

# WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!



**Dear friends in Christ,**

In recent months, Ukraine has found itself back in the global spotlight amid fears of a full-scale Russian invasion. According to western intelligence sources, some **100,000 Russian troops** have amassed at the Ukraine border ready for a military operation in the coming weeks.

A massive Jan. 14 **cybersecurity attack**, regarded by many as a **prelude to military action**, affected approximately 70 Ukrainian government websites, with an onscreen message warning users to “be afraid and expect the worst.” People of Ukraine are fearing the worst – a full-scale Russian military invasion that would lead to numerous casualties and millions of refugees in Europe.

In this situation of fear and anxiety, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church through the Synod of Bishops in Ukraine issued in November 2021 **a special call to prayer and uninterrupted fasting over the next four months in the intention of peace, prevention of military threats and better future of Ukraine.** We are convinced that

prayer is crucial in resolving the Ukraine crisis. We have already witnessed that with the collapse of the Soviet Union 30 years ago and the events related to the Revolution of Dignity on Maidan.

We are also **grateful to the international community** for their ongoing support of our country and invite every Christian in the world and all people of good will to **pray for peace and justice in Ukraine**.



### **Pope calls for a day of prayer for peace over Ukraine situation**

At the conclusion of Sunday's midday Angelus, **Pope Francis** expressed his concerns over the increasing tensions that threaten to overturn chances for peace in Ukraine and security on the European continent in general, given the wider

repercussions of any conflict. In response, the Pope has proposed that next **Wednesday 26 January** be a **day of prayer for peace**.

We have heard the voice of the Holy Father Francis, who has repeatedly expressed his **paternal closeness to the “beloved Ukraine”**, urging the powerful in the world to resolve the crisis through “serious dialogue and not with arms” (*Angelus of 12.12.2021*).

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**HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV:  
"A PRAYER FOR PEACE IS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY KIND OF  
WEAPONS!"**

The faithful of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church are grateful to the Holy Father for his call to universal prayer for Ukraine. Father and Head of the UGCC, **His Beatitude Sviatoslav**, in his [video message](#) appealed to all the UGCC faithful globally **inviting them to join in this prayer**:

*"Why it is so important to pray for peace in Ukraine nowadays? When new dangers arise and the enemy stands at our gate, then our soldiers check their military preparedness, our statesmen work on the organization of social mechanisms, diplomats engage the world community to have support for our people and our State. And what do Christians do? Christians at this time pray, fast and repent for their sins".*

Our [Zhyve.TV](https://zhyve.tv) will be broadcasting this **prayerful marathon on Jan. 26 from 9 till 21:00** (Kyiv time).

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### **CEE Appeal to Europe for the situation in Ukraine**

The **Presidency of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CEE)**, giving voice to the Bishops of the European Continent in this dramatic moment of tension around Ukraine, **expressed its closeness to the Churches in Ukraine and to all its people.** They invite the international community to offer its support to the country in the face of the danger of a Russian military offensive.

*"We, as shepherds of the European Continent, want to appeal to the Leaders of the Nations so that they **do not forget the tragic World Wars of the last century and so that international law as well as the independence and territorial sovereignty of each country will be defended.** Together with the Holy Father, we want to call on*

*Governments to find “acceptable and lasting solutions” in Ukraine based on dialogue and negotiation and without resorting to arms.”*

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**An Appeal of the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of the United States:**

***“Pray for peace and justice for Ukraine.***

***Be informed.***

***Support the suffering.”***

**Ukrainian Catholic Bishops in the US** note: *"Today, the world watches and wonders: Are religious liberty, a free press, a robust public debate, and accountable government in a **sovereign state to be punished through the escalation of an invasion that began in 2014?** Is the Ukrainian people's exercise of their God-given dignity a threat to a modern Herod's thirst for power and hegemony?"*

**The war in Ukraine is real.** It kills, maims, and destroys daily. An escalated Russian invasion will generate additional millions of refugees, more dead and injured, more tears and pain. Still, **the people of Ukraine courageously endure.** As they stand with a gun to their head, **they ask for our solidarity.**

**May God's gift of human dignity and freedom be honoured and protected in Ukraine and throughout the world!**

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