



The Byzantine Catholic  
**Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh**

Office of the Archbishop  
66 Riverview Avenue Pittsburgh PA 15214

**2022 Great Fast Message to Pray for the Church in Ukraine**

February 24, 2022

We enter the Great Lenten Fast. Just as the hope of relief from the Pandemic began to grow, the invasion of Ukraine and threat of a larger global war has arisen. Since 1991 the faithful living in Ukraine had the joy of political and religious freedom. The occupation of parts of the Lugansk and Donetsk Provinces has already cost 14,000 lives. With the threat of Communist suppression of the entire nation, the shadow of the return to the decades of gloom has returned for the Ruthenian and Ukrainian Catholic Church members living in the nation of Ukraine.

We pray for our members who have families living in Ukraine. Especially, we pray for the families of our ten priests from Ukraine serving in the Pittsburgh Archeparchy as well as for several other priests and religious serving other churches in the United States.

The Great Fast is the season of praying, fasting and alms giving. We certainly will remember Ukraine in our praying and fasting during the Great Fast. Also, we will take a collection on the Third Sunday of the Fast for the Church in Ukraine. We ask our parishes to send the collection to the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. We will transfer the offering to the Eparchy of Mukachevo.

We take for granted our religious and political freedom. Although our political system is far from perfect, we are allowed to worship without interference from the government. When we are persecuted for our faith, we can draw courage from the Books of the Old Testament which are filled with stories of the suffering of the people of Israel. Even though they suffered, they remained faithful to the Lord. Their enduring faith was eventually rewarded with restoration of their people.

We pray to the Lord that the invasion forces will withdraw. But if they do not withdraw, we pray that the Lord will give our people the spiritual strength to endure yet another persecution. It will likely be a time of suffering. We hope and pray that this oppression will be mild and short. And we pray that the Lord will restore their nation and our Church.

*Most Reverend William C. Skurla*

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**REGULATIONS FOR THE SEASON OF THE GREAT FAST - 2022**

The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept in accordance with the Norms of Particular Law of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* of Pittsburgh.

**simple abstinence**

- The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat, but permits the use of eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe simple abstinence when prescribed. Abstinence is obligatory on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.

**strict abstinence**

- The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed.
- Strict abstinence (fast) **is to be observed in 2022 on Pure Monday, February 28** (first day of the Great Fast), **and on Great and Holy Friday, April 15.**

**dispensations**

- Priests and parents are to ensure that minors are educated in the authentic sense of penance.
- Pastors and administrators, with just cause and taking into account acceptable reasons due to personal circumstances, may grant to the individual faithful as well as to individual families, dispensations, transferals, or commutations of abstinence and strict fast into other pious practices. Superiors of religious houses or clerical institutions enjoy these same faculties relative to their constituents.

**liturgical services**

- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten Devotions.
- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts only is to be celebrated on Wednesdays and/or Friday evenings of the Great Fast and also on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.



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