



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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Parish Board President:

Maria Corbin

Choir Director:

Lydia Rudolf

## FEBRUARY 19, 2023

**Sunday, February 19**

**MEATFARE, Last Judgment;  
Apostles Archippus**

Epistle Reading: 1 Cor. 8:8-9:2;

Gospel Reading: Matt 25:31-46

**Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45**

**Divine Liturgy – 10:00**

**Saturday, February 25**

**Moleben service for Ukraine – 6 pm**

**SUNDAY, February 26**

**CHEESFARE**

St. Porphyrius of Gaza

Epistle Reading: Rom 13:11-14:4,

Gospel Reading: Matt 6:14-21

**Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45**

**Divine Liturgy – 10:00**

**Monday, February 27**

**Great Canon of St Andrew - 6:30 pm**

**Tuesday, February 28**

**Great Canon of St Andrew - 6:30 pm**

**Wednesday, March 1**

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts-6:30 pm  
(Ss. Peter and Paul)**

**SUNDAY, March 5**

**Sunday of Orthodoxy.**

Martyr Sabbas of Egypt;

Epistle Reading: Heb 1:10-2:3,

Gospel Reading: Mark 2:1-12.

**Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45**

**Divine Liturgy-10:00**

**Wednesday, March 8**

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts-6:30 pm  
(St. Anthony Church)**

# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

“WE OUGHT TO REMEMBER GOD EVEN MORE OFTEN THAN WE BREATHE”  
— ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN

## GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READING

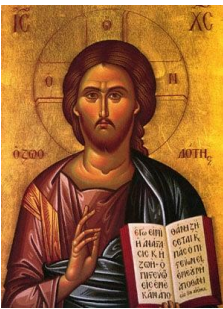
**The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2**



Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord..

## The Gospel According to Matthew 25:31-46



The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you

sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All the citizens and residence 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

**On Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.** – on the first anniversary of the Russian invasion to Ukraine, the public invited to pray Moleben service for Ukraine, the suffering people within Ukraine, those children and families who have left their homes for safety.

Dear brothers and sister, please remember that **on February 27<sup>th</sup>, Great Lent begins.** The season of Great Lent is the time of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ. It is the living symbol of man's entire life which is to be fulfilled in his own resurrection from the dead with Christ. It is a time of renewed devotion: of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time of repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts and deeds in conformity with Christ and his teachings. It is the time, most of all, of our return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors. It is our repentance that God desires, not our remorse. We sorrow for our sins, but we do so in the joy of God's mercy. We mortify our flesh, but we do so in the joy of our resurrection into life everlasting. We make ready for the resurrection during Great Lent, both Christ's Resurrection and our own.

As Great Lent begins, we will have more Services than usual, especially during weekdays of Great Lent. These Services are founded by our Holy Orthodox Church for the benefit of faithful Christian to help in their spiritual life in uniting with God and understanding our dependence on Him! That's why it is important to come and participate in these services to understand more deeply the meaning of Great Lent, the meaning of our Life, and come closer to our main goal in life - the Kingdom of God!

This month, we are going to have Executive Board Meeting on **Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>!**

The Feast of Orthodoxy is celebrated on the first Sunday of Great Lent in the Eastern Orthodox Church and other churches using the Byzantine Rite to commemorate, originally, only the final defeat of iconoclasm on the first Sunday of Lent in 843, and later also opposition to all heterodoxy. Remembering tradition of our Holy Orthodox Church, on Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>, after Divine Liturgy, we are going to have procession with icons. Please, bring your won icon.

We would like to thank everyone for participation last week at our Super Bowl Sunday! All soups were delicious and everybody enjoyed it a lot. All collections will help to those who are in need on Ukraine and many other places.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who came up to help with our Pirohi Sale last week! We would like to invite and encourage everyone to come out to help with the next Parish Pirohi Sale on **February 24<sup>th</sup>!** Please, come and help as we work together once again for the good of our Parish in this special way.

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.

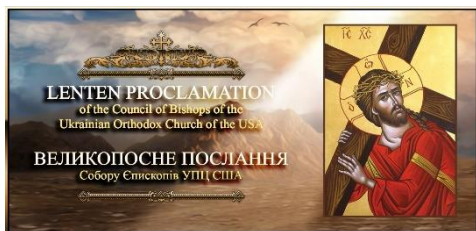
Holy Confession is available before Liturgy and Great Vespers! For Baptisms, Weddings, Memorial Litiya, or any other services, please arrange with Father Yurii! Pastoral Visitations of the Sick and Infirm: Please inform Father Yurii if you or your family members are going into the hospital for any reason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

For more information regarding our Church life, please visit the official website of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church- <https://uocofusa.or>

### PARISH CELEBRATION

From the bottom of Ss. Peter and Paul parish family heart we wish **Amil Lesney (February 9<sup>th</sup>)**, **Lauren Heiger (February 12<sup>th</sup>)**, **Fr. Yurii Bobko (February 18<sup>th</sup>)** **Frank Hawryliak (February 23<sup>rd</sup>)**, **Mark Rudolf (February 24<sup>th</sup>)** Happy Birthday! May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

**To the Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
of the United States of America, our Eparchy of Western Europe,  
of our Eparchy of Australia and New Zealand, and our Eparchy in South America  
Dearly beloved Spiritual Fathers, Sisters and Brothers of the FAITH,  
CHRIST IS AMONGST US! IS AND ALWAYS SHALL BE!**



As we enter the blessed Great Lenten journey in preparation for the celebration of the FEAST of ALL FEASTS – PASCHA or the RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD – it behooves us to contemplate the necessary temporal and spiritual conditions for the successful completion of that journey and the fullness of Joy, Peace and Love of PASCHA. What are these preparations?

Through the five weeks in anticipation before Great Lent we are provided with Scriptural lessons that manifest them clearly.

We begin with the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) who was a tax collector/thief, who had such a desire to be with Christ that he faced ridicule by people for climbing a sycamore tree to come face to face with our Lord, Who responded by speaking directly to Zacchaeus, indicating that He knew Zacchaeus and would stay at his home. Zacchaeus responded to criticism that our Lord would stay at the home of a sinner, declaring that he would make amends to all who he had cheated and give half his wealth to the poor. The Lord responded that “salvation has come to this home today...because the Son of Man has come to see and to save that, which was lost.”

The lesson about the Publican (also a tax collector) and the Pharisee) (Luke 18:10-14) – a religious leader – depicts the Pharisee standing in the front of the Holy Altar proclaiming his “righteousness” and adherence to the Law and how great he was in comparison to the Publican. The Publican stood simply at the rear of the temple, head bowed low and beating his chest and beseeching: “God have mercy on me a sinner” and he alone, through his sincere humility returned to his home “justified”.

Next, we heard the lesson about the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), who demanded what would be his inheritance from his father, received it and rapidly squandered it in a foreign land, finally ending up in the fields feeding swine. Finally, he “came to himself (схаменувся)” and returned to his father declaring: “Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”

The Last Judgment (Matthew 25:31-46) is the next lesson, presented by our Lord with a clarity that does not leave any room for us to misunderstand. The choices we make in relating to

ALL our neighbors and ALL mankind will determine whether we will be judged to be lambs or goats. The way we respond to the two Great Commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it – You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

The final scripture lesson is about forgiveness, the manner of our fasting and storing up treasures in Heaven. (Matthew 6:14-21). Each time we pray the “Lord’s Prayer” we ask, “forgiveness of our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”. These cannot be empty words but, rather a heartfelt petition with consequences determined completely by each of us as individuals. If we cannot forgive...neither will we be forgiven. The way we fast is between each of us and God and the way others fast if of no concern to any of us. Forgiveness and sincere fasting enable us to store up treasures in Heaven where we hope to find ourselves after the final judgment.

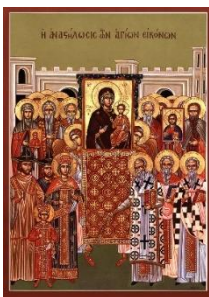
Having received and internalized all these lessons, we are prepared to enter into the fullness of Great Lent and to make a confession that arises from the depths of our hearts and souls – rather than from the often-confused intellect that can so easily succumb to all the temptations of the world, leading us away from, rather than to Christ. Throughout this Great Lent seek to come face to face with Christ, Who, you will discover, knows you intimately from the moment of your cleansing Baptism and the Seal of your Chrismation. Seek to make amends to those you have wronged; seeking forgiveness from those you have offended and offering forgiveness to those who have offended you; approach God with a humility that does not offer excuses or reasons for bad behavior and sinfulness; “come to yourself” in the recognition that you have squandered God’s gifts to you – your talents, your ability to love, your ability to share yourself and your treasures. Search for the ways that you can minister - to your neighbor, to the homeless, to the naked, to the thirsty, to the sick, to those imprisoned (physically, mentally or emotionally) and search for the ways you have failed to minister to all.

As we enter the Great Lenten Season, we, your hierarchs, successors to the Holy Apostles, humbly beseech your forgiveness for any way we may have hurt you, not been present to you, misled you or have been, in any way, responsible for spiritual confusion or even pain of any nature. We promise to strive for improvement in the future under the Grace and Guidance of the Holy Spirit. In turn, we express, from the depth of our hearts, minds and souls the same forgiveness to you on both the spiritual and temporal level. We love you all without reserve and assure you of our prayers for you daily, beseeching your prayers also for us.

Finally – as the one-year anniversary of the invasion approaches, we request that throughout this Great Lent and Paschal Seasons you dedicate your prayers, fasting and hope for the welfare of our brothers and sisters suffering through another genocide. This unjustifiable invasion

of Ukraine is inspired by an all-consuming hatred in the minds and souls of those who would eradicate Ukraine and her ethnic distinction as a people. Pray fervently for an end to the suffering through deliberate targeting of civilians and non-military infrastructure. Further, pray fervently for the repose of the souls of all those who have perished during the aggressive insanity. May our Loving Lord hear our petitions and bring an end to this horror forever.

### **1st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy**



The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm.

The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilus, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes.

In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel.

#### **Tropar, Second Tone**

O Christ our God, begging forgiveness of our sins, we venerate Your Pure Image, O Good One. Of your own will you condescended to ascend upon the Cross in the flesh and deliver those You created from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, thankfully, we cry out, "When You came to save the world, You filled all things with joy, O Our Savior.

## Let's Prayerfully Honor the Victims of the War in UKRAINE: Commemorative Prayer Vigil - 23 February, 2023



On the morning of February 24, 2022, as dawn broke over Ukraine, Russia declared war in the form of a “special military operation” against Ukraine.

It was at 4 am on that day that the war in Ukraine began with a strike of a rocket. With a 7-hour time difference - it was 9pm on February 23, 2022 on the East coast of the United States of

America.

Millions of innocent children, men and women became refugees overnight in the neighboring Poland, Moldova, Germany and other countries, including the United States of America. Thousands of men and women lost their lives while protecting the peace and life and Ukraine. Thousands of civilians lost their homes and belongings.... Over a thousand children have been wounded and killed. Millions of people worldwide have felt the consequences of the war in Ukraine, due to food shortage, etc. That is the reality of a yearlong unprovoked war of Russian in Ukraine.

Please join us at the Spiritual Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in South Bound Brook/Somerset, NJ for a commemorative Prayer Vigil on February 23, 2023 at 8pm in order to embrace the people and nation of Ukraine with reflections and prayers, as the world marks the first anniversary of this barbaric attack on civilization.

The Prayer Vigil will take place at the Ukrainian Cultural Center (135 Davidson Ave; Somerset, NJ 08873) at 8pm, marking the first moments of the strikes/attacks in Ukraine.

With prayers for the people of Ukraine,  
+Daniel, Archbishop of the UOC of the USA