

Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers – those who are sick that God will restore them to health, those who are homebound, and those who requested prayers for special intentions. Thank you!

St. Michael: Mary Bickowski Mary Luscavage Andrea Pytak Michelle Pasinski Dolores K. Paul Kerrick Kathy Lynch
Dolores O’Connell Leahy Richard Michalik Irene Acalin Gerald Acalin Stephen M. Tom Prete Charlie Calise Nancy Sawka
Teddy Weinrich Michael Welikonich Susan Chernesky Anna Demanski Catherine Mozdy Jennifer Mackeravage Sally Litwak

St. Nicholas: Mary Mistishen Jim Rehnert Elaine Naradko Georgine Draovitch Marie Plasha
Marie Carol Unuscavage Elizabeth Jansson

Parable of the Wicked Tenants - Mt 21 :33-42

In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells a parable of a vineyard owner who sends servants to collect the fruit, only to be mistreated and killed. Finally, he sends his beloved Son, expecting respect, but the tenants kill Him to seize the inheritance. The “vineyard” represents God’s people, the “servants” are the prophets and messengers sent to call them to repentance, and the “Son” is Jesus Christ Himself.

The parable shows God’s enduring patience. Even after repeated warnings and the sending of many messengers, He does not abandon His people. Instead, He sends His only Son, the ultimate gift, to restore the relationship. This reflects the Catholic understanding of God’s mercy and the Incarnation as the climax of His plan to reconcile humanity to Himself.

The tenants’ actions - beating, killing, and stoning the servants—mirror the rejection, murder, and betrayal of Jesus. The parable is a direct indictment of those who refuse to welcome the Messiah. In Catholic theology, this points to the sin of unbelief and the hardening of hearts, which alienates us from God’s love.

Jesus identifies Himself as the stone rejected by the builders, which becomes the cornerstone. This is a reference to Psalm 118:22 and Isaiah 28:16, affirming that God’s chosen one is the foundation of His Kingdom. The rejection of Christ is the rejection of God’s plan for salvation.

The parable concludes with the vineyard being given to “other tenants” who will produce its fruit. This signifies the inclusion of Gentiles and the faithful of all nations into the Kingdom, alongside those who accept Jesus. It calls for a community that lives out the Gospel—bearing fruit in love, justice, and holiness.

August 24th is Ukraine’s Independence Day - Pray for the end of the war and peace in Ukraine!

Ukraine Independence Day takes place every August 24, marking the nation’s pivotal 1991 declaration of independence from the U.S.S.R. This day celebrates Ukraine’s rich culture, language, and the enduring spirit of its people.

For modern Ukrainians, August 24 is not just a public holiday, but a day with special power and meaning. After the start of the full-scale war, the celebrations changed: they are no longer just about parades, concerts, or festivals, but about memory, gratitude, and the strength of the nation.

This day has become a symbol of the indestructibility of the Ukrainian people. Despite air raid sirens, shelling, and danger, millions of people in different parts of Ukraine raise blue and yellow flags on their houses, wear embroidered shirts, and gather for local events, which often have a charitable purpose — to help the army, displaced persons, or children affected by the war.

In many cities, solemn parades have been replaced by silent marches and moments of silence in honor of the fallen defenders. Churches offer prayers for soldiers and civilians, and Ukrainian songs, which have become a true spiritual shield, ring out in the main squares.

Today, Independence Day is a holiday that unites. It inspires not only Ukrainians, but also millions of people around the world who believe in freedom and justice. And on this day, it is especially clear that independence is not just a right, but a daily struggle that we will surely win together.

Below are the lyrics to the **National Anthem of Ukraine** written by Ukrainian poet **Pavlo Chubynskyi** in 1862 and set to music by composer **MykhailoVerbytskyi** in 1863.

The anthem was officially adopted by Ukraine’s parliament in 1992, following independence from the Soviet Union, with the current official lyrics established in 2003.

The anthem reflects **Ukrainian patriotism, resilience, and the historical struggle for freedom**, emphasizing national unity and the enduring spirit of the Ukrainian people.
Each day at 9:00 am Ukraine stops for a minute of silence and all sing the National Anthem of Ukraine.



**The glory and freedom of Ukraine has not yet perished
Luck will still smile on us brother-Ukrainians.
Our enemies will die, as the dew does in the sunshine,
and we, too, brothers, we'll live happily in our land.**

**We'll not spare either our souls or bodies to get freedom
and we'll prove that we brothers are of Kozak kin.**

