



*УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ*  
*UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA*  
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A PRAYER FOR SAINT SOPHIA CATHEDRAL IN CONSTANTINOPLE

"O Lord, save Your People..."

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Your Graces, Reverend Clergy, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is general knowledge, that the great cathedral in Constantinople, Saint Sophia, which served as a museum since 1934 has, by a decision of the Turkish Government, been returned to the status of a mosque.

In response to this decision His All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew I will pray the Akathist to the Blessed Mother of God for Her intercession on Friday, July 24, 2020 as a result of this challenge. Orthodox communities around the world will unite in prayer with His All-Holiness as a sign of solidarity. Prayers will be held in Ukrainian Orthodox churches in Ukraine and throughout the world on Friday, the Feast-day of Kniahynia Olha, the grandmother of Kniaz Volodymyr of Kyiv. We remind you, that she was baptized in St. Sophia Cathedral in Constantinople. Also, St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv is modelled after the great cathedral in Constantinople.

During this time of the coronavirus pandemic and under the various restrictions throughout Canada we call upon our clergy and faithful to pray this Friday, in an appropriate way, whether through serving the Akathist to the Blessed Mother of God or through reading it by oneself or by saying another prayer to reflect our concern for the fate of St. Sophia Cathedral and in solidarity with His All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew I.

With love in Christ,

+ *Yuriy, Metropolitan*

+YURIJ, Metropolitan  
Winnipeg, Canada  
July 23, 2020