

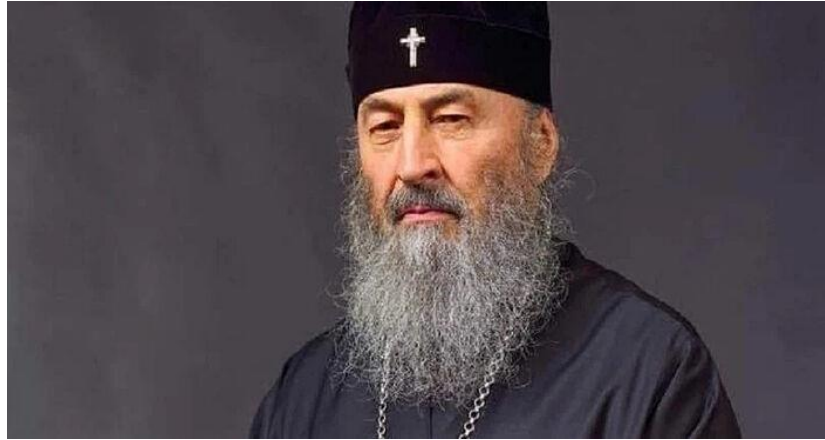


Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats ... how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (Hebrews 9:11-14)

"I learned from the news today what happened in Bucha. It's terrible. Sorrow filled my heart... "How can we talk to people about God after all that we have seen in the current war by Russia against Ukraine?"

Metro. Onuphry (Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox church)



To fail to speak about the events of our time in the light of the Gospel is to fail to speak about the Gospel. (Martin Luther)

Metro. Onuphry calls us all to Nepsis (sobriety), to the silence of repentance. We Orthodox have lost our authority to speak about God at this time in history. Many voices on one side of the churches condemn the "enemy", the "antichrist", promising hell to the other, the other who is in fact our brother. Some even say that you can now kill the brother and not sin. Others, equally "canonical", choose to ignore the suffering of the poor and find excuse or justification for what cannot be excused, promising hell to "the other" who is also our brother. Few, you can count them on one hand actually, get it. It is very difficult and it requires a rare courage to see and say the truth in this moment. The truth is that we Orthodox, heterodox, canonical or uncanonical, are no better than any other wild tribe, and like everyone else "never learn, we are all in love with war and the spirit of Cain". (Pope Francis)

We, like everyone else, share in the universal faith that in the gun is our salvation. The truth is that in this moment of history we are all Cain, yes, even me. Is this the witness we give to the world of the "The Faith that established the universe"?

(Sunday of the Restoration of the Ikone)

Rather than preach to others their need to repent, let us weep from a heart that is full of sorrow, for what you and I are doing. Let us all keep silence about God and admit that you and I need to enter the silence of Repentance before ever uttering another word to others.

Thus, may this tragic moment become for the Orthodox Church, for you and I, a time of deep Renewal. It must and cannot be any other way, if the Church is to restore the Ikone that she is called to be in the world. The Ikone is shattered, a simple veneer over it won't do.

It is hard to imagine how this renewal can ever come about, but for us ordinary Orthodox Christians it is the time to rediscover the way of the Gospel.

Is it an accident that Metro Onuphry is the only orthodox bishop, who rather than condemn or excuse the "enemy", asked his suffering and oppressed people during Great Lent to read every day a chapter of the Gospel?

(R.U.)



FROM COMMUNITY LIFE

Please keep Valery in your prayers. She will be chrismated during the Liturgy this coming Saturday (Lazarus Saturday). She will take the name of Elisha. Please come and pray together with her and us for the salvation of the world. If you think about bringing something, flowers would be nice.

On Friday, the beauty of the icon was a result of many gifts the community is adorned with. First, the Tomolohion, as it is known at the mission - the stand built by Tom many years ago, was the foundation for everything that followed. On Friday, Christina made the cover for it on the second floor, especially for the prayer that was going to happen at night. Monica made arrangements one month before to arrange the flowers who were brought by her and by many others before the service. Daniela continued to care for the mother of God even after the service. As a gift for those who stayed for the vigil and for those who came the next day at the mission. The

Akathist for the Mother of God starts at the mission way before the formality of prayer, through the care of those who beautify her garment.

Tom (who built the tomologhion) talked to us on Friday by phone. He has not visited us for 6 months because of illness. If you want to help with his visits at the hospital, talk to Fr Nicolaie. He could help with guidance.

Evthokia is visiting us for a couple of weeks. Please take time to talk to her while at the mission. Make her feel welcome and support any good endeavour.

Cristina and Jose saved us once again with the meals for this week. We could not be more thankful. There are rumours that we might have a new cook next week. We hope they will guide the new cook in preparing the meals we've been enjoying for all this time.

There is one more week of preparation before Holy Week. Please take advantage of the services and of some of the last presanctified liturgies. On Saturday , we'll decorate the chapel for Palm Sunday.

Next week we will have a funeral for Andrew, a young soul who departed too early from among us. Please keep his soul in your prayers.

Today's gospel ; Mark 9:17-31

Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed

On Friday, the reflection on the gospel gravitated around betrayal. A topic that is generally not spoken about; we reflected on what it does to one's soul and how it wounds the heart. The consensus was that betrayal can happen when you care much. There is a deep relationship. Betrayal is an exit from a loving relationship. If you don't care, you cannot be betrayed. It is as simple as that. However, we betray through every sin that comes from the heart. Any inconsistency in following the Truth is an act of betrayal of what was revealed to us by Him. With Christ, we betray the One who sees through us and embraces the way we are. In our life, at times, we can betray because we think we are not up to the task: *"I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."* (Gen 3:10). We betray because we are afraid we cannot be accepted the way we are. We run away from a relationship because we don't trust we can be loved or that we are worthy of being loved. It happens because the shame is more powerful than the longing for love. With Christ, we see the love that pierces our fear, and still, we betray Him. There is no psychological reason to turn away from the forgiveness who does not fail. And yet we still do so...

Coleen thought that, as a child, you experience many forms of betrayal in different ways. A perfect caring innocent heart is easily betrayed in its desire for a perfect good. Yet, she thought, the betrayal should be spoken of and revealed, addressed and not covered. It has to be brought to light.

“Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid . . . Jesus took his twelve disciples, and he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ...”

This is what Jesus does in the gospel. He speaks to his apostles before it happens. He starts with betrayal, the reason for violence in our heart and in our world.

God's love for man is touching all our messy humanity. Everything that we built up through lies is revealed by the cross. Only after starting to walk towards Jerusalem, the hearts of the apostles were revealed. Some wanted to be greater than others. Jesus takes time to address that and to comfort them by revealing the gift of brotherly love and the joy of being the servant, the joy of being the least. Later on, the cross will reveal all the wickedness accumulated in humanity: abandonment, forgetfulness, mocking, spitting, humiliation, pain, suffering, death and so on.

However, Jesus speaks to his disciples and to us, through the gospel, to help us remember His love after we reject it. So we can remember, like Peter, and cry and not be forgetful like Judas.

The path of the cross makes us face our own fear because we know that our heart will be revealed. It is the same today, when we see the lies built up over time within the generation end up in war and death of the innocents on our streets. Our betrayal to what is revealed to us in Truth brings destruction and wounds. When the lie is touching the sky, the wickedness of men is forced to see its limit. It cannot touch the resurrection, it brings about only death. We enter within the resurrection by crying, like Peter, with a broken and contrite heart.

Judging the betrayal ... At the last judgement the hearts will be revealed. We'll be asked to testify how real was for us the love that we betrayed in our heart. For Christ and for each other. We will not be able to lie then. And so, the martyrs will be witnesses before their persecutors. Those who love today and are betrayed will be witnessed at the last judgement by those they loved. The betrayal will be healed, when the one who runs away today will have to face the love he rejected in his heart. The executor will taste the love experienced in the heart of the innocent they have condemned; the son will taste the love of the father he betrayed, and so on. It is because any genuine love is experienced within the heart. What was betrayed today will not be concealed at the last judgement.

There will be no place to hide. Peter heard, remembered and cried. He confessed, reconciled and faced the love he betrayed. He is the rock because he witnesses for us the changing of the human heart. This will be our last judgement.

“... and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death...”

The chief priests and scribes are those who condemn Christ to death. It is for us a reminder of what can happen when we read and teach the scriptures without a contrite heart. When we have

no mercy. We see today too, how the salvation revealed to us turns into the condemnation of the others. Prayer without a contrite heart and reading the scriptures without caring for the poor gives birth to demons. "Theology without practice gives birth to demons." (St maxim the Confessor) We see the demons today and we wonder how we have become without defense against them.

Every year in lent we come together beside the icon of the mother of God in order to discover a human heart that is not ashamed of us. We, who are judgemental, come to face the presence who accepts us the way we are; we, who are sinful and hide, are found by the love who does not stop at the locked door. We, who are rejectful of many, find ourselves embraced by her. We, who are afraid to be loved, surrender to the one who is not afraid to love. How can this be, since she is a woman? How can this be, since she is one of us? This is the love who does not betray, who stayed with her Son by the cross. She was not stopped by our sins then, she is not ashamed of us now. She comes to us to give out of this love. We have lost our sense and betrayed our heart. But she has been faithful to her. It is to her that we pray to heal us from our betrayal.

ST MARY OF EGYPT (drawing by a Madison)



Every year the story of St Mary of Egypt reveals new things to us. This year, the saint shows us her vulnerability when confessing her sins. She thought Zosima was going to leave her after listening to her confession. She really believed that, after speaking in truth to him. She knew his name, and the place he was coming from. She knew he was a priest, and yet she feared he would leave after listening to her life story. She revealed to us the vulnerability and fragility of the saints. The fear of God that took over the encounter with Fr Zosima during confession. The saints who are perfect are still afraid of being rejected.

It also revealed the heart of the saint, Fr Zosima, who does not see the sins in the confessor but the healing and perfection of faith. The prayer who did not lose the heart but was revealed to him. The

mystery of the holiness who takes over the human being.

We also saw the search for perfection in Zosima, who is so present today in young people. The difference was that he knew where to look for it. He looked for somebody more perfect than him, just to be fully satisfied at the end. We listened to his tears when what he found was lost again. However, through that loss his heart was filled and so was ours. You cannot keep what you love but only behold it for a little while. It is enough to trust and pray for the restoration of all.

April 10-17

Tuesday	8:30 am	Morning Prayer	Wednesday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Vespers/Dinner Presanctified Liturgy
Thursday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Jesus Prayer	Friday	7:00 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm 6:30pm	Orthros Noon Hours Jesus Prayer Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday	8:00 am 4:00pm	Divine Liturgy Vespers	Sunday	6:00 am 7:00 am 8:30 am 6:00pm	Jesus Prayer Orthros Divine Liturgy Bridegroom Service



St Silouan Chapel at St John's Mission

155 Broadview Ave. Toronto, ON M4M 2E9

T: 416-466-1357 E: info@stjohnsmission.org W: stjohnsmission.org

St Zoticos Orthodox Church at Good Neighbours Mission

193 Markham Rd Scarborough, ON M1J 3C3

T: 647-358-4105



We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate "Mother Church of Christ's poor"
under the Omophorion of Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

Prayer request:

For those who are sick:

Dominique and her daughter (Dominique has cancer and her daughter was born with heart conditions).Mike; Luke; Arjuna; Joy; Susie; Alex; Lynn; Molly'; Varghese; Delia; Leela; Mary; Tanya; Basma;Fatima;Debbie; EK Thomas; Alex;Hawa Bibi's sister Fathima; Frank; Chris; Evlokia; Mikayla and her brother Luca; Karunawathi, Gloria, Vijekumari, Ronda, and Regina; Delia; Valerie; Tom; Traian; Peter; Marco; Kim (knee surgery); Tihomir; Kate; Payton Clark (back surgery); Sana, and her family in Egypt. Isaiah; Mary; Sydney; Peter Christine; Stephanie; Iulia; Jason; Sophia; Alexander; Charles; Tom; Paul; Phillip Hadler and his wife Juliet; Cristeena; Ann brown's daughter; Silvia, Jincy; Shiron Crisreen; Allain;Levalin and the family;Seena Colin and her husband; Waheeda and children; Faizah; Shirin and her family; Eva; Frank, Cristina; Daniela, Jerry; Delia ; Ragaie; Victoria; Mike.Farida; Roselyne and family ; Ana, Cornelia; Leon to Jerry; Nikitha, Ocean;Gloria, Anne, Marina, Marie, Edemene; Joanna and family GN; Rejoice;Romana, Coline, Michael, Peter, Henry, George, Kelly;Tom; Marina;Sandra and her son Chris;Kumari;Susan;child James; Aaron; Sylvia;Fr Jonathan;Tharshini and her two children; Ann Tyron and her family; Sandra Gomaz's children; Sameen; Sophia;Amy;Swetha and children ;Charitha; Jitesh's parents ;Demene;Carol; Gloria; Hawa Bibi; Vimaladevi; Lynn; Michelle;Emanuel(Mani);Stefanie;Geoff;Joey;Evangelia;Sophia;Melanie; Césare;Tanya;Piper;Darius; Zamalk; Nelly; Nahla; Mira; Sandral ;Brenda;Anna Avairo's daughter Vol Gomaz; Levlin's two children Sri' ; Helen; Paul; Wafaa

Please pray for health and salvation:

Thomas; Susan ;Anna; Cyril; Lori; Lisa; Jaidyn; Tasiya; Melanie ; Evangelia; Stefanie; Michelle; Césare; Donald; Basma; Sophia; Piper; Daniel; Darius; Larry; Monk Seraphim Community in Goma and the children in their care: Neema; Rosine; Justine; Miriam; Chance; Jemyma; Patricia; Alliance; Nice; Dorcas; Justine; Agnes; Muhindo Dorcas. George, Connie, Nick, Fennie, Theodore, Chris, Nick , Toulou, Steven, Nicole, Tony, Sam, Sophia.; Prayer for Mary Mcgee.She lost her grandmother.; Fr. Michael and Pani Karen; Anthony and the family.He lost his brother in Trinidad.He is hoping to make a visit to Trinidad; Ramanand and his families in Gayana, USA and here in Canada (Ramanand lost three of his family members including one of his brothers, suddenly within two months); Paola; Elizabeth; Matthi; Dave and his family; Jai's family; Anne Tyran; Joseph to find housing; Lito; Mauro, Prayers for Ted's family (incarcerated son to be free) Dameal asking prayers for his future wife Fathima to be free from addictions Liz Gibicar asking prayers for her mother; Tejasree and her mother; Prashastha; Maria and Dingo; Crisent; Helen; Greta; Elizabeth; Dean; John; Liz; Crisent; Ann Brown; Elizabeth; Sifie; Allen; Leon;Ricky and his family from back home for the hope of

reuniting; Aaron, Anastas, Olivia, Gelly, Frank, Eva, George, Rebecca, Andreas, Cathyann, Reigan, Stephanie, Peter, Christine; Christian family from Bangladesh, Sandra, Peter, Angel, Bless, Grace, Swetha family; Atlaw single mom at shelter, Vernevil family; the family of Kenide; Saathiya; Sena; Vinothiny Yvienne; Abdul; Sakanthalathevy; Jumke; Naimi; Anish; Joshua DanielJMaria Lolita Soliman Torres, Jonathan , Richard, Richard, Mary , Elizabeth, Michael, Bill, Robert, Alan, Joanne

Please pray for the deceased:

Andre; Andree: Akhir - died this last week in Scarborough (killed in front of people who come to GoodNeighbours)

Dillon; Elena; Pani Mary; Rejoice`s mother ;Edmund; Pani Eleanor; Fr John; Alexandru; Constantin; Robert; fr Aurel; Georgi; Rada; Petre; Stela; William; Samuel; Debie; John; Amy, Willie; Dave`s wife; Ana; Shirin `s cousin in Jordan; Father Lawrence; Dave; Anne Tyran`s father; Edith, Sr. Mary Magdalene, Joice, BettyAnn, James, Pauanasuy Kamthasang, Maria (Covid), Andrei, Agostina, Carminda, Vimaladevi's sister; Sri's mother, Carol's Mother and 23 year old nephew passed away in Haiti. Demene`s mother; Dalalzaki.