



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 22, 2021

Dear friends,

I pray that you and your family are safe, and I pray that you are experiencing a grace filled Great Lent and we will celebrate the Easter in a beautiful manner together this year.

Since Bishop Milan Sasik died unexpectedly, our mother church in Uzhorod has been experiencing severe financial distress. Even worse, many priests with families are not being paid any salary. In the poor mountain parishes, their entire salary was stipends that Bishop Sasik solicited from donors in the wealthier countries of western Europe. I very much would like to help these priests through this difficult time and difficult winter. I believe that stipends for Divine Liturgies have many good points. Here are some key points:

- 1) A stipend for a Divine Liturgy goes directly to the priest. No one is allowed to take a fee or percentage from the stipend by Church law.
- 2) The Eparchy of Passaic will pay the administrative costs, so that 100% goes to a priest and his family who need the help.
- 3) Your name will not be sent with the stipend. Only the nature of the request and initials of the person to be prayed for.
- 4) People in need are happier if they can do something in return for their assistance.
- 5) Prayers for the dead are an ancient and laudable custom.
- 6) Prayers for a sinner will not be wasted. God hears them and answers them at the best time.
- 7) In other European countries, the government pays the priests. Not in our mother eparchy.
- 8) NB Stipends are not tax deductible. You will receive a thank you, but not a "tax letter".

If you choose to participate, God will bless you doubly, for the prayers and also for helping those in need. I commend you to the care of the all holy Mother of God.

Your servant,

+ Kurt

Most Rev. Kurt Burnette
Bishop of Passaic

[Click here to download the
Liturgy Intention form](#)

