



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

21 Evergreen Road
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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.

FEBRUARY 4TH 2024

Sunday, February 4

Ven Isidore of Pelusium

Epistle Reading: Col 3:12-16
Gospel Reading: Matt 25:14-30
Divine Liturgy 10:00

Sunday, February 11

Hieromartyr Blaise; Saint Theodora

Epistle Reading: 1 Tim 1:15-17
Gospel Reading: Matt 15:21-28
Divine Liturgy – 10:00

Saturday, February 17

**Akathist to the Mother of God Icon
"Pantanassa"**
5:00 pm

Sunday, February 18

ZACCHEUS

St Leo the Great

Epistle Reading: Col 3:4-11
Gospel Reading: Matt 22:35-46
Divine Liturgy - 10:00

CONTACT

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Parish Board President:
Maria Corbin
Choir Director:
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SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

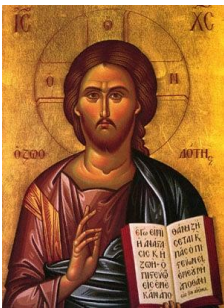
GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READING

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter Colossians 3:12-16



Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

The Gospel According to Matthew 25:14-30



The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master. And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master. He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every

one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." As he said these things he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

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

February 4th – We are going to have **Potluck** to benefit Ss. Peter and Paul.

February 13th – Ss. Peter and Paul Fellowship meeting at 6 pm.

February 18th – coffee hour organized by Pani Olha and Fr. Yurii.

This year Sunday, February 11th, our nation celebrates one of our country's favorite pas-time; Super Bowl Sunday! As a part of this, we have the opportunity to share with those who are in need by participating in our Super Bowl Sunday special collection to help those who are in need in Ukraine at this time of war. For this reason, we are going to have our Super Bowl Sunday, next week at our Hall. **Please, bring your own Soup the same for Potluck, on Sunday, February 11th to share with others and money that we will collect will be sent for the humanitarian aid to Ukraine.**

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who came up to help with our Pirohi Sale last season! We would like to invite and encourage everyone to come out to help with the next Parish Pirohi Sale on **February 9th**! Please, come and help as we work together once again for the good of our Parish in this special way.

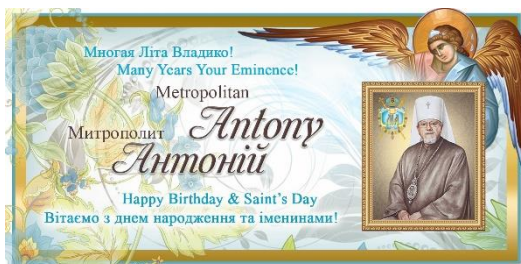
Dear brothers and sisters, we are still gathering the contribution for help in Ukraine. If you would like to send your contribution, you could send the check to our parish of Ss. Peter and Paul and made it Payable to the Ss. Peter and Paul UOCOFUSA. Please, write on the check “Help Ukraine”. Thank you 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!

PARISH CELEBRATION

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

Letter of Greeting to His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Spiritual Father of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA on the Occasion of His Birthday Celebration and Name Day



30 January, 2024

Venerable Anthony the Great

Your Eminence Metropolitan Antony,

On this sacred day that marks both your Birthday and Name Day, I extend my warmest and heartfelt greetings to you. It is with prayers and great respect that I join the countless faithful and clergy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in celebrating your ministry and life.

Your leadership as the spiritual father of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora has been a beacon of wisdom, compassion, and grace. Your unwavering commitment to the spiritual well-being of the community has been a source of inspiration for many generations, fostering a sense of unity and devotion.

As we reflect on the significance of this celebration, we are reminded of the profound impact you have had on the lives of those under your guidance. Your teachings and pastoral care have not only strengthened the spiritual foundation of the Church but have also touched the hearts of individuals in profound ways.

May this day bring you immense joy, surrounded by the love and respect of the clergy and faithful of the Church you serve. May you continue to be blessed with good health, wisdom, and divine guidance as you navigate the sacred responsibilities entrusted to you.

Your Eminence, your dedication to the principles of faith, love, and service is a testament to the rich spiritual legacy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora. Your leadership has created a sense of unity and purpose, fostering a vibrant Ukrainian Orthodox Christian community that stands as a testament to the enduring values of our faith.

As we celebrate your Birthday and Name day, we offer our deep gratitude for your tireless efforts in shepherding the flock and nurturing the spiritual growth of the faithful. Your exemplary life serves as a guiding light for all of us on the path of righteousness.

As you continue to lead the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora with grace and humility, may God's grace surround you, granting you good health, wisdom, and strength for the challenges that lie ahead. May your unwavering commitment to the Church and its mission be rewarded with divine favor and continued spiritual growth.

In closing, I offer my prayers for your continued well-being, especially following the most recent hospitalization, and success in all your endeavors. May your life be filled with the joy of divine blessings, and may the coming year bring forth new opportunities for our Holy Church, our clergy and faithful.

With prayers, profound respect and warmest wishes,

Archbishop Daniel

UOC of the USA Received Awards From the Government of Ukraine with Gratitude for Providing Humanitarian Aid During the War



In a remarkable display of recognition and appreciation, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA recently received Ukrainian State Awards, sent directly from the representatives of the Ukrainian government. The President of Ukraine, the Minister of Defense, and the Commander of the Ukrainian Armed Forces bestowed these prestigious awards upon the UOC of the USA in acknowledgment of her exemplary efforts in providing charitable humanitarian aid during the challenging period of war in Ukraine.

This unique award presentation in the time of war, presented to His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, underscores the extraordinary circumstances under which these honors were conferred. The ongoing Russian invasion of the sovereign nation of Ukraine has presented numerous challenges, including logistical complexities that necessitated innovative approaches to the aid distribution by various charitable organizations and non-for-profit organizations, such as the UOC of the USA, that have been actively involved in humanitarian efforts.

The bestowal of the Presidential medal “For the Defense of Ukraine” to His Eminence Archbishop Daniel by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, truly signifies the gratitude for the UOC of the USA’s unwavering commitment to providing essential support during a time of crisis, not only addressing the spiritual needs of the affected population but also actively participating in humanitarian initiatives that encompassed food aid, medical assistance, and shelter provision. This award serves as a tangible expression of the nation’s collective appreciation for the Church’s impactful contributions.



The Minister of Defense Rustem Umierov, highlighted the strategic importance of the UOC of the USA’s engagement in humanitarian aid by presenting Archbishop Daniel the medal “For the Assistance in Defense Efforts”. This award underscores the critical role played by the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in complementing the efforts of the Ukrainian medical armed forces by addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by communities affected by the war.

The Commander of the Ukrainian Armed Forces General Valerii Zaluzhnyi presented the Church, in the person of Archbishop Daniel, with the medal “For the Assistance to the Armed Forces” which truly conveyed the significance of collaboration between the Church and medical and logistical needs of those that serve with dedication in the medical field of the Ukrainian armed forces. This award acknowledged the UOC of the USA’s impact and tangible support to the affected regions and represented a token of appreciation for the Church’s commitment to unity and solidarity. The presentation of the award to the hierarch of the UOC of the USA highlighted the Church’s role not only in providing spiritual solace but also in delivering tangible support such as food, medical supplies, and shelter. This holistic approach significantly contributes to the well-being of the affected population.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, speaking of the behalf of the fulness of the UOC of the USA, issued a statement expressing deep gratitude for the recognitions, stating that the Ukrainian Government’s awards bestowed upon Archbishop Daniel symbolized the collective gratitude of the Ukrainian government and armed forces. The recognition extended beyond an individual to encapsulate the collaborative efforts of the entire membership of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. The awards reflected the Church’s unwavering commitment to the principles of compassion, empathy, and service to humanity.

In his acceptance of the awards, Archbishop Daniel expressed humility and gratitude on behalf of the entire UOC of the USA. He emphasized that the Church’s mission goes beyond religious duties,



encompassing a responsibility to be a source of comfort and assistance to those facing adversity. The awards, according to Archbishop Daniel, serve as a reminder of the collective strength that arises when communities, religious institutions, and government entities come together in the spirit of solidarity.

In conclusion, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA's reception of Ukrainian State Awards highlights the resilience and adaptability of the Church amid challenging circumstances. The awards not only recognize the UOC of the USA's outstanding contributions but also symbolize the enduring spirit of unity and collaboration needed to navigate the complexities of war. These awards serve as a testament to the extraordinary efforts of the Church in providing charitable humanitarian aid, even in the face of logistical challenges posed by the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple



The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is described in the third Gospel (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the Divine Child was brought to the Temple at Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple for forty days. At the end of the time of her purification, the mother went to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb, two turtledoves, or pigeons to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. Out of humility, however, she fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he beheld the promised Messiah. By divine inspiration, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law.

Saint Simeon received the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel (February 3), “who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day.” She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the Divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38).

In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: “This Child has established Heaven and earth.”

Before Christ was born, the righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous persons of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet Him in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons by the holy bishops Methodios of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilokhios of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the VI century.

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. Giving thanks to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: Saint Andrew of Crete in the VII century; Saint Cosmas Bishop of Maium, Saint John of Damascus, and Saint Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the VIII century; and Saint Joseph, Archbishop of Thessaloniki in the IX century.

Today we also commemorate the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as “the Softening of Evil Hearts” or “Simeon’s Prophecy.” The Mother of God is depicted without her Child, and seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below.

Troparion — Tone 1

Hail, Virgin Theotokos, full of grace; / for from you has shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / giving light those in darkness. / Be glad, O righteous Elder; / for you received in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, / Who bestows upon us resurrection.

Kontakion — Tone 1

By Your birth, You sanctified a virginal womb, / and fittingly You blessed Simeon’s hands, O Christ God; / even now You have saved us by anticipation. / Grant peace to Your faithful people whom You have loved, O only Lover of mankind.