

## St. Josaphat Kuncevych's QUATERCENTENARY 400th Martyrdom

November 12, 1623

Later this year, on Sunday, November 12, 2023 we will be celebrating the Quatercentenary (400th Anniversary) of the martyrdom of St. Josaphat Kuntsevych. St Josaphat Kuntsevych is the patron saint of Saint Josaphat's Parish in our family of three parishes, Resurrection and Our Lady Help of Christians, and soon to be fourth parish with the addition of Queen of Martyrs. I see no better time than now to begin to prepare for these events by invoking the assistance of Saint Josaphat who was a great preacher of unity. And it was for this very unity of the Church that he paid the ultimate price with his own blood defending the unity of the Church from those who sought to continue division; those of the Eastern Orthodox faith who did not see the Pope in Rome as their head of their Church. God wants unity.

In John's gospel, Chapter 17, verses 11, and 20-23, Jesus speaks to his Father saying, "And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are." "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that they may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me."

Saint Paul talks about unity in the Church (Christ's Body) in his letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 4, verses 1-6 "I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call: one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

On many Sundays at mass when we say the Nicene Creed we say: "I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins."

As we move closer to this celebration, each month, we will learn more about the life of St. Josaphat Kuntsevych. What made him fight for unity so fervently? How did he accomplish this task, even with his death?

I would like you to begin to ask yourself "How God is calling me to help unify His Church right now in this diocese, in this parish? What gifts, skills, or talents do I have to help our parish family as we continue to unify in Christ? We are not doing any of this alone, but we are being aided by the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, by the intercession of Saint Josaphat. Be bold and do not be afraid. Everyone from all 3 Churches are invited to celebrate Mass in November