Presanctified Liturgy
For All the Victims of the War in Iraq
On the Fourth Anniversary of the Invasion
March 19, 2007
St. George’s Romanian Catholic Cathedral
Canton, Ohio
7:00 PM

In recognition of and witness to a truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ—namely, that the enemy of a tribe, of a nation, of an ethnic group or of a person is not the enemy of God, but rather is an infinitely valued and loved son or daughter of the “Father of all” (Ep 4:6) who is to be valued and loved as Christ-God values and loves him or her—Bishop John Michael Botean will celebrate a Presanctified Liturgy at the time and place noted above for the eternal peace and salvation of all who have been killed in the war in Iraq, whether they be from the United States, Iraq, Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, England, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey or Uzbekistan. This Liturgy will also include special prayers for the uncountable number of known and never-to-be-known sons and daughters of mothers and fathers inside and outside Iraq who have been maimed—directly or indirectly—in body, soul, mind or spirit by this war and who must carry this yoke of misery for all the days of their lives.

All are welcome and wholeheartedly encouraged to come in the Spirit of peace and pray in peace for the peace of all—living and dead—to the “God of peace” (1Thes 5:23) in whom “violence and cruelty can have no part.”