



Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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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 2019 will be building upon the theme, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 25:14, by benefitting local community charities.

This year we are asking that all youth of our church support this effort by choosing an organization, charity or project in their area that they can support. We would like parish youth groups and Jr UOLs to share their projects with us! They can be shared through email (uocyouth@aol.com) or on our social media outlets.

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.

This year we are producing a series of videos that you may share with your youth to help deepen their faith during Great Lent and participate in the GLG. The videos will show our GLG team working on the various projects in their city/town. 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 serve people in my community?*, 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



REAT 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

2020

Benefiting Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

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: Choosing an organization, charity or project in your local area to support and aid.

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

1. During Great Lent, new videos about the GLG will be provided for viewing on OYM **YouTube Channel** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAfevp10zTZzMys5o13nkIA> Each video will share how the members of the Jr UOL Board and the OYM Office are serving their communities.
2. 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.
3. Have the youth present their ideas for a way to serve the community. 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.

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. Forward information to the OYM Office as to how your group is serving in the local community. Write an article, take photos, or create a video – it is up to you! They can be shared through email (uocyouth@aol.com) or posted to the OYM or UOL social media sites on Facebook and Instagram.
6. Wrap up the project and have a celebration event with the youth on St. Thomas Sunday. You may want to discuss continuing this project as a part of your youth programming.





Great Lent Giveaway 2020 Outline for Initial Discussion

Needed Items:

- Great Lent Giveaway Videos Introduction Video and video with JR UOL Board which may be found at the Office of Youth Ministry Channel – Great Lent Playlist
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLPraR0VU_VfbRqmuKsqACZmplx68LrlH
- Copy of Great Lent Giveaway Poster
- Crafting paper

Preparation

- For younger children: Prepare the video of the Good Samaritan
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWmBQ5ZYub4>
 - For older youth and teens: Bookmark the Be the Bee Video – What is a Servant?
<https://www.goarch.org/-/being-a-servant>
A second choice for a video if from Orthodox Notes -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1C9xzcRDYw&list=PL1yrYxcfmaY1ZPAEmGP8Bvc2WbIKL-Z&index=3>
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 from Rachel Harendza, JR UOL Coordinator of the GLG. 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".*

Pass out your handouts and/or photos.

For young children: [Show the video of the Good Samaritan.](#) When done have the children explain the video to you.

For youth/teens: [Watch the video from Be the Bee.](#)

After the video

For Younger Children: *Ask them, What do you think Jesus was telling people with this story? Based on their answers discuss service to others or helping other. How can they help the other people? Allow time for them to give ways that we can serve or help other people. It can be as simple as a hug, cleaning our room or taking food to a food pantry.*

For youth/teens: *Ask what did you learn about why Christian serve? What does this mean for our everyday life?*

Indicate that in the coming weeks we will be learning about Christian Charity and Service. Keep a running list of ideas that can be added to each week. What can you do as a group?

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 their chosen service. This will be put in your parish hall to help raise awareness and help with the fundraising if needed.
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

Each week a new video connected to the Great Lent Giveaway and deepening our faith during the fast will be posted on the UOCofUSA Youtube channel. Have your youth watch the videos together or ask them to watch the video at home. Have them discuss what they learned and how it applies to their journey to Pascha. How can they live what they learned?