



ARCHPASTORAL LETTER
OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE USA AND DIASPORA
FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT AND HOLY LENT



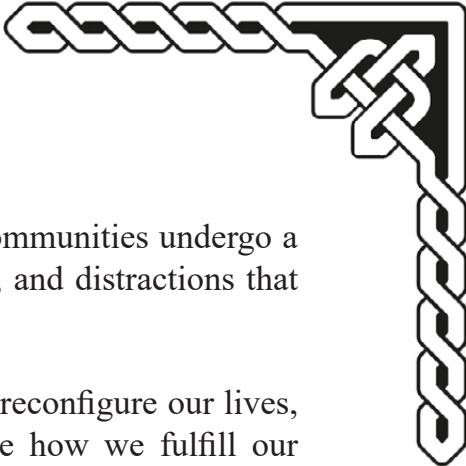
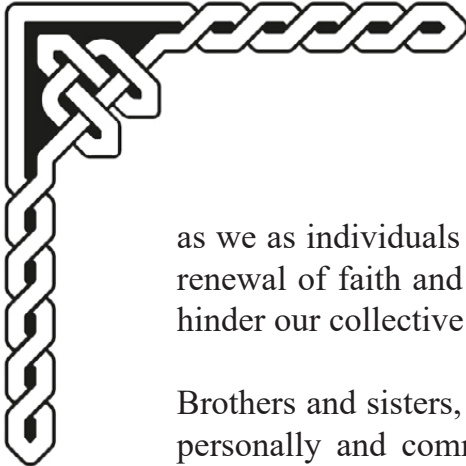
To the beloved clergy, monastics, and faithful children of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

As we stand at the threshold of the Great and Holy Lent, we embark together on a sacred journey - a journey that leads us through the desert of repentance and spiritual struggle to the radiant dawn of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is not merely an individual endeavor but a collective pilgrimage of the entire Mystical Body of Christ - the Holy Church, through which we are called to renewal, purification, and transfiguration in the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Lent is a time of return - a return to God, to our true selves, and to the divine purpose for which we were created. The Church Fathers, including the great ascetics St. John Climacus, St. Clement of Alexandria, and St. Mary of Egypt, teach us that spiritual perfection is not attained in a single moment but is the fruit of daily striving, step by step, uprooting sin and planting virtue, cleansing the soul and cultivating holiness.

The Lenten struggle is a call for each of us to examine our hearts, recognizing our shortcomings and sins, and to embrace the transforming grace of repentance. Yet, this journey is not undertaken in isolation. As members of one Body in Christ, our personal renewal must also extend to our parishes, our communities, and the entire Church. Just



as we as individuals seek purification, so too must our parish communities undergo a renewal of faith and love, casting aside complacency, divisions, and distractions that hinder our collective growth in Christ.

Brothers and sisters, this holy season is given to us as a time to reconfigure our lives, personally and communally. The Church herself must examine how we fulfill our mission in the world, how we live out the Gospel, how we serve one another and those in need. Just as Christ calls each of us to spiritual victory, He also calls His Church to renewed strength and vigor for the glory of His Name.

And so, beloved children in the Lord, let us enter this Holy Lent with hearts open to surrendering ourselves to the presence of God. When we surrender - when we allow Him to enter and transform our lives - then, step by step, we begin anew. Our burdens are lifted, our wounds are healed, and we are led through Gethsemane and Golgotha into the light of the Resurrection.

May this sacred season be for all of us a time of deep repentance, renewal, and transfiguration, so that when we stand before the empty tomb on Pascha night, we may proclaim with pure hearts and radiant souls: “Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!”

With archpastoral love in Christ,

+Metropolitan Antony

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

+Archbishop Jeremiah

Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America

+Archbishop Daniel

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

