



Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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March 12, 2024

Dear Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ!



The **Great Lent Giveaway (GLG)** is designed to give our youth the opportunity to do good works for others during Great Lent. In addition to doing good works, they learn more about their faith and devote additional time to learning, prayer and fasting during this season of preparation for Pascha. The GLG is a joint project with the Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League. With the blessing of our Hierarchs, the GLG of 2024 will create a scholarship fund for newly immigrated youth from Ukraine due to the war.

This year we are asking that all youth of our church support this effort by helping to raise funds/collecting for and raise awareness through the Great Lent Giveaway about the work of our church the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

You will find in this packet a suggested outline for conducting the GLG. We encourage you to construct a program using the full program materials, as well as your own ideas, to make the GLG more than just a fundraising effort. A program that is carried out throughout Great Lent will help the youth of your parish to more fully understand the importance and beauty of almsgiving during fasting periods.

The GLG program may be used any time throughout the year, not just during Great Lent. Please modify it for your needs.

In an effort to reduce consumption of resources and live as better caretakers of our Lord's creation, the full program is available is available online.

You may download the organizational session at www.uocyouth.org. The organizational session includes: *Great Lent Giveaway How To and Opening Discussion: Why Scholarships for Camp?*, and *Fundraising Ideas*. Posters are also available for download.

Please send us with any questions at uocyouth@aol.com or by phone at 412-977-2010.

In Christ's Love,
Natalie Kapeluck Nixon
Director

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it” Proverbs



GREAT LENT GIVEAWAY How To.....

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and the
Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA

2024

Creating Camp Scholarships for Newly Immigrated Youth from Ukraine

Objective: To instill in our youth the true meaning of Great Lent by:

1. Providing for youth a better understanding of our church
2. Learning more about their faith
3. Discovering Stewardship and tithing
4. Devoting more time to prayer

GLG Project: Collecting funds, raising awareness about the war in Ukraine and supporting newly immigrated youth by providing a positive experience of Orthodox camping.

Steps for initiating and sustaining the Great Lent Giveaway throughout Great Lent – this program may be divided into several sessions or one retreat:

1. At your first gathering/meeting discuss the Great Lent Giveaway. See the attached outline for your first discussion. At this gathering you will want to decide how you will raise your funds.
2. Have the youth present their ideas for collection of the items. Take time to discuss all of the proposals. Ask them to decide, based upon the presented plans, on a game plan as to how you will accomplish your goals.
3. Utilize the Lenten Retreat – A Servant’s Heart, in you GLG plan! A Servant’s Heart resource guide available at www.uocyouth.org

Establish with the participants a regular time to gather and to utilize the provided curriculum to learn more about Heifer International and our call to give alms during Great Lent.

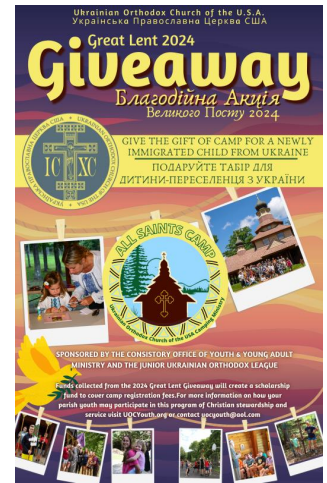
4. Discuss progress with the collection.
5. Collect and forward the donations to the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry or the National Jr. UOL Financial Secretary. For questions contact the GLG Coordinator or OYM Office.

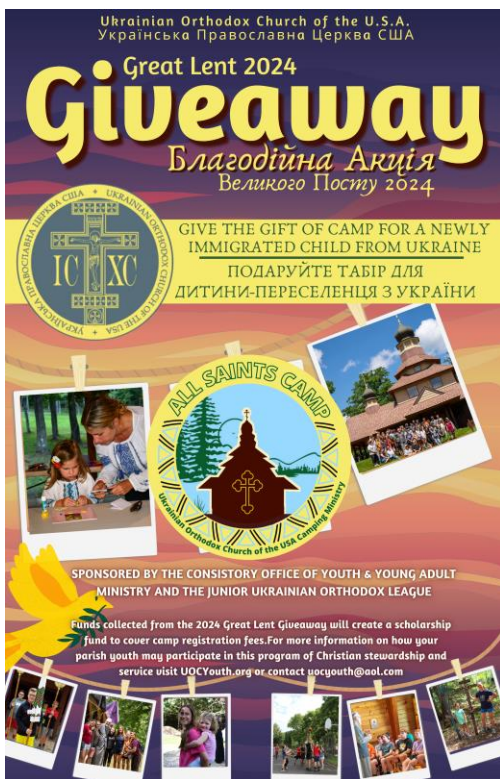
Great Lent Giveaway
Office of Youth Ministry
PO Box 869
Carnegie, PA 15106
uocyouth@aol.com

Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League
Agatha Harendza – GLG Coordinator
juniorpres@uolofusa.org
Contact for Address

SPECIAL NOTE! This year’s GLG is time sensitive. The sooner we have monies in the scholarship fund the sooner we may begin awarding the scholarships. The National Board of the JR UOL has already ensured that two scholarships may be awarded to begin. How many more scholarships can we offer?

6. Wrap up the project and have a celebration event with the youth on St. Thomas Sunday – you may continue collecting funds until July 1, 2024. People may also donate this year online using this link https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=UZ7K86WGB343C in the notes please indicate which Jr UOL Chapter or parish you are a part of.





Great Lent Giveaway 2024 Outline for Initial Discussion

Needed Items:

- Reflection from His Eminence Archbishop Daniel on the Second Anniversary of the Invasion of Ukraine

https://youtu.be/7890EZtVY2I?si=x630qygQ9f_Xdr4R

- Copy of Great Lent Giveaway Poster
- Crafting paper
- A Servant's Heart Lenten Retreat

<https://www.uoc youth.org/stsophiayouthministryresources>

- Videos from the Jr UOL Board on Compassion, Stewardship, Unconditional Love and Prayer

- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLPrAR0VU_VfbRqmuKsqACZmplx68LrIH
- **Additional sessions on Compassion, Unconditional Love, Stewardship and Love may be found at www.uoc youth.org/glg**

Preparation

- For all ages: Download or bookmark the Great Lent Giveaway videos. Ensure you can show the introduction video for the GLG.
1. Begin your gathering in Prayer. Being that Great Lent has begun you could choose to have your first discussion following one of the weekday services. If choosing the weekend, perhaps plan to cook a lenten meal together. This is a great way to teach our youth a possibly families, how simple it is to prepare a lenten meal.

Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, faint-heartedness, lust of power and idle talk. But rather, grant unto me thy servant, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love. Yes Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother for blessed are you to the ages of ages. Amen.

2. Take a moment to discuss the purpose of the Great Lent Giveaway (GLG). Show the video that explains the work of the GLG for the last 20 years. Ask the participants, "What is Great Lent preparing us for?" *Pascha* "The Church in its wisdom always provides us with tools in our journey to Christ to help us along the way. Many tools are given to us during Great Lent on our journey to Pascha – can you name them?" *Increased Prayer, Additional Divine Services, Fasting, Almsgiving/Christian Love and Charity. For younger children, you could play a game such as charades or Pictionary to learn the lenten "tools".*

After the video

For Younger Children: *Ask them, Why should we take care of other people? How can they help the children from Ukraine who no longer are living in their homes?*

For youth/teens: *Why should we take care of other people? If you had to leave your home, what do you think you would need? Have you ever left for a vacation and forgotten something at home? How does that feel? If you had to evacuate your home and take only a few things, what do you think that would be like? How can we show our love for our neighbors by caring for them?*

Watch each of the videos provided for the GLG 2024

For young children: *You can watch the videos from Ancient Faith Kids – The Olive Jar – Prayer and Kindness*

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5GgqWnxwifRoJ4YPajmb5rfjcJViz_eV&si=ZVNZ2-fP1jI_IVW0

You do not need to go into any details about the war.

For youth/teens: *Watch all of the GLG videos and discuss. What do they think about these topics? How are we “being” the church when we care for others? Do they know someone or have they been effected by the war in Ukraine? Have they attended the camping programs at All Saints Camp? Whether the answers are ‘yes’ or ‘no’, how do they think offering these scholarships can be helpful?*

3. *Let’s discuss how we are going to participate in the GLG this year!”* Wrap up the discussion by moving into the final points of the “*GLG How To*”. Encourage the youth to take on leadership roles, making publicity, organizing any fundraising event, creating items to sell, or coordinating blanket collection. Even young children may take on a simple task.
4. Have the youth create a display about the Great Lent Giveaway and the efforts of the UOC of USA in humanitarian aid. This will be put in your parish hall to help raise awareness and help with the fundraising.
5. Complete the session in prayer. Perhaps the meeting could be held prior to a lenten service and the youth could pray together in this way.

Taking it Home – Continuing the Journey

- Choose a time to conduct the Lenten Retreat – A Servant’s Heart. This half-day retreat helps our youth understand why we serve others and also deepen our own faith. A part of the retreat is to raise awareness for the GLG.
- Utilize some past sessions of the GLG in the coming weeks to continue growth and discussion.