



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

21 Evergreen Road
Lyndora, PA 16045-1314



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА
ЦЕРКВА СВ. ПЕТРА І ПАВЛА

Tel. (724) 287-4448 Fax (724) 287-4448
E-mail: fryuriibobko@gmail.com

Today we have arrived at the Eve of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and we pray that each and every member of our parish community and our families will have a blessed and joyous celebration of Christmas and a blessed and happy New Year! As we gather together with friends and family this Christmas let us all give thanks that truly God is with us and has blessed us all with many blessings and especially the Nativity of our Lord and Savior!

As we celebrate this festal season let us all join together as a parish community in the liturgical celebrations of this joyous season. Let us join together as we celebrate this time in prayer and worship with the various services given to us by our Holy Church as a useful and beneficial celebration of God having come down and dwelt among His people.

CONTACT

Father Yurii Bobko, Pastor

Cell phone: 908-458-2076

Tel: 724-287-4448 (Church)

Tel: 724-282-6190 (Hall)

<http://peterandpauloclyndora.itgo.com>

Protopresbyter William Diakiw,

Attached

Parish Board President:

Maria Corbin

Choir Director: Lydia Rudolf

JANUARY 1, 2023

Sunday, January 1, 2023

**Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ**

Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the
Colossians 2:8-12; Gospel Reading: Luke
2:20-21, 40-52

Divine Liturgy -10:00

Thursday, January 5, 2023

Great Compline for the feast of
Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ

7:00 pm

Friday, January 6, 2023

**The Theophany of Our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ,**

Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Gospel Reading:
Matthew 3:13-17

Divine Liturgy -9:30

SUNDAY, January 8, 2023

Ven George Chozebite.

Epistle Reading: Eph 4:7-13,
Gospel Reading: Matt 4:12-17

Divine Liturgy -10:00

SUNDAY, January 15, 2023

Ven Paul of Thebes

Epistle Reading: 1 Tim 1:15-17
Gospel Reading: Luke 18:18-27

Divine Liturgy -10:00

With Archbishop Daniel

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

“LET THIS ALWAYS BE THE AIM OF YOUR CONDUCT; TO BE COURTEOUS AND RESPECTFUL TO ALL”

— ST. ISAAC THE SYRIAN

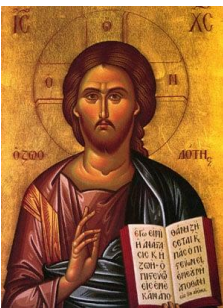
GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READING

St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 2:8-12



BRETHREN, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

The Gospel According to Luke 2:20-21, 40-52



At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why

have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All the citizens and residence of Ukraine, Fr. William, pani Sonia Stanley Ostwinch, Julia Walek, 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

January 8th – We are going to have **Potluck** to benefit Ss. Peter and Paul. Please bring a dish of food to be shared with others!

This month, we are going to have Executive Board Meeting on **Monday, January 16th at 6:00 pm!**

Please remember, this week on **Friday, January 6th**, we are going to celebrate one of the 12 great feasts of our Holy Orthodox Church – **The Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!! Please**, come and join us for the celebration of this Great Feast in the life of the Church!

As we continue with the celebration of Theophany we also will be participating in the practice of the Blessing of Homes as is the blessed tradition associated with the celebration of this Feast. Please use the Blessing of Homes list found next to our bulletins. Also, you could contact Fr. Yurii for scheduling or an additional information.

We would like to announce that we will celebrate the **Baptism of Samuel Bobko** on **Saturday, January 14th** together with His Eminence Archbishop Daniel who will lead the service, priests, seminarians and guests at our Ss. Peter and Paul parish.

We would like to announce that we will be blessed with a visit of our Archpastor, **His Eminence Archbishop Daniel** to our Ss. Peter and Paul UOCofUSA parish who will celebrate Divine Liturgy together with us on **Sunday, January 15th**. After Liturgy, we would like to invite all of our parishioners to festal luncheon following the Divine Liturgy.

We offer a word of thanks to Bob Shott and all those who have participated for donating and setting the beautiful poinsettias that are now beautifying our Church. May God's awesome blessings be upon you and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

We would like to express our gratitude to all of you for donation of Food for Thanksgiving project. All of the food was donated and delivered by Fr. Yurii to our local Food Bank “The Lighthouse Foundation”. All items donated will be used to fulfill the needs of the community. May God bless you for your generosity, as neighbor helping neighbor.



We wish to announce that January 13th, we are coming back with our Parish Pirohi Sale after Christmas Break! We would like to invite and encourage everyone to come out to help with the next Parish Pirohi Sale on **January 13th**! 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.org>

PARISH CELEBRATION

From the bottom of Ss. Peter and Paul parish family heart we wish **Rob Prokopchak (January 4th)**, **Pani Sonia Dialkiw (January 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!

Happy and Blessed New 2023 Year of our Lord from the President of the Consistory



My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ:
HAPPY NEW YEAR! З НОВИМ РОКОМ!

As we enter the year 2023, I pray that the spirit of THE GLORIOUS FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD lingers in our hearts. The reminder of Christ's coming, his abiding presence with us and the love, joy and hope our Savior brings are tremendous gifts for our suffering, broken and troubled world, especially as we prayerfully live through the days and moments of the ongoing war in Ukraine. I pray this message finds you well and enjoying the so needed peace that Christ brings into our lives.

The New Year provides the opportunities for us to turn a new page in our history. We remember and give thanks for the blessings of the past year, despite the challenges, adversities and uncertainties that we continue to endure.

Amidst all the troubles and losses, we have experienced in the past year, there were also moments of hope and encouragement. Our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA was able to offer the most necessary assistance to the nation – the people of Ukraine in the time of the ongoing aggression of Russia against the peaceful people of Ukraine, thus providing the life-supporting means in about 3 million US dollars. The ongoing slaughter of the innocent lives of Ukrainian people could be compared to the actions of the Herod against the innocents of Bethlehem when the Savior was born.

Furthermore, the new year also presents us with a fresh start, new perspectives, and new opportunities as well. We look forward to the coming months as parishes throughout the Church, in communion with the worldwide Holy Orthodox Church continue to invest in the spiritual process of growth as we all journey together, praying and fulfilling our obligations to Christ and each other.

Beloved in the Lord, the end of the year and the new beginning is an opportunity for us to refocus our minds and hearts on the Holy Most Holy Eucharist as the source and summit of our Christian life and worship. I urge the people of God in our Church - the UOC of the USA – indeed, all Orthodox Christians – to participate in the sacred liturgical services of the Church and to welcome those who are on the fringes of our faith, of our community or our society to share their voices on how we as a Church can walk together on the path to the Heavenly Kingdom.

Let us prayerfully place our lives into the loving embrace of the Savior. Filled with Christ's love, let us be bearers of hope during these challenging times to generously share that hope with others and help renew the hearts of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and throughout the world.

May God bless the year 2023 with His Life-Saving grace to bring healing, lasting joy and peace to the world! With prayers, +Daniel, Archbishop and brother in the Lord.

PATRIARCHAL ENCYCLICAL FOR CHRISTMAS + B A R T H O L O M E W



BY GOD'S MERCY, ARCHBISHOP OF
CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME
AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH TO ALL THE
PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH

**GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE FROM THE
SAVIOR CHRIST BORN IN BETHLEHEM**
Most honorable brother hierarchs,

Beloved children in the Lord,

Today our Holy Church celebrates the Nativity in the flesh of the pre-eternal Son and Word of God, this “foreign and strange mystery” that “was concealed from ages and from generations” (Col. 1:26). In Christ, the truth about God and humankind is definitively revealed, as St. Cyril of Alexandria so theologically explains: “We are human by nature, but He condescended to what is contrary to divine nature for the sake of love and became man. We are servants of God by nature as His creation, but He became a servant once again, contrary to divine nature when He became man. But the reverse also holds true: He is God in essence, and we are, by grace, able to ascend to what is contrary to human nature. For we are human, and He is the Son by nature, yet we too become sons by status inasmuch as we are called to fellowship in Him.”

“Know the truth, and the truth shall set you free” (Jn. 8:32). Our Lord Jesus Christ is “the way and the truth and the life” (Jn. 14:6), the liberator of man “from enslavement to the enemy.” There is no life and liberty without the Truth or outside the Truth. Giving any meaning we desire to our life is not freedom, but the contemporary version of original sin, our self-enclosure within self-sufficient and self-serving independence, without a perception for truth as a relationship with God and our fellow human beings. Christmas is the time for self-knowledge, for understanding the difference between “God becoming man” and “man acting as god.” It is the time for awareness of the Christian teaching that “we do not speak of man becoming divine, but of God becoming human.”

The message of the good news about Christmas today echoes alongside the din of war and the clash of weapons in Ukraine, which is experiencing the horrible consequences of a provocative and unjust invasion. For us Christians, all wars are the murder of our brothers; they are all civil wars, which as the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church proclaimed, are “the result of the presence of evil and sin in the world.” In the case of Ukraine, the words of St. Gregory Palamas about his contemporaneous bloody conflicts among Orthodox believers in Thessaloniki are still more relevant: “For their common nurturing mother is the holy Church and devotion, whose chief and perfecter is Christ, the genuine Son, who is not only our God, but who also deigned it appropriate to be our brother and Father.”

In the person of Christ, the “recapitulation” of all has been achieved, the emergence of unity within the human race and the sanctity of the human person, the opening of the way toward the “likeness of God,” and the revelation of the peace “that surpasses all understanding” (Phil. 4:10).

Christ is “our peace” (Eph. 2:14), and it is to Christ that the historic and emblematic Sacred Church of “Holy Irene” is dedicated in the City of Constantine.

Our Savior blesses the “peacemakers,” for “they shall be called children of God” (Matt. 5:9); He promotes the notion of righteousness and love, even toward our enemies. In the Divine Liturgy, the Orthodox Church prays “for the peace from above” and “for the peace of the whole world.” And during the Liturgy of Basil the Great, we pray to and glorify the Giver of all good things: “Grant us your peace and your love, Lord our God; for you have granted us all things.” As recipients and supreme beneficiaries of all things from God, we are obliged more than anyone else to strive for peace in accordance with the scriptural: “To the one that has received much, more will be demanded” (Lk. 12:48). In this sense, all that is enacted by Christians contrary to this principle does not primarily affect Christianity but rather those who live contrary to the divine commandments.

Never in the history of humankind has peace among peoples been a condition taken for granted. Instead, it was everywhere and always the result of inspired initiatives, of courage and self-sacrifice, of resistance to violence and rejection of war as a means of resolving differences, and a perpetual struggle for justice and protection of human dignity. Their contribution to peace and reconciliation constitutes the primary criterion for the credibility of religions. Within religious traditions, there are undoubtedly motivations not only for inner peace, but also for the advancement and establishment of societal peace and overcoming aggression in relations between people and nations. This is especially significant in our time when the position is maintained that peace will ensure due to economic development, a rise in living standards, and progress in science and technology through digital communication and the internet. We are convinced that there can be no peace among people and civilizations without peace among religions without dialogue and collaboration. Faith in God strengthens our effort for a world of peace and justice, even when that effort confronts humanly unsurpassable hurdles. At any rate, it is unacceptable for representatives of religions to preach fanaticism and fan the flames of hatred.

Most reverend brothers and beloved children,

Christ is born; glorify Him. Christ is descending from the heavens; come and meet Him. Christ is on earth; rise up to greet Him! Adhering to the exhortation of our holy predecessor on the Throne of the Church of Constantinople, let us celebrate the nativity of the world’s Savior with spiritual joy, “not in an earthly, but in a heavenly manner,” avoiding “everything superfluous and unnecessary; especially when others – made of the same clay and combination – are suffering hunger and poverty.” We pray that all of you may enjoy a prayerful and glorious Holy Twelve Days of Christmas, like a genuine fullness of time and radiance of the light of eternity. May the coming 2023 prove – by the goodness and grace of the Divine Word that became flesh for us and for our salvation – to be a period of peace, love, and solidarity, truly a year in the righteousness of our Lord!

We wish you many blessed years! *Christmas 2022 + Bartholomew of Constantinople*
Fervent supplicant of all before God

*******Blessing of the houses with the Jordan Water*******



Please, remember that the great feast of Theophany is coming and after the Theophany please let Fr. Yurii know when he could come and bless your house with the Jordan water that we as Orthodox Christian need to have annually at our homes. A list of the days and timing for visiting will be placed at the Church before the Theophany or you could contact Fr. Yurii personally to schedule day and time.

This is a special occasion for the faithful to ask the priest anything that worries or is incomprehensible about matters of faith, morals or the life of the Church. And for the priest, it is an opportunity to learn more about the family, about its needs, about whether the family lives in a Christian way: in peace with their neighbors, whether they are all baptized, married in the church, whether they attend Sunday services, and so on.

A candle is lit on the table or in front of the icon, and everyone present in the house participates in a common prayer. Everyone who lives in the house or everyone who is in the house at that time (for example, guests) should be called to prayer.

The priest who comes to your house to bless symbolizes the coming of Jesus Christ Himself, so it is worth preparing for this coming and taking it seriously, because Jesus himself said to the apostles, "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." (Mt 10:40); also, "But whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house. And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you." (Lk 10: 5-6).

The sprinkling of Jordan water symbolizes the cleansing of the house and all who live in it from all evil by the power of Jesus Christ, the power of the Cross of the Lord and common sincere prayer. The Jordanian water receives special power from the source of all power - from Jesus Christ, who sanctified them by his descent into the waters of the Jordan. Similarly, today every water consecrated by a priest at the time of the Epiphany receives a special power to drive away the devil's attacks and to protect homes and people from all evil and all sin.

The sprinkling of Jordan water does not replace the sacrament of purification - the Confession (Confession), which still remains the only and necessary in order to be able to be united with the Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.

The priest's blessing of the house during the Jordanian days is a wonderful spiritual encouragement to a person on his way to the Kingdom of God. It was He who was taught by the Lord to seek first everything else, while reminding that everything else will be added to it. (Matt 6:33).

Therefore, I wish you and yourself to experience with great love these days of pastoral visits. May the presence of a priest in your home and your common prayer be an opportunity to draw closer to the Lord and to the Holy Church of Christ.