

**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**  
**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

**SUNDAY, 2/1**      **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners  
                         **10:30 am** Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

**MONDAY, 2/2**      **Feast of The Encounter of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**  
                         **7:30 am** Divine Liturgy for special intention

**TUESDAY, 2/3**      **No service**

**WEDNESDAY, 2/4**      **6:15 pm** Divine Liturgy for special intention

**THURSDAY, 2/5**      **No service**

**FRIDAY, 2/6**      **7:30 am** Divine Liturgy for special intention  
                         **Night Time Prayers**  
                         **9:00pm** Confession  
                         **9:30pm** Akaphist  
                         **10:00pm** Divine Liturgy and Adoration

**SATURDAY, 2/7**      **4:00 pm** Divine Liturgy

**SUNDAY, 2/8**      **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners  
                         **10:30 am** Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

**Announcements**

**1-Prayer Request**

Please keep in your prayers the newly departed Betsy Brennan Boyle. A Panakhyda will be prayed this coming Sunday, February 8, following the Divine Liturgy, at the request of Mr. Walter and Mrs. Marilyn.  
Vichnaya Pamyat / Memory Eternal.

**2-Service Of Forgiveness**

According to the tradition of our church, on Sunday before the Great Lent we usually have the special service of “Forgiveness”. Therefore, **On Feb 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>** after the Divine Liturgy we will have this service of “Forgiveness”.

**3-World Marriage Day**

Our Bishop Bohdan Danylo in conjunction with the Department of Family Life of the Eparchy of St. Josaphat would like to recognize and honor the couples in our parish who are celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of their marriage during this year of 2026. Please let pastor know about these couples as soon as possible.

**4-Donation Envelopes Available**

Donation envelopes are now available at the back of the church. Please feel free to pick one up.

**5-Bible Study**

Bible Study will be held this Wednesday at 7:00 PM with Fr. Deacon Michael. All are welcome to attend.

*Upcoming Events  
in Parish & Eparchy*  
**Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Encounter  
**Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>** – First Friday Vigil  
**Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>** – Great Lent begins

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son – The Father’s Boundless Mercy**

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son continues our preparation for Great Lent, revealing the heart of the Gospel: a loving Father who never stops waiting for His children to return. In the parable, the younger son leaves his father’s house in search of freedom, only to find emptiness and despair. Yet it is precisely in his lowest moment that he remembers his father and begins the journey home.

The turning point of the story is not punishment, but repentance—the decision to rise and return. When the father sees his son from afar, he runs to meet him, embraces him, and restores him to sonship. This image reveals God’s mercy: He does not merely forgive, He rejoices in our return.

The elder son, however, reminds us that it is possible to remain close to God outwardly, yet far from Him in the heart. His resentment challenges us to examine whether we truly share in the Father’s joy when others receive mercy.

This Sunday invites us to trust that no sin, failure, or distance is greater than God’s love. As we approach Great Lent, we are called to come home—not in fear, but in hope—knowing that the Father is already waiting with open arms.

**Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord – Christ, the Light of the World**

On February 2, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord, commemorating the moment when the infant Jesus was brought to the Temple and met by the righteous elders Simeon and Anna. This encounter reveals Christ not only as the fulfillment of God’s promise, but as the Light sent for the salvation of all nations.

When Simeon takes the Child into his arms, he proclaims Him to be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for Your people Israel.” These words reveal the mission of Christ: to illumine a world often darkened by sin, fear, and uncertainty. In Jesus, God meets humanity—and humanity recognizes its Savior.

The tradition of the blessing of candles on this feast flows directly from this Gospel. Candles symbolize Christ as the true Light, who dispels darkness and guides our path. When we receive blessed candles, we are reminded that Christ’s light is not meant to remain only in the Temple, but to be carried into our homes and daily lives.

This feast invites us to ask: Do we recognize Christ when He comes to meet us? Are we willing, like Simeon and Anna, to wait patiently, to trust God’s promises, and to proclaim His light with faith and gratitude?

As we light our candles, let us renew our commitment to live as bearers of Christ’s light, reflecting His love, truth, and mercy to all whom we encounter.

**THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

**Sunday collections for the weekend of 1/25/26, including envelope offerings - \$0,  
donations -\$0, candles -\$0  
Weekly budget: \$1250, Income \$0**

Support Mother of God  
Ukrainian Catholic Church



**Protection of the Mother of God  
Ukrainian Catholic Church  
Byzantine Rite**

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**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 REMEMBER YOUR PARISH AND THE EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT IN PARMA IN  
YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.***