

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
ПАРАФІЯ НЕПОРОЧНОГО ЗАЧАТТЯ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ МАРІЇ**

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**НЕДІЛЯ ПІСЛЯ РІЗДВА  
(ДАВИДА, ЙОСИФА, ЯКОВА)  
31ГО ГРУДНЯ 2023**

**КОМУНІКАТ ЩОДО РЕЦЕПЦІЇ В УГКЦ ДЕКЛАРАЦІЇ ДИКА-  
СТЕРІЇ ВІРОВЧЕННЯ «FIDUCIA SUPPLICANS» ПРО  
ДУШПАСТИРСЬКЕ ЗНАЧЕННЯ БЛАГОСЛОВЕНЬ**

Комунікат щодо рецепції в Українській Греко-Католицькій Церкві декларації Дикастерії віровчення «Fiducia Supplicans» про душпастирське значення благословень.



**КОМУНІКАТ  
щодо рецепції в УГКЦ декларації Дикастерії  
віровчення «FIDUCIA SUPPLICANS» про  
душпастирське значення благословень**

Відповідаючи на численні звернення єпископів, духовенства, монашества, церковних рухів та поодиноких мирян Української Греко-Католицької Церкви щодо Декларації Дикастерії віровчення «Fiducia Supplicans» (18 грудня 2023 р.) про пасторальний сенс благословень, після консультацій

із відповідними експертами та компетентними інституціями прагну повідомити таке:

1. Вищезгадана Декларація трактує пасторальний сенс благословень у Латинській Церкві, а не у Східних Католицьких Церквах. Вона не розглядає питання католицької віри чи моралі, у ній не подаються жодні приписи Кодексу канонів для Східних Церков та не згадуються східні християни. Отже, на підставі кан. 1492 ККСЦ ця Декларація стосується суто Латинської Церкви і не має правової сили для вірних Української Греко-Католицької Церкви.
2. Українська Греко-Католицька Церква є однією зі Східних Католицьких Церков, тому має свою літургійну, богословську, канонічну та духовну спадщину, якої всі вірні зобов'язані дотримуватися та яку повинні плекати (ККСЦ, кан. 39–41). Значення поняття «благословення» в УГКЦ та Латинській Церкві є відмінними.

*(продовження на ст. 3)*

**SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
(DAVID, JOSEPH, JAMES)  
DECEMBER 31ST, 2023**

Неділя – Sun. 31	<b>СВ. ЙОСИФ ОБРУЧНИК – ST. JOSEPH THE BETROTHED</b> 8:00 A.M. +Hryhoriy Lozynsky – Luba Lukomskyj 9:45 A.M. Yosyf Kuzma & +Rev. Stefan Kuzma - family 11:30 A.M. for our parishioners 11:30 P.M. <b>MOLEBEN – МОЛЕБЕНЬ (Нового Року)</b>
Понеділок – Mon. 1	<b>НАЙМЕНУВАННЯ ГНІХ, СВ. ВАСИЛІЯ ВЕЛИКОГО – NAMING (CIRCUMCISION) OF OUR LORD, ST. BASIL</b> 9:00 A.M. +Rev. Stephan Kuzma – Luba Lukomskyj Mary Brown (B-day) – Luba Lukomskyj 10:30 A.M. for our parishioners Growth in holiness for our parishioners
Вівторок – Tues. 2	8:00 A.M. Sanctification of clergy
Середа – Wed. 3	8:00 A.M. Peace in Ukraine 7:00 P.M. Healing of the ill
Четвер – Thurs. 4	8:00 A.M. +Luba Schroeder – Luba Lukomskyj
П'ятниця – Fri. 5	<b>НАВЕЧЕР'Я БОГОЯВЛЕННЯ – THEOPHANY EVE</b> (no meat or dairy products) 9:00 A.M. Sanctification of clergy 10:15 A.M. Перше Водосвяття – First Blessing of Water 5:00 P.M. Парафіяльний Щедрий Вечір Parish Theophany Supper
Субота – Sat. 6	<b>БОГОЯВЛЕННЯ – THEOPHANY</b> 8:00 A.M. ВЕЛИКЕ ПОВЕЧЕР'Я – GREAT COMPLINE 9:00 A.M. Colby, Hope, Caden – Luba Lukomskyj 10:15 A.M. ВЕЛИКЕ ВОДОСВЯТТЯ – BLESSING OF WATER 11:00 A.M. for our parishioners
Неділя – Sun. 7	8:00 A.M. Nadiya Hnatyuk (B-day) – Luba Lukomskyj 9:45 A.M. for our parishioners 11:30 A.M. +Tekla Nishko – Ludwin family Mothers in Prayer

**ВАШ ДАР БОГОВІ ТА ПАРАФІЇ – YOUR GIFT TO GOD & PARISH**

24 грудня / December 24<sup>th</sup> – \$3,421.00

Різдвяні Свята (3 денні) / Nativity holydays (3 days) - \$17,314.00

Будівельний Фонд (нова будова) / Building Fund (101 Michigan) - \$3,948.00

Будівельний Фонд (скриня) / Building Fund (building fund box) - \$1,983.00

Ікона для грота / Grotto icon - \$1,600.00

Різдвяний Базар / Christmas Bazaar - \$2,264.00

Кава і вареники / Coffee & varenyky – not provided on 12/24

Оренда Залу / Hall rental - \$250.00

*Donations can be made on the website or by Zelle [email:icukrainianchurchpalatine@gmail.com](mailto:icukrainianchurchpalatine@gmail.com)*

(продовження з ст. 1)

3. Відповідно до богослужбової практики нашої Церкви, благословення священника чи єпископа є літургійним жестом, який неможливо відокремити від решти змісту літургійних обрядів і звести лише до обставин і потреб приватної побожності (Катехизм УГКЦ «Христос — наша Пасха», п. 505–509).

4. За традиціями візантійського обряду поняття «благословення» означає схвалення, дозвіл чи навіть наказ щодо певного виду вчинків, молитовно-аскетичних практик, зокрема окремих видів посту та молитви. Очевидно, що благословення з боку священнослужителя завжди має євангелізаційний і катехитичний вимір, тому в жодному разі не може суперечити вченню Католицької Церкви про сім'ю як вірний, нерозривний і плідний союз любові між чоловіком та жінкою, який Господь наш Ісус Христос підніс до гідності Святого Таїнства Подружжя. Пастирська второпність спонукає нас уникати двозначних жестів, висловлювань і понять, які б викривлювали чи спотворювали Боже слово та вчення Церкви. Благословення Господнє на вас!

† СВЯТОСЛАВ

**ПРОСИМО МОЛИТИСЯ ЗА:** о. Андрія Чировського, о.Френка і Сузан Авант, о.Богдана, о. Михайла Кузьму, Миколу Гнатиска, Василя Наняка, Мирона і Лесю Куропась, Дебі Плішку, Мардж Матвіїв, Любу Чорну, Любу Лукомську, Євгенію Яхнів, Джекі Мишкієвич, Анну Назар, Келвіна Макмена, Наталію Лісову, Левка Сенечка, Любу Кузьму, Джим МекМен, Мирона Добровольського, Марію Пцола, Малі Вайт, Джині Джуп, Кристин Гайардо, Лайен Радула, Марію Бравн і за всіх недужих.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, Fr. Frank & Susan Avant, Fr. Bohdan, Fr. Mykhailo Kuzma, Mykola Hnatysko, Wasyl Naniak, Myron & Lesia Kuropas, Debbie Plishka, Marge Matviuw, Luba Chorney, Luba Lukomskyj, Betty Jachniw, Jackie Myshkiewicz, Anna Nazar, Calvin McMahon, Nataliya Lisova, Leo Senechko, Luba Kuzma, Jim McMahon, Myron Dobrowolsky, Maria Pszczola, Molly White, Ginny Jupp, Kristin Gajardo, Liane Radula, Mary Brown and all in need of our prayers.

## WITH A PERFECT SOUL

**Meditation:** Today I heard these words: **My daughter, be always like a little child towards those who represent Me, otherwise you will not benefit from the graces I bestow on you through them** (*Diary*, 1260).

Today during Holy Mass, I saw the Infant Jesus near my kneeler. He appeared to be about one year old, and He asked me to take Him in my arms. When I did take Him in my arms, He cuddled up close to my bosom and said, **It is good for Me to be close to your heart.** "Although You are so little, I know that You are God. Why do You take the appearance of such a little baby to commune with me?" **Because I want to teach you spiritual childhood. I want you to be very little, because when you are little, I carry you close to My Heart, just as you are holding Me close to your heart right now** (*Diary*, 1481).

**My Prayer Response:** Lord Jesus, You delight in our cuddling close to Your Heart, so You can teach us spiritual childhood. Thank You for the example of St. Faustina.

## **ОГОЛОШЕННЯ**

1. 1го січня св. Літургії о 9:00 і 10:30
2. 5го січня перше Водосвяття після св. Літургії яка почнеться о 9:00 годині.
3. 5го січня матимемо Щедрий Вечір в нашій парафії починаючи о 5й годині. Окрім смачної вечері буде коротка мистецька програма. Білети можна закупити о парафіяльній Канцелярії після Святої Літургії.
4. Запрошуємо усіх на каву і солодке після Святої Літургії.
5. Молимося що тижня за духовенство нашої Епархії. В особливий спосіб молимся цього тижня за Владику Венедикта.
6. Сьогодні вечір матимемо молебень Нового Року о год. 11:30 вечером а опісля перекуси, молитва прославлення і банси. Почнім Новий Рік разом з Ісусом.
7. Хто бажає благословення дому Йорданською водою прошу виповнити листки які знаходяться на столики при виході із храму.
8. Маємо місце в залі де молодесенькі діти можуть забавлятися та місце де можна брати участь у Святій Літургії через відео трансляцію коли немає місця в церкві.
9. Церква Успіння Богородиці запрошує усіх вірних до участі чудового свята – КОЛЯДА В РІЧМОНД 7 січня. Св. Літургія о 11 ранку а опісля святкування з колядками, виступами талано витих артистів, різноманітні страви, розваги для дітей. 5700 Hill Rd. Richmond

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

1. On January 1<sup>st</sup> there will be two Liturgies celebrated at 9 and 11 AM.
2. On the Eve of Theophany this Friday, there will be a Divine Liturgy at 9AM followed by the first Blessing of Waters.
3. On the eve of Theophany Ukrainians have another Holy Supper called Shchedriy Vechir. For those who would like to, our parish will be holding such a supper in our church hall beginning at 5PM. Tickets will be available after all Divine Liturgies today.
4. Please join us for coffee and cake after the Divine Liturgy in our church hall.
5. The opportunity for providing Ukrainian language instruction in our Eparchy is being provided by Fr. Deacon Dr. Yevhen Logusch from our parish in St. Louis, Missouri. If you are interested please e-mail Fr. Deacon Yevher at [eugene.logusch@gmail.com](mailto:eugene.logusch@gmail.com) or call him at 314-303-2893.
6. We pray weekly for the priests of our Eparchy. This week let us pray in a special way for our Bishop Benedict.
7. Tonight we will have a moleben service at 11:30 to begin the New Year with our Lord followed by sandwiches and snacks in our church hall.
8. If you would like your home blessed by our priests with the blessed Jordan waters please fill out the forms which you can find on the table to the left as you exit our church.
9. The church of the Dormition of the Mother of God in Richmond invites all parishioners to a Christmas celebration – CAROL IN RICHMOND on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Divine Liturgy begins at 11AM followed by the celebration with Christmas carols and performances by talented artists from Chicagoland. Delicious dishes, entertainment for children and more awaits us.

# The Hidden Spiritual Danger Of Tattoos

From *Forums of the Virgin Mary* [translated; for discernment only]:

The best kept secrets of tattoos.

We can define our time as the era of tattoos and tattooed people.

It looks like a great temptation that has fallen on the young people of a couple of generations, of such magnitude that today it is perhaps more common to see a tattooed young man than a non-tattooed one. The media encourages getting one tattoo after another. And they show how the great stars of sports and entertainment do it, while there are no or few voices that draw attention to the consequences of the phenomenon and warn about its immediate and future problems.

Yet the act of decorating your skin irreversibly may have unsuspected physical and spiritual consequences.

And it seems that there are few who want to hear them for now, perhaps because getting a tattoo is a decision that has little chance of reversing.

However, it is reasonable to think that the willingness to reflect will change.

Here we will talk about the possible reasons why young people get tattoos, about the hidden physical and spiritual consequences, and about the reflection that a person should do when the temptation to get a tattoo attacks them.

Not long ago very few people had tattoos; most of them were sailors.

But in the last twenty years or more, tattoos have become very popular, for both men and women.

They have become much more elaborate and ubiquitous throughout and across the body.

And while some tattoos are gruesome, macabre, and even downright demonic, many tattoos are in "good taste."

But few things can be more unpleasant than a tattoo on sagging, wrinkled, and aged flesh.

And in the not-too-distant future, these faded tattoos will be commonplace.

On the other hand, tattooed people can be courteous and efficient in their work, good citizens, good parents, good Christians.

But it is disturbing that they are forced to permanently disfigure their bodies to this extent.

Why does a person want to get a tattoo?

Is it simply to attract attention, surprise, intimidate, accent, look cool or sexy?

Why has this era become an era of tattoos?

Is there a temptation from the evil one for you to deform yourself or decorate your body with a tattoo?

There is nothing in the Catechism that prohibits tattoos per se.

There is a text from *Leviticus* 19:28 that some turn to for its prohibition, but when seen in the context of the time, the prohibition had more to do with the practice of the pagans around Israel, who tattooed themselves as a sign of their dedication to a false god.

In general, there is no intention to offend God in most tattoos today.

Even Coptic Christians get tattoos to remind the world that they are Christians, despite being in a place where they are often martyred.

It is also not bad to paint something on the body if it will disappear after a few days or weeks.

But it is the fact of irreversibility that makes one wonder if it is appropriate to get a tattoo.

We should reflect that God created the human being in his image and likeness, so the human being, by his very nature, is the bearer of the beauty of God Himself, not only in the intellect and will, but also in the body.

By getting a tattoo you are indirectly saying that God did not do a good enough job.

And that his work must be improved, as transhumanists maintain.

Since the Early Church, human nature, body and soul, had a normative and sacred content, because we were all made in the image of God.

And tattooing is a type of desecration of something sacred, like God's Creation.

It is the statement that our culture likes to believe: that human beings are the Divine masters of this universe.

And there is no more dramatic way than claim to be God than to wage a holy war against God-given nature.

Seeing our bodies as things at the service of our conscious being is part of a mentality that accompanies some of the most serious sins of our time.

For example, "my body, my choice" is the motto used by the movement for early termination of pregnancies.

And this is just a few steps away from the notion that one can change one's sexual identity.

It is a rebellion against God that proclaims, "I can do whatever I want with my body."

And that is not a Christian view of the body. Because my body is an essential part of my identity, of my person. [scroll for more:]

And this is not trivial, but is at the basis of our spirituality.

But there is also something else disturbing.

Father Gabriele Amorth heard in exorcisms the devil repeatedly confess through the mouths of the possessed that whatever the subject of the tattoo, he is related in the tattoo in a real and continuous way, and with the tattooed.

He also said that many problems such as depression, alcoholism, and drugs often appear right after getting a tattoo.

And those possessed feel a fire burning right in the skin where they are tattooed.

Exorcist Monsignor Stephen Rossetti has also said he has found that tattoos can be a demonic portal.

He tells of the case of when Holy Water was spilled on a woman's tattoo, and she screamed "It's burning me!" though the water was cold.

He related the case of a tattoo of some roses, which became a huge demonic portal, and led to demonic possession.

And deliverance ministries know that tattoos are related to oppressions, infestations, and demonic obsessions.

Some tattoo parlors have also been known to curse the ink or inscribe magical symbols within the images.

And there are testimonies of people who have the sensitivity to locate tattoo parlors from a distance, because of all the demons that surround them.

Anton La Vey, founder of the Church of Satan, has said that behind every tattoo, whether it is a flower or a dragon, there is satanism.

A priest of Satan has the obligation to consecrate himself with a tattoo.

And several witches use tattoos as blood pacts.

In summary, the Church does not prohibit tattoos, but understanding that it is a permanent alteration of the person, one should never get a tattoo without a great analysis of the physical, social, moral, and spiritual consequences that it entails.

One must reflect on whether this is not a temptation from demons and whether there is not an unconscious form of rebellion against God behind it, which can lead to a greater separation in the future.

It is important to remember that a tattoo is a permanent alteration to the body, because tattoo removal is very expensive and can be painful.

And therefore it is something that will be with you for life, when your flesh is flaccid.

So Father Mike Schmidt proposes what he calls the Ten Year Test, that is, before getting a tattoo, ask yourself what it will be like in ten years, and if you would still want that same tattoo on your body.

And in cases where the person feels the need to get a tattoo, they should be careful not to tattoo things that go directly against the faith, such as obscenities or incorrect phrases, or images of other divinities and beliefs, even satanic themes.

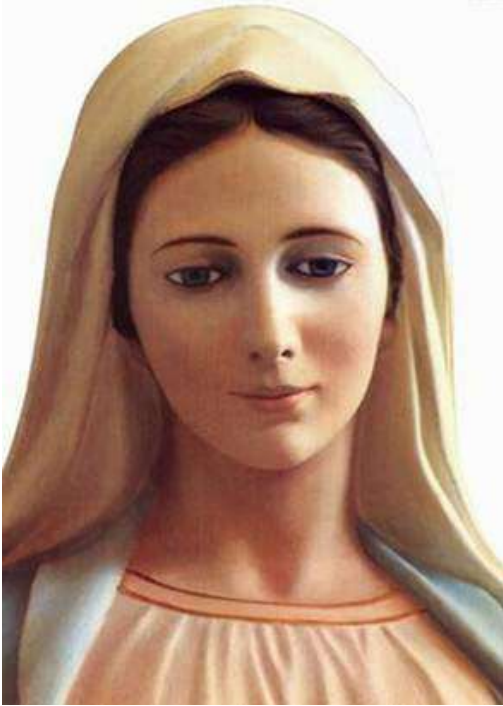
Well, that's it, we at Forums wanted to talk about the hidden consequences of getting a tattoo, so that those who want to get a tattoo can reflect.

And I would like to ask you why you think a person really wants to get a tattoo, beyond stating that they like it.



## OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE, QUEEN OF PEACE

*"Medjugorje is the spiritual center of the world"*



Dear Family of Mary!

Our Lady expresses her Heart so beautifully in the Magnificat. We want to take refuge in this most wonderful Heart of Mary:

**"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my savior,  
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is  
his Name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him in every genera-  
tion.**

**He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered  
the proud in their conceit.**

**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has  
lifted up the lowly.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.**

**He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever."**

Our Lady's Heart is indeed a place of safety for us. We need that place so badly in our time. She told us last June:

**June 25, 2023**

**"Dear children!**

**The Most High permits me to be among you - to pray for you, to be a Mother to you  
and to be your refuge.**

**Little children, I am calling you: return to God and to prayer and God will bless you  
abundantly.**

**Thank you for having responded to my call."**

Mother Mary has been sent by God to be our refuge! She prays for us and mothers us, and protects us! She is a refuge from all the trials and evils of our day. Flee to her and let her surround you with her protection. Thanks be to God!

*In Jesus, Mary, and Joseph!*

*Cathy Nolan*

*(c) Mary TV 2023*

## **ПРИГАДУЄМО УСІМ ПАРАФІЯНАМ**

Щоб гідно приймати Святі Тайни парафіянин повинен жити за правилами віри та серйозно підготуватися. Добрі (віддані) парафіяни є ті котрі:

- 1** В неділі й свята беруть участь в Святій Літургії
- 2** Жертвують час, таланти і матеріально підтримують парафію
- 3** Записані до парафії
- 4** Знають загальні правди й молитви нашої віри

## **A REMINDER TO ALL PARISHIONERS**

Reception of the Sacraments requires the committed practice of the faith and serious preparation. Committed parishioners are those who:

- 1.** Attend Divine Liturgy on Sunday's and Feast Days
- 2.** Give of their time, talents and financial resources
- 3.** Have enrolled in the parish
- 4.** Know and understand the basic prayer and tenets of our faith