

August 24th, 2025
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY, 8/24 **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners
 10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

MONDAY, 8/25 **7:30 am** Divine Liturgy for + souls in purgatory

TUESDAY, 8/26 **NO** Divine Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, 8/27 **6:15 pm** Divine Liturgy for + souls in purgatory

THURSDAY, 8/28 **NO** Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, 8/29 *Beheading of John the Baptist*
 7:30 am Divine Liturgy for special intention

SATURDAY, 8/30 **5:00 pm** Divine Liturgy (English) for special intention

SUNDAY, 8/31 **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners
 10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

Announcements
1-Nighttime Prayers

Join us for Nighttime Prayers on **September 5th**, from 9:30 PM to Midnight, in our church. These prayers are a powerful offering to the Lord, as we set aside time normally reserved for rest to unite in sacrifice and devotion. Let us come together in prayer, seeking God's grace and blessings.

2-Fall Youth Retreat 2025

The Fall Youth Retreat (FYR) will take place September 12–14 (Friday–Sunday) at Camp Guyasuta in Sharpsburg, PA.

This year's theme is: "The Saints: Beacons of Hope." The main speaker will be Subdeacon Alex Bricki from the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Flyers and registration materials (English and Ukrainian) are available.

Even though we may not have many youth in our parish, we are encouraged to spread the word to family, friends, and neighboring parishes. This retreat is a wonderful opportunity for young people to grow in faith, form new friendships, and be inspired by the example of the saints.

For details, please contact Fr. Lubomir Zhybak (zhybak@hotmail.com) or Michael Spak, FYR Coordinator (michael_spak@yahoo.com).

*Upcoming Events
in Parish & Eparchy*
Sep 1st – *New Church Year*
Sep. 5th – *Night Time Prayers*
Sep. 8th – *nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost – Forgiveness and Justice in a Time of War
Gospel: Matthew 18:23–35

In today's parable, the Lord reminds us that each of us is forgiven an immeasurable debt by God. Therefore, we must also be merciful to others. Yet what does forgiveness mean in a world wounded by war and injustice, especially as Ukraine suffers from unprovoked aggression?

True Forgiveness

The unforgiving servant in the Gospel failed to recognize that mercy received must become mercy given. Forgiveness is not optional; it is at the heart of the Christian life. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Nothing makes us so like God as our willingness to forgive."

But forgiveness does not mean ignoring evil or abandoning justice. It means refusing to let hatred consume the heart, even while resisting sin and violence.

The Church's Teaching on Self-Defense

The Catholic Church has always taught that individuals and nations may legitimately defend themselves against unjust aggression. The Catechism states:

"Legitimate defense can be not only a right but a grave duty for one who is responsible for the lives of others." (CCC 2265)

Thus, Ukrainians defending their homes, families, and country are not contradicting Christ's command to forgive. They are fulfilling the moral duty of protecting innocent life. Forgiveness in this context means rejecting vengeance and hatred in the heart, while still standing firm against injustice.

Mercy and Courage Together

We must hold these two truths together:

We forgive personally—releasing anger and praying for our enemies' conversion.

We resist evil corporately—defending the innocent, upholding justice, and protecting freedom.

This is not a contradiction, but the balance of the Gospel: mercy and truth, peace and justice.

Reflection Questions

Do I remember how greatly I have been forgiven by God?

How can I cultivate forgiveness in my heart, even while supporting the defense of truth and justice?

How can I be a witness of both mercy and courage in the face of evil?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You forgave us an immeasurable debt and call us to forgive others. Grant us hearts free of hatred, yet strong in courage to resist evil. Bless all who defend the innocent. May Your justice and peace triumph, and may Your mercy transform even the hardest of hearts. Amen.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Sunday collections for the weekend of **8/17/25**, including envelope offerings - \$620,
donations -\$367, candle -\$26, online giving - \$30
Weekly budget: \$1250, Income \$1043

Support Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church



Protection of the Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Byzantine Rite
2880 Highway 138 NE
Conyers, GA 30013

Father Volodymyr Petrytsya
Fr. Deacon Michael Guerrucci
Fr. Deacon Christopher Todd

Parish office phone 770-760-1111
Emergency phone 224-400-0558
Email: parish@mogchurch.com
Website: www.mogchurch.com

Confession before or after Divine Liturgy.

Confession is recommended as a regular monthly practice. The graces received from confession are an excellent way to help us become closer to Jesus.

***THE CHURCH WAS A MOTHER TO YOU IN LIFE, PROVIDING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS;
PLEASE REMEMBE YOUR PARISH AND THE EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT IN PARMA IN
YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.***