



March 1, 2022

As the feeling of shock still resonates with many of us over the relentless military attack on Ukraine by Russian forces, I offer a message of heartfelt solidarity and support to members of our Ukrainian communities and beyond. This declaration of war on Ukraine is more than unjust – it is evil. It has spawned a terrible humanitarian crisis while destabilizing the world. It is already the cause of untold human anguish and suffering.

This weekend I visited with Fr. Vasyl Petriv and the parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel

Ukrainian Catholic Church in Baltimore. We prayed together for peace. We prayed for the safety of their relatives and friends and we prayed, **too**, for the courageous citizens in Ukraine who are fighting to maintain their independence and freedom.

Let us, as faithful people, use this as an opportunity to participate and make a positive difference. Pray to the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, the Queen of Peace that through her intercession, Christ, the Prince of Peace, will reign in human hearts, even those hearts that have hatched aggressive plans to subjugate innocent and peace-loving peoples.

On Ash Wednesday, your parishes are holding a second collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Funds raised will support relief efforts for those victims of this war in Ukraine. Please consider making a timely contribution. If you are unable to give at Mass, please make a gift [here](#).

This Saturday, March 5, at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, I will celebrate the 5 p.m. Mass in support of Ukraine and those in our community with close ties to the country. Please join me. May God bless you and keep you in his love and peace.

With kind personal regards, I remain

Faithfully in Christ,



Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore