our three fine seminarians are persevering in their studies, mostly online, but their ordinations are not imminent.

As the Metropolitan explained in the December 2020 appeal letter, to support and supplement our committed priests and better serve the faithful, eight new candidates for ministry have been identified. As part of a selection process, the Archeparchy has carefully screened and identified six new priests, one deacon, and one seminarian (who has completed his studies) to come from Ukraine to our Archeparchy. Representatives of our clergy and faithful have helped animate the 15 ZOOM seminars in which the candidates have participated since the summer and the weekly intercontinental training sessions are continuing. Supplementing our presbyterate is a top priority for this year. A dedicated 2021 fundraising effort is underway to ensure that the Archeparchy has sufficient numbers of qualified clergy to serve our parishes in the coming years. The initial response has been most encouraging because our faithful understand clearly that without priests we cannot maintain our parishes and missions.

Our financial condition was a topic of discussion at the Finance Council meeting in November 2020. The Finance Council presented three options: increase the revenues, reduce expenses, or a combination of both. There is the option to continue to sell off assets: financial investments and

real estate, as well as closing parishes to pay the ongoing expenses of the Archeparchy. Indeed, over the past 17 years the Archeparchy has already closed and sold 13 parish buildings.

The financial summary was also discussed with the College of Archeparchial Consultors in December 2020 and January 2021. Among our Consultors the general consensus is not in favor of an increase in parish assessments to offset the deficit. Parishes are strained due to COVID, both due to diminished weekly donations, and to the cancellation of most fundraising events. The Archeparchy will suffer a major decrease in grants from Catholic Home Missions starting in 2022, placing further strains on the financial viability of the Archeparchy.

Consequently, to reduce the current operating deficit and still maintain and support our parishes, the Archeparchy is reducing the number of chancery staff at the end of January of this year. This is expected to reduce the ongoing operating expenses of the Archeparchy by approximately \$150,000 annually. While there are some up front reorganization costs, the savings will accrue over the next ten years. As difficult as these losses are, they cannot be avoided. Moving forward, if the Archeparchy cannot eliminate the ongoing yearly deficits, further actions will be necessary to permit the Archeparchy to survive and continue to address the needs of our parish communities in the future.

In regards to departing chancery personnel, individual separation packages have been proposed. We remain grateful for the years of dedicated service each person has rendered and hope that the experience they have gained will serve them well in their future endeavors.

In this rapidly changing world, the Church must be prepared to meet the challenges of our age, not adapting or surrendering to the world but, as the People of God, bearing faithful witness to the message of the Gospel and the authentic teaching of the Church. This is our common calling—bishops, clergy, religious and lay faithful, men and women, young and old. The task at hand requires true cleansing and conversion of all God’s children. Our guiding principles should be: the spirit of the Kingdom of God that is in our midst, a unity of heart and mind, special attention for our children, youth and their parents, deep spiritual reflection and discernment, Christian charity, especially for the marginalized among us, an authentic search for truth, and an appreciation of beauty as a reflection of the awesome, good and loving God.

As always, we will never go wrong when we help those in need. And they are all around us. Within and outside our Church and communities. It is our love for our brothers and sisters, our solidarity and mutual service, and especially our willingness to sacrifice as our Lord did in His ministry and Passion that will save us. The formula is quite simple, yet ever so difficult: follow the Lord and focus on Him! With joy in our hearts, a smile on our faces, in a spirit of mutual forgiveness, and above all, with confidence and trust in God, let us move forward!

Over its first two millennia the Church has weathered untold trials and challenges. In different centuries and on different continents it has had its ups and downs, fallen into disrepair only to be rebuilt again, persecuted unto death only to rise to new life. It is the Body of Christ. It is *God’s* Church. It will live! And we will live in it together! Now is the time for us to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to discern God’s will for us and for His Church. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

*Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
Chancery Office*