



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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.

## AUGUST 6, 2023

### Sunday, August 6 TRANFIGURATION

Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 1:10-19

Gospel Reading: Matt 17:1-9

**Divine Liturgy – 9:00**

### Saturday, August 12

Great Vespers

For the feast of Dormition

**6:30 pm**

### Sunday, August 13 DORMITION

**Confessor Maximus**

Epistle Reading: Ph 2:5-11, Gospel

Reading: Lk 10:38-42

**Divine Liturgy –9:00**

### Sunday, August 20 Prophet Samuel

Epistle Reading: 1 Cor 9:2-12

Gospel Reading: Mat 18:23-35

**Divine Liturgy – 9:00**

## CONTACT

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Parish Board President:

Maria Corbin

Choir Director:

Lydia Rudolf

# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

**“SO DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH YOU; DO NOT BE DISMAYED, FOR I AM YOUR GOD. I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU AND HELP YOU; I WILL UPHOLD YOU WITH MY RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND.”**

— ISAIAH 41:10

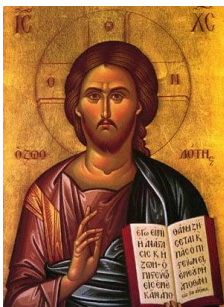
## GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READING

### The reading is from the 2 Peter 1:10-19



Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you all ways of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

### The Gospel According to Matthew 17:1-9



Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and

touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.” When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”

### 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

**August 6<sup>th</sup>** – Potluck!

**August 8<sup>th</sup>** – meeting of Christian Fellowship of Ss. Peter and Paul!

**August 20<sup>th</sup>** - coffee hour organized by Adrian Hassler!

**August 21st** - Executive Board Meeting!

We would like to remind that next **Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**, we are going to celebrate one of the twelve great feast days of our Holy Orthodox Church – ***Dormition of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos***. On Saturday, we are going to have Great Vespers with carrying out of the Shroud and on Sunday Divine Liturgy followed by the blessings of flowers.

We would like to announce that on **Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**, ***we are going to have Picnic in Alameda Park, Pavilion 13*** together with St. Anthony Orthodox Parish. ***We are going to have Divine Liturgy starting at 9 am and right after Liturgy there will be a Picnic with Potluck (Please bring some dish for a Picnic)***. Also, we are going to grill Hot Dogs and Hamburgers. (Pavilion13 is located at the Upper Part of Alameda Park. At the stop sign by the Kids Zone Playground go straight, turn right at the Odd Fellows Gazebo, pass Shelter 1 and it will be on your left.)

It's been a couple of months since the foundation of our new Christian fellowship of Ss. Peter and Paul. We have already gathered twice and have many plans for the future in our Church and community. We have been participating in the games of BlueSox, and it was nice to spend together. Many other activities aware for us in the future, and even more opportunities to serve and to show love to our neighbor. In this manner, we encourage each of you, dear parishioners of Ss. Peter and Paul to come and see, join



us as we journey together through the sea and life of our faith. It would be great to have you as part of our Christian fellowship.

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 **Maria Corbin (August 17<sup>th</sup>)**, **Andrian Hassler (August 20<sup>th</sup>)**, **Larry Cygan (August 22<sup>nd</sup>)**, **Patty Hnatko (August 25<sup>th</sup>)** Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary to **Karen and Steven Sheptak (August 3<sup>rd</sup>)**, **Fr. William and Pani Sonya Diakiw, Lydia and Mark Rudolf (August 28<sup>th</sup>)**. May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

### Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that "there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Matt. 16:28), He took His three foremost disciples and ascended Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that He is the Lord of both the living and

the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, whither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the Jordan at the Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and saying: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him" (Matt. 17: 5).

Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Matt. 13:43). It is because of this that the Kontakion of this Feast is said daily (when there is not a great feast) in the Service of the Typica in perpetual commemoration of the glory that will be the lot of the Saints. According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass forty days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.

### **Tropar of Holy Transfiguration**

You were transfigured on the Mount, Christ God revealing Your glory to Your disciples, insofar as they could comprehend. Illuminate us sinners also with Your everlasting light, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. Giver of light, glory to You.

### **Kontakion of Holy Transfiguration**

You were transfigured upon the mount, O Christ our God, and Your disciples, in so far as they could bear, beheld Your glory. Thus, when they see You crucified, they may understand Your voluntary passion, and proclaim to the world that You are truly the effulgence of the Father.

## **Icon of the Feast**

In the icon of the Feast of the Transfiguration, Christ is the central figure, appearing in a dominant position within a circular mandorla. He is clearly at the visual and theological center of the icon. His right hand is raised in blessing, and his left hand contains a scroll. The mandorla with its brilliant colors of white, gold, and blue represent the divine glory and light. The halo around the head of Christ is inscribed with the Greek words *Ο ΩΝ*, meaning "The One Who is".

Christ appears in the center of the icon blessing with His right hand and dressed in bright white robes.

Elijah and Moses stand at the top of separate mountain peaks to the left and right of Christ (Elijah stands on the left side in the icon and Moses, holding the Ten Commandments, stands on the right side). They are bowing toward Christ with their right hands raised in a gesture of intercession towards Him. Saint John Chrysostom explains the presence of these two fathers of the faith from the Old Testament in three ways. He states that they represent the Law and the Prophets (Moses received the Law from God, and Elijah was a great prophet); they both experienced visions of God (Moses on Mount Sinai and Elijah on Mount Carmel); and they represent the living and the dead



(Elijah, the living, because he was taken up into heaven by a chariot of fire, and Moses, the dead, because he did experience death).



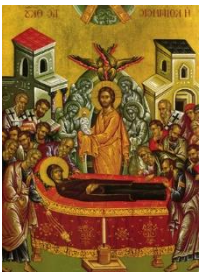
Below Christ are the three Apostles, who by their posture in the icon show their response to the transfiguration of Christ. James (right) has fallen over backward with his hands over his eyes. John in the center has fallen prostrate. Peter (left) is kneeling and raises his right hand toward Christ in a gesture expressing his desire to build the three

booths. The garments of the Apostles are in a state of disarray to indicate the dramatic impact the vision has had on them.

The icon of the feast directs our attention toward the event of the Transfiguration and specifically to the glory of God as revealed in Christ. This event came at a critical point in the ministry of our Lord, just as He was setting out on His journey to Jerusalem. He would soon experience the humiliation, suffering, and death of the Cross. However, the glorious light of the Resurrection was revealed to strengthen His disciples for the trials that they would soon experience.

The feast also points to the great and glorious Second Coming of our Lord and the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God when all of creation will be transfigured and filled with light.

### **The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary**



Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God.

With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and

asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens. These things has the Church received from the traditions of the Fathers, who have composed many hymns out of reverence, to the glory of the Mother of our God (see Oct. 3 and 4).

### **Tropar of Dormition of the Theotokos, First Tone**

In birth, you preserved your virginity; in death, you did not abandon the world, O Theotokos. As mother of life, you departed to the source of life, delivering our souls from death by your intercessions.

### **Kontakion of Dormition of the Theotokos, Second Tone**

Neither the grave nor death could contain the Theotokos, the unshakable hope, ever vigilant in intercession and protection. As Mother of life, He who dwelt in the ever-virginal womb transposed her to life

## **Food and Logistical Supplies Purchased and Deliver to Ukrainian Towns via Generosity of the UOC of the USA**



As we enter the month of August, families around the world start preparing their children for the start of the upcoming school year. New clothing is purchased along with bookbags, school supplies, and alarm clocks to ensure the youngsters get up, get dressed, have breakfast, and make it on the school bus on time.

In Ukraine, the children wake to the alarm of sirens warning them of missile attacks. Breakfast is not even mentioned as the children's stomachs growl from hunger. Instead of new clothing, they wear the same clothes they have worn for the past many days and weeks. Food is scarce and everyone's thoughts focus on daily survival.

As Ukraine continues to get pommelled by the Russian Federation, the innocent civilians are suffering an unimaginable and unforeseen hardship. Already living in fear, jumping at the slightest sound, hiding in cellars and bombed-out buildings, they now have the added burden of finding clean water for drinking, cooking, and bathing.

Medical issues remain untreated as the roads have become virtually impassible due to all the missile strikes. Medicines, hygiene products, and food items are difficult to acquire. Children are not finicky eaters turning up their noses at mealtime. Instead, they greedily devour what little food is provided for them.

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 actively been sending aid to Ukraine thanks to the generous donations of the faithful of the Church. Working through Protopresbyter Kostyantyn Kuznyetsov of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine, the UOC of the USA has been able to send supplies and support Ukraine during these trying times.

Airstrikes have destroyed numerous cities and villages forcing the survivors with nothing more than clothes on their backs to walk long distances to find shelter and assistance in neighboring cities. It is to these cities, over bombed, pockmarked roads with cracked pavement, that assistance is delivered to those in need. Regardless of the air raid sirens and the danger to their own safety, Father Kostyantyn, along with his wife, Natalia, travel to the war-torn areas to reach those who are in the worst need of standard supplies of food and hygiene products.

Unloading their vehicle, they immediately set to filling bags with the essentials of life including canned and non-perishable food items, hygiene products, diapers and baby products, pain killers, bandages, etc. Having heard of their arrival, the elderly with canes and walkers slowly amble towards the gathering. Infants cry as their mothers cradle them in their arms while trying to keep their older children quiet as they carefully and timidly make their way forward. People shuffle towards the gathering wearing their old worn-out shoes, and the clothing that has been on their backs through the pouring rain and the sweltering sun.

In addition to food, the women with children are given a supply of diapers, and candy for their youngsters. A bit of joy in these scary times for the innocent youth. Medicines are provided, pasta, rice, and canned meats. Socks, soap, shampoo, and toothpaste which once seemed so unimportant, are gratefully accepted, and bring unprecedented joy.

Before departing the people gather and are led in prayer by Fr. Kostyantyn. They crossed themselves and bowed their heads beseeching the Lord to grant peace to Ukraine, to safeguard the defenders of freedom, to protect the warriors as they work at protecting the country and civilians, to grant all those gathered good health, and the strength and fortitude they will need to survive the war and rebuild their nation. Having prayed for peace, Fr. Kostyantyn blessed the food items, and the people who had gathered before him, asking the Lord's Grace upon them all.



With the prayer concluded people began to leave for their own shelters. However, Fr. Kostyantyn and his wife were not yet done. They collected some of the supplies and getting back in their car drove around the destroyed villages, stopping at demolished homes, searching out the elderly and those too weak to venture out in search of safety. Delivering food and medicine to them, he assured them that they are not forgotten but are loved and prayed for.