



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

21 Evergreen Road
Lyndora, PA 16045-1314



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА
ЦЕРКВА СВ. ПЕТРА І ПАВЛА

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WELCOME All! Welcome to the God-Loving and God-Protected Parish of Saints Peter and Paul! A Parish of the UOC of the USA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Our warmest greetings are extended to all visitors and guests, and to all of our beloved parishioners who are participating in today's Divine Liturgy. We are blessed to have you with us today! If you are with us for the first time, PLEASE introduce yourself to Father Yurii – he is looking forward to meeting you! Also, please feel free to email or call Father Yurii with any questions and let him know what is going on in your life, especially if you need spiritual guidance. We hope that you will find peace and comfort in Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church. You are very welcome to come every Sunday and on feast days, make yourself at home, and to become a part of our parish family. Through your prayers and dedication of time, talents, and donations, this can become a reality in all faith and love.

CONTACT

Father Yurii Bobko, Pastor

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<http://www.orthodoxlyndora.org/>

Parish Board President:

Maria Corbin

Choir Director:

Lydia Rudolf

AUGUST 27, 2023

Sunday, August 27

Ven Poemen the Great

Epistle Reading: 1 Cor 15:1-11

Gospel Reading: Matt 19:16-26

Divine Liturgy – 9:00

Sunday, September 3

Hiermartyr Anthimus

Epistle Reading: 1 Cor 16:13-24

Gospel Reading: Matt 21:33-42

Divine Liturgy – 9:00

Friday, September 8

**The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady
Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**

Epistle Reading: Ph 2:5-11,

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Divine Liturgy – 9:00

Sunday, September 10

Before Elevation, Martyr Menodora

Epistle Reading: 2 Cor 1:21-2:4

Gospel Reading: Matt 22:1-14

Divine Liturgy – 10:00

Saturday, September 16

Great Vespers

For the feast of Elevation of the Cross

6:30 pm

Sunday, September 17

ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

Epistle Reading: 1 Cor 15:1-11

Gospel Reading: Matt 19:16-26

Divine Liturgy – 10:00

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

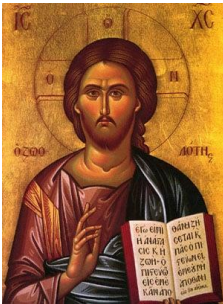
GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READING

The reading is from the Corinthians 15:1-11



Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

The Gospel According to Matthew 19:16-26



At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All the citizens and residents of Ukraine, Stanley Ostwinch, Julia Walek, pani matka Lilia, Jean Markiw, Patrick, Debbie, Wesly, Cindy, Christine, Denny Zymboly, Ruth Dally, Philip, Eric, Greg, Carl, Kayden, Rose, Dorothy Cygan, Helen, Fr. Vasyl, Mary-Ann, Payton, Anthony, Tina, Mykola, Stella, Maksymko, Fr. Yurii, Maria, Fr. Jakiw, Fr. George, Volodymyr, Alexandr, Vincent.

PARISH NEWS AND UPDATES

September 3rd - Potluck, Bible Study!

September 12th - meeting of Christian Fellowship of Ss. Peter and Paul at 6 pm!

September 17th - coffee hour organized by Antoinette Kennedy!

September 18th - Executive Board Meeting at 6 pm!

Please remember that on Friday, **September 8th**, we are celebrating one of the 12 great feasts of the Church year – **The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary!** We encourage everyone to join and celebrate Divine Liturgy of this feast day together with us!

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who joined us to celebrate Divine Liturgy and Picnic at Alameda Park last week with our friends from St. Anthony Orthodox Church. Special thank you to the organizers, all those who helped with preparing and cleaning, and thanks to everyone for bringing great dishes to share. It was a beautiful day for Picnic and Divine Liturgy; everyone had great fun. If you would like to see pictures from the event, you can find them on our Church Website or our Church Facebook page.

As the summer months draw to a close, we wish to announce that we will return regular schedule regarding services, **Divine Liturgy will start at 10 am beginning Sunday, September 4th**. Please make note of this and mark your calendars as we return to our regular time for Divine Liturgy.

Last week on Thursday, August 24th, we joined together with our Diocese in celebrating the 32nd Anniversary of our ancestral homeland of Ukraine. To mark this occasion, we offer in our bulletin this morning the Epistle from our Hierarchs on this event and its celebration. Let us all join together in praying for Ukraine and for God's continued blessing and guidance upon it during the continued War going on there at the present time.

Ukrainian Relief Dinner & Prayer Service

LED BY OUR BELOVED HIERARCHS



Sunday, September 24, 2023

Service 4:00 PM • Dinner 5:00 PM

ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
419 South Dithridge St.
Pittsburgh (Oakland) 15213

Net proceeds will benefit IOCC's Ukraine Crisis Response

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

For information or to volunteer,
call Zella at 412.417.4706



We would like to announce that this year same as last year, St. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL will be hosting *Ukrainian Relief Dinner & Prayer Service on Sunday, September 24, 4:00 pm*. If you would like to participate, you could find all the information regarding this event on our Information Church Board.

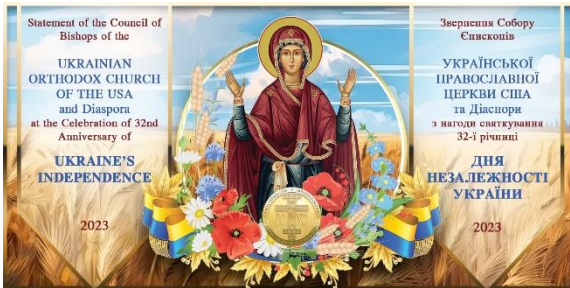
Dear brothers and sisters, we are still gathering the contribution for help in Ukraine. If you would like to send your contribution, you could send the check to our parish of Ss. Peter and Paul and made it Payable to the Ss. Peter and Paul UOCOFUSA. Please, write on the check “Help Ukraine”. Thank you all so much for your support and help! We encourage everyone to continue to give generously to our Capital Improvement Fund as we continue to work on different projects of maintaining and updating our Parish buildings.

Holy Confession is available before Liturgy and Great Vespers! For Baptisms, Weddings, Memorial Litiya, or any other services, please arrange with Father Yurii! Pastoral Visitations of the Sick and Infirm: Please inform Father Yurii if you or your family members are going into the hospital for any reason or if they would like to receive Spiritual guidance!

PARISH CELEBRATION

From the bottom of Ss. Peter and Paul parish family heart we wish **Mary McCarthy (September 4th)**, **Eugene Lesney (September 20th)** Happy Birthday! May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

Statement of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora at the Celebration of 32nd Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence - 24 August, 2023



As we celebrate the 32nd anniversary of Ukrainian Independence, we find ourselves in perhaps the most critical moments of all Ukrainian history. We witness yet another genocidal invasion of the nation by the armed forces of the Russian Federation whose main target are the innocent civilians – mostly senior citizens and their grandchildren – sleeping in their beds at night. We hear the oft repeated by Russian dictators, allegation that there is no such nation “Ukraine” and no such people “Ukrainians”, followed by the promise of the present dictator at the beginning of his invasion, that “when we are finished, there will be not a single person left anywhere who will self-identify as a Ukrainian. Finally, we hear the promise made by the prime hierarch of the government’s “church”, promising in a Holy Day sermon that any soldier who dies fighting in the invasion of Ukraine murdering self-identified Ukrainians will earn forgiveness of all their sins, equating them to the holy martyrs. Shortly thereafter, he began deposing his own clergy who pray for peace rather than for victory over Ukrainians as he ordered them to do.

We witness millions of men, women and children fleeing from their homes and the invaders to nations all round the world. We witness nations, some of which have been known as “traditional” enemies of Ukraine opening wide their borders, their hearts, their minds and souls in welcoming and supporting Ukrainian refugees on a scale seldom seen throughout world history. We witness the millions of our fellow citizens here in the United States of America and South America who have worked diligently to collect the funds necessary to support those remaining in all regions of Ukraine – millions contributed to our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA because of their trust in our ability to maintain transparency in the distribution of aid to all who desperately need it.

We witness the world’s greatest nations supporting the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the defense of their nation, astounding the world with their success and professionalism. We witness the profound oneness of mind throughout all the “nation” – the people – of Ukraine. These are people of God who have, throughout all their lives, remained faithful to God trusting that His “Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven”. We witness men of all ages serving in Armed Forces defending the nation with their every bit of energy and certainty in their righteousness. We witness a man

who portrayed an “accidental” president on television elected as the “real” President of Ukraine, becoming an inspiration for not only his nation, but for nations all around the world, uniting his people into one mind about who they are and what they will always be.

Yes, we are at a critical moment of Ukrainian history because that President and his government face what can become overwhelming pressure to negotiate and end to the conflict not of their own making by making sacrifices of land and people. We are at a critical moment because that President and his government may well face additional pressure to deal with critical issues existent at all levels of society that may do more to undermine Ukraine’s future than any unjustifiable invasion.

We are not politicians and have no desire to be politicians. We, along with you, dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, are people of God whose responsibility is to pray for all the people of God throughout Ukraine. We have worked closely with the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in our Christian aide programs and we call upon the Church, her clergy and her people to once again become the active conscience of the nation of Ukraine. We call upon the Church of Ukraine to put forth at all times the necessity of standing in humility before God in the Holy Trinity seeking strength to follow the Guidance of the Holy Spirit in the way we relate to one another and the Grace to profess our love for one another under all circumstances. We call upon all people of faith around the world to live in that same Grace and in compassion and mercy for all through our “oneness” in the image of God.

Pray, dear brothers and sisters in our Lord, pray more fervently than ever before in your daily life. Pray for peace, pray for understanding, pray for open hearts, minds and souls that will be able to rebuild Ukraine so that like the proverbial Phoenix, she will “rise up from the ashes” to fulfill her destiny among the forever free nations of the world. Pray for the leadership of the nation and the Church that they may always be one with the people they serve.

We extend our deep gratitude to all who have stepped up in our parishes and as individuals to help in aiding the people of Ukraine. Your unconditional love has worked miracles! Yes, we are at a critical moment as we celebrate this 32nd anniversary of Ukrainian Independence – and celebrate we do because we have learned so much about the citizens of Ukraine, but also because of how much we have been blessed and enabled in our assistance to them. May the Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Remember your faith as part of your daily prayers: “The Father is my Hope, the Son is my Refuge, the Spirit is my Protection.” Pray this and believe.

UOC of the USA Serves in Time of Need Caring for the Sanctity of Life



In the sweltering heat of the hot summer days all nature seems to pause. The birds roost in the shade of the leafy green trees, dozing in the breeze that rocks the branches. Sheep and cattle seek shelter in the shade beneath the trees and rest. The buzz of the cicadas and the hum of the crickets seemed to lull all to a lazy sleep.

But war does not sleep. Even in the heat of the noonday sun the missiles fly overhead pummeling the earth, ripping it apart. Bombs explode tearing through towns, villages, and homes. Bullets find their mark in the arms, chests, legs, and hearts of those who stand in the sweltering heat in defense of their loved ones, of their nation, and of freedom.

The stark contrast between the serene stillness of nature during a hot summer day and the relentless chaos of war is evident. As nature rests, the soldiers defending Ukraine from the Russian invasion continue their duties despite the intense heat. There is no rest when you fight to defend all you love. The results of war find the living quickly tended to and triaged. Bandages are applied, splints and tourniquets tightened, and medicines administered. But what of those who do not survive their injuries? What about those who gave their all to protect that which they cared for and believed in?

There is little time to tend to the dead, as the living are aided. However, each person, each man and woman have someone waiting for them to come home. Their hopes and prayers were that their loved one would return to them victorious to live out their lives together in peace and harmony, to watch their children grow to adulthood and get married, to comfort their aging parents in their later years, to tend to the crops, fix the roofs, teach their children to ride their bikes, to spend lazy days at the beach, to fly kites in the breeze, to celebrate holidays joyously together. None of that would now happen. Children would not be able to hug their fathers. Grandkids would no longer experience their grandfather's arms wrapped around them. Mothers would no longer be able to teach their children family traditions. Wives are now widows. Parents are childless. Children are orphans.

The lives left incomplete, the bonds severed, and the void left behind highlights the profound loss experienced by those who have lost loved ones in the conflict. The dead need to be buried, and the living need closure. They need a chance to bid farewell, to pray for the souls of their loved ones, and to stand at their grave as in death their bodies are returned to the earth which they so valiantly defended in life. Even in the midst of conflict, humanity's compassion and respect for life endures.



While the world rushed to aid Ukraine especially at the start of the war, sending food, funds, and supplies to sustain the lives of those who suffer, there is also a great and unspoken need to deliver the dead to their final resting place. If refrigerated transport is not available, the heat of the summer precludes transporting the bodies of the dead as they become a biological hazard and endanger those whom they wished to protect while alive.

The bodies of deceased individuals need to be preserved in appropriate conditions to prevent decomposition during transportation. Refrigerated vehicles maintain low temperatures, slowing down the natural process of decay and decomposition. Families of the deceased soldiers are already dealing with significant emotional distress. Ensuring that the bodies are properly preserved and handled during transportation can help minimize additional emotional trauma. As we rejoice at the birth of a child and celebrate new life, we must also with love and honor see that life off onto its final journey. The Church cares for each soul from the moment it enters this world until the Final Judgement. Even though the hearts no longer beat, they had once been the temple of God and as such we must ensure that the bodies are treated with the utmost care and reverence as they journey to their final resting place.

To that end the UOC of the USA has sponsored refrigerated vehicles to transport the bodies of these fallen heroes back to their families and loved ones for a final goodbye, for prayers, and for burial. With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and the Diaspora, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the UOC of the USA, and Consistory President, has thanks to the generous donations of the faithful of the Church procured three such refrigerated vehicles. Working through Protospesbyter Kostyantyn Kuznyetsov of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine, the UOC of the USA these vehicles will be put to immediate use in transporting the remains of the warriors killed on the frontlines back to their hometowns, to their loves ones, to the their final resting place.

While not a glamorous purchase, it is one of the utmost importance. Not only does it show the respect due to those who gave their lives for their neighbors, but, it also grants comfort and closure to the families who are grieving their greatest loss. These vehicles are one final gift to the departed, making it possible for the bodies to be buried following the teachings and traditions of the Church, instead of buried in the field where they were killed, in an unmarked grave. The Church ministers to the souls of the faithful from birth onto death. Having enacted the Sacraments of baptism and chrismation, heard their confessions, counseled, and strengthened their resolve, administered the Eucharist, and now offering them their final prayers for the forgiveness of any sins and for life everlasting in the Kingdom of Heaven.