



METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA
Ukrainian Catholic Church

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February 21, 2023

Your Eminences and Excellencies,

Having just returned from Ukraine, I convey to you the deep gratitude of the Catholic hierarchs, clergy and faithful, both Eastern and Western, and of the general population of Ukraine for the outstanding spiritual and material solidarity that American Catholics have demonstrated towards the suffering people of Ukraine. Your prayer, advocacy, and humanitarian aid are saving lives and giving hope to tens of millions. Nevertheless, the brutal war and war crimes continue.

Given the one-year anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) and the UGCC Synod of Bishops have designated February 24th a day of prayer and fasting for the end of the aggression against Ukraine.

We humbly request that you and the clergy, religious, and faithful of your dioceses join in the spiritual effort to stop this war. May our communion in Lenten oration, fasting and works of mercy hasten the triumph of God's justice and truth in Ukraine and the world.

With profound gratitude, yours devoted in Christ,

+ *Borys*

Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia of the Ukrainian Catholic Church
Head, Department of External Church Relations, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Attached: Letter from the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of the United States - February 24th Day of Prayer



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February 24th Day of Prayer

The date of February 24, 2022 will be etched forever in the memory of every patriotic Ukrainian in the world. On that day, as we all know, the armies of the Russian Federation launched a bloody, senseless, full-scale invasion on our Ukrainian homeland. In the year that has passed we have all witnessed the endless death and destruction that has been inflicted upon Ukraine in this war.

In several weeks, the first anniversary of the beginning of this comprehensive war will be upon us. To mark this somber anniversary, His Beatitude, Patriarch Sviatoslav, together with the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, have proclaimed a solemn day of prayer, fasting and almsgiving on February 24, 2023 for all the faithful of our Church.

In announcing this day of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, His Beatitude, Sviatoslav declared: "Let this day be an opportunity for us to do good for someone: to comfort the afflicted, to clothe the naked, to warm those who are freezing, to feed the hungry...Let us offer our spiritual efforts and our prayers for the victory of the Ukrainian people in this unequal battle, as well as for our army".

We, the Hierarchs of the Philadelphia Metropolia, also encourage all of our faithful living here in the United States to join our world-wide Ukrainian Catholic Church and all people of good will in this spiritual undertaking on February 24th, as individuals, in our families, and in our parishes, deaneries, and cathedrals.

Also, on this day a 12-hour prayer marathon beginning at 12:00 pm Kyiv time (5 am New York; 4 am Chicago; 2 am Los Angeles) will be presented on zhyve.tv which will unite the faithful on all continents together in prayer.

We must always remember that our strongest weapons in this battle are prayer, fasting and good deeds, which we offer at the throne of our merciful Lord. May we always be encouraged and strengthened by the words of Our Lord: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Mt. 18:20)

Therefore, let us never lose faith and hope in the ultimate victory of Ukraine over her enemies and the triumph of truth and justice.

May the blessing of the Lord be upon Ukraine, her brave fighting men and women, first responders, doctors and care givers, and all her suffering people.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Borys Gudziak
Archbishop of Philadelphia
Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM (author)
Eparch of Stamford

+Venedict Aleksiychuk
Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago

+ Bohdan J. Danylo
Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma