Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Church
2301 South 16th Street, Omaha, NE 68108

Mailing Address: 1513 Martha Street, Omaha, NE 68108
Rectory Telephone: 402-345-1552
Website: www.ukrainiancatholicbvm.org Email: ukrainianomaha@gmail.com

Fr. Petro Kozar
Email: o.petro.kozar@gmail.com
Phone: 312-607-2909

SAINT JOSEPH'S STORY
In 1595, the Orthodox bishop of Brest-Litovsk in present-day Belarus and five other bishops representing
millions of Ruthenians, sought reunion with Rome. John Kunsevich—who took the name Josaphat in
religious life—was to dedicate his life, and die for the same cause. Born in what is now Ukraine, he went to
work in Wilno and was influenced by clergy adhering to the 1596 Union of Brest. He became a Basilian
monk, then a priest, and soon was well known as a preacher and an ascetic.

At a relatively young age, upon becoming both bishop of Vitebsk and archbishop of Polotsk, Josaphat
faced a difficult situation. Most monks, fearing interference in liturgy and customs, did not want union with
Rome. By synods, catechetical instruction, reform of the clergy, and personal example, however, Josaphat
was successful in winning the greater part of the Orthodox in that area to the union.

But the next year a dissident hierarchy was set up, and his opposite number spread the accusation that
Josaphat had “gone Latin” and that all his people would have to do the same. He was not enthusiastically
supported by the Latin bishops of Poland.

Despite warnings, he went to Vitebsk, still a hotbed of trouble. Attempts were made to foment trouble and drive him from the
diocese: A priest was sent to shout insults to him from his own courtyard. When Josaphat had him removed and shut up in his
house, the opposition rang the town hall bell, and a mob assembled. The priest was released, but members of the mob
broke into the bishop’s home. Josaphat was struck with a halberd, then shot, and his body thrown into the river. It was later
recovered and is now buried in St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. He

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Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
(The Priest Martyr St. Josaphat)

Tone 7

Тропарі і Кондаки:

Тропарі (7): Знищив Ти хрестом Твоїм смерть, відчинив розбійникові рай, мироносицям плач на радість перемінив і апостолам звелів проповідувати, що відкрив Ти, Господь Боже, даючи світові велику милість.

Тропарі (4): Світительком світлим явився Ти, священноученику Йосафате, бо як добрий пастир душу Свою поклав Ти за вівці, ставши жертвою за святе з'єднання. Ти ввийшов у Святе-святых, з безпілесними перебуваючи, тож молимо Тебе багатостраждальний: Проси пастирів начальника Христа, щоб Він залічив нас до тих, що стоять по правиці Його стада та щоб спаслися душі наші. Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові, и нині, і повсюди, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

Кондак (7): Вже більше влади смерти не зможе людей держати, зійшов бо Христос, знищивши і знівечивши сили її, зв'язується ад, пророки ж однодушно радіють. З'явився Спас тим, що вірують, промовляючи: Виходьте, вірні, до воскресіння.

Прокімен:

Прокімен (7): Господь силу людям Своїм дасть, Господь поблагословить людей Своїх миром.

Стих: Принесіть Господові, сини Божі, принесіть Господові молодих баранців.

Прокімен (7): Чесна перед Господом смерть преподобних Його.

Стих: Що віддам Господеві за все, що Він дав мені?

Troparion and Kontakion:

Troparion (7): By Your cross You destroyed death; You opened Paradise to the thief; You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy, and charged the apostles to proclaim that You are risen, O Christ our God, offering great mercy to the world.

Troparion (4): You have become a brilliant light, O priest-martyr Josaphat. You gave up your life for your sheep like the Good Shepherd. You were slain by the lovers of heresy, and you have walked into the Holy of Holies to rest in the company of the angels. O long-suffering saint, we make this petition to you: Beg Christ, the Prince of Shepherds, to save our souls and to number us among the sheep on his right hand. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen.

Kontakion (7): No longer shall the dominion of death be able to hold humanity, for Christ went down shattering and destroying its powers. Hades is bound. The prophets exult with one voice: The Savior has come for those with faith, saying: Come forth, O faithful, to the resurrection!

Prokimenon:

Prokimenon (7): The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O you sons of God; bring to the Lord young rams.

Prokimenon (7): Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His faithful.

Verse: How can I repay the Lord for all the good He has done for me.